



ESF 15 Business / Nonprofit Update

Produced by Emergency Support Function 15 – External Affairs

April 2012

ITEMS OF INTEREST FOR ESF 15

Citizen Heroes and Leaders Honored at 9-1-1 Gala

The NG9-1-1 Institute, in conjunction with National Emergency Number Association (NENA), the Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials (APCO), the National Association of State 9-1-1 Administrators (NASNA), the Industry Council for Emergency Response Technologies (iCERT), the National Association of Emergency Dispatchers (NAED), 9-1-1 for Kids and the Congressional NG9-1-1 Caucus, presented six awards to citizen heroes at a ceremony in Washington, D.C.'s Union Station on March 27. This is the 9th annual awards ceremony where citizens whose heroism and dedication highlight the critical importance of 9-1-1 emergency communications will be honored. Among the honorees was **Cynthia Almendarez** of Alexandria, Va., who received the Citizen in Action Award. The Citizen in Action Award recognizes a person who demonstrated exceptional bravery and heroism to save a life in a critical time using 9-1-1. Ten-year-old Cynthia demonstrated extraordinary courage and composure by calling 9-1-1 when her baby cousin stopped breathing and then giving the information necessary for the call-taker to dispatch help. She then translated the call-taker's CPR instructions into Spanish for her mother, who administered CPR until EMT's arrived on the scene. The assistant director of the Fairfax County Department Public Safety Communications (county 9-1-1 Center), Roy Oliver stated "Cynthia's ability to translate the CPR instructions flawlessly into Spanish and her composure saved valuable time and Christopher's life."

<http://www.fireengineering.com/articles/2012/03/citizen-heroes-and-leaders-honored-at-911-gala.html>

National Public Safety Telecommunications Week

The Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials (APCO) designated the week of April 8-14 as "National Public Safety Telecommunicator Week." Sponsored by APCO International and celebrated annually to honor the thousands of men and women who respond to emergency calls, dispatch emergency professionals and equipment and render life-saving assistance to residents of the U.S. The Fairfax County Department of Public Safety Communications, the county's 9-1-1 Center, recognized call-takers and dispatchers on Monday, April 9, at the 7th annual Telecommunicator Promotions and Awards Ceremony. Watch a video about Telecommunicator Week in Fairfax County at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xhERctGqZfg>. For more on the awards: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/911/2012awards.htm>.



Connect With CDC on LinkedIn

CDC's Office of Public Health Preparedness and Response has just launched the agency's first official LinkedIn page! LinkedIn is the world's largest professional network with over 120 million members and growing rapidly. CDC's new page connects you with other partners in the field of emergency preparedness and helps you exchange knowledge, ideas, and opportunities in the field of emergency preparedness. It also helps you to exchange knowledge, ideas, and opportunities with a broad network of professionals. Connect with us today to receive updates, take part in discussions, and provide feedback on upcoming CDC initiatives.

<http://www.linkedin.com/groups/CDC-Office-Public-Health-Preparedness-4390536>

The National Rollout of CMAS Begins

Saturday, April 7, marked an important milestone in the alerts and warnings community. As the official deployment date and the beginning of the nationwide rollout of the Commercial Mobile Alert Service (CMAS), also known as

Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA), this date means many great things in the effort to alert and warn the public during emergencies. What should not go unrecognized, of course, are the years of hard work leading up to this date by federal agencies, industry representatives, and emergency management professionals to get where we are today. Each part of the CMAS alerting process is necessary for ensuring end-to-end connectivity and providing the ability for local, state, and Federal alerting authorities to add this important tool to their alert and warning toolbox. CMAS will not only enhance current alerts and warnings capabilities, but also enable alerting authorities to originate a message that can be targeted to CMAS-capable phones in a particular geographic area.

<http://www.awareforum.org/2012/04/the-national-rollout-of-cmas-begins/>

National Level Exercise (NLE) 2012: Simulated Cyber Incident

The National Level Exercise (NLE), formerly Top Official (TOPOFF), is a congressionally-mandated planned preparedness exercise held every year to give all levels of government a way to test their plans and skills in a realistic environment. The NLE 2012 will be based on a cyber event, and will involve FEMA Regions I, II, III and V, as well as the infrastructures of Information Technology, Communications, Water and Mass Transit/Rail. This is the first time a cyber event will be simulated in an NLE. Private sector organizations interested in participating in NLE 2012 should review the Participant Registration Form, available online on the FEMA website at

<http://www.fema.gov/library/viewRecord.do?fromSearch=fromsearch&id=5628>, and return via email no later than May 4, 2012.

http://www.fema.gov/pdf/media/factsheets/2012/fact_sheet_nle2012.pdf

Flood Insurance is the Best Protection Against Huge Losses

The most common disaster that the Federal Emergency Management Agency deals with involves flooding. Insurance companies seldom offer coverage for flood damage. FEMA does. The National Flood Insurance Program provides federally backed insurance to property owners, business owners and renters in communities nationwide that participate in the program. These jurisdictions have agreed to adopt and enforce floodplain ordinances that meet or exceed FEMA building requirements in what are called Special Flood Hazard Areas to reduce the risk of severe losses caused by deluges. “The NFIP covers upwards of 5.5 million homeowners, renters and businesses in more than 21,000 communities nationwide,” FEMA flood-insurance specialist Richard Sobota said. “Homes can be insured against flood damage for up to \$250,000 and commercial buildings for up to \$500,000. Policies can be written to include contents coverage for up to \$100,000 for homes and \$500,000 for business contents. Renters can insure their personal property for up to \$100,000.” Since its establishment in 1978, the NFIP has paid some \$40 billion dollars in flood insurance claims, helping over a million policyholders recover from often devastating inundations. Although FEMA administers the program, the policies are sold through private insurance agents. Many people don’t buy flood insurance because they believe they cannot qualify for it, or that it will cost more than they can afford. This is not usually the case, according to Sobota. Insurance agents who sell the coverage can quote costs and determine eligibility. A \$100,000 flood insurance policy costs about \$400 a year on average. Some mistakenly believe flood insurance is not available to them because their neighborhood has never flooded or they are not in a Special Flood Hazard area. But more than 25 percent of claims paid are in areas at medium or low risk of flooding. In these areas, flood insurance can be bought for as little as \$129 a year for a building and its contents, or \$49 for contents alone.

For additional information about flood insurance contact your local agent or visit www.floodsmart.gov to find an agent in your area. To see if your community participates in the NFIP, visit www.fema.gov/fema/csb.shtm.

