



ESF 15 Business / Nonprofit Update

Produced by Emergency Support Function 15 – External Affairs

April 2013

ITEMS OF INTEREST FOR ESF 15

Boston Marathon Bombings

In light of the series of bombs that exploded near the finish line at the Boston Marathon on April 15, START has compiled data on the history of terrorism in Boston, Mass., terrorist usage of coordinated attacks in the U.S., and terrorist attacks at previous marathons around the world.

http://start.umd.edu/start/publications/br/STARTBackgroundReport_BostonMarathon2013.pdf

10 Cyber Security Tips for Small Business

Broadband and information technology are powerful factors in small businesses reaching new markets and increasing productivity and efficiency. However, businesses need a cybersecurity strategy to protect their own business, their customers, and their data from growing cybersecurity threats.

<http://www.fcc.gov/cyberforsmallbiz>

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:

- 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 gas or charcoal fueled grill on apartment or condominium balconies, doing so is against the law. However, electric grills listed by a recognized testing authority may be used on balconies.

Learn more from the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fr.

Emergency News
by email
Subscribe → www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency/blog

Receive emergency preparedness information and emergency news by email

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Debunking Tornado Myths

Several myths about the nature of tornadoes have long existed and serve as a hindrance to preparedness. FEMA is asking for residents help to dispel these common myths by sharing this information via social media channels such as Facebook and Twitter.

- **Myth:** Areas near rivers, lakes and mountains are safe from tornadoes.
- **Fact:** No terrain is safe from tornadoes. For example, a tornado swept through Yellowstone National Park leaving a path of destruction up and down a 10,000 ft. mountain.

- **Myth:** The low pressure with a tornado causes buildings to “explode” as the tornado passes overhead.
- **Fact:** Violent winds and debris slamming into buildings cause most structural damage.

- **Myth:** Windows should be opened before a tornado approaches to equalize pressure and minimize damage.
- **Fact:** Opening windows allows damaging winds to enter a structure. Leave windows alone; instead, immediately go to a basement, interior room or bathroom without windows.

For more information, visit <http://www.ready.gov/tornadoes> or read NOAA’s Tornado Guide (<http://www.nssl.noaa.gov/education/svrwx101/tornadoes>).

2013 Hurricane Season

The North Atlantic hurricane season begins June 1 and lasts through Nov. 30. The U.S. Census Bureau produces timely local statistics that are critical to emergency planning, preparedness and recovery efforts. Below are some of the statistics/numbers:

- There were 10 hurricanes during the 2012 Atlantic hurricane season, with only two of them as major hurricanes (Category 3-strength or higher). However, one of the major hurricanes was Hurricane Sandy. It struck southeastern Cuba at Category 3 strength, then made landfall in New Jersey as a post-tropical cyclone. It was the second costliest cyclone on record (not adjusted for inflation) at \$50 billion, ranking only behind Hurricane Katrina from 2005. The only other hurricane to make landfall in the U.S. in 2012 was Hurricane Isaac, which hit Louisiana. Source: National Hurricane Center (www.nhc.noaa.gov/2012atlan.shtml and www.nhc.noaa.gov/data/tcr/AL182012_Sandy.pdf).
- The costliest and deadliest hurricane of 2003, Hurricane Isabel made landfall in the U.S. on the Outer Banks of North Carolina on Sept. 18, destroying many homes on the barrier island. Isabel later moved north through Virginia and Washington, D.C., and ended up causing about \$3 billion in damage to the mid-Atlantic region. Source: National Hurricane Center (www.nhc.noaa.gov/2003isabel.shtml and www.nhc.noaa.gov/outreach/history).
- Andrea was the name of the first Atlantic storm of 2013. Hurricane names rotate in a six-year cycle with the 2013 list being a repeat of the 2007 names. Source: National Hurricane Center (www.nhc.noaa.gov/aboutnames.shtml).
- 76 hurricane names have been officially retired by the World Meteorological Organization. Although hurricane names are recycled every six years, for reasons of sensitivity, hurricane names that were so deadly and costly that re-use of the name would be considered inappropriate are retired. Source: World Meteorological Organization (www.wmo.int/pages/prog/www/tcp/Storm-naming.html).
- 2005 was one of the busiest Atlantic hurricane seasons on record with 28 named storms formed, forcing use of the alternate Greek alphabet scheme for the first time. When the National Hurricane Center's list of 21 approved names runs out for the year, hurricanes are named after Greek letters. Of the 28 named storms in 2005, 15 were hurricanes, with four storms reaching Category 5 status (Dennis, Katrina, Rita and Wilma) and three more being considered major. Source: Atlantic Oceanography and Meteorological Laboratory (www.aoml.noaa.gov/hrd/tcfaq/J6.html).

Source: U.S. Census Bureau “Facts for Features,” 2013 Hurricane Season Begins.

http://www.census.gov/newsroom/releases/archives/facts_for_features_special_editions/cb13-ff10.html

Sandy Retired from List of Atlantic Basin Tropical Cyclone Names

Sandy has been retired from the official list of Atlantic Basin tropical cyclone names by the World Meteorological Organization’s hurricane committee because of the extreme impacts it caused from Jamaica and Cuba to the Mid-

Atlantic United States in October 2012. Storm names are reused every six years for both the Atlantic and eastern North Pacific basins. If a storm is so deadly or costly that the future use of the name would be insensitive or confusing, the WMO hurricane committee, which includes personnel from NOAA's National Hurricane Center, may retire the name. Sandy is the 77th name to be retired from the Atlantic list since 1954. The name will be replaced with "Sara" beginning in 2018. Sandy was a classic late-season hurricane in the southwestern Caribbean Sea. The cyclone made landfall as a category 1 hurricane (on the Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale) in Jamaica, and as a 115 mph category 3 hurricane in eastern Cuba. Hurricane Sandy merged with a frontal system hours before making landfall as a post-tropical cyclone near Brigantine, N.J., and its size and strength caused catastrophic damage all along the mid-Atlantic shoreline. Because of its tremendous size, Sandy drove a catastrophic storm surge into the New Jersey and New York coastlines. Preliminary U.S. damage estimates are near \$50 billion, making Sandy the second-costliest cyclone since Katrina to hit the United States. There were at least 147 direct deaths recorded across the Atlantic basin due to Sandy, with 72 of these fatalities occurring in the mid-Atlantic and northeastern United States. Sandy caused the greatest number of U.S. direct fatalities related to a tropical cyclone outside of the southern states since Hurricane Agnes in 1972.

http://www.noanews.noaa.gov/stories2013/20130411_sandynameretiredt.html

Virginia's Hurricane Preparedness – Sales Tax Holiday May 25-31

It's smart to get ready for hurricane and flash flooding season, which arrives June 1. And it's smart to save money. You can do both by shopping for such products as batteries, food storage containers, generators, first-aid kits, bottled water, radios and more between May 25-31. When you do, you won't pay sales tax on many useful products that cost up to \$60 or on generators costing \$1,000 or less. That's a savings of 5 percent. A complete list of exempt items is available at www.tax.virginia.gov/salestaxholiday. Purchasing supplies is important, but it's critical to make a family emergency plan. Protect your family now by making a plan. It's free, it's simple and it will make a big difference. Read more about hurricanes at www.vaemergency.gov.



