



ESF 15 Business / Nonprofit Update

Produced by Emergency Support Function 15 – External Affairs

April 2010

ITEMS OF INTEREST FOR ESF 15

Fairfax County Executive Named to Federal Preparedness Task Force

On April 7, Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary Janet Napolitano announced the formation of the local, state, tribal and federal Preparedness Task Force—a council of experts charged with assessing the state of the nation’s disaster preparedness and making recommendations to Secretary Napolitano about ways to build resiliency in communities across America. Among the members was **Fairfax County executive Anthony H. Griffin**. As county executive, Griffin is the emergency management director for Fairfax County. The Task Force is comprised of 35 members of local, state and tribal governments—many of whom have also served within federal government—offering a diverse cross-section of experience in homeland security and emergency management missions. The Task Force will also engage Congressional partners, as well as the private sector and non-governmental and development organizations through a variety of outreach activities. The Task Force will conduct regular meetings and expects to deliver recommendations in September 2010.

http://www.dhs.gov/ynews/releases/pr_1270649859370.shtm

National Capital Region Residents Offer Insights Into Behavior During Emergencies

Most people in the National Capital Region would follow instructions to stay where they are after a radiological dispersion device, or “dirty bomb,” attack, according to a recent survey of more than 2,600 NCR residents. The survey also indicated that **if an evacuation were ordered, most people would stay close to the region and not travel far**. Those findings, along with others from the survey, provide emergency and transportation officials with valuable information on public actions during emergencies. Results from the survey will help refine emergency response, traffic movement and evacuation plans. The survey explored how people get their information in an emergency, information sources residents trust, the amount of advance preparation people have completed, and the actions they would take under increasing levels of personal threat. Among the overall findings:

- Of those at home during the event for all three scenarios, nearly 80 percent decided to stay home.
- For those at work during a minimal event (in which no shelter-in-place order is given for the respondent’s area), only 41 percent would stay at work, with 33 percent leaving to go home.
- For those at work during a moderate or maximum event when a shelter-in-place order is given, approximately 70 percent would stay at work.

The survey was commissioned by the Virginia Department of Emergency Management from the University of Virginia Center for Survey Research and the Center for Risk Management of Engineering Systems. Work began in February 2009, with data collection accomplished from September to December. CSR called cell phone and landline phone numbers of randomly selected area residents to gather data for the survey. The project is one of seven being conducted in partnership by Delaware, Washington, D.C., Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia, which have collaborated for several years under the Regional Catastrophic Planning Grant Program of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. A report on the survey, “Population Behaviors in Dirty Bomb Attack Scenarios: A Survey of the National Capital Region,” is available at

http://www.vaemergency.com/library/behavior_study/index.cfm.

http://www.vaemergency.com/newsroom/releases/2010/misc/ncr_behaviorstudy_final.cfm

Emergency Management Awards

Bruce Whitney, with the Fairfax County Office of Emergency Management, was recently recognized by the Virginia Emergency Management Association (VEMA) with the Clarence P. “Pete” Rea, Jr. Group Achievement Award for his work on WebEOC, implementing Web Fusion in the Hampton Roads and Northern Virginia areas. Whitney, along with Sue Ann Curran, VDEM, and Andrea Gayer, ESI, collaborated with local WebEOC administrators on Web Fusion in Hampton Roads and Northern Virginia. The team worked for more than six months to configure

accounts and solve technical issues. WebEOC is an emergency management software used by emergency management offices throughout the National Capital Region. Also at the event, VEMA presented its 2009-2010 Volunteer Award to J. Lewis Saylor of Centreville. This is the first year that VEMA has presented a volunteer award, created to highlight a volunteer's contribution to the field of emergency management and to integrate volunteers into the association. Saylor helped to establish the Faith Communities in Action Interfaith Emergency Planning Steering Committee, a broad based faith group focused on emergency preparedness in Fairfax County. He also received his CERT training in Fairfax County and currently is president of the Northern Virginia Regional VOAD. And the Virginia Citizen Corps has recognized seven outstanding volunteer programs and individuals in the new SuperStar Awards program. Terry L. Akins, Fairfax County CERT Planning Committee, was honored with the Most Outstanding Volunteer SuperStar award by the Virginia Citizen Corps.

MPSTOC Featured on "County Magazine"

Channel 16, Fairfax County's cable television station, featured the McConnell Public Safety and Transportation Operations Center this month as part of its "County Magazine" program. The MPSTOC segment also is available for viewing on YouTube at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NLKPRmGngBc> as well as the county Web site at <http://fairfaxcounty.gov/cable/channel16/asx/mpstoc.asx>.



State Health Commissioner Commends Response to Flu Pandemic by Public, Private Sectors

State Health Commissioner Karen Remley, M.D., MBA, announced on April 1 – that through January – more than 26 percent of Virginia's population had been vaccinated against H1N1 influenza virus, according to an interim report released by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). This compares favorably with vaccination rates for that time period of 23.9 percent for the national median and 23 percent for the region that includes Virginia, Delaware, the District of Columbia, Maryland, Pennsylvania and West Virginia. The Virginia Department of Health (VDH) headed up the vaccination effort, combining the resources of both the private sector and that of the state's local public health departments. More than 3,000 private doctor's offices, hospitals, pharmacies, clinics and retail outlets have participated in getting H1N1 vaccine out to Virginians in a historic partnership. Nearly 40 percent of Virginia's children between the ages of 6 months and 17 years have received the H1N1 vaccine. For more information, including charts illustrating H1N1 vaccination rates released by the CDC, visit the VDH Web site at www.vdh.virginia.gov. The public may also call the VDH Inquiry Center toll-free at 1-877-ASK-VDH3. <http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/news/PressReleases/2010/040110H1N1vax.htm>

Presidential Declarations for December and February Snow

The FEMA Public Assistance reimbursement process is underway within Fairfax County and the Fairfax County Public Schools. The December 2009 snowstorm received its Presidential Declaration on Feb. 16, which enables the county to seek reimbursement for expenses related to the storm. The last time the county sought reimbursement from FEMA's Public Assistance program was in June 2006 after the floods associated with Ernesto, better known as the Huntington floods. On April 28, the Commonwealth received a Presidential Declaration for the snowstorms in February.