<http://www.fema.gov/news/newsrelease.fema?id=61979>

Barbeque Grill Fire Season Arrives

As the grilling or barbeque season arrives, the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department wants to remind residents that grill fires cause an estimated average of 10 deaths, 100 injuries, and \$37 million in property loss each year nationwide, according to the U.S. Fire Administration. Almost half (49 percent) of grill fires on residential properties occur from 5 to 8 p.m. Thirty-two percent of all grill fires occur in the months of May, June, July and August, and the leading category of equipment power source is “gas fuels,” (79 percent). “Heat from powered equipment” is the leading heat source category from grill fires on residential properties. The leading category of factors contributing to ignition is “mechanical failure, malfunction,” (39 percent). Within this category, leaks or breaks of containers or pipes account for approximately 23 percent of all grill fires on residential properties. Grills, hibachis, and barbeques

on residential properties continue to be a high fire risk and, on average, result in more injuries and slightly higher dollar losses when compared to all other fires. It is crucial that each person diligently practice fire safety when cooking or grilling outside. Please review the safety tips below:

Grill Safety Tips

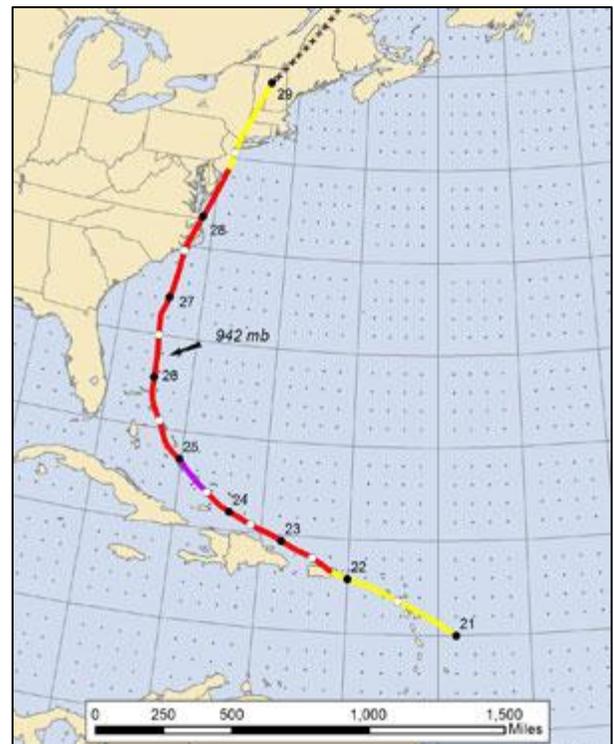
- Grills should be placed at least 15 feet from any home, building or combustibles to ensure adequate air circulation.
- Charcoal must be kept dry. Wet charcoal can spontaneously ignite. Spare propane bottles should be stored outside away from the home. A backyard shed is a good place.
- Keep children and pets away from the grill. Grills continue to give off heat long after cooking has stopped.
- **Never** place hot ashes in paper or plastic bags or containers. Only use metal containers for hot ashes.
- Use Underwriters Laboratories (UL) approved electrical starters in place of lighter fluid.
- Never use a grill on apartment or condominium balconies. This practice is one of the biggest dangers with grills. It is unsafe and against the law.

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fire

“Irene” Retired from List of Atlantic Basin Storm Names

Irene has been retired from the official list of Atlantic Basin tropical storm names by the World Meteorological Organization’s (WMO) hurricane committee because of the fatalities and damage it caused in August 2011, and will be replaced by Irma. Storm names are reused every six years for both the Atlantic Basin and eastern North Pacific Basin, unless retired for causing a considerable amount of casualties or damage. Irene is the 76th name to be retired from the Atlantic list since 1954. Irene became a hurricane on Aug. 22, and intensified to a Category 3 hurricane on the Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale on Aug. 24, while centered between Mayaguana and Grand Inagua in the Bahamas. It gradually weakened after crossing the Bahamas, making landfall in North Carolina on Aug. 27, as a Category 1 hurricane. Irene made another landfall the next day as a tropical storm very near Atlantic City, NJ. The center moved over Coney Island and Manhattan, NY, the same day. Irene caused widespread damage across a large portion of the eastern U.S. as it moved north-northeastward, bringing significant effects from the mid-Atlantic through New England. The most severe impact of Irene was catastrophic inland flooding in New Jersey, Massachusetts and Vermont. Irene was directly responsible for 49 deaths: five in the Dominican Republic, three in Haiti, and 41 in the United States. In the U.S., six deaths are attributed to storm surge/waves or rip currents, 15 to wind, including falling trees, and 21 to rainfall-induced floods. Including flood losses, damage in the U.S. is estimated to be \$15.8 billion.

http://www.noanews.noaa.gov/stories2012/20120413_irene.html



The track of Hurricane Irene.
Photo courtesy: NOAA

Know Your Risk, Take Action, Be a Force of Nature

As the nation marked the first anniversary of one of the largest tornado outbreaks in U.S. history, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the Federal Emergency Management Agency partnered to prepare the public and help save lives from severe weather. The two agencies encourage the public nationwide and in FEMA Region III, which includes Virginia, to “**know your risk, take action and be a force of nature**” by taking proactive preparedness measures and inspiring others to do the same. While the type and severity of threats vary across the 10 FEMA Regions, the need to be prepared is universal. Last April, tornadoes raked the central and southern United

States, spawning more than 300 tornadoes and claiming hundreds of lives. That devastating, historic outbreak was only one of many weather-related tragedies in 2011, which now holds the record for the greatest number of multi-billion dollar weather disasters in the nation's history. In late August, 2011 strong hurricane activity in FEMA Region III produced devastating storms such as Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee. These two storms rocked communities due to widespread inland flooding, left their lingering and residual effects resulting one of the Region's largest long term recovery missions. Additionally, and almost simultaneously, FEMA Region III felt the impact of a multi-state earthquake that is still producing aftershock events still being felt in some areas. The earthquake reminded everyone that severe weather is unpredictable and that we must plan for every type of weather event. "Severe weather can happen at any time and often with little or no notice." said FEMA Regional Administrator MaryAnn Tierney. "We can't control where and when severe weather will hit but we can control how prepared we are as individuals and communities. By taking the time ... to know your community's risk, and plan accordingly, you are taking the first steps toward empowering yourself to become your own emergency manager," added Tierney. To be a force of nature, FEMA and NOAA encourage residents to prepare for extreme weather by following these guidelines:

- **Know your risk:** The first step to becoming weather-ready is to understand the type of hazardous weather that can affect where you live and work, and how the weather could impact you and your family. Check the weather forecast regularly and sign up for alerts from your local emergency management officials. Severe weather comes in many forms and your shelter plan should include all types of local hazards.
- **Take action:** Pledge to develop an emergency plan based on your local weather hazards and practice how and where to take shelter. Create or refresh an emergency kit for needed food, supplies and medication. Post your plan where visitors can see it. Learn what you can do to strengthen your home or business against severe weather. Obtain a NOAA Weather Radio. Download FEMA's mobile app so you can access important safety tips on what to do before and during severe weather. Understand the weather warning system and become a certified storm spotter through the National Weather Service.
- **Be a force of nature:** Once you have taken action, tell your family, friends, school staff and co-workers about how they can prepare. Share the resources and alert systems you discovered with your social media network. Studies show individuals need to receive messages a number of ways before acting - and you can be one of those sources. When you go to shelter during a warning, send a text, tweet or post a status update so your friends and family know. You might just save their lives, too. For more information on how you can participate, visit www.ready.gov/severeweather.

