



# ESF 15 Business / Nonprofit Update

Produced by Emergency Support Function 15 – External Affairs

April 2008

## ITEMS OF INTEREST FOR ESF 15

### U.S. National Response Framework

The National Response Framework (NRF), successor to the National Response Plan, came into effect on Saturday, March 22, 2008. On Jan. 22, 2008, the NRF was initially released following an extensive process of outreach and coordination between the department and key stakeholders representing federal, tribal, state and local governments, non-governmental agencies and associations, and the private sector. The NRF was posted in the Federal Register for sixty days, as required by law. Now that the timeframe has passed, the NRF goes officially into effect. The NRF focuses on response and short-term recovery, articulates the doctrine, principles and architecture by which the US prepares for and responds to all-hazard disasters across all levels of government and all sectors of communities. The NRF also focuses on preparedness and encourages a higher level of readiness across all jurisdictions in a streamlined document that is less bureaucratic and more user-friendly than its predecessor. During the past sixty days of the initial announcement, FEMA has been conducting outreach and training efforts for emergency managers and federal, state and local officials at all levels of government about the concepts and principles of the NRF. The NRF is intended for senior elected and appointed leaders, such as federal department and agency heads, state governors, mayors, tribal leaders, city managers and the private sector and emergency management practitioners. The NRF is designed to be scalable, flexible and adaptable, always in effect, and articulates clear roles and responsibilities among local, state, and federal officials. Part of the educational and outreach efforts included the release of an [online training course](#). In addition to the NRF base document going into effect on March 22, 2008, the Emergency Support Function Annexes and Support Annexes are also in effect and can be accessed online at the NRF Resource Center ([www.fema.gov/nrf](http://www.fema.gov/nrf)). The annexes are a total of 23 individual documents designed to provide concept of operations, procedures and structures for achieving response directives for all partners in fulfilling their roles under the NRF.

### Emergency Preparedness Recognition for Health Department

The Virginia Department of Health recently conducted an Emergency Preparedness and Response recognition program to recognize the hard work and efforts in the success of VDH's emergency preparedness and response efforts. Fairfax County's "Fairfax Health District Crisis Event Response Team" received the Silver Level recognition. The team:

- Successfully managed the Joseph Willard Health Center Fire COOP incident
- Created, trained and exercised the 75-member Incident Management Team
- Created the Fairfax County HD Non-Medical Mass Dispensing (CRI) Plan
- Revised the Fairfax County HD BioDetection System (BDS) Plan
- Trained and exercised CRI, BDS response and MRC members

For more information about the team or the award, contact Wesley McDermott with the Fairfax County Health Department at 703-246-8788.

### FEMA releases Strategic Plan for FY 2008-2013

The plan outlines its vision and mission, and gives a high level overview of the activities it will carry out to achieve these. The strategy is based around five strategic plan goals, which are:

- Lead an integrated approach that strengthens the Nation's ability to address disasters, emergencies, and terrorist events.
- Deliver easily accessible and coordinated assistance for all programs.
- Provide reliable information at the right time for all users.
- FEMA invests in people and people invest in FEMA to ensure mission success.
- Build public trust and confidence through performance and stewardship.

<http://www.continuitycentral.com/news03861.htm>

### **Federal ID Cards Far From Finished**

Of eight agencies reviewed by the Government Accountability Office—the Departments of Agriculture, Commerce, Homeland Security, Housing and Urban Development, the Interior, and Labor; the Nuclear Regulatory Commission; and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration—none met the Office of Management and Budget’s “goal of issuing ID cards by October 27, 2007, to all employees and contractor personnel who had been with the agency for 15 years or less,” according to the GAO. “. . . In addition, for the limited number of cards that had been issued, most agencies had not been using the electronic authentication capabilities on the cards and had not developed implementation plans for those capabilities.” The new cards are being created to comply with Homeland Security Presidential Directive 12, issued in August 2004.

GAO Summary: <http://www.gao.gov/docsearch/abstract.php?rptno=GAO-08-551T>

### **Topoff 4**

The Federal Emergency Management Agency has released preliminary observations on October’s (2007) Topoff (“Top Officials”) 4 exercise, which simulated attacks using radiological dispersal devices (“dirty bombs”) and involved 23,000 federal, state, local, and private-sector participants as well as representatives from Australia, Canada, and the United Kingdom. The report indicates that intelligence and information sharing and dissemination, onsite incident management, emergency operations center management, emergency public information and warning, and economic and community recovery were generally satisfactory but identifies problems to be remedied.