Virginia Achieves National Emergency Management Reaccreditation

Virginia has achieved full reaccreditation through the Emergency Management Accreditation Program (EMAP). The Commonwealth became the third state in the nation to receive full EMAP accreditation in December 2005. EMAP accreditation demonstrates that an emergency management program meets national standards. To achieve full accreditation, Virginia documented compliance with national standards that address planning and procedures; resource management; training; exercises, evaluations and corrective actions; and communications and warning. EMAP accreditation lasts for five years. Virginia's is one of the first emergency management programs to repeat EMAP's accreditation process, which has expanded to include 63 standards; there were 54 in 2005. <http://www.vaemergency.com>

Secretary Napolitano Announces New Measures to Strengthen Aviation Security

Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary Janet Napolitano announced early this month (April) that the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) will begin implementing new enhanced security measures for all air carriers with international flights to the United States to strengthen the safety and security of all passengers—superseding the emergency measures put in place immediately following the attempted terrorist attack on Dec. 25, 2009. These new, more flexible security protocols—tailored to reflect the most current information available to the U.S. government—will apply to all passengers traveling to the United States. These new, enhanced measures are part of a dynamic, threat-based aviation security system covering all passengers traveling by air to the United States while focusing security measures in a more effective and efficient manner to ensure the safety and security of the traveling public. Passengers traveling to the United States from international destinations may notice enhanced security and random screening measures throughout the passenger check-in and boarding process, including the use of explosives trace detection, advanced imaging technology, canine teams, or pat downs, among other security measures.

<http://www.tsa.gov/press/releases/2010/0402.shtm>

Distracted Driving

While many people understand the increased crash risks caused by drivers texting while driving, the lack of understanding about the dangers of hands-free phones remains a challenge. Using a cell phone, hands-free or handheld, requires the brain to multitask – a process it is incapable of doing safely while driving. To explain the limitations of the human brain as it pertains to multitasking, the National Safety Council (NSC) has released a white paper, “Understanding the distracted brain: Why driving while using hands-free cell phones is risky behavior.”

http://www.nsc.org/safety_road/Distracted_Driving/Pages/CognitiveDistraction.aspx

Virginia Tech 2010

At the 2010 Day of Remembrance at Virginia Tech, Provost Mark McNamee and university President Charles W. Steger presented two wreaths at the April 16 memorial, prior to a 3.2 mile “Run in Remembrance.” This year’s Virginia Tech Day of Remembrance was held in honor of those lost in 2007, marking the third year anniversary.

<http://www.weremember.vt.edu/index.html>

New Chief Deputy State Emergency Management Coordinator

Gov. Bob McDonnell has appointed Jack King to serve as Chief Deputy State emergency management coordinator, a role previously held by Janet Clements. King has served in a variety of positions at the Richmond Police Department during the past 27 years. He served as the SWAT team commander, commander of the Bomb Unit, officer-in-charge of the Police Training Academy, commander of the First Precinct, and currently serves as the officer-in-charge of the Homeland Security Unit. King is a graduate of the University of Richmond and holds a variety of professional certifications. He is an instructor in a number of areas to include tactical response to mass shootings, Incident Command System, response to terrorist bombings, response to weapons of mass destruction and clandestine lab response. He is a graduate of the FBI Hazardous Devices School.

Reprinted from the April 7 edition of EM Update, published by the Virginia Department of Emergency Management.

Secretary Napolitano Unveils DHS’ Open Government Plan

Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary Janet Napolitano this month unveiled the Department’s Open Government plan—leveraging public input to enhance transparency, public participation and collaboration as part of the Obama administration’s Open Government Initiative. The development of DHS’ Open Government Plan, viewable at www.dhs.gov/open, focused on utilizing public feedback to better share important and timely information with federal, state, local and tribal partners, private sector organizations and individual citizens. A key component of the plan is the expansion of “Virtual USA”—an innovative information-sharing initiative developed in collaboration with the emergency response community and state and local governments across the nation to enhance communication between federal, state, local and tribal first responders during emergencies. DHS launched “Virtual USA” on Dec. 9, 2009, following a successful pilot program. In addition, the plan calls for reducing Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request backlogs—already decreased by 81 percent over the past four years—by a minimum of 15 percent each year to increase transparency, exceeding the government-wide goal of 10 percent annually.

http://www.dhs.gov/ynews/releases/pr_1270662888919.shtm

U.S. Averaged Warmer-than-Normal, Drier-than-Normal in March

NOAA's "State of the Climate" report shows the March 2010 average temperature for the entire contiguous United States was warmer-than-average with several New England states experiencing one of the warmest March's on record. Average precipitation for the U.S. was below normal, but heavy rainfall set March records in parts of the Northeast. Based on data going back to 1895, the monthly analyses prepared by scientists at NOAA's National Climatic Data Center in Asheville, N.C., are part of the suite of NOAA climate services.

http://www.noanews.noaa.gov/stories2010/20100408_marchstats.html

SportEvac Simulates Stadium Evacuations

A computer program called SportEvac ... uses human avatars to simulate the behaviors of panicking crowds in sports stadiums, reports "National Defense." It was developed by the Homeland Security Department's Science & Technology Directorate, "the University of Southern Mississippi and several other organizations" to help sports venues drill for mass evacuations, which are costly when carried out as live exercises. The program can be customized to fit the specifications of individual stadiums. It uses algorithms to predict the behaviors of large groups, and it factors in variables such as irrational, drunken fans and spectators in wheelchairs. Managers can determine how long an evacuation would take, how many people would crowd each exit and where signs could be placed to improve efficiency.