<http://www.fema.gov/news/newsrelease.fema?id=62318>

Adherence to NIMS Protocol Could Have Prevented UC-Davis Pepper Spray

The pepper spraying at close quarters of student protestors at the University of California-Davis in November 2011 "should and could have been prevented," concludes a task force empaneled by the university to examine the incident. The task force report, led by retired California Supreme Court Justice Cruz Reynoso, finds a breakdown in incident planning and management at the university. It says the UC-Davis police officer who began spraying the students, Lt. John Pike, decided on his own to use pepper spray and that the decision was "objectively unreasonable." The report places emphasis throughout on UC-Davis officials' failure to utilize standardized emergency management planning protocols as set out in the National Incident Management System, itself modeled on California's Standardized Emergency Management System. Adherence to NIMS or SEMS would have revealed many shortcomings with the planning and execution of a decision to almost immediately remove tents pitched by protestors as part of nationwide "Occupy" protests that took over prominent public spaces in the fall of 2011, the report says. For example, senior university leadership decided to act quickly in dismantling the tents due to fears that many non-students were among the campers. Senior leaders were told conflicting reports about non-students, but the NIMS/SEMS structure would have directed the university to accurately assess the situation and identify potential risks before acting. The question, the report says, isn't whether in the long-term alternatives to dismantling the tents would have been unfeasible, but whether in the short term an accurate assessment could have bought officials a few days to attempt to defuse the situation or consider the consequences of various types of action.

<http://www.fiercehomelandsecurity.com/story/adherence-nims-protocol-could-have-prevented-uc-davis-pepper-spray/2012-04-16>

Task Force Report: <http://reynosoreport.ucdavis.edu/reynoso-report.pdf>

PLANNING / PREPAREDNESS

National Terrorism Advisory System

The Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) National Terrorism Advisory System (NTAS) is a robust terrorism advisory system that provides timely information to the public about credible terrorist threats and replaces the former color-coded alert system. 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:

- "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.

How to Help Disabled Employees Deal with Emergencies

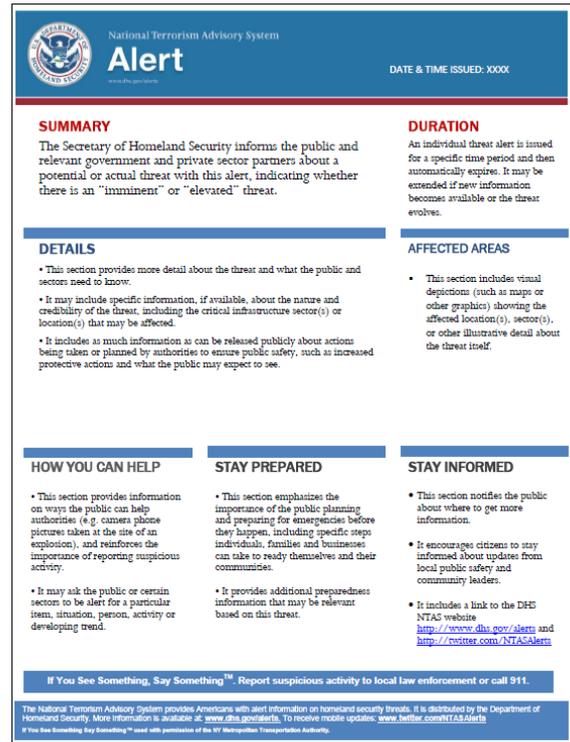
A major focus of emergency planning concerns how to help people with disabilities. However, employers must remember that federal laws may restrict what employers can do in emergencies.

<http://www.businessmanagementdaily.com/29517/how-to-help-disabled-employees-deal-with-emergencies>

Information and Communication Technology Survey by U.S. Census Bureau

These statistics, based on the 2007 North American Industry Classification System, estimate capitalized and noncapitalized spending in 2010 for Information and Communication Technology (ICT) equipment and computer software at the sector level, as well as for three-digit and selected four-digit industries. Rapid advances in ICT equipment result in these assets having short useful lives and being replaced at a much faster rate than other types of equipment. As a result, rather than capitalizing the value of such assets and expensing the cost over two or more years, companies often expense the full cost of such assets during the current annual period. In some cases this same-period expense is also because companies have varying dollar levels for capitalization. Hence, the survey gives users a more complete idea of U.S. companies' total investment in ICT equipment. The statistics are used to assess future productivity and economic growth prospects and permit the reconciliation of important differences between reported production and consumption of technology.

http://www.census.gov/econ/ict/xls/2010/full_report.html



The poster is titled "National Terrorism Advisory System Alert" and includes a date and time issued field. It is divided into several sections: SUMMARY, DURATION, DETAILS, AFFECTED AREAS, HOW YOU CAN HELP, STAY PREPARED, and STAY INFORMED. At the bottom, it features the slogan "If You See Something, Say Something" and provides contact information for reporting suspicious activity.

National Terrorism Advisory System Alert
DATE & TIME ISSUED: XXXX

SUMMARY
The Secretary of Homeland Security informs the public and relevant government and private sector partners about a potential or actual threat with this alert, indicating whether there is an "imminent" or "elevated" threat.

DURATION
An individual threat alert is issued for a specific time period and then automatically expires. It may be extended if new information becomes available or the threat evolves.

DETAILS
• This section provides more detail about the threat and what the public and sectors need to know.
• It may include specific information, if available, about the nature and credibility of the threat, including the critical infrastructure sector(s) or location(s) that may be affected.
• It includes as much information as can be released publicly about actions being taken or planned by authorities to ensure public safety, such as increased protective actions and what the public may expect to see.

AFFECTED AREAS
• This section includes visual depictions (such as maps or other graphics) showing the affected location(s), sector(s), or other illustrative detail about the threat itself.

HOW YOU CAN HELP
• This section provides information on ways the public can help authorities (e.g. camera phone pictures taken at the site of an explosion), and reinforces the importance of reporting suspicious activity.
• It may ask the public or certain sectors to be alert for a particular issue, situation, person, activity or developing trend.

STAY PREPARED
• This section emphasizes the importance of the public planning and preparing for emergencies before they happen, including specific steps individuals, families and businesses can take to ready themselves and their communities.
• It provides additional preparedness information that may be relevant based on this threat.

STAY INFORMED
• This section notifies the public about where to get more information.
• It encourages citizens to stay informed about updates from local public safety and community leaders.
• It includes a link to the DHS NTAS website: <http://www.dhs.gov/alerts> and <http://evites.com/NTASAlerts>.

