



ESF 15 Business / Nonprofit Update

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ITEMS OF INTEREST FOR ESF 15

Secretary Napolitano Announces Implementation of National Terrorism Advisory System

Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano has announced the implementation of the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) National Terrorism Advisory System (NTAS) – a robust terrorism advisory system that provides timely information to the public about credible terrorist threats and replaces the former color-coded alert system. As part of the announcement, Secretary Napolitano released a public guide outlining the new system to the American public, along with an example of an NTAS Alert that would be issued to the public if the government were to receive information about a specific or credible terrorist threat. Under NTAS, DHS will coordinate with other federal entities to issue detailed alerts to the public when the federal government receives information about a credible terrorist threat. NTAS alerts provide a concise summary of the potential threat including geographic region, mode of transportation, or critical infrastructure potentially affected by the threat, actions being taken to ensure public safety, as well as recommended steps that individuals, communities, business and governments can take to help prevent, mitigate or respond to a threat. NTAS Alerts will include a clear statement on the nature of the threat, which will be defined in one of two ways:

Imminent Threat Alert

Warns of a credible, specific, and impending terrorist threat against the United States.

Elevated Threat Alert

Warns of a credible terrorist threat against the United States.

- “Elevated Threat”: Warns of a credible terrorist threat against the United States.
- “Imminent Threat”: Warns of a credible, specific, and impending terrorist threat against the United States.

Depending on the nature of the threat, alerts may be sent to law enforcement, distributed to affected areas of the private sector, or issued more broadly to the public through both official and social media channels – including a designated DHS webpage (www.dhs.gov/alerts), Facebook and via Twitter @NTASAlerts. NTAS alerts and posters will also be displayed in places such as transit hubs, airports and government buildings. NTAS threat alerts will be issued for a specific time period and will automatically expire. Alerts may be extended if new information becomes available or as a specific threat evolves. For more information on the National Terrorism Advisory System or to receive NTAS alerts, visit www.dhs.gov/alerts.

http://www.dhs.gov/ynews/releases/pr_1303296515462.shtm

Public Guide: <http://www.dhs.gov/xlibrary/assets/ntas/ntas-public-guide.pdf>

Blueprint for a Secure Energy Future

The Obama Administration recently released a report, “Blueprint for a Secure Energy Future,” which outlines the United States’ path towards better energy security. This report comes at a time when the price of crude oil is at its highest point since 2003. Which has a significant effect on the U.S. economy, considering that transportation is the second costliest expense for most American households. Main goals laid out in the report include:

- Expand Safe and Responsible Domestic Oil and Gas Development and Production.
- Lead the World Toward Safer and More Secure Energy Supplies.
- Reduce Consumers Costs at the Pump with More Efficient Cars and Trucks.
- Cut Energy Bills with More Efficient Homes and Buildings.
- Harness America’s Clean Energy Potential so that 80 percent of electricity will come from clean energy sources by 2035.
- Win the future through Clean Energy Research and Development.
- Lead by Example so that the Federal Government models best practices and clean energy technologies.



Video of President Obama discussing the report:

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2011/03/30/obama-administration-s-blueprint-secure-energy-future>

Report (PDF): http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/blueprint_secure_energy_future.pdf

<https://www.hsdl.org/hslog/?q=node/6079>

500th Puppy Welcomed at TSA

The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) Puppy Program recently announced the birth of Dolan, its 500th puppy. As part of TSA's Explosives Detection Canine Team efforts, the Puppy Program names each of the puppies after a 9/11 victim to honor their memory and this puppy was named after Capt. Robert Edward Dolan Jr., who lost his life in the attack on the Pentagon. "My children and I are very excited to have a puppy named in Bob's memory," said Lisa Dolan, wife of the late Captain Dolan. "Bob began his military career as an explosives ordnance expert. When he was killed at the Pentagon, he was working on Homeland Defense, and so it very fitting to have one of the TSA puppies named for our hero, Captain Bob Dolan. Knowing "Puppy Dolan" will one day be an explosives detection canine in the service of our country is reassuring. Dolan's future career keeping travelers safe is a fitting addition to Bob's legacy of freedom."



<http://blog.tsa.gov/2011/04/tsa-welcomes-its-500th-puppy.html>

Photo courtesy of the TSA blog.

The United States Government Manual

The United States Government Manual is the official handbook of the federal government. This special edition of the Federal Register is currently updated to provide comprehensive and authoritative descriptions of the programs and activities of the legislative, judicial and executive branches. The Government Manual also includes information about quasi-official agencies, international organizations with U.S. membership, and federal boards, commissions and committees.

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

Pertussis (Whooping Cough) Continues to Circulate in Virginia

Vaccination is most effective way to prevent pertussis; Boosters recommended for teens and adults.