Press Release: <http://www.fema.gov/news/newsrelease.fema?id=43170>

Report (PDF): [http://www.fema.gov/pdf/media/2008/t4\\_after%20action\\_report.pdf](http://www.fema.gov/pdf/media/2008/t4_after%20action_report.pdf)

### **One Year Anniversary at Virginia Tech**

Virginia Gov. Timothy Kaine issued the following statement on Wednesday, April 16, the one-year anniversary of the tragic shootings at Virginia Tech.

“On April 16, 2007, Virginia Tech University suffered a terrible tragedy. Today, my thoughts and prayers are with the victims and their families and the entire Virginia Tech community. In the year that has passed since that horrible day, we have grieved for those we lost and prayed for the comfort of their loved ones. We have rejoiced in the recovery of those who were injured. We have been inspired by the unfaltering hope and Hokie spirit of Virginia Tech. And we have renewed our commitment to do even more to learn lessons from that day and to make our campuses and communities safer. As I think about the victims’ families, I am at a loss for words to express what is in my heart. The courage and strength they have shown in the face of such tremendous, tragic loss is awe-inspiring. We have been inspired by the resilient Hokie spirit of Virginia Tech, both in Blacksburg and around the world. Since that tragic day last April, the unshakeable sense of unity and hope demonstrated by the Hokies has touched the lives of people around the world. Their focus on pulling together to support their school and each other in the days after the shooting, and their commitment to public service through the VT Engage program in the months that followed has moved us all. We still have work to do. A continued commitment to improvement is the best tribute we can pay to those who lost so much. And as we move forward, we will continue to be inspired by those in the Hokie Nation.”

<http://www.governor.virginia.gov/MediaRelations/NewsReleases/viewRelease.cfm?id=645>

Virginia Tech: <http://www.vt.edu/>

### **FEMA Employee Survey Shows Personal Job Satisfaction, Areas For Agency Improvement**

The Department of Homeland Security’s Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) this month announced results of a 2007 survey that measured employee job satisfaction and agency performance. The FEMA results stem from a DHS-wide employee survey conducted in the fall of 2007. FEMA’s overall results largely mirror or exceed those for DHS:

- 61 percent of the 1,273 FEMA employees completing the survey reported overall job satisfaction
- 49 percent of FEMA employees responded positively to questions related to leadership and knowledge management
- 50 percent of FEMA employees believed the agency fostered a results-oriented performance culture
- 51 percent of FEMA employees gave positive responses to questions relating to the agency’s talent management

FEMA employees’ responses were overwhelmingly positive to questions related to personal job satisfaction:

- 92.1 percent felt their individual work was important
- 84.4 percent reported they enjoyed their work
- 82.3 percent felt that their individual work related to agency goals

FEMA employees reported a need for improvement in areas related to training, work-life programs, performance recognition, resources, management-to-employee communication and ability of agency leaders to generate workforce motivation and commitment. Additional survey results, including the FEMA Survey Report, are available at:

<http://www.fema.gov>.

### **2008 Mobile Command & Communications Vehicle Rally**

Police, fire and EMS field commanders and supervisors, emergency managers, emergency communications center operators or supervisors, and anyone interested in mobile command/communications vehicles are invited to the 2008 Mobile Command & Communications Vehicle Rally, Wednesday, May 21, at the Chesterfield County Fair Grounds. The rally will feature local, state and federal mobile command and communications vehicles from central and eastern Virginia, including VDEM's mobile command center. All vehicles will be open for tours and questions. To register, contact Chesterfield County Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator Curt Nellis at 804-796-7068 or via e-mail at [nellisc@chesterfield.gov](mailto:nellisc@chesterfield.gov).