If You See Something, Say Something™ Report suspicious activity to local law enforcement or call 911.

The National Terrorism Advisory System provides Americans with alert information on homeland security threats. It is distributed by the Department of Homeland Security. More information is available at: www.dhs.gov/alerts. To receive mobile updates: www.twitter.com/NTASAlerts.
* If You See Something Say Something™ used with permission of the NY Metropolitan Transportation Authority.

10 Threats to IT over the Next Two Years

Providing IT security will only get tougher over the next couple of years as digital threats become more numerous and complex. That's the gist of a new report from the Information Security Forum entitled "Threat Horizon 2014: Managing Risks When Threats Collide." "While individual threats will continue to pose a risk, there is even more danger when they combine, such as when organized criminals adopt techniques developed by online activists," Steve Durbin, global vice president of the Information Security Forum, said in announcing the report. "Traditional risk management is insufficiently agile to deal with the potential impacts from activity in cyberspace." The report categorizes 10 threats in three basic areas: external, regulatory and internal.

http://www.govinfosecurity.com/articles.php?art_id=4628

U.S. Hospital Preparedness: The Intersection of HICS, Business Continuity and IT Disaster Recovery

The number one priority for hospitals is to provide continuous, superior care to patients, regardless of circumstance. This principle results in the need to invest time and resources in preparing for disruptive events. In addition, a number of external parties require hospitals to invest in preparedness measures. Further, since hospitals are becoming more reliant on IT applications to store patients' EMRs, robust IT disaster recovery programs are needed to ensure application uptime. Until recently, the focus of many hospitals has solely been on establishing and maintaining robust HICS and IT disaster recovery programs. However, many hospitals have not involved clinical departments in preparing for a business interruption (e.g. loss of a facility, loss of personnel, loss of key supplier). In addition, many hospitals have not focused on preparing support departments (e.g., payroll, accounts receivable, call centers) for business or technology interruptions. These gaps can cause significant issues during a business interruption, including financial hardship for the hospital, inconsistencies between clinical and IT expectations, and a fundamental failure to continue providing quality care. The solution to these challenges is integrating HICS and IT disaster recovery into a hospital-wide business continuity program that addresses all preparedness activities and prepares all hospital departments (clinical and support) for business and technology interruptions.

<http://www.continuitycentral.com/feature0968.html>

QuakeSmart Tool Kit

Actionable and scalable guidance and tools to the private sector, its owners, managers and employees about the importance of earthquake mitigation and the simple things they can do to reduce the potential of earthquake damages, injuries and financial losses. The QuakeSmart Toolkit (FEMA P-811 DVD) is available for order from the FEMA Library.

<http://www.fema.gov/plan/prevent/earthquake/qstoolkit/index.shtm>



Atlantic Hurricanes

The National Hurricane Center (NHC) Atlantic Ocean Twitter account (@NHC_Atlantic, which includes the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean Sea) will send out alerts whenever NHC issues:

- A public advisory regarding a tropical cyclone (TCP).
- A tropical cyclone update (TCU).
- A position estimate (TCE).
- A tropical weather outlook (TWO).

NHC can also tweet a special message at any time. A reminder that lead times of tropical cyclone watches and warnings were increased in 2010. The definitions of tropical storm and hurricane watches and warnings are as follows:

- **Tropical Storm Watch:** An announcement that tropical storm conditions (sustained winds of 39 to 73 mph) are *possible* within the specified coastal area within 48 hours.
- **Tropical Storm Warning:** An announcement that tropical storm conditions (sustained winds of 39 to 73 mph) are *expected* within the specified coastal area within 36 hours.

- **Hurricane Watch:** An announcement that hurricane conditions (sustained winds of 74 mph or higher) are *possible* somewhere within the specified coastal area. Because hurricane preparedness activities become difficult once winds reach tropical storm force, the hurricane watch is issued 48 hours in advance of the anticipated onset of tropical-storm-force winds.
- **Hurricane Warning:** An announcement that hurricane conditions (sustained winds of 74 mph or higher) are *expected* somewhere within the specified coastal area. Because hurricane preparedness activities become difficult once winds reach tropical storm force, the hurricane warning is issued 36 hours in advance of the anticipated onset of tropical-storm-force winds.

2012 Atlantic Storm Names
 Alberto, Beryl, Chris, Debby,
 Ernesto, Florence, Gordon, Helene,
 Isaac, Joyce, Kirk, Leslie, Michael,
 Nadine, Oscar, Patty, Rafael,
 Sandy, Tony, Valerie, William.

National Hurricane Center: <http://www.hurricanes.gov/>

Gaps Continue to Exist in Nursing Home Emergency Preparedness and Response

The Office of the Inspector General of the Department of Health and Human Services recently issued a report regarding the preparedness measures in place to protect Americans living in nursing homes. “Federal regulations require that Medicare- and Medicaid-certified nursing homes have written emergency plans and provide employees with emergency preparedness training. In a 2006 report about nursing homes that experienced hurricanes, we found that emergency plans lacked many provisions recommended by experts.” Most nursing homes met the Federal requirement for written emergency and preparedness training. However the investigators found “many of the same gaps in nursing home preparedness and response that we found in our 2006 report. Emergency plans lacked relevant information-including only about half of the tasks on the CMS checklist. Nursing homes faced challenges with unreliable transportation contracts, lack of collaboration with local emergency management, and residents who developed health problems.” The report also makes recommendations for improvement to the CMS checklist in a memorandum report.

<https://www.hsdl.org/hslog/?q=node/6942>

2012 Report “Gaps Continue to Exist in Nursing Home Emergency Preparedness and Response During Disasters: 2007–2010” – <https://www.hsdl.org/?view&did=705729>

Center for Medicaid and State Operations (CMS) checklist: <https://www.hsdl.org/?view&did=705731>

Experts: Don’t Rely Just on Tornado Warning Sirens

When a tornado dropped quickly from the sky above Woodward, Okla., April 15, the town’s 20 outdoor tornado sirens were nonfunctional due to a lightning strike on the tower used to activate the warning system. The Woodward tornado proved fatal after it hit without warning. While it is unknown whether the disabled sirens contributed to the toll in Woodward, residents and officials in hard-hit areas of Kansas, Iowa and elsewhere credited days of urgent warnings from forecasters for saving lives. Many residents have grown up counting on tornado sirens to warn them when a twister has been spotted on the ground, but **emergency officials say that can be one of the least reliable methods**, especially when a tornado hits at night. Emergency management officials urged residents to take advantage of weather radios, smartphones and television warnings to keep them up to speed when weather turns dangerous. Sirens are not designed to wake residents who are sleeping or to penetrate the thick insulation in modern homes, the director of the Oklahoma Office of Emergency Management said.

http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-201_162-57414503/experts-dont-rely-just-on-tornado-warning-sirens/

Virginia State Animal Response Team

The number one reason people refuse to evacuate their homes during an emergency is because they don’t want to leave a pet behind. The Virginia State Animal Response Team works to address the needs of animals during natural or man-made disasters. Check out their new website: <http://virginiasart.org/>.