<http://www.nationaldefensemagazine.org/archive/2010/May/Pages/MassEvacuationSimulationforStadiums.aspx>

Equine Emergency Preparedness in Virginia

The 2006 Virginia Equine Survey reported approximately 215,000 horses – a 26 percent increase since 2001 – that was accompanied by a 41 percent increase in the number of horse operations. The equine industry is growing, and there should be adequate emergency preparedness training and documentation for both emergency responders and horse owners or service providers. In nearly every emergency or disaster situation, preparing before the event is the key. There are a variety of emergency and disaster situations that could affect horses in Virginia. Acts of nature include such things as hurricanes, tornadoes, and winter weather, as well as floods and fires (both barn and wildfires). Other emergencies include loose horses on roadways, horses – alone or with riders – hit by cars, and horses trapped in overturned or wrecked trailers. This article includes methods of assessing risk for the types of natural disasters that are most common in a given area, as well as other types of emergencies that may be encountered.

<http://pubs.ext.vt.edu/406/406-500/406-500.html>

April Remarks at the National Press Club by DHS Secretary Napolitano

"... We know that al Qaeda and al Qaeda-related groups continue to believe that taking down a commercial airliner or to weaponize a commercial airliner would be a great leap forward in their terrorist view of the world. We also know that they are a very smart and determined adversary. And so they are very familiar with the steps we have already taken as a country, and indeed as a world, in the wake of what happened on 9/11. And so our task is not only to respond, but to really think ahead—not just retroactive but proactive—in dealing with that continuing threat to aviation security in a world where aviation is a key engine. It's a key engine of the economy both domestically and internationally. It's a key engine for tourism. It's a key engine for families who live in different places of the world or different states within the United States to be able to get together."



Full transcript: http://www.dhs.gov/ynews/speeches/sp_1271433302831.shtm

New Study on Violence in Schools Released

The Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Department of Education and the Secret Service have released a joint study on targeted violence on U.S. campuses of higher learning – "Campus Attacks: Targeted Violence Affecting Institutions of Higher Education" (<http://www.fbi.gov/publications/campus/campus.pdf>). In total, 272 incidents were identified through a comprehensive search of more than 115,000 results in open-source reporting from 1900 to 2008. The incidents studied include various forms of targeted violence, ranging from domestic violence to mass murder. The findings should be useful for campus safety professionals charged with identifying, assessing, and managing

violent risk at institutions of higher education. In June of 2007, following the Virginia Tech shooting, the Department of Justice, Department of Education and Department of Health and Human Services convened meetings throughout the U.S. focused on the issues raised by the Virginia Tech shootings. The “Report on Issues Raised by the Virginia Tech Tragedy” (<http://www.hhs.gov/vtreport.pdf>) provided a number of findings and recommendations, including recommending that the Department of Justice, Department of Education and the Secret Service explore research of targeted violence in institutions of higher education.

<http://www.hsdl.org/hslog/?q=node/5487>

FEMA Launches New Mobile Web Site for Smartphones

M.FEMA.GOV Gives Smartphone Users Easy Access to Disaster Preparedness Information

On Wednesday, April 28, FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate announced the launch of FEMA’s new mobile Web site, m.fema.gov. The mobile site makes it easier to access critical information



Photo by FEMA/Bill Koplitz

regarding emergency preparedness and what to do before and after a disaster right on a smartphone. “Smartphones are becoming more prevalent, affordable, reliable and more viable to locate and obtain information and assistance,” said Fugate. “This service will provide yet another avenue for the sharing of important information that is so critical to ensuring the public is prepared for emergencies. As we’ve seen in recent cases, often times after a disaster, mobile devices become a crucial lifeline to provide information to survivors.” FEMA will be making several enhancements to m.fema.gov in the coming months, including the ability to apply for individual assistance when a disaster has been declared by the

President, check on the status of an application and update an existing application. The announcement of the launch of m.fema.gov comes just over a month until the start of this year’s hurricane season on June 1. Families are also encouraged to log onto www.ready.gov and learn more about the simple steps they can take to ready for this season. To view a video about the mobile Web site: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t4Kib7Am568>.

PLANNING / PREPAREDNESS

Current Threat Level

- The United States government’s national threat level is Elevated, or Yellow.
- The U.S. threat level is High, or Orange, for all domestic and international flights. Only small amounts of liquids, aerosols and gels are allowed in carry-on baggage. See the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) Web site (<http://www.tsa.gov>) for up-to-date information on items permitted and prohibited on airlines.
- Virginia Threat Level: 



Under an elevated threat level, businesses should:

- Continue all precautions from lower Threat Conditions.
- Announce Threat Condition ELEVATED to employees.
- Review vulnerability and threat assessments and revise as needed.
- Identify and monitor governmental information sharing sources for warnings and alerts.
- Update and test call down list for emergency response teams and key employees.
- Review and coordinate and update mutual aid agreements with other critical facilities and government agencies.
- Establish and monitor active and passive security measures.
- Review employee training on security precautions (bomb threat procedures, reporting suspicious packages, activities and people).
- Conduct communications checks to ensure radio contact can be established.