With spring break just around the corner and the opportunity to spend more time with family and friends, the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) urges everyone to take precautions to prevent the spread of pertussis, also known as whooping cough. According to VDH, there has been a significant increase in pertussis in Virginia and most of the United States. From 2009 to 2010, there was a 72 percent increase in reported cases of pertussis in Virginia. Pertussis is highly contagious and most severe in children less than one year of age, who can suffer lung infections, seizures and in rare instances, death. Infants often catch the illness from family members and other caregivers. Pertussis symptoms may include a cough lasting more than two weeks that increases in severity or that occurs in fits or spasms, coughing fits accompanied by difficulty breathing, gagging or vomiting, or a cough that is followed by a whooping noise. Pertussis can occur at any age and symptoms in older children and adults may be a milder than those in children. Anyone with pertussis symptoms should seek medical evaluation and avoid public or group settings. If a person is exposed to pertussis or develops symptoms, antibiotic treatment may help prevent the disease or shorten the length of time the illness can be spread. For more, visit the Virginia Department of Health online at <http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/Epidemiology/factsheets/Pertussis.htm> or contact the Fairfax County Health Department.

Fact Sheet: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/hd/hdpdf/pertussis.pdf>

<http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/news/PressReleases/2011/040611Pertussis.htm>

The Road Ahead for Information Sharing in Emergency Response

According to a new report, "Disaster Relief 2.0: The Future of Information Sharing in Humanitarian Emergencies" (<http://www.unfoundation.org/global-issues/technology/disaster-report.html>), humanitarians do not yet make the

most of new technology and virtual teams to expedite emergency response and deal with "exponential" information flow. "The humanitarian community, though relying on scarce resources in response, is still performing [basic] tasks that computers can handle," said John Crowley, from the Harvard Humanitarian Initiative and lead author of the report, as quoted by www.trust.org. "The machine which enters data into specific tables can pull it out, aggregate it, and put in a composite format. This is the vision that Tim Berners-Lee had for the Semantic Web for more than a decade. We are just getting to that ... and Haiti was the tipping point." Commissioned by the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the UN Foundation and Vodafone Foundation, the report examines the aftermath of the Haiti quake and makes recommendations on how the humanitarian aid community can work with volunteer and technical communities to improve response and accountability in future emergencies.

<http://disaster-resource.com/newsletter/2011/subpages/v377/newsclip4.htm>

<http://www.trust.org/alertnet/news/global-the-road-ahead-for-information-sharing-in-emergency-response>

“MyTSA” Named Best Govt. App

Last month, the American Council for Technology and the Industry Advisory Council gave the Transportation Security Administration “the award for the Best Government Mobile App” because the “mobile web and iPhone app”—“launched in July 2010”—puts “the most frequently requested TSA information directly into the hands of travelers, anywhere, anytime,” according to the TSA blog. The app has four features, which include:

- **Airport Status:** Check what airports are experiencing general delays (not flight specific) or search for conditions at a specific airport. This information is provided by the [Federal Aviation Administration](http://www.faa.gov) (FAA).
- **“Can I Bring...?”:** Type in an item you’d like to bring on a trip to find out if it is permitted or prohibited, and whether you can pack it in your carry-on or checked bags. If your item isn’t in the app, you can submit it for consideration.
- **Guide:** A consolidated guide to the most frequently requested security information, including the rules for liquids, gels and aerosols; ID rules; tips for packing and dressing to speed through security; and guidelines for the military, people traveling with children and those with special needs.
- **Security wait times:** You can post your security wait time and see what wait times other passengers have posted for U.S. airports. The more people that use the wait time portion of the app, the better it works.



<http://blog.tsa.gov/2011/03/mytsa-app-named-best-government-app-by.html>

Presidential Directive on National Preparedness

The Obama Administration released the Presidential Policy Directive 8 (PPD-8) regarding “National Preparedness.” PPD-8, which was signed by President Obama on March 30, calling for “strengthening the security and resilience of the United States through systematic preparation for the threats that pose the greatest risk to the security of the Nation, including acts of terrorism, cyber attacks, pandemics, and catastrophic natural disasters.” The President directs that the Secretary of Homeland Security to develop a “National Preparedness Goal” within 180 days and the goal “shall be informed by the risk of specific threats and vulnerabilities – taking into account regional variations -and include concrete, measurable, and prioritized objectives to mitigate that risk. The national preparedness goal shall define the core capabilities necessary to prepare for the specific types of incidents that pose the greatest risk to the security of the Nation, and shall emphasize actions aimed at achieving an integrated, layered and all-of-Nation preparedness approach that optimizes the use of available resources.” In order to meet the National Preparedness Goal President Obama directs that within 240 days the Secretary of Homeland Security will present to the President the National Preparedness System. The system shall be designed to help guide the domestic efforts of all levels of government, the private and nonprofit sectors, and the public to build and sustain the capabilities outlined in the national preparedness goal. The national preparedness system shall include guidance for planning, organization, equipment, training, and exercises to build and maintain domestic capabilities. It shall provide an all-of-nation approach for building and sustaining a cycle of



preparedness activities over time. The president also outlines the requirements for “Building and Sustaining Preparedness” and the “National Preparedness Report.” This directive replaces Homeland Security Presidential Directive (HSPD)-8.