MEDIA ARTICLES OF INTEREST

Judge Rules Virginia Tech Did Not Violate Notification Law

Overtaking \$55,000 in fines levied against Virginia Tech, an administrative judge has ruled the university did not violate federal law in its handling of the campus massacre five years ago. Two weeks after Tech lost a civil case filed by parents of two students killed in the shootings, administrative Judge Ernest Canellos upheld the university in its appeal of U.S. Department of Education fines for violations of the Clery Act requiring timely warnings of threats on campus. At issue in both cases was whether the university was at fault for waiting more than two hours to issue an email alert after the first two deaths in the West Ambler Johnston residence hall. In his decision, Canellos said Tech's actions can only be judged on the basis of the first shootings "and not the later massacre perpetrated at Norris Hall."

<http://www2.timesdispatch.com/news/virginia-news/2012/mar/30/8/judge-rules-va-tech-did-not-violate-notification-l-ar-1806316/>

Weather Service to Test More Graphic Tornado Warnings

The National Weather Service plans to begin a new initiative in Kansas and Missouri designed to make people in Tornado Alley sit up and take notice when potentially devastating twisters are headed their way. Under the new system, tornado warnings will be accompanied by stark language like, "mass devastation is highly likely, making the area unrecognizable to survivors," according to the National Weather Service. Or even: "This storm is not survivable." "We call this" "impact-based" warning," said Dan Hawblitzel, a National Weather Service meteorologist in Pleasant Hill, Mo. "The idea is to better convey the impact that a storm is likely to have on a community." Current National Weather Service tornado warnings generally cover portions of counties and urge people in the storm's path to take action.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/04/02/us-usa-tornado-warnings-idUSBRE8300JX20120402>

Environmental Group Sizes Up Virginia Water Threats

The National Resources Defense Council recently said that Virginia is among the states least prepared for threats of climate change including floods, droughts and more frequent severe storms. The council, for instance, says the Virginia Beach-Norfolk metropolitan area ranks the 10th worldwide in terms of risk related to sea level increases. Moreover, the council states, more than 740 square miles statewide are vulnerable to a 2-foot rise in sea level.

http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/V/VA_WATER_THREATS_VAOL-

Public Health Officials Track Disease Outbreaks with Twitter

Twitter is more than a way to tell the world what flavor bagel you just ate or how long your layover is at O'Hare. The microblogging service also has the potential to track an influenza outbreak, or an emerging biological warfare attack, in a faster, less costly way than traditional methods of disease surveillance, according to a computer science expert at Southeastern Louisiana University. More than 40 million Americans use Twitter and other social media web services more than once a day. Currently, a process known as syndromic surveillance is used to collect health-related data to alert public health officials to the probability of an outbreak of disease, typically influenza or other contagious diseases. The technique involves collecting data from hospitals, clinics and other sources. It's a labor-intensive, time-consuming approach, from which the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention produces weekly estimates. Moreover, these estimates typically lag a week or more behind actual events. "By monitoring a social network such as Twitter, researchers can capture comments from people with the flu who are sending out status messages," said Southeastern Louisiana computer science and industrial technology professor Aron Culotta. He said that because Twitter monitoring is done in real time, it can detect outbreaks sooner than can traditional means of polling hospitals, which typically have a lag time of two to four weeks.

<http://www.homeland1.com/homeland-security-columnists/doug-page/articles/1267189-public-health-officials-track-disease-disease-outbreaks-with-twitter/>

Post-9/11 Public Safety Concerns Revealed

According to Federal Signal's 2011 public safety survey, half of Americans now feel less safe in their day-to-day

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

lives and 52 percent believe attention to emergency preparedness is no greater now than it was in 2001. The survey, "Diving Deeper into America's Greatest Public Safety Concerns," revealed that 64 percent of respondents ages 18-24 confirmed that they do not feel any safer 10 years after 9/11. Nearly four in 10 Americans consider their town anywhere from slightly to completely unprepared for emergencies such as natural disasters, terrorism and health pandemics, and an overwhelming 90 percent feel that some form of improvement is needed to enhance emergency awareness and communications where they live.

http://ehstoday.com/fire_emergencyresponse/news/Americans-Public-Safety-Concerns-0404/

No Fatalities in Virginia Beach Jet Crash

Military and civilian investigators were groping for ways to express relief that no one died the day after a Navy fighter jet slammed into an apartment complex in Virginia Beach, and touched off a firestorm.

http://www.dailypress.com/news/breaking/dp-nws-virginia-beach-jet-no-casualties-20120407_0.2381105.story

http://www.dailypress.com/news/military/dp-nws-virginia-beach-jet-folo-20120407_0.4685334.story

<http://hamptonroads.com/2012/04/navy-begin-giving-crash-funds-early-today>

<http://hamptonroads.com/2012/04/navy-remains-va-beachs-backbone-after-jet-crash>

U.S. Power and Water Utilities Face Daily Cyberattacks

American water and energy companies deal with a constant barrage of cyberattacks on a daily basis. These incidents usually take the form of cyber espionage or denial-of-service attacks against the utilities' industrial-control systems, according to a panel from DHS Industrial Control System Cyber Emergency Response Team.

<http://www.homelandsecuritynewswire.com/dr20120406-u-s-power-and-water-utilities-face-daily-cyberattacks>

U.S. to Offer Anthrax Vaccine to First Responders on Trial Basis

The U.S. Presidential administration is preparing to make unused federal stocks of anthrax vaccine available to certain nonmilitary emergency personnel in a trial effort that could lead to wider distribution of the countermeasure to first responders. The initiative would offer certain state and local officials the option to accept a federally funded course of anthrax vaccination doses and would consider broader distribution in part through demand from individual response personnel, senior medical officials with the Homeland Security Department and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention told Global Security Newswire April 6. The program would draw from inventory that is within months of expiration in the U.S. Strategic National Stockpile of medical countermeasures. The federal government formally deems stockpiled anthrax vaccine to be unusable once it ages beyond its 4-year shelf life, but officials have not ruled out the possibility that some lapsed material could remain sufficiently potent to distribute to the public if a shortage of unexpired stocks develops following an outbreak.

<http://www.nti.org/gsn/article/us-offer-anthrax-vaccine-first-responders-trial-basis/>

N.C. State Researchers Predict Average Hurricane Season

Researchers at North Carolina State University are predicting a relatively average hurricane season, but note that minor storms can cause serious problems when they make landfall. Professors Lian Xie and Montserrat Fuentes said today they expect between seven to 10 named storms in the Atlantic basin in 2012. That would be about normal for the region, which averages about 10.5 named storms annually. The researchers say four to seven of the storms may grow strong enough to become hurricanes, with one to three having the chance to become a major hurricane. They calculate there's a 12 percent chance a major hurricane, defined as Category 3 or above, will make landfall in the southeastern U.S. this year. Hurricane season runs from June 1 through Nov. 30.