At this time there is no credible information warning of an imminent, specific threat to the homeland. All Americans should continue to be vigilant, take notice of their surroundings, and report suspicious items or activities to local authorities immediately. Everyone should establish an emergency preparedness kit and an emergency plan for

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themselves and their family, and stay informed about what to do during an emergency.

http://www.dhs.gov/xinfo/share/programs/Copy_of_press_release_0046.shtm

<http://vaemergency.com/>

Get Ready to Save Money!

Plan to go shopping the last week of May, and you will save money on items you can use. Put it on your calendar:

Virginia's Hurricane Preparedness Sales Tax Holiday, May 25-31. During that week, you can stock up on supplies for protecting your home and business during hurricane and flooding season. You also can add items to your family's emergency supply kit. Many everyday items are exempt. Shop for items on this list that have a price of \$60 or less:

- Artificial ice, blue ice, ice packs, reusable ice.
- Batteries, excluding car or boat batteries.
- Battery-powered light sources, including flashlights and lanterns.
- First-aid kits.
- Cell phone chargers.
- Weather Band radios and NOAA Weather Radios.
- Battery-powered or hand-crank radios, including radio with electrical power option.
- Bottled water of any size, including flavored, carbonated and vitamin water.
- Two-way radios.
- Manual can openers.
- Tarps, plastic sheeting, plastic drop cloths.
- Bungee cords and rope.
- Ground anchor systems or tie down kits.
- Ratchet straps.
- Duct tape.
- Carbon monoxide and smoke detectors, fire extinguishers.
- Empty gas, propane or diesel fuel tanks or containers.
- Water storage containers such as buckets, barrels, canteens, coolers.
- Storm shutter devices made for the prevention of storm damage (not plywood).



Shop for items on this list that have a sales price of \$1,000 or less:

- Portable generators and generator power cords.
- Inverters and inverter power cables.

Retail outlets will have information about the tax holiday. For more, go to www.tax.virginia.gov/salestaxholiday. For information about getting ready for hurricane and flooding season in Virginia, visit www.ReadyVirginia.gov or www.FairfaxCounty.gov/emergency. You can also call the Fairfax County Office of Emergency Management at 71-350-1000, TTY 711.

2010 Hurricane Season Forecast Updated

Colorado State University's Tropical Meteorology Project is calling for **significantly more tropical storm activity than average** in the first 2010 Atlantic Seasonal Hurricane Forecast update. CSU is calling for eight hurricanes, 15 named storms and 75 named storm days. There is a 130 percent probability of U.S. major hurricane landfall. The increased numbers are due to a weakening El Nino and very strong warming of the tropical Atlantic. Further forecast updates will be published June 2 and Aug. 4, followed by two-week updates August-October. The full forecast is available at <http://hurricane.atmos.colostate.edu/Forecasts>.

FEMA Administrator Fugate: Prepare for the 2010 Hurricane Season

Recently, FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate delivered a video message on the importance of preparing for the 2010 hurricane season, which forecasters are already predicting will be "above average." We encourage you to visit www.ready.gov/business to begin planning today.

Video: http://www.fema.gov/medialibrary/media_records/2301



CERT Training Videos

The CERT National Program Office has a new set of CERT training videos on the national CERT Web site, which can be used for review by individuals and teams who have completed their basic training. According to a post on the Fairfax County CERT blog, the CERT in Action video can also be used by CERT coordinators/managers to help promote the program. Three of the videos depict effective trainer techniques in demonstrating and coaching CERT skills in the classroom. These are intended for use in the CERT Train-the-Trainer course. To ensure they are accessible to a broad audience, each video is also available in closed-caption format or with Spanish subtitles. The videos can be downloaded and viewed at your computer, or copied onto a DVD. Visit the national CERT Web site at <https://www.citizencorps.gov/cert/> to view these eight titles.

- CERT in Action
- CERT Training: Disaster Psychology
- CERT Training: Safety in the After-Disaster Environment
- CERT Triage: Handling Mass Casualty Situations
- Fire Safety: The CERT Member's Role
- Demonstrating Victim Carries
- Demonstrating Head-to-Toe Assessment
- Coaching Hands-On Practice - Victim Extrication

<http://fairfaxcountycert.blogspot.com/2010/04/cert-national-program-office-releases.html>



Are You Ready

“Are You Ready?” is just one of many resources the Department of Homeland Security provides the citizens of this nation to help them be prepared against all types of hazards. The focus of the content is on how to develop, practice, and maintain emergency plans that reflect what must be done before, during, and after a disaster to protect people and their property. Also included is information on how to assemble a disaster supplies kit that contains the food, water and other supplies in sufficient quantity for individuals and their families to survive following a disaster in the event they must rely on their own resources.

http://www.fema.gov/pdf/areyouready/areyouready_full.pdf

Business Preparation for Flooding

Encourage your staff to prepare for floods with a work emergency kit and a flood evacuation plan. Flooding is the nation's most common natural disaster. It's important to be prepared for flooding no matter where you live, but particularly if you are in a low-lying area, near water or downstream from a dam. Even a very small stream or dry creek bed can overflow and create flooding.

<http://www.ready.gov/america/beinformed/floods.html>

School Preparedness

Prepare your students and educators for all hazards with school safety tips from the Department of Education. A U.S. Department of Education Web page provides information that can help school leaders plan for any emergency, including natural disasters, violent incidents and terrorist acts.