### **DHS Announces New Aviation Security and Traveler Screening Enhancements**

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) announced on Monday, April 28, improvements aimed at strengthening aviation security while decreasing the hassle factor for travelers. Among the key improvements, DHS is providing airlines more flexibility to allow passengers to check in remotely who have been unable to do so because they have a name similar to someone on a watch list. The department also unveiled the Checkpoint Evolution prototype, which begins full operation at Baltimore-Washington International Airport (BWI). Each airline will now be able to create a system to verify and securely store a passenger's date of birth to clear up watch list misidentifications. By voluntarily providing this limited biographical data to an airline and verifying that information once at the ticket counter, travelers that were previously inconvenienced on every trip will now be able to check-in online or at remote kiosks. Additionally, DHS is providing greater clarity on the types of identification that will be accepted at checkpoints in the U.S. Beginning May 26, 2008, federal or state-issued photo ID will be accepted if it contains: name, date of birth, gender, expiration date and a tamper-resistant feature. Standardizing the list of accepted documents better aligns TSA with other DHS components and REAL ID benchmarks. More information on acceptable documents is available at [www.tsa.gov](http://www.tsa.gov). Transportation Security Officers and managers at BWI are the first in the country to complete a 16-hour training module designed to incorporate the latest intelligence analysis, more advanced explosives detection skills, and ways to engage with passengers to promote a calmer environment for better security. The training was developed by the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) Office of Intelligence, Bomb Appraisal Officers, and TSA Checkpoint Evolution team. Checkpoint Evolution is located at B Checkpoint, Southwest Terminal at BWI. The layered security elements are both modular and flexible and designed to work individually, as well as part of an integrated package.

[http://www.dhs.gov/xnews/releases/pr\\_1209396910434.shtm](http://www.dhs.gov/xnews/releases/pr_1209396910434.shtm)

## **PLANNING / PREPAREDNESS**

### **Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee Reviews FEMA Disaster Readiness**

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee Chairman Joe Lieberman, ID-Conn., and Ranking Member Susan Collins, R-Me., have noted progress made by the Federal Emergency Management Administration in transforming itself into a disaster agency that can respond effectively to a catastrophe but noted that it has a long way to go before it reaches that goal. At a hearing entitled "The New FEMA: Is the Agency Better Prepared for a Catastrophe Now Than It Was in 2005?," Department of Homeland Security Inspector General Richard Skinner released a report indicating the agency has made modest to moderate progress in eight of the nine categories of needed reform that the IG's office looked at. While the IG noted that FEMA has never been prepared to cope with a catastrophe of the scale of Hurricane Katrina, the agency generally received praise for its effectiveness in responding to "normal" disasters such as recent California wildfires and flooding in the Midwest. The IG's report represents the

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Department's first formal analysis of FEMA's progress. It found that the agency had made "moderate" progress in improving its planning, coordination and support, interoperable communications, logistics, and acquisition management. The agency has made "modest" progress in drafting evacuation plans, strengthening its workforce, and planning for emergency housing. The report found that FEMA had made little or no progress in managing its mission assignments to other government agencies. It also found that budget shortfalls, reorganizations, inadequate information technology systems, and confusing or limited authorities negatively affected FEMA's progress. The report recommends that FEMA conduct an analysis of its needs in terms of preparing for a catastrophic disaster and develop a system to track its progress within each preparedness area, providing regular updates on progress made. <http://www.continuitycentral.com/news03843.htm>

### **Amateur Radio Communications Auxiliary**

The Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM) has organized a new emergency resource called the Amateur Radio Communications Auxiliary, or ARCA. ARCA will ensure that the Commonwealth has a group of licensed amateur radio communications systems operators who will be available to provide backup communications for the Commonwealth during an emergency. ARCA members will bridge the gap in communications between the Virginia Emergency Operations Center and its stakeholders, including local, state and federal partners in the event that primary communications systems go down. For more information about ARCA, contact VDEM Amateur Radio Liaison Terry Hebert at [Terry.Hebert@vdem.virginia.gov](mailto:Terry.Hebert@vdem.virginia.gov) or at 804-371-4507.

### **State Department Antiterrorism Assistance Program Needs Better Guidance and Assessments, Says GAO**

The U.S. State Department's Antiterrorism Assistance Program aims to provide partner nations with counterterrorism training and equipment, improve bilateral ties, and increase respect for human rights, notes the Government Accountability Office. But the department's Office of the Coordinator for Counterterrorism "provides minimal guidance to help prioritize" the program's recipients, and that office and the Bureau of Diplomatic Security, Office of Antiterrorism Assistance, "do not systematically align" assistance under the program "with U.S. assessments of foreign partner counterterrorism needs."

<http://www.gao.gov/docsearch/abstract.php?rptno=GAO-08-336>

### **Climate Change Seen as Top Emerging Risk**

Climate change will be considered a major threat to business in the next ten years according to a survey on 'emerging risks' conducted by Business Continuity Expo 2008 and sponsored by Marsh. According to the survey, 87 percent of UK and European businesses see climate change as the single biggest threat in terms of risk assessment and the effect it could have on their businesses future growth, with many at a loss as to what can be done in order to prepare or plan for this eventuality. This threat to the continuity and long-term success of their business is ahead of terrorism, pandemic 'flu, flooding, the credit crunch, government red-tape and outsourcing and offshoring. The survey was conducted amongst 150 major UK and European companies. Also of great concern to 83 percent of businesses is the risk that traditional sources of energy will reduce and the cost of oil and gas will rise so significantly over the next 5 years that it will have an adverse effect on the smooth running of their business. Sixty percent are not prepared for this eventuality and see it as a major threat which indicates a gap in their knowledge regarding alternative sources of energy and are awaiting an answer instead of pro-actively seeking an answer.