Google Expands Emergency Alerts to Millions of People

Alerts from police, fire and emergency management agencies will appear on Google maps and search pages beginning March 29 as part of a growing Google public alert system. Google has partnered with Nixle, a company that contracts with public safety agencies to send alerts via cellphones and social media. Police and sheriff's departments in Chicago, Dallas and Los Angeles are among agencies using the service. The alerts will appear when someone uses Google in an area with an active alert or searches for a place that has an active alert.

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/tech/2013/03/28/google-alerts-nixle-emergency/2028799/>

Top 10 Consumer Complaints

The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) has released its top 10 complaint categories for 2012. For the first time ever, the agency received more than two million complaints. Of the two million complaints, 18 percent were related to identity theft. Of those 18 percent, almost half were related to tax or wage fraud.

Here is a complete list of the top 10 complaint categories:

1. Identity Theft - 369,132 complaints
2. Debt collection - 199,721 complaints
3. Banks and Lenders - 132,340 complaints
4. Shop-at-Home and Catalog Sales - 115,184 complaints
5. Prizes, Sweepstakes and Lotteries - 98,479 complaints
6. Impostor Scams - 98,479 complaints
7. Internet Services - 81,438 complaints
8. Auto-Related Complaints - 78,062 complaints
9. Telephone and Mobile Services - 76,783 complaints

10. Credit Cards - 51,550 complaints

The FTC uses the Consumer Sentinel Network to record complaints throughout the year. The secure database is available to more than 2,000 civil and criminal law enforcement agencies across the country and helps agencies research cases and track targets.

<http://www.ftc.gov/opa/2013/02/sentineltop.shtm>

April is National Safe Digging Month

April is recognized by underground utility damage prevention stakeholders as National Safe Digging Month. Virginia residents and professional excavators are reminded to always call 811 before you dig. Additionally, remember “CARE”:

- Call 811 before you dig.
- Allow required time for underground utility markings.
- Respect the markings.
- Excavate carefully.

Virginia 811 is the free “one call” Virginia communications center for excavators, contractors, property owners, and those planning any kind of excavation (digging) or demolition. It notifies participating utilities of the upcoming excavation work so they can locate and mark their underground facilities in advance to prevent possible damage to underground utility lines, injury, property damage and service outages. Calling before you dig is a simple step, but one that can make your construction, planting or home improvement project safer while preventing utility outages

that can be inconvenient or even dangerous for your neighbors. In addition, calling 811 before you dig is the law. Miss Utility’s hours of operation are 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday excluding legal state and national holidays. Emergency notification service is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Call Miss Utility at 811 before digging on their property to avoid injuries and service disruptions from damage to underground utility lines.

<http://va811.com/>



NWS AWARE Newsletter

Aware is a free publication of the National Weather Service geared to the emergency management community, partners and National Weather Service staff. It is only available in electronic format. You can download the March “Aware” issue at <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/om/Aware/pdfs/13march.pdf>.

Governor McDonnell Announces Semper Secure

Virginia Cyber Security Leadership Initiative: Governor Bob McDonnell this month announced the launch of Semper Secure, a public-private partnership designed to extend the Commonwealth of Virginia’s and the Greater Washington, D.C., metro region’s leadership in cyber security. Funded collaboratively by Virginia and industry, Semper Secure – Always Secure – will focus on the key development issues in cyber security: ensuring workforce preparedness and availability, advancing educational programs and knowledge base, fostering entrepreneurship, and encouraging global engagement. Virginia maintains the highest concentration of technology professionals in the United States, and is ranked fourth nationally in total high-tech employment. The Commonwealth is also home to numerous federally funded research and development centers and Department of Defense research centers, and key leap-ahead technology agencies, such as the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA). Semper Secure will feature an independent board of directors – including cyber security leaders from government and industry – to steer the partnership, define the specific activities, and report back to the governor annually. The Virginia secretary of technology will serve as chairman of the board. MeriTalk, a Virginia-based government IT research analyst, publisher, and event producer, will manage the program through its IT security community, the MeriTalk Cyber Security Exchange. As a public-private partnership, Semper Secure will leverage funding from both the Commonwealth and private-sector organizations participating in the whole initiative or in specific events. This cost-sharing approach focuses the initiative on delivering tangible, sustainable returns and ensures the most efficient use of taxpayer dollars. MeriTalk is working with industry to identify additional Semper Secure private-sector partners.

For more information on Virginia's cyber security assets and community, or to learn about the Virginia Center of Cyber Excellence, visit: www.nationalcybersecuritycenter.va.org/about.html.

<http://www.governor.virginia.gov/News/viewRelease.cfm?id=1750>

Information Sharing: Agencies Could Better Coordinate to Reduce Overlap in Field-Based Activities

A Government Accountability Office (GAO) report indicates that federal agencies and state and local governments have established field-based entities (e.g., centers and task forces) nationwide that share terrorism-related information, among other things. GAO found five types of field-based information-sharing entities are supported, in part, by the federal government – Joint Terrorism Task Forces, Field Intelligence Groups, Regional Information Sharing Systems (RISS) centers, state and major urban area fusion centers, and High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) Investigative Support Centers – and have distinct missions, roles and responsibilities.

<http://www.gao.gov/assets/660/653527.pdf>

Flood Risk Information System

Floods are among the most frequent and costly natural disasters in terms of human hardship and economic loss. The Regional Flood Risk Information System, a VA Silver Jackets Team project, allows states to share and distribute flood risk information more effectively.