<http://www2.ed.gov/admins/lead/safety/emergencyplan/index.html>

MEDIA ARTICLES OF INTEREST

Understanding the Public Will Lead to Better Emergency Plans, Preparedness

Understanding how economic realities affect residents and their disaster preparedness and response capabilities needs to be considered by emergency managers, Garry Briese, former FEMA Region VIII administrator, told attendees at the All-Hazards, All-Stakeholders Summit in Seattle on Thursday, March 25. More than 766,000 U.S. residents fall

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below the poverty line; 25 percent of the population doesn't have a credit card; and 40 to 50 percent of people cannot afford to purchase Ready.gov's list of recommend supplies to have in case of disaster, said Briese, also the co-founder of the Center for New Media and Resiliency. These numbers need to be considered when emergency management agencies create plans and set standards that officials expect the public to comply with.

<http://www.emergencymgmt.com/disaster/Understanding-Public-Better-Emergency-Preparedness.html>

Don't Write Off H1N1 Pandemic... Yet

You may have noticed an upswing in media reporting on swine flu, or H1N1, cases. This upswing is in relation to the sudden upswing in human cases of swine flu in the southern states of Georgia, South Carolina and Alabama.

The truth is that H1N1 cases are on the upswing in many states. This could be due to several factors, including the beginning of the predicted "third wave" of pandemic influenza. Or it could be the fact that influenza "smoulders," and we have a few little patches of fire that need to be put out. One day, the third wave will occur. It might be the start now, or it could be later in 2010. Or it could be even in 2011. No one knows for certain.

http://blogs.computerworld.com/15879/dont_write_off_h1n1_pandemic_yet

H1N1 Outbreaks in U.S., Abroad Carefully Monitored

As the deadly H1N1 flu is making a comeback in places around the world, including in the southwest United States – Georgia in particular, which has been hit particularly hard – authorities are wondering whether these new outbreaks of the influenza virus represent a worrisome "third wave," a new mutation, or whether something else is in play that's responsible. Alabama and North Carolina also have reported outbreaks, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) officials reported in their latest update on the spread of the virus. CDC warned Georgians to get vaccinated for the H1N1 flu. Georgia has one of the lowest rates of vaccination among its population, which some experts believe is likely contributing to the increase in new infections there. Local activity has also been reported in Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Tennessee, Virginia, Hawaii, New Mexico and Puerto Rico. Across the world in Malaysia, new A H1N1 clusters have been detected throughout the country, putting the country's Health Ministry on high alert.

http://www.hstoday.us/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=12796&Itemid=149

Atlantic May See Above-average Hurricane Season

University forecasters predict the 2010 Atlantic hurricane season will be above average, with 15 named storms and eight of those becoming hurricanes. The Colorado State University report was released early this month, nearly two months before the beginning of the Atlantic hurricane season on June 1. In the report, forecasters William Gray and Phil Klotzbach said that El Niño conditions will dissipate by summer and that unusually warm tropical Atlantic sea surface temperatures will persist, leading to favorable conditions for hurricanes to develop and intensify. Of the eight expected hurricanes, the forecasters predict that four will strengthen to major hurricanes, meaning Category 3 or higher on the Saffir-Simpson scale of strength. Category 3 storms have sustained winds of at least 111 mph.

The forecast said the probability of a major hurricane making landfall along the U.S. coastline is 69 percent. It said there was a 58 percent chance of a major hurricane tracking into the Caribbean.

<http://www.cnn.com/2010/US/weather/04/07/hurricane.forecast/index.html>

Forecast: <http://tropical.atmos.colostate.edu/Forecasts/2010/april2010/apr2010.pdf>

APCO Urges Congress to Provide Funding for National Public Safety Broadband Network

The Association of Public Safety-Communications Officials International (APCO) expressed its support for the FCC's estimate of \$12 billion to \$16 billion for a public safety wireless broadband network. APCO International now calls on Congress to establish the necessary appropriations and programs to fund the build out, operation and maintenance of a public safety wireless broadband network over the next 10 years.

http://apcointl.org/new/news/congress_funding_broadband_network.php

DHS Shifts Focus to Specific Terror Threats

The U.S. government is refining its terror-screening policy to focus on specific terror threats and not travelers' nationalities. The new policy replaces a security requirement put in place after the attempted bombing of a jetliner en route to Detroit on Christmas Day that singled out people from 14 countries that have been home to terrorists. It also expands the pool of foreign travelers targeted for extra screening beyond those whose names are on a U.S. terror

watch list. The changes come after a three-month review of counterterrorism policies ordered by President Barack Obama in the wake of the near miss attack. Officials hope the new procedures will close a dangerous security gap that that allowed alleged bomber Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab to board a Detroit-bound airplane in Amsterdam with a bomb hidden in his underwear.

<http://www.homeland1.com/air-traffic/articles/782675-DHS-shifts-focus-to-specific-terror-threats/>

Flight Diversions for Security Reasons Triple

The number of flights forced to land prematurely because of security alerts doubled in the first three months of this year compared with the same period in 2009, reports "USA Today." Thirty-five U.S. flights were diverted from their destination to a different airport from Jan. 1 through March 31 for security reasons.

http://www.usatoday.com/travel/flights/2010-04-07-diverted-flights_N.htm

Federal Infrastructure Is Not Ready for Imminent Cyber-Attacks, Says IT Survey

An information technology security strategy based on regulatory compliance has left agencies ill-prepared to respond to a constant stream of cyber attacks, reports "Government Computer News," citing a recent survey of federal information technology officials commissioned by Lumension Security. The respondents painted a picture of a government IT infrastructure that already is under attack.