<http://www.continuitycentral.com/news03834.htm>

### **Weather Radios Save Lives**

As too many disaster survivors know, tornadoes are terrifying in their suddenness, speed and fury. Every second counts when people and families in the erratic path of a quickly forming tornado try to escape its pure destructive power. As essential as a smoke detector for fires, a special National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Weather Radio can alert you and your loved ones to approaching severe weather. Recovery officials estimate a (NOAA) all hazards weather radio may provide as much as eight minutes to move family and pets to a specially constructed safe room or at least a secure location in their home. During an emergency, NOAA will broadcast a special shrieking, warbling tone that automatically activates weather radios. NOAA then broadcasts warning and post-event information for all types of hazards. The radios are especially valuable in places that are prone to tornadoes. A weather radio provides instant access to the same weather reports and emergency information

that meteorologists and emergency personnel use. This information can save your life, or the life of someone you love. A weather radio also broadcasts around-the-clock weather reports and information to help prepare for the day ahead. The hearing and visually impaired can get these warnings by connecting weather radios with alarm tones to strobe lights, pagers, bed-shakers, personal computers and text printers. A battery-operated weather radio will also advise you of emergency conditions at home, work, while traveling, on vacation or at play. Make sure the radio you buy has seven channels, an audible or visual warning alert feature and battery backup. An important feature available on many NOAA weather radio models is Specific Area Message Encoding (SAME) technology that lets users pre-select the alerts they want to receive based upon the area where they live, allowing residents to tailor their weather radio alerts to their specific area. NOAA's radio network is an all-hazards system. It provides watches and warnings for natural incidents such as hurricanes, floods, tornadoes, thunderstorms and winter storms, oil spills, 911 telephone outages, AMBER alerts and terrorist attacks. Weather radios are available, starting around \$20 at mass-market retailers such as Target, Wal-Mart, Best Buy etc., and at various consumer sites on the Internet. FEMA coordinates the federal government's role in preparing for, preventing, mitigating the effects of, responding to and recovering from all domestic disasters, whether natural or man-made, including acts of terror.

<http://www.fema.gov/news/newsrelease.fema?id=43147>

### **2008 Hurricane Forecast**

Colorado State University has issued the April update of Dr. William Gray's 2008 extended range forecast of Atlantic hurricane season activity. The update calls for a very active season and increases the number of named storms to 15, the number of hurricanes to eight and the number of intense hurricanes to four. The tropical meteorology research group from CSU's Department of Atmospheric Science issues seasonal hurricane forecasts in early December, April, June, August, September and October. Read the full text of the forecast at

<http://hurricane.atmos.colostate.edu/Forecasts/>.

### **FEMA for Kids: Preparing Kids and their Families**

Play games, enjoy stories, do puzzles, go through mazes, watch videos - welcome to FEMA for Kids, the Web site that is all fun and games...sort of. Underneath all the fun is a lot of good information that makes kids and their families better prepared in the event of a disaster. You can even become a Disaster Action Kid and get your very own certificate to hang on the wall! FEMA for Kids is presented by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Go to <http://www.fema.gov> and click on Kids. Meet Herman the spokescrab and tag along on his search for a disaster-proof shell. You'll also meet Julia and Robbie, the Disaster Twins. Wherever these two go, trouble is sure to follow. Watch brother and sister get into - and out of - all sorts of close calls, learning along the way how to be better prepared, or how to avoid danger altogether. The Web site shows disasters come in many shapes and sizes. Some are predictable - like a hurricane. Some, like a tornado, can surprise us. Learning about the different kinds of disasters will help us all be better prepared. Learn the best way to keep safe, and keep your family and pets safe, as you do what you like to do best - have fun!

<http://www.fema.gov/news/newsrelease.fema?id=43128>

### **VEMC Presentations Available**

VDEM has added a new section to its Web site that features the 2008 Virginia Emergency Management Conference, "It Can Happen Here," held March 11-14 at the Hampton Roads Convention Center. Approximately 350-400 public safety educators, emergency management professionals, first responder, Citizen Corps members and volunteers attended. VDEM and the Virginia Emergency Managers Association co-sponsor the annual conference. Copies of most of the guest speakers' Microsoft® PowerPoint presentations, along with the agenda and a list of speakers are available at <http://www.vaemergency.com/newsroom/events>.