<http://vafri.nc.gov/fris/?ST=VA>

SBA Hurricane Sandy Loan Approvals Surpass \$2 Billion

The U.S. Small Business Administration has approved more than \$2 billion in disaster loans to 32,500 residents and businesses in states affected by Hurricane Sandy – further expanding SBA's response to what is already the third largest natural disaster in U.S. history for the agency. This milestone comes as the deadlines to file applications for physical disaster loans were extended in New York and New Jersey. After Hurricane Sandy hit, eight states (NY, NJ, CT, RI, MD, VA, WV and NC) and Puerto Rico received federal disaster declarations. As of April 5, more than 30,000 home disaster loans had been approved for a total of \$1.8 billion. More than 2,500 business disaster loans have been approved for \$260 million.

<http://content.govdelivery.com/bulletins/gd/USSBA-748502>



www.usfa.fema.gov/fireservice/prevention_education/strategies/arson/index.shtml

PLANNING / PREPAREDNESS

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Extended Range Forecast of Atlantic Seasonal Hurricane Activity and Landfall Strike Probability for 2013

In their latest report, the Colorado State University Department of Atmospheric Science anticipates that the 2013 Atlantic basin hurricane season will have enhanced activity compared with the 1981-2010 climatology. The tropical Atlantic has anomalously warmed over the past several months and it appears that the chances of an El Niño event this summer and fall are unlikely. They anticipate an above-average probability for major hurricanes making landfall along the United States coastline and in the Caribbean.

<http://hurricane.atmos.colostate.edu/Forecasts/2013/apr2013/apr2013.pdf>



Emergency Response for People Who Have Access and Functional Needs: A Guide for First Responders

Emergency Response for People Who Have Access and Functional Needs

Emergency responders have varying levels of familiarity with people who have access and functional needs. The purpose of this information is to provide emergency personnel with a reference tool that will provide guidance for assisting people who have access and functional needs (formerly known as “special needs”) during the response and recovery phases of an emergency situation. The information herein is to be applied in conjunction with training, experience, and your agency’s standard operating procedures. This content can also be accessed by mobile devices through the National Terrorism Preparedness Institute website located at <http://terrorism.spcollege.edu>.
<http://terrorism.spcollege.edu/SPAWARAFN/index.html>.

April Showers Bring Increased Flood Risk

April showers can bring more than just flowers during springtime; it can also bring increased flood risk. Know the flood risk for your home and protect yourself today. Take these steps to prepare for floods ahead of time:

- Avoid building in a floodplain unless you elevate and reinforce your home.
- Elevate the furnace, water heater and electric panel in your home if you live in an area that has a high flood risk.
- Consider installing “check valves” to prevent flood water from backing up into the drains of your home.
- If feasible, construct barriers to stop floodwater from entering the building and seal walls in basements with waterproofing compounds.

Just because you haven't experienced a flood in the past, doesn't mean you won't in the future. So don't hesitate and prepare right away. Visit www.ready.gov/floods for more tips.

Tips to Prevent Poisonings

Every day, 87 people in the U.S. die as a result of unintentional poisoning and more than 2,200 are treated in emergency rooms. Most of these poisonings occur in people's homes. Get tips to prevent poisonings, including:

- Never take larger or more frequent doses of your medications to try to get faster or more powerful effects.
- Turn on a light when you give or take medicines at night so that you know you have the right medicine and the correct amount.
- Keep medicines and chemicals in their original bottles or containers.
- To keep young children safe, store all medicines and household products up and out of sight and reach.
- Secure the child safety cap every time you use a medicine.
- Do not refer to medicine as candy.

Call 9-1-1 if a poison victim has collapsed or isn't breathing. If the victim is awake and alert, call the Poison Help line a 1-800-222-1222.



More tips from CDC: <http://www.cdc.gov/homeandrecationalsafety/poisoning/preventiontips.htm>
Poison Help Line: <http://poisonhelp.hrsa.gov/what-can-you-do/poison-proof-your-home/index.html>

Health and Safety Podcast

Emergency preparedness news and information every two weeks – in audio form. Listen to the “Health and Safety” Podcast; subscribe in iTunes at <http://itunes.apple.com/us/podcast/fairfax-county-health-safety/id287751962>.



Health and Safety
A Fairfax County Podcast

Are You Tech Ready?

According to The American Red Cross, the Internet – including online news sites and social media platforms – is the **third most popular way for Americans to gather emergency information** and let their loved ones know they are safe. Make sure you are tech ready during an emergency. Sign up for text alerts from Fairfax County’s Community Emergency Alert Network (CEAN) at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/cean, as well as connecting via Facebook at www.facebook.com/fairfaxcounty and Twitter at www.twitter.com/fairfaxcounty. You can also follow Fairfax County on Twitter for key updates by texting the words and symbol “on @fairfaxcounty” to 40404. You can also get text messages from FEMA sent to your phone by texting PREPARE to 43362 (4FEMA). Learn more about using technology to prepare for disasters and emergencies at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency/prepare/digital-preparedness.htm> or <http://www.ready.gov/get-tech-ready>.

Smart Phone App Lets Users Report Precipitation on The Go

It’s now easier than ever to be a part of NOAA’s weather research. The NOAA National Severe Storms Laboratory (NSSL) -- <http://www.nssl.noaa.gov/> -- in partnership with the University of Oklahoma (OU) has launched a free app that let users anonymously report precipitation from their Apple or Android mobile device. With the mPING app (<http://www.nssl.noaa.gov/projects/ping/display>), anyone can send a weather observation on the go. The user simply opens the app, selects the type of precipitation that is falling, and hits submit. The user’s location and the time of the observation are automatically included in the report. All submissions become part of a research project called

precipitation Identification Near the Ground (PING), NSSL and OU researchers will use mPING submissions to build a valuable database of nationwide observations. You can view all reports in the PING database on the project’s website (<http://www.nssl.noaa.gov/projects/ping/display>). To further analyze the data, researchers will compare the reports with what radars detect and use the information to develop new radar and forecasting technologies and techniques. The apps are available on iTunes or Google Play for use on phones and tablets. They were developed and are owned by OU.



Reprinted from the March issue of “Aware” from NOAA’s National Weather Service Awareness and Performance Division: <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/om/Aware/pdfs/13march.pdf>

Photo courtesy of NOAA (<http://www.noaaneews.noaa.gov/stories2013/images/mPING.jpg>)

Financial Preparedness

Being ready for a disaster is more than storing water and supplies. You also need to be financially ready. Starting early and having a plan to pay your bills and access your important records and accounts help you get back on your feet faster and avoid problems with your credit when you need it most. Pre-disaster financial planning is essential for individuals and families to complete because disasters leave many Americans without access to finances or with expensive damages. Thousands of Americans just like you – your neighbors and friends – have a plan and keep their important documents in their home disaster kit. Being financially prepared means more than planning for disasters. Help ensure a strong financial future for you and your family by taking simple steps now to make your money work

for you in the long run.