<https://www.hsdl.org/hslog/?q=node/6091>

<http://www.dhs.gov/xlibrary/assets/presidential-policy-directive-8-national-preparedness.pdf>

http://www.dhs.gov/xabout/laws/gc_1215444247124.shtm

FEMA Training Center Celebrates a Significant Milestone in Emergency Training

The Emergency Management Institute (EMI) in Emmitsburg, Md., on the grounds of the National Emergency Training Center, is commemorating 60 years of emergency training in 2011. EMI is the largest training facility for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). EMI traces its heritage from the former Civil Defense Staff College that was created to develop and conduct emergency training at all levels of government in response to the Cold War. To facilitate meeting this national threat, the federal government opened the training facility and rescue school in Olney, Md., in 1951. This tremendous task of conducting national civil defense training was later transferred to Battle Creek, Mich., in 1954. In 1980, the Staff College moved to its current location and was renamed the Emergency Management Institute. The new name reflected a change in its training mission to that of a broader responsibility. EMI trains and educates emergency personnel to effectively and efficiently respond to disasters regardless if it is natural or manmade in origin. The year 2011 represents another milestone of emergency training. This year marks the 30th anniversary of the beginning of emergency training at EMI. For trivia fans, the very first course taught at EMI was a Radiological Emergency Planning course held Jan. 12-16, 1981. There were 25 students who were the first of many thousands that have received nationally recognized emergency training at the Emergency Management Institute since then.



<http://training.fema.gov/Anniversary/>

CDC Flu App Challenge

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is pleased to announce the CDC Flu App Challenge to identify innovative and creative uses of technology to raise awareness of influenza and/or educate consumers on ways to prevent and treat the flu. Within the past few years, applications and technology have made it easier to communicate critical information on health subjects. In an effort to support a place where the public and government can solve problems together, the CDC has compiled a wealth of data that is now available to the software development community to utilize to generate innovative solutions to promote healthy flu prevention behavior.

Participants can create new ways to utilize technologies for the following platforms:

- The Web.
- A personal computer.
- A mobile handheld device.
- Any platform broadly accessible to the open Internet.

Applications that best satisfy the competition criteria will receive cash prizes up to **\$15,000**, and the opportunity to have their apps featured on the CDC website. For additional information, view: <http://fluapp.challenge.gov>.



New National Standards for State and Local Public Health Preparedness

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) developed 15 capabilities to serve as national public health preparedness standards to assist state and local public health departments in their strategic planning. One of the nation's key preparedness challenges has been determining appropriate state and local public health preparedness priorities. CDC's Public Health Preparedness Capabilities: National Standards for State and Local Planning now provides a guide that state and local jurisdictions can use to better organize their work, plan their priorities, and decide which capabilities they have the resources to build or sustain. The capabilities also help ensure that federal preparedness funds are directed to priority areas within individual jurisdictions.

<http://www.cdc.gov/phpr/capabilities/>

Serving Our Service Member Families Website

Virginia First Lady Maureen McDonnell launched the “Serving Our Service Member Families” website, <http://www.sos.virginia.gov/>, on April 20. The website provides an easy to use on-line connection between the families of deployed soldiers, sailors, Marines, airmen, and their fellow Virginians, businesses, places of worship, and civic and volunteer organizations to help meet their needs while a loved one is away serving the nation. Through the website, families can log on and find help in a secure format for various needs; businesses can register to give their support by offering their company and services at a special rate for the families; and community groups can register and list themselves as resources to the families.

<http://www.governor.virginia.gov/news/viewRelease.cfm?id=703>

Volunteer Fairfax Responds to Storm Damage in Halifax County

In response to the recent effects of a storm that blasted through seven states, Volunteer Fairfax has been asked by Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM) to fill a request for Volunteer Reception Center (VRC) operations in Halifax County, Va. Matt Lyttle, emergency response program manager, and Todd Damren, emergency response program intern, will organize a volunteer reception center on behalf of the Halifax County Office of Emergency Management on Saturday, April 30, to register, train and deploy volunteers to help with the damage of the storm. “Regardless of the disaster, it is vital that those wishing to help have a safe way to do so,” says Lyttle. “Having a VRC discourages people from self deploying, which can add more frustration to an already difficult situation. We are happy to assist another community in need.” For updates regarding Volunteer Fairfax’s response to the storms in Halifax, visit www.volunteerfairfax.org or follow Volunteer Fairfax on Twitter @volunteerFFX.

PLANNING / PREPAREDNESS

Don’t Drive Distracted

The impact of distracted driving is staggering. In the last five years, there were over 140,000 motor vehicle crashes in Virginia that involved driver distraction, which equates to three crashes every hour. In observance of National Public Health Week, April 4-10, the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) urges the public to make a commitment to put down their cell phones while driving. One of the most dangerous distractions is texting behind the wheel. A person texting while driving is 23 times more likely to crash. Cell phone use is also very dangerous; research shows that people who are using their cell phone while driving are four times more likely to get into a crash than someone who is driving without distraction from the phone (Virginia Tech Transportation Institute, 2006).

To keep everyone on Virginia’s roads safe, VDH recommends the following safety tips:

- Don’t use your phone while driving.
- Preset the radio, GPS and other electronics before driving.
- Let others know that you will not be taking their calls when you are driving.
- Update your voicemail message to include an "I'm driving" message.
- Pull over to a safe place if you need to do things that require concentration.
- Spread the word! Let others know how dangerous distractions can be.

You work hard to keep yourself and your family safe by watching your speed, and using seat belts and child safety seats; don’t negate these efforts with distracted driving.