<http://hamptonroads.com/2012/04/nc-st-researchers-predict-average-hurricane-season>

Even at U.S. Tornado Command Center, Safety Not Guaranteed

When a tornado touched down in Norman, Okla., about two miles from the headquarters of the nation's storm prediction nerve center, local forecasters were able to give a detailed warning only three minutes before it hit. No one was killed in Norman but six people died after a tornado struck Woodward, Okla., early on Sunday while it was still dark and the town's storm siren failed to sound. An estimated 75 tornadoes tore through four states of "Tornado Alley" over the weekend. It is the job of the 36 meteorologists at the national Storm Prediction Center in Norman, and hundreds more in 122 local offices around the country, to stay a step ahead of tornadoes. Despite the latest

computer technology, forecasters give tornado warnings to specific locations on average only about 15 minutes ahead of time. Nationwide, 75 percent of those warnings never pan out and even those that do give no information on how severe the tornado is likely to be. In the case of the Norman tornado, the local office issued a warning of severe thunderstorms that could produce tornadoes at 3:55 p.m. Friday. They followed four minutes later with a tornado warning - which means take cover. The tornado hit three minutes after that. At one point some staff at the storm center hustled down to an auditorium below ground to take cover themselves.

http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/47085475/ns/us_news/#.T47cX7P2Ysc

Up to \$48 Million of Expired Anthrax Vaccine Thrown Out Annually, Says DHS Official

Up to 2 million doses of expired anthrax vaccination worth \$48 million gets thrown out annually from the federal stockpile, said a Homeland Security Department official during an April 17 congressional hearing. The Center for Disease Control stores anthrax vaccines as part of the Strategic National Stockpile of emergency medical countermeasures to potential terrorist attacks or pandemics. Federal agencies “throw out [a vaccine] when it expires,” said James Polk, principal deputy assistant secretary of the DHS Office of Health Affairs while testifying before the House Homeland Security subcommittee on emergency preparedness, response, and communications. Since the stockpile was established by a 2004 law, the Project BioShield Act, the federal government has spent about \$2.56 billion on supplying the stockpile, which also includes vaccines for smallpox and treatments for the plague or exposure to radioactive substances. Because all medicines come with expiration dates (which tend to be highly conservative in terms of assessing whether the potency of a drug has diminished), CDC must constantly buy far more doses than the number vaccines it wants to have on hand in the stockpile. A May 2011 Congressional Research Service report (<http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/terror/R41033.pdf>) notes, for example, that the CDC had to buy 29 million doses of anthrax vaccine from 2006 to 2011 in order to maintain at least 10 million vaccines on hand. Federal policy is not to permit the use of medicine past its expiration date.

<http://www.fiercehomelandsecurity.com/story/48m-expired-anthrax-vaccine-thrown-out-annually-says-dhs-official/2012-04-18>

FLU

U.S. Reviews Research Risks Amid Bird Flu Debate

The Obama administration is ordering a government-wide review of scientific research that could raise biosecurity concerns in the wake of fierce controversy over some man-made strains of the deadly bird flu. The policy tightens oversight of high-stakes research involving dangerous germs, work that could bring a big payoff but which also could cause harm if the research ever is misused. The new U.S. policy doesn’t mean there’s anything wrong with doing this kind of research, including recent experiments in Wisconsin and the Netherlands that created easier-to-spread versions of the bird flu.

<http://www.hstoday.us/single-article/us-reviews-research-risks-amid-bird-flu-debate/71ad6b38ef68d68f1b43540b0824b8c1.html>

People with Heart Disease and Those Who Have Had a Stroke Are at Increased Risk of Complications from Influenza (the Flu)

People with heart disease and those who have had a stroke are at high risk for developing serious complications from the flu. Among adults hospitalized with the flu during the 2010-2011 influenza season, heart disease was the most commonly-occurring chronic condition; 37 percent of adults hospitalized with the flu during the 2010-2011 flu season had heart disease. Studies have shown that influenza is associated with an increase of heart attacks and stroke.

<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/heartdisease/index.htm>

Human Infection With H10N7 Avian Influenza

Although they are only rarely detected, there is evidence to suggest that humans may be infected by avian influenza

viruses more often than is commonly suspected. Every year billions of people around the world experience flu-like symptoms that can stem from any of hundreds of different viruses. Of those, only the tiniest fraction are tested to see what pathogen caused the illness. While most people are aware of the roughly six hundred H5N1 "bird flu" infections detected over the past decade, we've also seen a smaller number of human infections caused by a variety of avian and swine origin flu viruses.

<http://afludiary.blogspot.ca/2012/04/eid-journal-human-infection-with-h10n7.html>

Competing Views on Risk of Flu Outbreak at 2012 Olympics

The figures speak for themselves. An estimated 205 nations sending teams, over 10,500 athletes competing, over 10,000 law enforcement personnel on duty supplemented by over 13,000 British armed forces personnel, and an estimated 5.3 million visitors from all corners of the world – all are expected in London from July 27 through Aug. 12, when the United Kingdom hosts the 2012 Olympics. On April 2, Maplecroft, a London-based risk analysis company, released its pandemic risk index, which rates five countries at the "extreme" level of risk for the pandemic spread of flu. Singapore is ranked first, the United Kingdom second, then South Korea, the Netherlands and Germany. The study concludes that the "large influx of visitors" for the Olympic Games would raise the "already significant" risk of a pandemic spreading. The study also concluded, however, that the United Kingdom was also one of the top ten countries best situated to deal with and withstand any influenza outbreak.

<http://www.homelandsecurity.org/node/303>

U.S. Has Typical Flu and Cold Season, Despite Warmer Winter

Self-reported daily cold and flu levels similar to last year

U.S. adults' self-reports of having the flu on any given day peaked in February at a 3 percent and dropped as usual in March, following the typical pattern seen in previous years despite the warmer winter weather this year. Throughout March, an average of 2 percent of American adults reported having the flu, about on par with March of last year and identical to the level found in March 2010. The Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index asks 1,000 Americans each day whether they had a cold or the flu "yesterday." The percentage of Americans who report having the flu or a cold typically increases in the fall, peaks in the winter, and then declines in the spring. All flu and cold seasons have followed this pattern since Gallup and Healthways began tracking these measures in 2008, with the exception of the 2009 to 2010 cold and flu season. During that season, flu incidents peaked in October amid the outbreak of the H1N1 flu virus. In general, the percentage of Americans who report having a cold yesterday is roughly three times the percentage who report having the flu, which has remained unchanged in the 2011 to 2012 cold and flu season. Reports of colds peaked at 9.3 percent in February and then fell to 6.4 percent in March, the lowest level Gallup and Healthways have found for the month of March.