<http://www.ready.gov/financialpreparedness>

Be Ready for Disasters at Any Age

The likelihood of recovering from an emergency tomorrow often depends on the planning and preparation done today. Each person's abilities and needs are different and should be included in disaster plans. Emergency managers are urging all Americans, in particular the elderly who can be especially vulnerable when disasters strike, to review and update disaster plans. Some steps you can take at home or in your own community include:

- Speak with adult living facility administrators about specific disaster plans.
- Create a network of neighbors, relatives and friends to aid you in an emergency.
- Keep specialized items ready, including extra wheelchair batteries, oxygen, catheters, medication, food for service animals and any other items you might need.
- Keep a list of the type and model numbers of the medical devices you require. Be sure to make provisions for medications that require refrigeration.

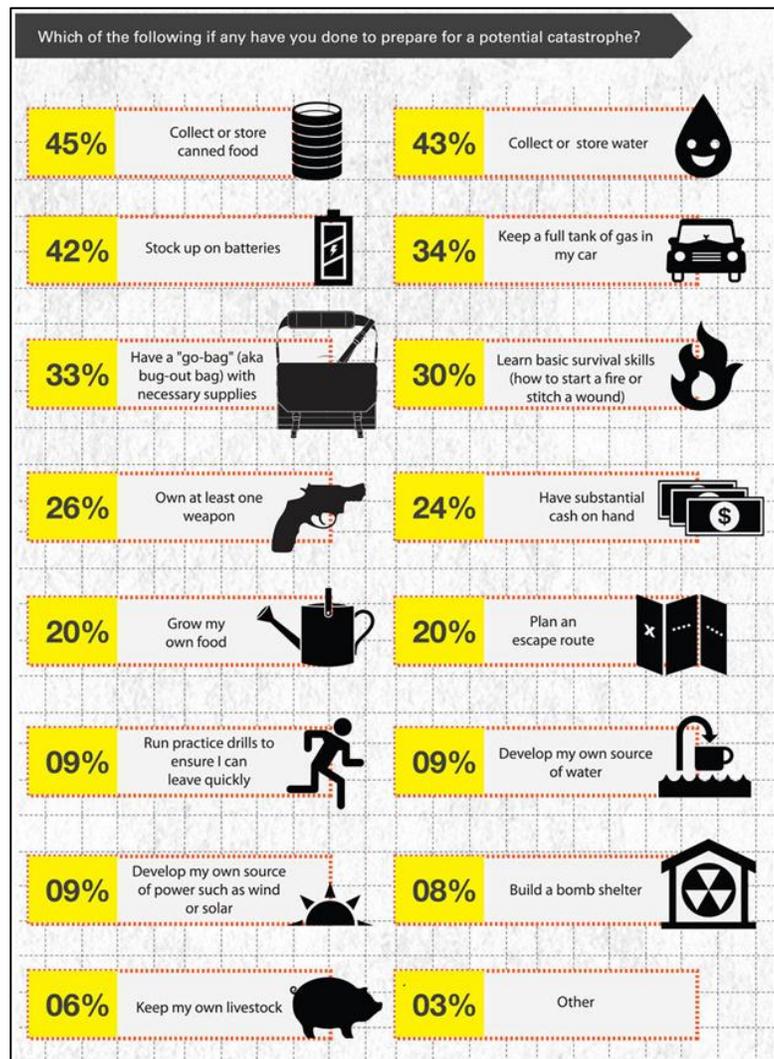
Visit www.ready.gov/seniors for more information and tips.

Prepping in America

Prepping is a movement of individuals or groups (called survivalists or preppers) who are actively preparing for emergencies of all kinds. Preppers generally are preparing for larger events such as devastating earthquakes and floods or disruptions in social or political order, but are often equally as prepared for smaller events such as a hike gone wrong. Survivalists often prepare by accumulating emergency medical supplies, stock piling food and water, and acquiring self defense tools. A universal bag amongst the prepping community is often referred to as a go bag or bug out bag. The idea behind both of these bags is a place to store absolute essentials in order to deploy quickly, if need be, and have enough supplies to survive for at least 3 days.

An Infographic on the website statistically describes what events the prepping community may be preparing for most. It also describes the most universal items stored in a go bag as well as common last minute preparations by those polled. At right is a portion of the Infographic showing graphically what members of this community have done to prepare. Have you taken similar steps to be prepared in case of emergency or disaster requiring you and your family to be self-sufficient for at least 3 days?

<http://www.511tactical.com/content/prepping-in-america-511/#sthash.sfqb017l.Z3dBLOyf.dpbs>



Bulk Hazmat Compliance Guide Published

The National Tank Truck Carriers (NTTC) has worked with J.J. Keller & Associates to produce the "2013 NTTC Bulk Hazmat Compliance Guide." Formerly known as the "NTTC Cargo Tank Hazardous Materials Regulations,"

this new tank-truck specific book offers greater content, accessibility and utility to its readership thereby increasing the overall value for tank truck operators, NTTCC said. The compliance guide is a précis of the Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations (49 CFR) and contains only those sections of the code that apply specifically to tank-truck operations. The new and improved guide maintains its focus on federal hazardous materials and cargo tank regulations, but now it includes information applicable to all transport vehicles, including plain language explanations and the vehicle size and weights charts.

<http://fleetowner.com/safety/bulk-hazmat-compliance-guide-published>

NOAA Broadens Definition of Hurricane and Tropical Storm Watches and Warnings

NOAA's National Weather Service announced that, starting June 1, the definitions of hurricane and tropical storm watches and warnings will be broadened to allow these watches and warnings to be issued or remain in effect after a tropical cyclone becomes post-tropical, when such a storm poses a significant threat to life and property. In addition, the NWS would ensure a continuity of service by allowing the National Hurricane Center to issue advisories during the post-tropical stage.

http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/news/20130404_pa_postTropicalChanges.pdf

Know What To Do During Weather Emergencies

Weather emergencies, such as tornadoes, floods, and lightning, can occur without a lot of warning. However, you can prepare for different types of severe weather. Helpful information is online at www.usa.gov/Topics/weather.shtml. One of the basic recommendations to help you prepare for any emergency is to assemble a disaster supplies kit, which includes water, food, a first-aid kit, and many other items. Detailed information is at www.ready.gov/basic-disaster-supplies-kit and www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency. Knowing what to do in different circumstances may save your life and the lives of others.