<http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/news/PressReleases/2011/040511DistractedDriving.htm>

USFA Releases Restaurant Building Fires Report

The Federal Emergency Management Agency’s (FEMA) United States Fire Administration (USFA) issued a special report this month examining the characteristics of restaurant building fires. The report, “Restaurant Building Fires,” was developed by USFA’s National Fire Data Center and is based on 2007 to 2009 data from the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS). According to the report:

- An estimated 5,900 restaurant building fires occur annually in the United States, resulting in an estimated

average of 75 injuries and \$172 million in property loss.

- The leading cause of all restaurant building fires is cooking at 59 percent and nearly all of these cooking fires (91 percent) are small, confined fires with limited damage.
- While cooking is the leading cause of all restaurant building fires as well as the smaller, confined restaurant building fires, electrical malfunction is the leading cause of the larger, nonconfined restaurant building fires.
- Nonconfined restaurant building fires most often start in cooking areas and kitchens (41 percent).
- Deep fryers (9 percent), ranges (7 percent), and miscellaneous kitchen and cooking equipment (5 percent) are the leading types of equipment involved in ignition in nonconfined restaurant building fires.
- Smoke alarms were reported as present in 44 percent of nonconfined restaurant building fires. In addition, full or partial automatic extinguishment systems, mainly sprinklers, were present in 47 percent of nonconfined restaurant building fires.

For further information regarding other topical reports or any programs and training available at the United States Fire Administration, visit www.usfa.fema.gov.

Final Report: Special Event Planning

Each year, thousands of entities – including government agencies, private volunteer organizations and commercial enterprises at all levels – collaborate to plan and oversee a wide array of special events across the country. These events vary greatly in terms of size, scope and complexity. They include high-visibility National Special Security Events (NSSEs) like the State of the Union Address and Presidential nominating conventions; major sports events like the Super Bowl and Indy 500; more common events such as major league and college baseball/basketball/football games and concerts; and local events such as urban-area fireworks displays and small-town holiday parades. In many cases, these special event activities involve broad multi-jurisdictional, multi-agency, public/private-sector planning and coordination. Among the key findings from DomesticPreparedness.com:

- The vast majority of survey respondents indicated that they participate in a formal special event security and emergency preparedness planning process, aligned with the National Response Framework, at least once a year. Surprisingly, less than half of the respondents maintain formal special events planning checklists or best practices inventories.
- The vast majority of respondents believe that there is a strong correlation between special events planning and oversight, and community preparedness in a much broader context, including terrorism prevention and all-hazard consequence mitigation.
- More than half of respondents' jurisdictions/organizations actively participate in public/private-sector information sharing associated with special events security and emergency preparedness planning, and believe that private sector participation in such activities is important.
- The majority of the respondents participate in special events security and emergency preparedness training and exercise activities on a frequent basis, and believe that these activities bolster community preparedness in a broader all-hazards context.



http://www.domesticpreparedness.com/Commentary/DP40/FINAL_REPORT%3a_Special_Event_Planning/Report: <http://www.domesticpreparedness.com/userfiles/reports/SpecialEvent2011.PDF>

Hospitals Ill-equipped for Mass-casualty Disasters

Nearly a third of hospitals are unprepared for the six types of mass-casualty disasters that public health officials fear most, according to a report published in March by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. All of the nearly 400 hospitals that responded to questions about emergency preparedness as part of the National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey had plans for at least one of the six types of disasters – chemical, natural, epidemic, biological, nuclear-radiological and explosive-incendiary. The last two hazards were the ones for which hospitals were least likely to be prepared, with 20 percent lacking plans for either nuclear or explosive scenarios (www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nhsr/nhsr037.pdf).

<http://www.ama-assn.org/amednews/2011/04/11/prsd0412.htm>

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- Smoke alarms were reported as present in 44 percent of nonconfined restaurant building fires. In addition, full or partial automatic extinguishment systems, mainly sprinklers, were present in 47 percent of nonconfined restaurant building fires.

<http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/media/press/2011releases/041211.shtm>

DHS Announces the Release of New Training Course: Workplace Security Awareness

The Department of Homeland Security announces the availability of IS-906, *Workplace Security Awareness*, a no-cost training course developed by the Office of Infrastructure Protection Sector-Specific Agency Executive Management Office. Access IS-906 on the Federal Emergency Management Agency Emergency Management Institute website: <http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/IS906.asp>. The online training provides guidance to individuals and organizations on how to improve security in the workplace. The course is self-paced and takes about an hour to complete. This comprehensive cross-sector training is appropriate for a broad audience regardless of knowledge and skill level. The course promotes workplace security practices applicable across all 18 critical infrastructure sectors. The training uses innovative multimedia scenarios and modules to illustrate potential security threats. For more information about Office of Infrastructure Protection training courses, contact: IP_Education@hq.dhs.gov. For more information on the DHS Office of Infrastructure Protection: www.dhs.gov/criticalinfrastructure.