<http://www.gallup.com/poll/153767/Typical-Flu-Cold-Season-Despite-Warmer-Winter.aspx>

Deadly 2009 Flu Outbreak in Alberta Under Study

Alberta will use H1N1 analysis to plan for future

When Laura Harris visited her neighborhood walk-in clinic in the fall of 2009, she felt the sickest she'd ever been. She was exhausted and nauseous, and had a hacking cough. Her doctor gave her some antibiotics to help her feel better. That afternoon, her older brother, Jonathan, visited the same clinic. But the physician said his symptoms weren't as severe, and told him to go home to recover. In the next few days, as Laura began to feel better, Jonathan's symptoms got worse. Within a week, he was rushed to hospital in an ambulance. The 25-year-old Calgarian was in intensive care at the Rockyview Hospital, intubated and in a medically-induced coma, when his family learned the young man had been struck by the global influenza pandemic sweeping through Alberta: H1N1. A week after he was admitted to hospital, Jonathan Harris died Oct. 29, 2009, suffering complications of the H1N1 virus. Two-and-a-half years later, his family still grapples with how the healthy, happy young man, who suffered only from asthma, succumbed to the new strain of influenza.

<http://www.calgaryherald.com/health/Deadly+2009+outbreak+Alberta+under+study/6428731/story.html>

The Hague Wants New Bird Flu Kept Secret

The Dutch government wants to block the publication of a controversial article on a deadly bird flu strain engineered by the Rotterdam Erasmus Medical Centre to prevent the information from falling into the hands of terrorists.

Recently, the U.S. National Science Advisory Board for Biosecurity dropped its opposition to the publication of two articles that were to appear in two leading scientific journals, “Science” and “Nature.” Early this month, U.S. scientists who conducted similar research announced their results at an international conference. The Dutch Economy Ministry first wants the Rotterdam researched to apply for an export permit. The Dutch research team, led by Ron Fouchier, caused controversy last year because it had developed a bird flu strain that could be transmitted by air. Though the lab research involved ferrets, the new strain could conceivably also infect people. Fouchier described the virus as “probably one of the most dangerous viruses one can make.” Soon after Japanese-American researchers reached the same conclusion.

<http://www.rnw.nl/english/bulletin/hague-wants-new-bird-flu-kept-secret?>

North American Countries Join Forces to Prepare for Pandemics

A new North American Plan for Animal and Pandemic Influenza supports a faster and more coordinated response to influenza pandemics in North America. President Barack Obama, Mexican President Felipe Calderon, and Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper released the plan jointly the first week of April during the North American Leaders Summit as a way to enhance the health and safety of residents of all three nations. Known as NAPAPI, the plan provides, for the first time, a framework for the health, agriculture, security, and foreign affairs sectors of all three countries to collaborate on pandemic preparedness and response. Collaboration among these partners is vital for a faster response to pandemic threats. The countries will collaborate to develop and implement concrete actions that strengthen trilateral emergency preparedness and response capacities and capabilities, such as interconnected systems for surveillance and early warning of disease outbreaks and protocols for transporting laboratory samples. The three countries also will conduct joint epidemiological investigations of viruses that could cause human influenza pandemics, as well as outbreaks of animal influenza that pose a threat to human health. The plan also calls for protecting critical infrastructure in a public health emergency and for developing border policies that do not impose unnecessary restrictions on travel or trade. The plan lays the ground work for mutual assistance during a response, such as sharing personnel as well as vaccines, drugs, diagnostic tests, known collectively as medical countermeasures.

<http://www.phe.gov/Preparedness/news/Pages/napapi-120402.aspx>

First H3N2 Variant Virus Infection Reported For 2012

The first human infection with an influenza A H3N2 variant (H3N2v) virus in 2012 has been reported in a child by the state of Utah. CDC has confirmed this virus is very similar to the 12 H3N2v viruses that infected 12 people in the United States in the latter half of 2011. The virus contains genes from human, swine and avian influenza viruses, and the M gene from the 2009 H1N1 virus. Swine exposure has been reported for this case. Animal and public health investigations are currently underway to determine the source of this infection and if there are additional human cases. The report will be officially reported in the April 13, FluView influenza surveillance report.

<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/spotlights/h3n2v-variant-utah.htm>

FluView Influenza-Like Illness Activity Mobile Application

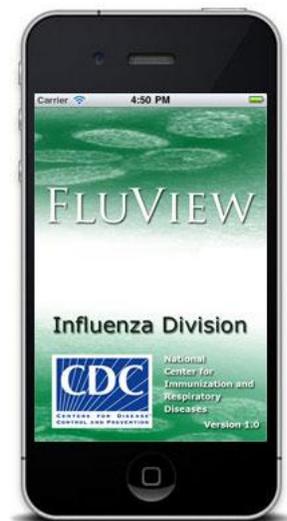
This is the official FluView Influenza-Like Illness Activity mobile application created by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). With this application, you can:

- Explore Influenza-Like Illness (ILI) Activity Levels across the US
- View ILI trends over several weeks
- Get on-demand access to state health department websites for local surveillance information

<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/apps/fluview-mobile-app.html>

Insider: H5N1 Studies Publication Vote Biased, Unbalanced

In late March, the National Science Advisory Board for Biosecurity (NSABB) reversed its earlier recommendation, made in December 2011, against full publication of two studies describing lab-modified H5N1 viruses with increased transmissibility in mammals; the recommendation was based on fears that the findings would help terrorist design effective bioweapons; a NSABB board member says that the March reversal of the December



recommendation was the result of a bias toward finding a solution that was more about getting the government out of the current dilemma than about a careful risk-benefit analysis. "CIDRAP News," the publication of the University of Minnesota's Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy (CIDRAP), reports that a member of the National Science Advisory Board for Biosecurity (NSABB), in a leaked letter (the letter was posted on the "Science" magazine site), has charged that federal officials planned the board's meeting in late March in a way designed to lead the board to reverse its earlier recommendation against full publication of two studies describing lab-modified H5N1 viruses with increased transmissibility in mammals. The letter was written by board member Michael T. Osterholm, Ph.D., MPH, director of CIDRAP.

<http://www.homelandsecuritynewswire.com/dr20120415-insider-h5n1-studies-publication-vote-biased-unbalanced>

Fairfax County Flu Preparedness

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

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/flu>

TRAININGS / EXERCISES / CONFERENCES



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

Resiliency Integration of Complementary Disciplines and Approaches

May 1; Washington, D.C.