### **NIST Seeks Comments on Draft Earthquake Hazards Plan**

NIST, under the auspices of its role as the lead agency for the US National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program, has released a draft earthquake hazards strategic plan for public review and comment. Deadline for responses is May 9, 2008.

<http://www.continuitycentral.com/news03871.htm>

### **National Level Exercise Begins in May**

The Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) National Exercise Program (NEP) will conduct National Level Exercise 2-08 (NLE 2-08) a combined functional and full scale exercise from May 1 through May 8. NLE 2-08 will merge the objectives of U.S. Northern Command's (NORTHCOM) Ardent Sentry 2008 exercise, FEMA National Continuity Program's (NCP) Eagle Horizon 2008 exercise (formerly known as Forward Challenge), and FEMA Disaster Operation's Hurricane Preparedness Exercise (HPE). The purpose of NLE 2-08 is to exercise national capabilities to prepare and respond to multiple incidents including both natural disasters and terrorist incidents. The exercise was designed to include scenario elements addressing hurricane preparedness and response, national continuity capabilities, and Defense Support to Civil Authorities coordination in response to weapons of mass destruction terrorist attacks. The exercise venues involve a Category 4 hurricane impacting the Mid Atlantic Coast and the National Capitol Region and multiple terrorist attacks in Washington State. Also during NLE 2-08, the Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program (CSEPP) will test its response to an accidental chemical agent release at the Umatilla Chemical Depot in Oregon. Canada will also participate through their Staunch Maple Exercise. The exercise allows federal officials to implement continuity plans, test communications connectivity, operations and procedures for performing essential government functions from alternate locations, and interagency coordination. Additionally, it serves to demonstrate that essential functions can be effectively conducted during threats and emergencies.

<http://www.fema.gov/news/newsrelease.fema?id=43299>

## **MEDIA ARTICLES OF INTEREST**

### **Big Box Retailers, Not FEMA, May Be First Line Of Defense**

Hurricane season is just around the corner, so consumers should know where to turn to if disaster strikes. No, not the Federal Emergency Management Agency. A new study suggests Wal-Mart, Home Depot and Lowe's would be a lot more helpful. The study, from the Mercatus Center at George Mason University in Fairfax, Va., stresses that successful disaster relief depends upon responders having detailed knowledge of a local area and the right incentives to act on that knowledge. Examining federal and private responses to Hurricane Katrina, the study by St. Lawrence University Professor of Economics Steven Horwitz shows why FEMA was destined to fail, and why for-profit firms succeeded at disaster recovery.

[http://www.consumeraffairs.com/news04/2008/04/hurricane\\_responders.html](http://www.consumeraffairs.com/news04/2008/04/hurricane_responders.html)

### **DHS Needs a Cyber-Security Coordination Office, Says Its Inspector General**

An article in Federal Computer Week reports that the Homeland Security Department is moving too slowly to protect its most critical internal computer systems, according to ... the department's inspector general, Richard Skinner. He "recommends creating an office within DHS to determine protection priorities for its critical cyber infrastructure and coordinate efforts to protect those information technology assets."

<http://www.fcw.com/online/news/152255-1.html>

### **Some Cities May Follow FEMA's New "No Ice" Policy**

The South Florida Sun-Sentinel reported earlier this month, that, R. David Paulison, administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), announced that the federal government would no longer provide free ice after a hurricane. Paulison also included in his announcement, which came at the National Hurricane Conference in Orlando, Fla., that "FEMA no longer will provide free generators unless needed for medical emergencies." Instead, FEMA's focus will be "on the basic needs of people, and that's food and water," he said. Meanwhile, Florida's emergency management director, Craig Fugate, said the state was not likely to provide "much ice, either," because it is "low on the critical-needs list, behind medical supplies, water, food, shelter, and emergency fuel."

<http://www.tcpalm.com/news/2008/apr/03/fema-chief-says-dont-expect-free-ice-generators/>

### **Federal Railroad Administration Proposes "Revolutionary" Strengthening of Hazmat Rail Tankers**

The Federal Railroad Administration has proposed what it calls "weeping" and "revolutionary" changes in standards for the construction of the railroad tank cars that carry the most dangerous chemicals, reports the Baltimore Sun. The

new rules would strengthen the tankers to prevent penetration and ruptures at speeds up to 30 mph and slow some freights hauling dangerous cargo until the older tankers are replaced. Railroads and chemical companies would have to replace half the 15,300 tank cars used to transport chlorine and anhydrous ammonia with stronger models within five years of the rules' enactment. The entire fleet would be replaced within eight years.