Free Legal Services

Virginia attorneys are offering free legal assistance to victims of tornadoes and other severe weather across the Commonwealth. As of April 25, 2011, weather victims can reach a volunteer attorney by calling the Virginia State Bar's Virginia Lawyer Referral Service (1-800-552-7977) on weekdays between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. The attorneys will provide advice about insurance issues, landlord-tenant problems, home repair contracts, home repair solicitations, lost legal documents, and other legal problems resulting from severe weather damage. If possible, callers should have in hand legal documents — insurance policies, contracts, and leases, for example — that relate to their questions. <http://www.vsb.org/site/news/item/legal-services-victims-weather-2011-04/>

MEDIA ARTICLES OF INTEREST

New National Preparedness Presidential Policy Focuses on Capabilities

The federal government is aiming to move preparedness activities away from overly burdensome requirements to a more streamlined approach with the release of a new policy. President Barack Obama signed a new presidential policy directive on national preparedness on March 30, which is the result of a comprehensive review of national preparedness policy and replaces Homeland Security Presidential Directive 8. Brian Kamoie, senior director for preparedness policy on the White House National Security Staff, told a group of stakeholders at the George

Washington University Homeland Security Policy Institute on April 8 that many incidents were examined during the directive's development, including the 2009 H1N1 pandemic, the Gulf of Mexico oil spill in 2010 as well as Hurricane Katrina. The federal government included 24 national associations representing a range of stakeholders and disciplines in the review of the national preparedness policy. The directive seeks to move away from burdensome requirements and instead build the key capabilities the nation needs to confront any challenge.

<http://www.emergencymgmt.com/disaster/National-Preparedness-Presidential-Policy-040811.html>

How Safe Is Safe Enough? To Engineers, It Depends

No one likes things to break. We don't like holes to appear in airplane cabins unexpectedly; we don't like bridges to collapse; we don't like radioactivity to leak from nuclear power plants. But engineers have to design things to certain specifications, and they have to grapple with the question of how safe is safe enough. When humans first started building things, determining whether they would work as planned was mostly a matter of trial and error. Build a bridge, drive a chariot across it, and see if it collapsed. "And it really wasn't until the Renaissance, until Galileo, that there was what we could today call a rational approach to design through calculation," says Henry Petroski, a professor of engineering at Duke University. He says computers and mathematical models now can predict how a bridge will behave under different conditions. But he says if you ask engineers to build a safe bridge or a safe nuclear plant, they ask you what you mean by that.

<http://www.npr.org/2011/04/05/135145451/how-safe-is-safe-enough-to-engineers-it-depends?ft=1&f=100>

How Small Business Can Avoid Becoming the Next GoDaddy

Social media is great for spreading the word but sometimes its content can become the elephant in the room, quite literally. Just ask Bob Parsons, the flamboyant founder and CEO of Web hosting site GoDaddy, who posted a video link of his elephant shoot in Zimbabwe on his Twitter account last month. The controversial dispatch was the latest in a string of high-profile social media gaffes, highlighted recently by insensitive remarks about the Egyptian uprising by fashion designer Kenneth Cole and Japan's earthquake by comedian Gilbert Gottfried. Gottfried's behavior cost him a longstanding gig as the voice of the Aflac insurance duck. The move by Parsons, known for provocative tactics that include Super Bowl ads with scantily-clad women, was also not without fallout. His personal blog is replete with customers threatening to pull their GoDaddy business. Meanwhile, the company lost high-profile accounts such as People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA).

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/04/06/us-column-cohen-godaddy-idUSTRE7353UB20110406>

States Need to Bolster Health Surveillance for Nuclear Events, Says

Damage to the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant following the magnitude 9.0 earthquake and following tsunami that rocked Japan in March highlights the need for better nuclear preparedness and planning here in the United States, say the editors of the American Medical Association journal "Disaster Medicine and Public Health Preparedness," according to "Emergency Management" magazine. A report published in the journal found that 70 percent to 84 percent of responding states did not have adequate health surveillance measures in place for nuclear events. The report provides a baseline by which to measure states' collective preparedness for a nuclear emergency.

http://www.dmph.org/cgi/content/full/5/Supplement_1/S134

Commission on Children and Disasters Calls for Improved Planning

The National Commission on Children and Disasters, an independent, bipartisan body established by Congress and the President to identify gaps in the nation's disaster preparedness, response and recovery for children and to make recommendations to close these gaps, has urged the nation's governors to take five immediate actions to improve disaster planning for children reports "Homeland Security Today."

- Establish an advisory body to ensure that the state appropriately incorporates, coordinates and supports the safety and unique needs of children.
- Ensure accountability by designating permanent staff responsibility in the governor's office and relevant state agencies.
- Direct federal disaster preparedness grants to support the needs of children in schools, child care, child welfare, juvenile justice facilities and courts.
- Require all-hazards disaster planning standards for schools, child care and other child-serving systems.

- Adopt standards for emergency shelters that are responsive to children.

<http://www.hstoday.us/industry-news/general/single-article/national-commission-on-children-and-disasters-calls-on-governors/1d842adb839bf6d54d83ea35e4fe8e84.html>

The Most Dangerous Thing You'll Do All Day

We stand around a lot here at “Men’s Health.” In fact, a few of us don’t even have office chairs. Instead, we write, edit and answer e-mails – a lot of e-mails – while standing in front of our computers. All day long. Why? It all started last summer, when Assistant Editor Maria Masters came across a shocking study in the “Medicine & Science in Sports & Exercise” (one of dozens of research journals we comb each month as we put together the magazine). Scientists at the Pennington Biomedical Research Center in Louisiana analyzed the lifestyles of more than 17,000 men and women over about 13 years, and found that people who sit for most of the day are 54 percent more likely to die of heart attacks. That’s right – 54 percent! Masters immediately called the lead researcher at Pennington, a professor named Peter Katzmarzyk. Turns out, this wasn’t the first study to link sitting and heart disease. Similar research actually dates back to 1953, when British researchers found that (sitting) bus drivers were twice as likely to die of heart attacks as (standing) trolley operators.