Community Emergency Alert Network (CEAN)

Get emergency alerts by email, as well as by text or pager. Sign up at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/cean. Businesses can also register up to five people in their organizations – such as security officers – who can receive alerts and then share that information with their workforce.



MEDIA ARTICLES OF INTEREST

Hurricane Center Again Breaks Accuracy Records

Once again, the National Hurricane Center again broke forecast track accuracy records during the tumultuous 2012 storm season. While issuing 444 advisories for the likes of Hurricanes Isaac and Sandy, the center set track prediction records for every forecast period except for the longest one, which predicts what a storm will do over the next five days.

http://articles.sun-sentinel.com/2013-03-29/news/sfl-hurricane-center-breaks-accuracy-records-20130329_1_national-hurricane-center-miles-top-hurricane-specialist

Americans Oppose Paying for Storm-ravaged Beaches

More than 4 out of 5 Americans want to prepare now for rising seas and stronger storms from climate change, a new national survey says. But most are unwilling to keep spending money to restore and protect stricken beaches. The poll by Stanford University found that only 1 in 3 people favored the government spending millions to construct big sea walls, replenish beaches or pay people to leave the coast.

http://www.timesdispatch.com/news/national-world/americans-oppose-paying-for-storm-ravaged-beaches/article_3aca7483-8792-5717-9223-1bb2790ebc7e.html

School Dedicated To Emergency Management Among New Proposed City Schools

The city's (New York) operations center is not normally where new principals spend time planning their schools, but the Urban Assembly School of Emergency Management is a brand new concept. The Urban Assembly School of Emergency Management will open in September with 115 ninth graders. Students will choose a major: emergency management, response and recovery or emergency technology and communications. In science, they'll learn meteorology. In math, they'll calculate changes in flood zones. As for the Urban Assembly School of Emergency Management, it will open in a Manhattan school building used as a shelter during Hurricane Sandy. It can perhaps be used as a case study for future students.

<http://manhattan.ny1.com/content/179728/school-dedicated-to-emergency-management-among-new-proposed-city-schools>

How Do Utilities Prepare for the Cybersecurity Executive Order

While the order discusses the need to enhance security, make our critical pieces more flexible and develop just a nicer general interaction between infrastructure sources (read: play nicer), few details are given about what this will all mean for electric utilities, NERC CIP, the programs already in place or how involved the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), who is leading this push, will become.

<http://www.energybiz.com/article/13/04/how-do-utilities-prepare-cybersecurity-executive-order>

Nope, Not Tornadoes: Most Weather Deaths from Car Wrecks

On average, more than 7,000 Americans die in weather-related wrecks each year on our nation's highways. The Federal Highway Administration defines weather-related crashes as those that occur in adverse weather such as rain, sleet, snow or fog, or on slick pavement.

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/weather/2013/04/03/vehicle-accidents-weather/2050281/>

Market Pressures Weigh Against Private Sector Critical Infrastructure Resilience

Private sector operators of critical infrastructure are not in fact naturally motivated toward resilience, say two academics in a paper noting systemic difficulties with public-private collaboration on critical infrastructure protection. The paper, by Nathan Busch of the Christopher Newport University and Austen Givens of Utica College and published in the International Journal of Critical Infrastructure Protection, says arguments that resilience investments are cost-effective because they remove the possibility of a complete shutdown in the event of a large disaster overlook dynamics of the marketplace.

<http://www.fiercehomelandsecurity.com/story/market-pressures-weigh-against-private-sector-critical-infrastructure-resil/2013-04-04>

Tornado Season About to Roar After Slow Start

After a remarkably quiet start to the severe weather season in the USA – which included the fewest number of tornadoes in March in several decades – signs are pointing to a more active pattern for April. One possibility: an outbreak this week in the central USA. Tornadoes and severe storms continue to be among the nation's top weather phenomena in terms of economic damage: A recent report from insurance firm Lloyd's of London found that annual losses from severe thunderstorms – including tornadoes – account for more than half of all U.S. catastrophe losses since 1990.

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/weather/2013/04/07/tornado-season-forecast/2056957/>

Duplicative Efforts Among Fusion Centers Redundant, GAO Says

A web of information-sharing fusion centers across the nation sometimes duplicate functions, creating replication and inefficiencies, congressional investigators said Thursday. The Government Accountability Office (GAO) identified five different kinds of fusion centers operated by federal, state and local agencies and tracked overlap in their recent activities. The five kinds of fusion centers included Joint Terrorism Task Forces (JTTFs), Field Intelligence Groups, Regional Information Sharing Systems (RISS) centers, state and major urban area fusion centers and High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) Investigative Support Centers.

<http://www.hstoday.us/industry-news/general/single-article/duplicative-efforts-among-fusion-centers-redundant-gao-says/10afada2facc1028bbc3a6be3609f703.html>

Japan on High Alert for Bird Flu / Airports, Local Government Prepare for Outbreaks

Local governments and airports throughout Japan are on high alert against the new strain of bird flu in anticipation of its global outbreak as the death toll from the disease is increasing slowly but steadily in China. To develop a vaccine, the Health, Labor and Welfare Ministry has obtained the H7N9 strain from China, where its infection of humans was reported for the first time on March 31. "I'd say the current situation is two stages prior to the major outbreaks of the disease four years ago," an official of the ministry said.

<http://the-japan-news.com/news/article/0000125214>

Majority of Americans Unaware of DHS Program to Report Potential Terrorist Activity, Survey Finds

A new survey released only hours before the horrific terrorist bombings at the Boston Marathon found that more than 56 percent of Americans said they'd never heard anything about the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) "If You See Something, Say Something" campaign. And while an additional 20 percent said they were not sure whether they had heard anything about it, "clear majorities of respondents said that would be willing to meet with DHS (57 percent) or local police (58 percent) to talk about terrorism," the study found. The findings of the DHS-funded survey and accompanying analysis that were performed by the University of Maryland-based National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism (START) are made more important in the context of the bombings that killed 3 and injured more than 170. Federal officials have been stressing the urgency of people in Boston -- especially those in and around the marathon route -- to report the slightest thing they might have considered to have been suspicious.