<http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/local/bal-te.md.tankers01apr01,0,4823364.story>

### **Virginia Tech Victims' Families Settle for \$11 Million**

According to the Associated Press, in an article in USA Today, most families of victims of the mass shootings at Virginia Tech have agreed to an \$11 million state settlement that will compensate families who lost loved ones, pay survivors' medical costs and avoid a court battle over whether anyone besides the gunman was to blame.

[http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2008-04-10-tech-settlement\\_N.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2008-04-10-tech-settlement_N.htm)

### **D.C. Police Set to Monitor 5,000 Cameras**

Police in Washington, D.C., will soon have access to one of the largest surveillance networks in the country as officials give them access to more than 5,000 closed-circuit TV cameras across the city. In an article in the Washington Times, Gary Emerling says the city's Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency announced the initiative last week along with D.C. Mayor Adrian M. Fenty. But the move is concerning some civil liberties advocates, worried the use of the cameras will infringe on privacy rights. The Video Interoperability for Public Safety (VIPS) program will consolidate the more than 5,200 cameras operated by D.C. agencies into one network managed by the city's Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency. The program will allow agencies to share camera video feeds and provide the city with a network that is actively monitored.

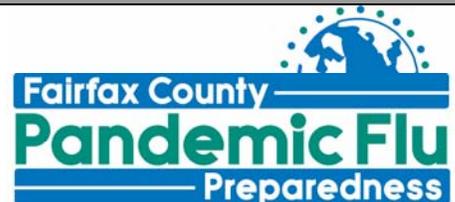
<http://washingtontimes.com/article/20080409/METRO/769331158/1001>

## PANDEMIC FLU

### **Fairfax County Pandemic Flu Preparedness**

Be sure to visit the county's pandemic flu Web page for information on upcoming events and other preparedness news.

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency/pandemicflu/>



### **Japan Vaccinates Bird Flu Workers**

Japan is to become the first country in the world to vaccinate thousands of officials against bird flu reports the British Broadcasting Corporation. Six thousand health workers and other staff will be inoculated over the next few months, and the program might be extended to cover millions more. Although bird flu has caused 240 deaths since 1993, none has been in Japan.

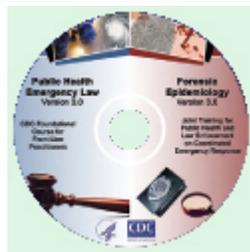
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/asia-pacific/7349904.stm>

### **South Korea Goes on Nationwide Alert Over Bird Flu**

South Korea on earlier this month issued a nationwide bird flu alert, deployed troops and put firefighters on standby to try to contain the spread of the disease reports Agence France-Presse. "... the 'orange' vigilance level was extended to the whole country after previously covering only the badly hit southwest. The [agriculture] ministry said it had confirmed 20 outbreaks involving the H5 virus, of which at least six were the deadly H5N1 subtype, since the first case was reported in ... early April. It is investigating 14 more suspected cases ... Officials have slaughtered 2.2 million chickens and ducks in and around infected farms."

<http://afp.google.com/article/ALeqM5hsFxiCLm7EoPfeNJUFX6RsD1pV0w>

## TRAININGS / EXERCISES / CONFERENCES



### **Public Health Emergency Law and Forensic Epidemiology**

CDC; on CD

The Public Health Law Program of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has just released version three of the Public Health Emergency Law and Forensic Epidemiology training materials on CD-ROM. These self-contained training packages were developed by for use by instructors in any jurisdiction in the United States who provide public health preparedness training to frontline practitioners.

<http://www2a.cdc.gov/phlp/phel.asp>

### **WMD Symposium 2008**

May 7-8; Washington, D.C.

This year's theme is "WMD Proliferation and Use: Have We Been Effective, Lucky, or Overly Concerned?" The symposium will examine why our worst fears about weapons of mass destruction proliferation and use have not been realized to date, addressed by distinguished speakers representing viewpoints inside and outside government.

<https://beta.saic.com/2008cwmd/index.htm>

### **Medical Management of Chemical and Biological Casualties**

May 11-16; Aberdeen, Md., and Ft. Detrick, Md.