<http://health.yahoo.net/experts/menshealth/most-dangerous-thing-youll-do-all-day>

New CIRI Study: Few Companies Are Prepared to Manage a Crisis; IROs Should Step Up

The biggest mistake companies make during a corporate or operational crisis is a lack of communication and transparency with stakeholders and employees, causing a negative impact on valuations, according to a survey jointly released today by the Canadian Investor Relations Institute (CIRI) and Fleishman-Hillard Inc. The survey polled financial analysts and investor relations officers (IROs) at companies across Canada and the United States on operational and corporate crisis preparedness. It found that while many companies are mindful of the potential damage crises can cause to their sales, reputation and share value, few have an effective crisis management plan in place to deal with negative scenarios--and if they do it is likely out of date. Further, the survey found that half of responding IROs from the financial services and healthcare industries claim they don’t follow a crisis communications plan at all. The survey looked at both operational crises, which are issues impacting a company’s day-to-day business and corporate crises, issues involving a firm’s executive team or finances. The survey also reported that for those who have a crisis plan in place, only 29 percent of companies update it once a year.

<http://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20110412005462/en/Survey-Companies-Prepared-Manage-Crisis>

U.S. to Use Facebook, Twitter to Issue Terror Alerts

The U.S. government’s new system to replace the five color-coded terror alerts will have two levels of warnings — elevated and imminent — that will be relayed to the public only under certain circumstances for limited periods of time, sometimes using Facebook and Twitter, according to a draft Homeland Security Department plan obtained by The Associated Press. Some terror warnings could be withheld from the public entirely if announcing a threat would risk exposing an intelligence operation or an ongoing investigation, according to the government’s confidential plan. Like a gallon of milk, the new terror warnings will each come with a stamped expiration date. The 19-page document, marked “for official use only” and dated April 1, describes the step-by-step process that would occur behind the scenes when the government believes terrorists might be threatening Americans. It describes the sequence of notifying members of Congress, then counterterrorism officials in states and cities and then governors and mayors and, ultimately, the public. It specifies even details about how many minutes U.S. officials can wait before organizing urgent conference calls among themselves to discuss pending threats. It places the Homeland Security secretary, currently Janet Napolitano, in charge of the so-called National Terrorism Advisory System. The new terror alerts would also be published online using Facebook and Twitter “when appropriate,” the plan said, but only after federal, state and local government leaders have already been notified. The new system is expected to be in place by April 27.

http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20110407/ap_on_re_us/us_color_coded_threats

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/>

Mathematical Modeling of Migratory Birds, Domestic Poultry and Bird Flu

The persistence and recurrence of H5N1 avian influenza in endemic regions can largely be blamed on movement and infection by migratory birds. Trade in poultry, poultry products and caged birds, and movement of wild birds also account for H5N1 prevalence in these areas. Several recent outbreaks of avian influenza have suggested strong evidence of migratory birds playing a role in transmitting the virus over long distances. A paper published in the "SIAM Journal on Applied Mathematics" analyzes the interaction between non-migratory poultry and migratory birds in order to investigate the role of the latter in the spread of H5N1. Although avian influenza rarely infects humans, occasional cases of human infection have been observed since the late nineties. Moreover, it is a huge problem in the poultry industry since infected flocks can cause a drain on resources and threaten food supply. It can also result in significant reduction in wild bird populations, which is of great ecological concern.

<http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/221501.php>

WHO: The Latest H5N1 Tally

WHO has published an April 21 update for its Cumulative Number of Confirmed Human Cases of Avian Influenza A/(H5N1) Reported to WHO. Since the current outbreak began in 2003, just 552 cases have been confirmed worldwide. Not many for a supposed world disaster when malaria kills 881,000 a year, 2,413 a day, and 552 in five hours and thirty minutes. But it's the potential of H5N1 to become a catastrophic pandemic that keeps us watching it. Of the 552 cases, 322 have been fatal. That's a case fatality ratio of 58.3 percent – in effect, three out of five people who catch H5N1 will die of it. By comparison, malaria infects 247 million people a year. If malaria killed three out of five of its victims, we'd be losing roughly 150 million people, over 120 million of them in Africa alone. Every year. And 58.3 is the global CFR for H5N1. In Indonesia the CFR has stubbornly persisted for years at around 82 percent. In Cambodia (with just 15 cases and 13 deaths so far) the CFR is 86 percent. Egypt looks good only by comparison: 143 cases, with 47 deaths, gives a CFR of just 32.8 percent – still a horrendous toll. So while H5N1 hasn't exploded into a pandemic, that's no reason to sneer at it. It's reason to be grateful for a little more time to prepare.