<http://gcn.com/articles/2010/04/07/federal-it-security-survey-lumension.aspx>

Nuclear Blast Victims Would Have to Wait

The White House has warned state and local governments not to expect a "significant federal response" at the scene of a terrorist nuclear attack for 24 to 72 hours after the blast, according to a planning guide. President Obama told delegates from 47 nations at the Nuclear Security Summit on April 13 that it would be a "catastrophe for the world" if al-Qaeda or another terrorist group got a nuclear device, because so many lives would be lost and it would be so hard to mitigate damage from the blast. A 10-kiloton nuclear explosion would level buildings within half a mile of ground zero, generate 900-mph winds, bathe the landscape with radiation and produce a plume of fallout that would drift for hundreds of miles, the guide says. It was posted on the Internet and sent to local officials.

http://www.usatoday.com/news/washington/2010-04-13-nuke-plans_N.htm

Video clip: <http://link.brightcove.com/services/player/bcpid42806360001?bctid=77888012001>



Was Jet Scare Excessive?

The nervous joke of a diplomat caught with tobacco on a plane highlights how quickly a misunderstanding can spiral out of control in this age of hyper security. In an article on the New York Times Web site (<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/04/10/us/10plane.html>), Scott Shane questions whether the reaction to Mohammed al-Madadi's smoke break aboard a flight to Denver was a sign of an effective security system, or a case of "unnecessarily alarming the entire country, inconveniencing passengers and squandering the taxpayers' money." Madadi is a third secretary at Qatar's embassy in Washington, D.C. A flight attendant confronted him as he left the lavatory, claiming there was a smell of smoke. Madadi said he hadn't been smoking but admitted to having a pipe. He then had the misfortune of joking about trying to set his shoes on fire, which soon resulted in a conference call of top Transportation Security officials and an alert to the pilots of the thousands of flights in the air at the time.

<http://disaster-resource.com/newsletter/2010/subpages/v330/newsclip7.htm>

Federal Emergency Management Agency Faces Own Fiscal Emergency

Money's so short at the Federal Emergency Management Agency these days that it may soon declare an emergency of its own — to raise cash for the next disaster facing the United States. That's the upshot of a letter to Congress from FEMA Director W. Craig Fugate, who warns that relief funds are running dry and FEMA is poised to invoke an emergency exception to get around budget statutes and provide limited aid in the event of a new disaster. The crisis, building for months, is an apt metaphor for many of the ills that beset this Congress. Much as President Barack Obama sees himself as a champion of big ideas, his administration keeps tripping over smaller, practical steps in everyday governance.

<http://www.politico.com/news/stories/0410/35836.html>

WHO Admits Shortcomings in Handling Flu Pandemic

The World Health Organization conceded shortcomings earlier this month in its handling of the H1N1 swine flu pandemic, including a failure to communicate uncertainties about the new virus as it swept around the globe, reports Reuters. Keiji Fukuda, the WHO's top influenza expert, said the U.N. agency's six-phase system for declaring a pandemic had shown confusion about the flu bug which was ultimately not as deadly as the widely-feared avian influenza.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE63B2TL20100412>



“Homeland Security Today” Names Top 25 Homeland Security Companies

This year's list highlights the progress that has been made in creating major programs to secure U.S. borders reports “Homeland Security Today.” In terms of federal contract dollars, Integrated Coast Guard Systems tops the list at \$681 million in 2009.

<http://ipaperus.ipaperus.com/HomelandSecurityToday/April2010/?Page=23>

TSA Blog Response to the Washington Times

The Washington Times recently ran an article with the headline: TSA to download your iTunes?

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2010/apr/18/tsa-to-download-your-itunes/>

The article says:

“Federal security workers are now free to snoop through more than just your undergarments and luggage at the airport. Thanks to a recent series of federal court decisions, the digital belongings of international fliers are now open for inspection. This includes reading the saved e-mails on your laptop, scanning the address book on your iPhone or BlackBerry and closely scrutinizing your digital vacation snapshots.”

According to “The TSA Blog,” TSA does not search files from your electronic media and will not download your iTunes or any other files. Frequent blog readers may remember an older post about a similar misunderstanding: Can TSA Copy Your Laptop Hard Drive and Search Your Files? (<http://www.tsa.gov/blog/2010/01/can-tsa-copy-your-laptop-hard-drive-and.html>)

<http://www.tsa.gov/blog/2010/04/response-to-tsa-to-download-your-itunes.html>

City of Fairfax Appoints David Rohr as New Chief

The City of Fairfax takes great pride in its public services, and providing a top-notch fire department is always at the top of its priority list. So, when a new fire chief was needed to take the reins of the career fire department, city administrators knew they had their work cut out for them. After a lengthy search to find the most qualified replacement that included many candidates, both internal and external, the City Manager and City Council are confident that they have found their man. David “Dave” Rohr, currently the assistant chief of operations for the Fairfax County Fire Department, was selected for the position by City Manager Robert Sisson and approved by City Council March 30. The 31-year fire services veteran will begin serving as Fire Chief May 17.

<http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/article.asp?article=339860&paper=63&cat=104>

U.S. East Coast Faces Double Hurricane Threat, WSI Predicts

The East Coast from North Carolina to Maine, including the New York area, will face almost twice the usual risk from hurricanes this season, WSI Corp. said in its latest Atlantic storm forecast. The Andover, Massachusetts-based weather software maker is also predicting 16 named storms, with winds of 39 miles (63 kilometers) per hour or more, will form, making 2010 a more active year than average. Usually, the Northeast has about a 25 percent chance of being hit by a hurricane, Crawford said. This year, it has a 48 percent chance, close to the 50 percent chance the Gulf of Mexico and Florida have every year, said WSI's chief meteorologist, Todd Crawford.