This course is conducted by the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Chemical Defense. It is designed for Medical Corps and Nurse Corps officers and physician assistants, Medical Service Corps officers, and other selected medical professionals. It comprises classroom, laboratory, and field training.

[https://cc.apgea.army.mil/courses/in\\_house/BrochureMCBC.htm](https://cc.apgea.army.mil/courses/in_house/BrochureMCBC.htm)

### **IED 2008 Symposium and Expo**

May 13-15; Fayetteville, N.C.

IED 2008 will feature expert speakers on improvised explosive devices and the challenges and threats they pose internationally and domestically. It will explore and identify new technologies, methods, and tactics for eliminating the IED threat and protecting personnel from the hazards of explosives. IED 2008 will bring military, government, law enforcement, security, and industry leaders together with end users and operators.

[http://www.defensetradeshows.com/IED08\\_General\\_Info.html](http://www.defensetradeshows.com/IED08_General_Info.html)

### **Fostering Public-Private Partnerships**

May 22; Washington, D.C.

The 2008 Homeland Security Symposium illuminates successful public-private partnerships at the local, regional, and national levels as models and considers steps to develop and improve future public-private partnerships.

<http://www.jmu.edu/iiia/2008symposium/>

### **Fire and Emergency Services Higher Education Conference**

May 31-June 2; Emmitsburg, Md.

Representatives from fire-related degrees programs, state and local fire service training agencies, and national fire service organizations attend this three-day conference with presentations by national leaders and experts.

Participation in the conference is by invitation only to those in the target audiences.

[http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/nfa/higher\\_ed/feshe/feshe\\_conf.shtm](http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/nfa/higher_ed/feshe/feshe_conf.shtm)

### **Partnering for a Safer Nation: 2008 Homeland Security S&T Stakeholders Conference–East**

June 2-5; Washington, D.C.

This conference is presented by the National Defense Industrial Association with subject matter support from the DHS Science and Technology Directorate. The agenda and training workshops will focus on the future of the directorate while highlighting the collaborations being built at home and around the world to secure America.

<http://tinyurl.com/69o2cr>

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### **Field Management of Chemical and Biological Casualties**

June 9-13; Aberdeen, Md.

This course is conducted by the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Chemical Defense. It is designed for Medical Service Corps officers and noncommissioned officers in medical or chemical specialties. It comprises classroom, laboratory, and field training.

[https://ccc.apgea.army.mil/courses/in\\_house/brochureFCBC.htm](https://ccc.apgea.army.mil/courses/in_house/brochureFCBC.htm)

### **Situational Awareness and Crisis Communication Workshop**

June 11-12; Arlington, Va.

The Situational Awareness and Crisis Communication Workshop will teach you what to consider during times of crisis and provide you with guidance for a seamless approach for an integrated, coordinated response in the event of a disaster or other large-scale emergency. At the workshop, you will focus on critical information required to achieve and sustain risk-based target levels of capability and create an accurate picture of what is occurring – and how to best respond – during a crisis. This includes an effective approach to understanding the emergency, communicating with the appropriate parties, responding effectively, and knowing what to do to avert the next situation.

<http://www.homelanddefensejournal.com/hdl/Situational-Awareness-Crisis-Communication.html>

### **18th World Conference on Disaster Management**

June 15-18; Toronto, Ontario, Canada

WCDM is an international event for training and networking among police, fire, EMS, public health, security, military, and government personnel, IT disaster recovery professionals, as well as professionals in business continuity planning, risk management, emergency communications and community emergency. It covers the full spectrum – discover the latest findings, trends, products and services in disaster management.

<http://www.wcdm.org/>



### **2nd Annual Network Centric Homeland Security**

June 23-25; Alexandria, Va.

The program will focus on emerging trends, such as expansion of regional information sharing and collaboration and the latest technological innovations. With presentations and representation from a broad cross-section of federal and state agencies, delegates will

develop a thorough understanding of the solutions and best practices employed to meet operational requirements. The program will also review the status of current systems such as the DHS Secure Border Initiative and the Justice Department's Interconnect Wireless Network.

<http://www.networkcentrichomelandsecurity.com/ShowEvent.aspx?id=98248>

### **ER One Institute Hospital Security Conference**

July 15; Washington, D.C.

The theme of the conference is "Are We Prepared for Today's Challenges? Looking Directly into the Eye of the Enemy." This conference, sponsored by the Simulation and Training Environment Lab at the Washington Hospital Center's ER One Institute, will empower hospital-based security professionals to become better prepared for the current security situation. Participants will receive a realistic perspective of the hazards confronting healthcare facilities, learn how to investigate opponents' motivations, and be readied to respond to threats proactively.