<http://www.hstoday.us/industry-news/general/single-article/majority-of-americans-unaware-of-dhs-program-to-report-potential-terrorist-activity-survey-finds/b9fb0af7731361985a94c2a63fe835b7.html>

Terror Strikes Again, Denial Impedes America's Preparedness

Americans recently watched tragedy strike during "The Boston Marathon." This terrorist event left millions of citizens concerned about their family's personal safety and wondering what they should do to plan and protect themselves, as well as their communities. "Those answers are at your fingertips," said Rob Stern, principal of Defense Research LLC, developer of the "Citizens' Emergency Response Guide" www.911EMG.com. The guide is the most comprehensive civilian reference available for understanding risks, planning, and surviving terrorist attacks and other mass casualty disasters. It is intended to help you make safe informed decisions -- decrease the load on emergency services and to promote individual confidence and self-reliance. Because there are numerous variables in every emergency situation, make your decisions based on all available information. If you are in the immediate area of mass casualty attack -- rely on the police, fire and other officials for instructions.

<http://www.sacbee.com/2013/04/22/5362597/terror-strikes-again-denial-impedes.html>

FLU

Avian Flu (H7N9) in China

A type of flu usually seen in birds has been identified in a number of people in China. This is the first time this virus has been seen in people. Symptoms include fever, cough, and shortness of breath. Infection with the new virus has resulted in severe respiratory illness and, in some cases death. This new H7N9 virus is an avian (bird) influenza (flu) virus. Human infections with avian influenza (AI, or "bird flu") are rare but have occurred in the past, most commonly after exposure to infected poultry. However, this is the first time that this bird flu subtype (H7N9) has been found in people. This virus is very different from other H7N9 viruses previously found in birds. This is a "novel" (non-human) virus and therefore has the potential to cause a pandemic if it changed to become easily and sustainably spread from person-to-person. So far, this virus has not been determined to have that capability. However, influenza viruses constantly change and it's possible this virus could gain that ability. CDC takes routine preparedness actions whenever a new virus with pandemic potential is identified, including developing a candidate vaccine virus to make a vaccine if it were to be needed. There is no licensed H7 vaccine available at this time.

<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/avianflu/h7n9-virus.htm>

Avian Influenza A (H7N9) Virus

On April 1, the World Health Organization (WHO) first reported 3 human infections with a new influenza A (H7N9) virus in China. As of April 12, the National Health and Family Planning Commission had notified WHO of an additional five laboratory-confirmed cases of human infection with influenza A (H7N9) virus. Of the latest laboratory-confirmed cases, three are from Zhejiang and two from Shanghai. The first patient is a 66-year-old man from Zhejiang who became ill on April 8; the second patient is a 74-year-old man from Zhejiang who became ill on April 6; the third patient is a 54-year-old woman from Zhejiang who became ill on April 6; the fourth patient is a 53-year-old man from Shanghai who became ill on April 3; and the fifth patient is an 86-year-old man from Shanghai who became ill on April 3. In addition, a patient earlier reported from Shanghai has died. To date, a total of 43 patients have been laboratory confirmed with influenza A (H7N9) virus in China; including 11 deaths. More than a thousand close contacts of the confirmed cases are being closely monitored. The Chinese government is actively investigating this event and has heightened disease surveillance. Retrospective testing of recently reported cases with severe respiratory infection may uncover additional cases that were previously unrecognized.

http://www.who.int/csr/don/2013_04_12/en/index.html

Dedicated H7N9 WHO Page

WHO – the World Health Organization – now has a page dedicated to Human infection with influenza A (H7N9) Virus. It should be an essential one, with both technical information and weekly updates on cases. According to the WHO page, Influenza A (H7N9) is one of a subgroup of influenza viruses that normally circulate among birds. Until recently, this virus had not been seen in people. However, human infections have now been detected. As yet, there is limited information about the scope of the disease the virus causes and about the source of exposure. The disease is of concern because most patients have been severely ill. There is no indication thus far that it can be transmitted between people, but both animal-to-human and human-to-human routes of transmission are being actively investigated.

http://www.who.int/influenza/human_animal_interface/influenza_h7n9/en/index.html

Frequently Asked Questions on Human Infection with Influenza A(H7N9) Virus (China)

From WHO, the World Health Organization

- What is the influenza A (H7N9) virus? Influenza A H7 viruses are a group of influenza viruses that normally circulate among birds. The influenza A (H7N9) virus is one subgroup among the larger group of H7 viruses. Although some H7 viruses (H7N2, H7N3 and H7N7) have occasionally been found to infect humans, no human infections with H7N9 viruses have been reported until recent reports from China.
- What are the main symptoms of human infection with influenza A (H7N9) virus? Thus far, patients with this infection have had severe pneumonia. Symptoms include fever, cough and shortness of breath. However, information is still limited about the full spectrum of disease that infection with influenza A (H7N9) virus might cause.

* *Published originally on April 3, 2013.* (http://www.who.int/influenza/human_animal_interface/faq_H7N9/en/)

For More Information

- World Health Organization (WHO) “H7N9 avian influenza human infections in China” is available at http://www.who.int/csr/don/2013_04_01/en/index.html
- CDC avian influenza A (H7N9) information page is available at <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/avianflu/h7n9-virus.htm> and <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/avianflu/h7n9-basics.htm>
- WHO “Frequently Asked Questions on human infection with A (H7N9) virus, China” is available at http://www.who.int/influenza/human_animal_interface/faq_H7N9/en/index.html
- The Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention “Questions and Answers about human infection with A(H7N9) avian influenza virus” is available at http://www.chinacdc.cn/en/ne/201303/t20130331_79282.html
- CDC general information about avian influenza viruses and how they spread is available at <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/avianflu/avian-in-humans.htm>
- CDC “Interim Guidance on Case Definitions to be Used for Investigations of Influenza A (H3N2)

Variant Virus Cases” for state and local health departments is available at

<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/swineflu/case-definitions.htm>

- CDC “Prevention Strategies for Seasonal and Influenza A (H3N2)v in Health Care Settings” is available at <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/swineflu/prevention-strategies.htm>
- CDC “Interim Guidance on Specimen Collection, Processing, and Testing for Patients with Suspected Influenza A (H3N2)v Virus Infection” for public health professionals is available at <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/swineflu/h3n2v-testing.htm>
- CDC “Interim Guidance for Enhanced Influenza Surveillance: Additional Specimen Collection for Detection of Influenza A (H3N2) Variant Virus Infections” for state and local health departments is available at <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/swineflu/h3n2v-surveillance.htm>
- National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians “Compendium of Measures to Prevent Disease Associated with Animals in Public Settings, 2011” is available as the first bulleted item at <http://nasphv.org/documentsCompendiumAnimals.html>

Has H7N9 Learned to Migrate to Other Animals?