<http://crofsblogs.typepad.com/h5n1/2011/04/who-the-latest-h5n1-tally.html>

WHO April 21 Update: www.who.int/csr/disease/avian_influenza/country/cases_table_2011_04_21/en/index.html

Landmark Agreement Improves Global Preparedness for Influenza Pandemics

After a week of negotiations, a working-group meeting of Member States successfully agreed upon a framework to ensure that in a pandemic, influenza virus samples will be shared with partners who need the information to take steps to protect public health. The working-group meeting was convened under the authority of the World Health Assembly and coordinated by WHO. The new framework includes certain binding legal regimes for WHO, national influenza laboratories around the world and industry partners in both developed and developing countries that will strengthen how the world responds more effectively with the next flu pandemic. By making sure that the roles and obligations among key players are better established than in the past – including through the use of contracts - the framework will help increase and expedite access to essential vaccines, antivirals and diagnostic kits, especially for outbreak areas. In addition, the framework will also put the world in a better position for seasonal influenza and potential pandemic threats such as the H5N1 virus, because some key activities will begin before the next pandemic, such as greater support for strengthening laboratories and surveillance, and partnership contributions from the industry.

http://www.who.int/mediacentre/news/releases/2011/pandemic_influenza_prep_20110417/en/index.html

TRAININGS / EXERCISES / CONFERENCES

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.redcrossna.org/Online/disaster_registration.php



Maritime & Transportation Security Expo

May 4-5; Baltimore, Md.

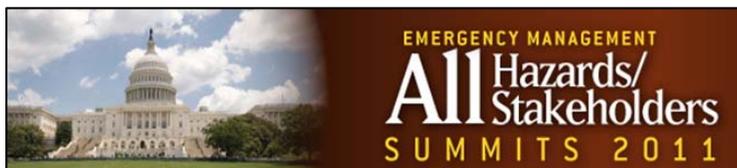
Meet with shippers, carriers, ports, U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, U.S. Navy, U.S. Department of Transportation, MARAD, The Railroad Administration, FAA, TSA, as well as procurement officials from Canada, Europe and Asia.

<http://maritimesecurityexpo.com/>

Emergency Management All Hazards Stakeholders Summit 2011

May 10; JW Marriott, Washington, D.C.

As a Tier 1 UASI area, the Capitol Region must be at the forefront of emergency preparedness, ready to respond to the natural and man-made disasters that could strike without warning. From snowstorms to terrorist attacks, the Capital can set



the bar for optimum regional collaboration and response that may be replicated throughout the country. Join your peers across all areas of homeland security and emergency preparedness to share best practices, explore solutions, and build contacts critical to the unique disaster preparedness and emergency management challenges of the region.

<http://www.emergencymgmt.com/events/Washington-DC-All-HazardsAll-Stakeholders-Summit-2011.html>

Conference on Safeguarding Health Information Security

May 10-11; Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center, Washington, D.C.

The National Institute of Standards and Technology is co-hosting a conference to explore the current health information technology security landscape and the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act Security Rule. The conference on “Safeguarding Health Information: Building Assurance through HIPAA Security” is hosted in conjunction with the Department of Health and Human Services Office for Civil Rights.

http://www.nist.gov/itl/csd/20110315_health.cfm



International Crisis & Risk Communication Conference

May 10-11; Orlando, Fla.

A wide range of thought leaders from the corporate, government and academic fields will gather May 10-11, at the International Crisis & Risk Communication Conference to engage in a dialogue addressing the communication challenges that professionals experience today and will experience in the future.

<http://app.streamsend.com/private/vyhh/mbD/SjVGC4p/browse/13486195>

International Hazardous Materials Response Teams Conference

May 18-21; Baltimore, Md.

This conference, sponsored by the International Association of Fire Chiefs, will feature an exhibition as well as

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educational presentations such as “Developing a Hazmat Team/Hazmat Response Support Network,” “Put the Fire Back in Your Hazmat Training,” and “Rail 101.”

<http://s36.a2zinc.net/clients/IAFC/hazmat11/public/MainHall.aspx?ID=1788&sortMenu=101000>

Southwest Virginia Meta-Leadership Summit

May 18-19; The Inn at Virginia Tech and Skelton Conference Center, Blacksburg, Va.

The Southwest Virginia Meta-Leadership Summit is a meeting of private, public and nonprofits across the Commonwealth of Virginia to discuss how to be a better leader in a crisis and how to partner across the different sectors to be better prepared.

<http://meta-leadershipsummit.org/southwest-virginia>



Meta-Leadership
Summit for
Preparedness

Crisis Management: Introduction to Plan Development With Guided Exercises

May 23-26; Boston, Mass.

In this course sponsored by the ASIS Crisis Management and Business Continuity Council, participants will—through small group exercises, role-play, lecture sessions, and hands-on group breakout sessions—learn about the concepts of crisis management, business continuity, and organizational resilience, including readiness, response and recovery.

https://www.asisonline.org/store/program_detail.xml?id=113675329

MEMA 2011 Conference

May 31-June 3; Clarion Fontainebleau Hotel and Resort, Ocean City, Md.

The Maryland Emergency Management Association and the Maryland Emergency Management Agency present the 25th Anniversary Celebration of the Maryland Emergency Management Association and the 2011 Conference, May 31-June 3. Updates on training topics and registration will be coming to www.mdema.org.

Hazmat Transportation (Road/Rail) Training

June 6-7; Piscataway, N.J.

Emergency responder awareness basic training in anhydrous ammonia, ethanol, hydrogen fluoride, and cryogenics (oxygen, nitrogen, argon, helium, and hydrogen), including properties, release type and responses, and railcar and cargo tank anatomy.