[http://www.web.sitelms.org/view\\_event.php?event\\_id=286&event\\_day\\_id=838](http://www.web.sitelms.org/view_event.php?event_id=286&event_day_id=838)

### **Interactive Technologies 2008 SALT Conference**

August 20-22; Sheraton Crystal City Hotel, Arlington, Va.

The Interactive Technologies conference continues SALT's practice of bringing together senior professionals from government, industry, academia and the military to present the latest developments in the field of learning and training technologies. Over the course of 2½ days, attendees will have access to 89 speaker presentations. Case studies will be provided as well as the results of recent research on the effectiveness and utilization of the latest learning and training technology applications.

<http://www.salt.org/index.htm?dc/washingtonP.asp?pn=washington>

## LINKS

### Fairfax County Blogs and Web Resources

- Fairfax County CERT - <http://fairfaxcountycert.blogspot.com/>
- Fairfax County Citizen Corps Web Page - <http://www.fairfaxcountycitizencorps.org/>
- Fairfax County Citizen Corps Blog - <http://citizencorps.blogspot.com/>
- Virginia Citizen Corps - <http://www.vaemergency.com/citcorps/index.cfm>

### DHS Science & Technology Directorate Newsletter

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Science & Technology Directorate has a free newsletter, "S&T Snapshots," featuring stories about current research projects and opportunities with laboratories, universities, government agencies, and the private sector. The newsletter is produced monthly by the DHS Science and Technology Directorate in partnership with the Homeland Security Institute, a Studies and Analysis Federally Funded Research and Development Center.

<http://www.homelandsecurity.org/snapshots/>

### DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report (OSIR)

The Department of Homeland Security provides a Web-based "Daily OSIR," which is posted on the DHS public Web site. Accessing the report via the Web enables readers to retrieve the current Daily Report as well as 10 days of archived DHS Daily Reports. Once you arrive at the Web page you will find the most recent Daily OSIR at the top of the page, under the title "Current Report." This report is posted each morning, except for weekends and holidays.

Simply click on the title "DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report." This will launch the current days report in PDF format. You can continue to submit content comments or make suggestions by contacting the DHS Daily Report Team by telephone at 202-312-5389 or by e-mail at [NICCRports@dhs.gov](mailto:NICCRports@dhs.gov). You can access the Daily OSIR at: [http://www.dhs.gov/xinfoshare/programs/editorial\\_0542.shtm](http://www.dhs.gov/xinfoshare/programs/editorial_0542.shtm).

### Fairfax County Government Emergency Information Web Page

The county's emergency information page features easy navigation and a clean look so that residents can easily find emergency information.

[www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency/)

### Fairfax County Government Emergency Information Line

[www.fairfaxcounty.gov/opa/infoline.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/opa/infoline.htm)



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Emergency Information: [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency)

### To Unsubscribe:

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The ESF 15 Business / Nonprofit Update is designed to provide information about Emergency Support Function 15 (External Affairs) along with news articles and informational updates relating to Homeland Security and emergency management to ESF 15 partners. Inclusion of any resource, information or Web link is not an endorsement of the product, service or organization. The ESF 15 Business / Nonprofit Update is produced by Fairfax County's Office of Public Affairs – the lead agency for ESF 15.

In accordance with NIMS – the National Incident Management System – the Fairfax County Emergency Operations Plan states that Emergency Support Function 15 (External Affairs) is led by the Office of Public Affairs. This ESF 15 Business/Nonprofit Update is part of the county's outreach efforts for our business and nonprofit partners as a way to provide information about the county's ESF 15, Homeland Security and emergency management.

Please feel free to forward this ESF 15 Business/Nonprofit Update to other contacts you have inside or outside your organization. Should someone you know like to be added to our distribution list, have them send an e-mail to [jim.person@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:jim.person@fairfaxcounty.gov) and ask to be subscribed to the ESF 15 Business/Nonprofit Update.

If you have any suggestions on how to improve this update or other communications between Fairfax County and the business/nonprofit community, please contact Merni Fitzgerald, Director of the Fairfax County Office of Public Affairs, at 703-324-3187, TTY 711, or by e-mail at [merni.fitzgerald@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:merni.fitzgerald@fairfaxcounty.gov).

Thanks for your partnership with Fairfax County. We appreciate the opportunity to work with you.