<http://www.businessweek.com/news/2010-04-20/u-s-east-coast-faces-double-hurricane-threat-wsi-predicts.html>

FLU

WHO Launches Review of the Response to H1N1

An assessment of the global response to the pandemic H1N1 will be conducted by the International Health Regulations Review Committee, a committee of experts with a broad mix of scientific expertise and practical experience in public health. The members are some of the leading experts in the world in their respective fields. The International Health Regulations (IHR) is an international legal agreement that is binding on 194 States Parties across the globe, including all of the Member States of WHO. The basic purpose of the IHR is to help the international community prevent and respond to acute public health risks that have the potential to cross borders and threaten people worldwide. The pandemic H1N1 is the first public health emergency of international concern to occur since the revised IHR came into force. The IHR played a central role in the global response to the pandemic and so review of the IHR and review of the global handling of the pandemic influenza are closely related. The review has three key objectives:

- Assess the functioning of the International Health Regulations (2005);
- Assess the ongoing global response to the pandemic H1N1 (including the role of WHO); and
- Identify lessons learned important for strengthening preparedness and response for future pandemics and public health emergencies.

The announcement says an interim report will be available in May and a final report in May 2011.

http://www.who.int/csr/disease/swineflu/frequently_asked_questions/review_committee/en/index.html

Five Things Caregivers of People with Disabilities Need To Know About the Flu

If you provide care for a person with a disability either at home or in a community-based setting, there are some things you should know about the flu.

http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/disabilities/5_things_caregivers_people_disability.htm

Twitter May Provide an Early Warning System for Epidemics

The sheer number of voices now contributing to the Twitter stream mean it could prove a useful tool in identifying epidemics and pandemics, according to new research by City University in London. The scientific team hypothesize that Twitter could be an effective way for health officials to detect high regional concentrations of disease, allowing the NHS to allocate resources and also to connect sufferers with nearby doctors and emergency services. They were able to identify three million tweets posted between May and December last year featuring the word “flu,” with 12,954 containing the phrase “I have swine flu” and 12,651 saying simply “I’ve got flu.”

<http://www.corpcommsmagazine.co.uk/news/774-bird-flu?>

Urgency Needed in Pandemic Preparation: U.S. official

The task of preparing for flu pandemics remains urgent, and the world must guard against complacency in the wake of the H1N1 outbreak, which appears less deadly than a potential bird flu pandemic, a U.S. health official said. Participants in a ministerial conference on influenza in Hanoi, “felt the need to re-commit” to the effort, Assistant Secretary of State for Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs Kerri-Ann Jones said on Wednesday, April 21. About 17,000 people have died from laboratory-confirmed cases of H1N1 but the World Health Organization, which declared the H1N1 flu a pandemic last June, has said the real death toll is likely to be many times higher. Initial fears that the pandemic would kill millions have turned out to be unfounded so far. Orders for vast quantities of vaccines are being renegotiated. Experts, however, fear that if the more deadly H5N1 bird flu virus mutates to become easily transmissible between humans it could lead to such a pandemic.

http://news.yahoo.com/s/nm/20100421/hl_nm/us_flu_complacency

Canada: Millions Could be Wasted as H1N1 Vaccine Tossed

British Columbia could throw away almost \$20 million worth of H1N1 vaccine because it went unused during swine-flu season and will soon expire. Only 40 percent of B.C.’s population chose to be vaccinated against H1N1, which meant roughly 2.5 million of the 4.3 million doses ordered by the province were unused, said Ida Chong, Minister of

Healthy Living and Sport. The government had planned to keep much of the leftover vaccine in case of another outbreak, because the doses were supposed to be good for 18 months. However, on April 9, Health Canada abruptly reduced the best-before date to only six months because the adjuvanted H1N1 antigen was shown to decline in strength over time. That left B.C. and other Canadian provinces with millions of leftover doses and an unexpectedly short expiration date.

<http://www.vancouversun.com/health/Millions+could+wasted+H1N1+vaccine+tossed/2933030/story.html>

TRAININGS / EXERCISES / CONFERENCES

The Crime-Terror Nexus: Perspectives and Lessons Learned from International Researchers and Practitioners

Hosted by George Mason University's Terrorism, Transnational Crime and Corruption Center

May 3; School of Public Policy, George Mason University, Arlington, Va.

To reserve a seat: <http://policy-traccc.gmu.edu/events/upcomingevents.shtml>. For more information, contact Caitlin Kurylo at traccc@gmu.edu or 703-993-9757.

Transformational Medical Technologies Initiative Partnership Symposium

May 3-4; Lansdowne, Va.

The initiative was pioneered by the Defense Department in 2006 to better prepare and protect warfighters and the nation from emerging, genetically engineered, and unknown biothreat agents. Professionals from government, academia, and the biotechnology and pharmaceutical industries are invited for a unique opportunity to learn about the initiative, network with the initiative's performers, and discuss collaborative opportunities with the program, the state of medical countermeasure preparedness, and plans for enhancing national capabilities to respond to emerging and novel biological threats.

<https://tmti.jscbis.apgea.army.mil/conferences/>

BioDefense 2010

May 3-4; Washington, D.C.

This conference will evaluate the state of America's biodefense readiness. Speakers will discuss strategy and policy, collaboration, detection and situational awareness, and consequence management.