The North East Disaster Recovery Information Exchange (NEDRIX) and the Business Continuity Institute (BCI) is hosting a one-day conference on May 1, in Washington, D.C. This event will bring together senior managers and practitioners from the government and private sector to share best practices, develop relationships and foster public/private sector information exchange. Building on a fantastic inaugural event, this year will again focus on resiliency efforts in both the public and private sectors and quality information sharing. Over the past decade both the government and private sector have independently and collectively focused on developing and implementing various programs to ensure their organization is resilient to any threat or hazard. These complimentary programs include Continuity, Critical Infrastructure Protection (CIP), Emergency Management and Cyber Security. This event brings together experts from both the government and private sector to discuss how these programs are working to integrate and streamline while sharing their best practices, insights and case studies. In addition, there will be a collaborative table-top exercise that will foster communication and information sharing amongst all attendees.

<http://www.resiliencydc.com/>

ACT-IAC Small Business Conference

May 7; Grand Hyatt Washington

The ACT-IAC Small Business Conference is the premier education and training event focused on accelerating small business growth in the federal market through government and industry collaboration. The 6th Annual SBC is an education and training event which comes at a time when the world and our country is heading towards vast change. Mobility, teleworking, cloud computing, cyber security, CCMI certifications, approved accounting systems and helping the government buy better products and services are but a few in the list that small businesses must grasp to accelerate and achieve.

<http://www.actgov.org/events/SmallBusiness/Pages/default.aspx>

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Florida Governor's Hurricane Conference

May 13-18; Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

Mark your calendar for the 26th Annual Governor's Hurricane Conference to be held May 13-18, 2012 at the Greater Fort Lauderdale Broward County Convention Center. The theme, "20 Years since Hurricane Andrew... Remembering the Past, Looking to the Future," will feature a panel discussion with participants of the Hurricane Andrew response at the opening session. Other workshops and training sessions will provide information on topics relevant to technological and societal changes over the years and into the future.

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

Counter Terror Expo

May 16-17; Washington Convention Center, Washington, D.C.

Counter Terror Expo U.S. is uniquely designed for the nation's law enforcement and counter terror professionals – from both public and private sectors – to collaborate on leading-edge initiatives and technology that will secure our nation from terrorist attacks. Visit

<http://www.counterterrorexpous.com/> for more information.



Terrorism & Global Security Conference

May 30-31; Washington, D.C.

The theme of this conference, sponsored by the Ambivium Institute on Security & Cooperation, along with the Center for Terrorism Law of St. Mary's University, is "What Constitutes a Legal War in the 21st Century? An Analysis of the Role of the United Nations, NATO, and Coalitions in War Making in the Era of the War on Terror." The conference will explore the full range of issues associated with the use of armed force to solve international conflicts, along with the history of war, targeted killings, the law of armed conflict, human security, development, humanitarian intervention and globalization.

https://www.stmarytx.edu/ctl/pdf/Annual_Conference.pdf

2012 Maryland Emergency Management Conference

May 29-June 1; Ocean City, Md.

The Maryland Emergency Management Association and the Maryland Emergency Management Agency are hosting the Maryland Emergency Management Conference from May 29 thru June 1, in Ocean City, Md.

<http://www.mema.state.md.us/newsroom/post/2012/04/18/Register-Now-for-the-2012-Maryland-Emergency-Management-Conference.aspx>

Fifth Annual Health Information Security Conference

June 6-7; Washington, D.C.

The National Institute of Standards and Technology is co-hosting the fifth annual Safeguarding Health Information: Building Assurance through HIPAA Security conference on June 6 and 7, at the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center. The conference is hosted in conjunction with the Department of Health and Human Services Office for Civil Rights. The conference is an opportunity for HIPAA security rule implementers; security, privacy and compliance officers; assessment teams and audit staff in health care providers to explore current issues in health information security and to discuss practical strategies, tips and techniques for implementing the HIPAA Security Rule. Specific sessions will cover a variety of current topics, including updates on HHS health information privacy and security initiatives, OCR's enforcement of health information privacy and security activities, integrating security safeguards into health IT, safeguards to secure mobile devices, and removing sensitive data from the Internet

<http://www.nist.gov/itl/hipaa-041712.cfm>

Infrastructure Risk/Vulnerability Assessment Taking CARVER to the Next Level

June 25-27, Arlington, Va.

This course, using criticality, accessibility, recuperability, vulnerability, effect and recognizability (CARVER) – an all-hazards assessment tool – emphasizes kinetic threats from small arms (active shooter) and improvised explosive

devices; students will learn to identify threats and vulnerabilities of all sorts and apply risk management processes for incident planning. The course is designed for facility security, law enforcement and emergency management professionals charged with planning for and implementing protective measures for personnel, facilities, and infrastructure. Students will conduct an actual on-scene preliminary security vulnerability assessment and develop and deliver a briefing of their findings.

<http://www.governmenttraininginc.com/CARVER-Vulnerability-Assessment-120609.asp>



VASART Conference

July 13; Blue Ridge Community College, Weyers Cave, Va.

The Virginia State Animal Response Team will be sponsoring a training day on July 13, at Blue Ridge Community College, from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. There is limited seating available.

Questions: 804-346-2611.

www.virginiasart.org

Symposium on Homeland Security: Enhancing Public-Private Partnerships and Coordination

July 19-20, 2012; Christopher Newport University, Newport News, Va.

Increasingly complex threats to the U.S. require innovative, cross-disciplinary responses from local, state and federal government entities. Private sector firms continue to work hand in hand with government to produce new technology, develop groundbreaking practices and shape products and services to robustly address today's evolving threat environment. Natural disasters, man-made incidents, and acts of cyberterrorism and cyberespionage underscore that strong partnerships and coordination are more needed now than ever before in American history. Held at Christopher Newport University's Center for American Studies, the Greater Hampton Roads Chapter of the National Defense Industrial Association, Continuity First and Verizon Wireless will present the 2nd annual "Symposium on Homeland Security: Enhancing Public-Private Partnerships and Coordination."

<http://symposiumonhomelandsecurity.com/>

2012 Chemical Sector Security Summit

July 31-Aug. 2, 2012; Baltimore, Md.

The National Protection & Programs Directorate's Office of Infrastructure Protection and the Chemical Sector Coordinating Council are co-sponsoring the 2012 Chemical Sector Security Summit in Baltimore, Md. The sixth annual Summit will provide a forum for representatives from the chemical community to exchange information and network with other security professionals, share best practices, learn more about chemical security regulations, and gain insight into the roles of state, local and federal agencies and departments involved in chemical security.

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

APCO International 78th Annual Conference and Expo

Aug. 19-22; Minneapolis Convention Center, Minneapolis, MN

It's the public safety communications industry's biggest event of the year.

<http://www.apco2012.org/>

IAEM Annual Conference

Oct. 26-Nov. 1; Orlando, Fla.

The International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM) will host the annual IAEM Conference, Oct. 26-Nov. 1, in Orlando, Fla. The theme of this year's conference is "Resilience."

<http://www.iaem.com/>

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 Emergency Information Blog – <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency/blog>
- 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 NICCCReports@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/>

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EMERGENCY
INFORMATION LINE

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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.