In a worrisome sign, bird flu in China appears to have mutated so that it can spread to other animals, raising the potential for a bigger threat to people, scientists said early this month. So far the flu has sickened nine people in China and killed three. It’s not clear how they became infected, but there’s no evidence that the virus is spreading easily among people. But the virus can evidently move through poultry without making them sick, experts said, making it difficult to track the germ in flocks. The findings are preliminary and need further testing. In the wake of the illnesses, the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention shared the genetic sequence of the H7N9 virus with other scientists to help study how the virus might behave in different animals and situations. One scientist said the sequence raises concern about a potential global epidemic, but that it’s impossible to give a precise estimate of how likely that is.

<http://www.theprovince.com/health/Scientists+fear+bird+China+migrate+infect+other+animals/8191135/story.html>

H5N1 Cases Dropped in 2012, but Fatality Rate Rose

The world registered fewer human infections with H5N1 avian influenza in 2012, but the fatality rate was a little higher than in previous years, the World Health Organization (WHO) noted in a recent review of the year’s data. Otherwise, the epidemiologic pattern looked generally similar to that of past years, the WHO said in the March 29 issue of its Weekly Epidemiological Record (<http://www.who.int/wer/2013/wer8813.pdf>). Thirty-two human H5N1 cases were confirmed last year, as compared with 62 in 2011, 48 in 2010, and 73 in 2009, the WHO reported. There were 11 cases in Egypt in 2012, 9 in Indonesia, 4 in Vietnam, 3 in Cambodia, 3 in Bangladesh, and 2 in China. The virus is considered endemic in poultry in five of those six countries, and a recent study suggested it is endemic in the sixth, Cambodia, as well. Egypt accounted for much of the decline in cases in 2012, since its 11 cases compared with 39 in 2011. As in past years, the fatality rate was higher in females than males: 69 percent (11 of 16) versus 56 percent (9 of 16), the WHO reported. Since 2003, the CFR has been 64 percent for females and 53 percent for males. The disease hit children and young adults hardest, much as in previous years: 90 percent of cases (29 of 32) were in people under age 40, and 34 percent (11 of 32) were in children. With an age range of 6 months to 45 years, the median age was 18 years. The median has varied considerably in recent years.

<http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/cidrap/content/influenza/avianflu/news/apr0213avian.html>

H7N9 and “Gain of Function” H5N1 Research

Scientists in the Dutch city of Rotterdam know precisely what it takes for a bird flu to mutate into a potential human pandemic strain – because they’ve created just such mutant viruses in the laboratory. So as they watch with some trepidation the emergence in China of a strain of bird flu previously unknown in humans, they also argue it vindicates their controversial decision to conduct these risky experiments despite fierce opposition. Above all else, what the world needs to know about this new strain of H7N9 bird flu is how likely it is to be able to spread efficiently among human populations. And according to Ab Osterhaus, a world leading flu researcher who is head of viroscience of the Erasmus Medical Center in the Netherlands, studies his team and another in the United States have been doing are the best way to find out.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/04/04/us-birdflu-resresearch-idUSBRE9330M820130404>

U.S. Developing Bird Flu Vaccine as Death Toll in China Rises to 5

American scientists are working on a bird flu vaccine amid an outbreak in China that has sickened 14 people and killed 5. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention is also assessing the need for new tests to detect the virus, which experts say has mutated to infect mammals.

<http://abcnews.go.com/blogs/health/2013/04/04/u-s-developing-bird-flu-vaccine-as-death-toll-in-china-rises-to-5/>

Asia Braces for Spill-over of New Bird Flu Strain

Officials throughout Asia are implementing measures to protect themselves from a new strain of bird flu – H7N9 – that has so far infected 21 people in China, killing six. These are the first human infections and deaths to have been recorded from this virus strain worldwide. China’s neighbors have reacted by boosting hospital capabilities and disease surveillance, strengthening border control, issuing reminders to ban illegal poultry imports, and more vigorously testing what is imported. Following a mass animal culling on April 5 in Shanghai – one of the Chinese cities affected – pandemic expert and virologist Yi Guan from the University of Hong Kong told IRIN he expects human cases to “drop or stop”. But he added that experts still have much to learn about the disease. The virus has proved to be a “low-pathogenic” virus in infected land-based birds, so it is not clear why the virus has been so severe in humans, he noted. The true spread of the disease is also still unknown.

<http://www.irinnews.org/Report/97806/Asia-braces-for-spill-over-of-new-bird-flu-strain>

Urgent Search for Flu Source

Virologists know its name: H7N9. What they don’t yet know is whether this novel avian influenza virus – first reported in humans in China less than two weeks ago – will rapidly fizzle out, become established in animal hosts to fuel future human outbreaks, or morph into a virus that can spread easily between people and spark a deadly pandemic. In a frantic effort to find answers, scientists are bearing down on H7N9 on multiple fronts. They are testing wild birds and thousands of domestic fowl; analyzing the viruses they find; and trying to trace people who have been exposed to infected patients. Chinese health authorities say that they have 400 laboratories looking for genetic changes in the virus. Scientists urgently want to find out which sources are stoking the human infections that result in flu-like symptoms and, in most reported cases, severe pneumonia. So far, investigations of the cases remain largely inconclusive: some patients had contact with poultry or other animals just before falling ill, whereas others had not. The genetic sequences of the H7N9 viruses found in the birds are highly similar to those isolated from human patients, says Chao-Tan Guo, a virologist at the Zhejiang Academy of Medical Sciences in Hangzhou. Although the virus might have come from other sources, including mammals, the pattern of many human cases over a wide area in a short time could be explained by live markets alone, because birds from one or a few sources would be transported to multiple markets, says Malik Peiris, a flu virologist at the University of Hong Kong.

<http://www.nature.com/news/urgent-search-for-flu-source-1.12762>

Fairfax County Pandemic Flu Preparedness

Be sure to visit the county’s flu Web page for information and news on flu and flu preparedness.

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



TRAININGS / EXERCISES / CONFERENCES

Fatigue Risk Management in Aviation Operations

May 1; George Mason University School of Law, Center for Infrastructure Protection and Homeland Security; 3301 North Fairfax Drive, Arlington, Va.

Whether it is flight operations, maintenance, or airport operations, today's 24/7 aviation industry must understand and mitigate fatigue in order to maintain alertness and safety. This symposium will equip attendees with the knowledge and approaches necessary to effectively fight fatigue in the operational setting. The human physiology of fatigue and the hazards it represents in the workplace will be explored, along with effective methods and tools to conduct fatigue risk management, mitigate fatigue's negative effects and enhance public safety. The instructors and presenters come from a range of disciplines at George Mason University, as well as notable members from the fatigue science, practitioner and government communities.