<http://biodefenseconference.com/index.html>

Center for the Study of Weapons of Mass Destruction Symposium

May 5-6; Washington, D.C.

This year's symposium will explore the administration's emerging strategic approach to challenges involving weapons of mass destruction: explicating its key elements, considering the implications for practitioners, and assessing how it all adds up to a comprehensive blueprint for success. It will focus on recent and forthcoming reviews, including the Nuclear Posture Review, the Ballistic Missile Defense Review, and WMD aspects of the Quadrennial Defense Review as well as the National Strategy for Countering Biological Threats and ongoing chemical threat policy deliberations.

https://beta.saic.com/ndu_symposium2010/index.htm

National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster

May 11-13; Orlando, Fla.

The conference brings together 49 national members, 55 state and territory organizations, several hundred local organizations, emergency management partners and representatives from around the country, and private-sector partners.

<http://guest.cvent.com/EVENTS/Info/Invitation.aspx?e=19c563d8-a81d-4938-b2ba-212c1e3d31f9>





Clean Atlantic

May 17-19; Baltimore, Md.

More than 50 speakers, along with over 15 conference sessions, panel discussions, and workshops, will address port and maritime security, inland waterway spills, liquefied natural gas, hazmats, and environmental concerns. The expo features 65+ exhibitors.

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



International Hazardous Materials 2010

May 19-23; Baltimore, Md.

The conference features top hazmat thinkers, strategists, and leaders as they share ideas and insights. The expo offers the chance to talk one on one with leading company representatives about the latest hazmat equipment and technology.

<http://s36.a2zinc.net/clients/IAFC/hazmat10/Public/MainHall.aspx?ID=343&>

Virginia Occupational Safety and Health Conference

June 1-4; National Conference Center, Lansdowne, Va.

The Virginia Department of Labor and Industry will hold its 15th Annual Virginia Occupational Safety and Health Conference to address a wide range of safety and health topics, and DOLI will offer the federal 10-hour courses in both General Industry and Construction.

www.doli.virginia.gov

Virginia State Animal Response Team 2010 Summit

June 4; John Tyler Community College, Chester, Va.

Topics for the Virginia State Animal Response Team 2010 Summit include:

- How to start a Community Animal Response Team.
- State pet-friendly sheltering update.
- Training and sheltering at the community level.

The agenda and registration form are available at <http://www.virginiasart.org/sartflyers.pdf>.

World Conference on Disaster Management

June 6-9; Toronto, Canada

Emergency management and business continuity working together – the largest annual conference in the world that brings together professionals from these and other disciplines.

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

13th Annual Emergency Management Higher Education Conference

June 7-10; Emmitsburg, Md.

The FEMA Emergency Management Institute is hosting the 13th Annual Emergency Management Conference for representatives of colleges and universities which have an existing hazard, disaster, emergency management program in place, or are attempting to develop and implement a hazard/disaster, emergency management program on campus.

<http://training.fema.gov/emiweb/edu/educonference10.asp>

Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Consequence Management Conference

June 8-10; Chantilly, Va.

The conference will provide a professional forum for decision makers and planners; develop a deeper understanding of capabilities, limitations, and challenges; and discuss how Defense Department supporting organizations can best provide integrated efforts to domestic and foreign lead federal agencies.

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



Biodetection Technologies 2010

June 17-18; Arlington, Va.

This conference will explore the latest research and development and

commercialization efforts in the cutting-edge fields of biodefense technologies, including threat detection and identification, technological challenges, the role of nanotechnology and biochips, and bioinformatics.

http://www.knowledgefoundation.com/viewevents.php?event_id=216&act=evt

2010 National UASI Conference

June 21-24; New Orleans, LA

This conference was originally conceived from information sharing partnerships between the UASI program managers of the Charlotte and Miami UASIs, who recognized a distinct need for an information sharing platform. The first of these conferences was held in Dallas, TX in 2005; supported by the International Association of Fire Chiefs, Metro Chiefs Committee.

www.urbanareas.org



Chemical Sector Security Summit

July 7-8; Baltimore, Md.

Cosponsored by the Homeland Security Department's Office of Infrastructure Protection and the Chemical Sector Coordinating Council, this event is for those involved in corporate and facility security; environment, health and safety; or transportation and distribution of chemical products. It will cover chemical security regulations, chemical industry resiliency and cybersecurity industry practices.

http://www.dhs.gov/files/programs/gc_1176736485793.shtm

2nd International Swine Flu Conference

Aug. 18-19; Washington, D.C.

The 2nd International Swine Flu Conference will be followed by all day hands-on workshops (Aug. 20) and will provide a platform for public health officials and community stakeholders to come together, to network and exchange preparedness and response efforts. Special emphasis will be placed on identifying the responsibilities of various stakeholders in order to improve global communication coordination and collaboration. To register, call 202-536-5000.

www.new-fields.com/2ndISFC/registration.pdf

National Capital Region Homeland Security Events

http://www.mwcog.org/committee/committee/events_homeland.asp?COMMITTEE_ID=134

Virginia Emergency Management Courses

<http://www.vaemergency.com>

FEMA Independent Study Courses

<http://www.training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/>

American Red Cross Disaster Services Training

http://www.redcrossnca.org/Online/disaster_registration.php

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>

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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 NICCCReports@dhs.gov. You can access the Daily OSIR at:

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/

Fairfax County Government Emergency Information Line

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/opa/infoline.htm

Emergency Management Magazine

<http://www.govtech.com/em/toc.php>

FEMA Private Sector

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

FAIRFAX COUNTY 703-877-7771
EMERGENCY
INFORMATION LINE

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