<http://www.transcaer.com/events.aspx>

14th Annual Emergency Management Higher Education Conference

June 6-9; Emergency Management Institute, National Emergency Training Center, Emmitsburg, Md.

The Emergency Management Institute (EMI) is hosting the 14th Annual Emergency Management Higher Education Conference primarily for representatives of colleges and universities which (1) have an existing hazard, disaster, emergency management program in place, or (2) are attempting to develop and implement a hazard, disaster, emergency management program on their campus (e.g., a degree, certificate, minor, or concentration). The conference will be held on the grounds of the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s National Emergency Training Center (NETC) in Emmitsburg, Maryland – about 75 miles northwest of Washington, D.C. The primary goal is to provide a forum for collegiate faculty, administrators and students to network with each other and with representatives of emergency management professional organizations which are also invited to the conference.

<http://training.fema.gov/emiweb/edu/educonference11.asp>

IAEM-USA 2011 Mid-Year Meeting

June 9-11; Emmitsburg, Md.

This meeting of the International Association of Emergency Managers is for members, emergency management professionals, congressional staffers, and federal officials with a role in homeland security and emergency management.

<http://www.iaem.com/events/MIDYEAR/INTRO.htm>

CERT CON 2011

June 10-12; Silver Spring, Md.

The Montgomery County (Md.) Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) is sponsoring a two-day conference to promote cooperation, coordination, and information-sharing among CERT teams in the Metropolitan Washington area. CERT-CON 2011 will help participants improve the readiness of their CERT teams and increase the resilience of their communities by making contacts, building relationships, and increasing knowledge and skills.

<http://fairfaxcountycert.blogspot.com/2011/04/cert-con-2011-connecting-certs-in.html>

10th Workshop on Economics of Information Security

June 14-15; Mason Inn, George Mason University Conference Center, Fairfax, Va.

The Center for Infrastructure Protection and Homeland Security (CIP/HS) at the George Mason School of Law will be hosting the 10th Workshop on Economics of Information Security (WEIS 2011). CIP/HS will be co-hosting this event with the Interdisciplinary Center for Economic Science at George Mason University. This two-day workshop will take place at George Mason University's Arlington Campus on Tuesday, June 14, and Wednesday, June 15.

<http://weis2011.econinfosec.org/index.html>

The Workshop on Cybersecurity Incentives (WoCI)

June 16; Mason Inn, George Mason University Conference Center, Fairfax, Va.

This workshop is a new one-day event to be concurrent with WEIS (previous entry above). WoCI is focused on understanding how incentives for security are created while addressing implementable mechanisms for cyberspace governance and risk management at the enterprise and national levels.

<http://www.regonline.com/builder/site/Default.aspx?EventID=959995>

CounterACT Network Research Symposium

June 21-23; Washington, D.C.

This symposium on countermeasures against chemical threats facilitates information sharing and collaboration among investigators within the CounterACT Network and allows National Institutes of Health staff an opportunity to review the progress of each award. All CounterACT investigators will summarize scientific accomplishments and milestones attained in the current project year.

http://www.ninds.nih.gov/research/counterterrorism/Upcoming_Events.htm



Biodetection Technologies 2011

June 23-24; Washington, D.C.

This conference will explore the latest research and development and commercialization efforts in biodefense technologies.

http://www.knowledgefoundation.com/viewevents.php?event_id=259&act=evt

Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials - International 2011 Conference

August 7-12; Philadelphia, Pa.

"Powerful Connections." Don't miss this opportunity to make powerful connections with executives, dispatchers, and technicians involved in all aspects of public safety communications – from law enforcement to PSAPs to government agencies. The APCO Annual Conference is a great place to learn new skills, explore new products and services, and connect with people who will enhance your career.

<http://www.apco2011.org/>

5th Annual Conference on Security Analysis and Risk Management

Sept. 13-15; Founder's Hall, George Mason University, Arlington Campus

George Mason University School of Law's Center for Infrastructure Protection and Homeland Security (CIP/HS) is partnering with the Security Analysis and Risk Management Association (SARMA) for the 5th Annual Conference on Security Analysis and Risk Management. The conference will be held on Tuesday, Sept. 13, 2011 at 8:30 a.m.

through Thursday, Sept. 15, at 12:30 p.m. The conference will be held in Founder's Hall on the Arlington Campus of

George Mason University.

<http://sarma.org/news/homepageboxes/4thannualconferenc/>

LINKS

Fairfax County Blogs and Web Resources

- Fairfax County CERT - <http://fairfaxcountycert.blogspot.com/>
- Fairfax County Citizen Corps Web Page - www.fairfaxcounty.gov/oem/citizencorps/
- 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 submit content comments or make suggestions by contacting the DHS Daily Report Team by telephone at 202-312-3421 or by e-mail at NICCRReports@dhs.gov. You can access the Daily OSIR at:

http://www.dhs.gov/files/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 703-817-7771
EMERGENCY
INFORMATION LINE

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Emergency Information: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency

To Unsubscribe:

E-mail publicaffairs@fairfaxcounty.gov with “Remove from ESF 15 Business/Nonprofit Update” in the subject line and you will be immediately removed from the distribution list.

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 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.

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