<http://cip.gmu.edu/index.php/programs/education-and-training/education-a-training-events/120-fatigue-risk-management-in-aviation-operations-program>

2013 Building Safety Month Kickoff Event: Disaster Safety and Mitigation and Site Work Development Safety

Thursday, May 2, 10 a.m.; The Arlington County Central Library, 1015 North Quincy Street, Arlington, Va.

The event is sponsored by the Northern Virginia Building Officials Coalition and features two guest speakers: Fire Chief Ernest Mitchell, Jr., U.S. Fire administrator, FEMA; and Allyn Kilsheimer, president, KCE Structural Engineers, PC. RSVP to Patrick N.C. Nnaji at 703-324-1837; email Patrick.Nnaji@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Public Safety Broadband Summit & Expo

May 13-14; Washington Court Hotel, Washington, D.C.

APCO's annual Public Safety Broadband Summit & Expo brings together technology experts, policy leaders, industry partners, commercial carriers and public safety professionals to discuss recent trends in broadband policy and technology.

<http://broadbandsummit.apcointl.org/>

GovSec Featuring TREXPO

May 13-15; Walter E. Washington Convention Center, Washington, D.C.

Description: Advanced-level education from public and private sector industry experts on today's hot topics and challenges, including: Homeland Security; Counter and Anti-Terrorism; Critical Infrastructure Protection; Cyberterrorism and Cybercrime; and Law Enforcement Case Studies, Tactics and Technologies.

<http://govsecinfo.com/Home.aspx>

Surveillance Detection for Law Enforcement and Security Professionals Course

May 21-23; Richmond, Va.

The Department of Homeland Security, Office for Bombing Prevention and the Office of Veterans Affairs and Homeland Security are sponsoring "Surveillance Detection for Law Enforcement and Security Professionals" (SD LESP) Course at the VCU Police Department, 938 W. Grace Street, Richmond, Va., May 21-23, 2013 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. To register for the course, email Jeremiah Hockman, Virginia Office of Veterans Affairs and Homeland Security at dhstraining@governor.virginia.gov with the name, agency, position, email and phone number of the officials that you want to attend the training.

The 7th Annual JFHQ NCR Interagency Chaplains Conference

Thursday, May 30, 8 a.m. - 3 p.m.; Fort Lesley McNair, National Defense University, Washington, D.C.

The Joint Force Headquarters, Military District of Washington (JFHQ/MDW) in collaboration with the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments Public Safety Chaplains Subcommittee presents "When The Healer Is Wounded ...and Who Heals the Healer?" Every time the healer heals another, the healer passes on healing, but the healer may not always be healed.

16th Annual Emergency Management Higher Education Symposium

June 3-6; Emergency Management Institute, Emmitsburg, Md.

The Emergency Management Institute (EMI) is hosting the 16th Annual Emergency Management Higher Education Symposium primarily for representatives of colleges and universities that have an existing hazard, disaster or emergency management (EM) program in place, or are attempting to develop and implement a hazard, disaster or EM program on their campus (e.g., a degree, certificate, minor or concentration). The symposium will be held at the Federal Emergency Management Agency's National Emergency Training Center (NETC) in Emmitsburg, Md. – about 75 miles northwest of Washington, D.C. The primary goal of the symposium is to provide a forum for collegiate faculty, administrators and students to network with each other and with representatives of EM professional organizations which are also invited to the symposium.

<http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/edu/educonference13.asp>

International Hazardous Materials Response Teams Conference

June 6- 9; Baltimore, Md.

The Hazmat Conference is recognized as a high quality, in-depth conference with cutting-edge educational programs designed for professionals at all levels of experience. For nearly 30 years the Hazmat Conference has offered informative sessions and unique hands-on training designed to tackle the most pressing issues facing hazmat professionals.

<http://www.iafc.org/micrositeHazConf/homeHazConf.cfm?ItemNumber=6165&navItemNumber=6150>

Biodetection Technologies 2013

June 18-19; Alexandria, Va.

The 21st conference in the Detection Technologies conference series is an internationally recognized meeting for experts in detection and identification of biological threats and point-of-care analytical methods. This conference will review feedback from the end-users on biodefense and biomedical technologies and explore the cutting-edge in R&D and commercialization efforts in the field.

http://www.knowledgefoundation.com/viewevents.php?event_id=290&act=evt

Pandemics, Bioterrorism, and International Security

July 22-24; George Mason University, Fairfax, Va.

Three-day, non-credit short-course designed to introduce participants to the challenges facing the world at the intersection of biodefense and public health.

<http://masonbiodefense.wordpress.com/summer-courses/>

2013 Building Resilience through Public-Private Partnerships Conference

July 23-25; Rutgers University-Newark, The Paul Robeson Campus Center, Newark, NJ

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security Headquarters, in partnership with the Federal Emergency Management Agency, U.S. Northern Command, and Rutgers University will present the third annual Building Resilience through Public-Private Partnerships Conference at Rutgers University in July. This year's conference themed, "Partnerships in Action: Enhancing National and Economic Security," will highlight successful public-private partnerships across the homeland security enterprise and is designed to identify solutions to coordination gaps between the public and private sectors. From Hurricane Sandy response efforts and global supply chain resilience to campus resilience and cyber security, building resilient communities continues to be a whole community approach. More detailed registration information and a call for topics is forthcoming. Call the DHS Private Sector Office at 202-282-8484 and PPPConference@hq.dhs.gov for immediate inquiries.

IS-450.NC - Emergency Preparedness for Federal Employees in the National Capital Region

The goal of this independent study course is to provide practical steps you can take to prepare for emergencies that could threaten your home, workplace, and community. This course is intended specifically for Federal employees living and working in the National Capital Region. The first lesson focuses on the importance of personal emergency preparedness and its relationship to your professional responsibilities as a Federal employee. The second lesson introduces the four steps to personal emergency preparedness: Be Informed, Make a Plan, Build a Kit and Get

Involved. The last lesson reinforces the concepts learned in the previous lessons by applying the four steps of emergency preparedness to a given scenario.

<http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/is450nc.asp>

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



www.fairfaxcounty.gov/hd/organ/

LINKS

Fairfax County Web Resources

- Fairfax County Emergency Information Blog - www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency/blog
- Fairfax County Emergency Information Web page - www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency/
- 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/>

Additional Web Resources

- Capital Region Updates - www.CapitalRegionUpdates.gov
- Virginia Citizen Corps - 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

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.

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 NICCRports@dhs.gov. You can access the Daily OSIR at: http://www.dhs.gov/files/programs/editorial_0542.shtm.

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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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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