



ESF 15 Business / Nonprofit Update

Produced by Emergency Support Function 15 – External Affairs

August 2008

ITEMS OF INTEREST FOR ESF 15

Fairfax County ESF-15 Homeland Security Committee Meeting

Please plan on joining fellow members from the business/nonprofit community, along with staff from Fairfax County, on **Friday, Sept. 12, from 9-11 a.m. for the next meeting of the ESF-15 Business/Nonprofit Homeland Security Committee**. The meeting will be held in conference rooms 9/10 of the Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. Among the items on the agenda will be an open discussion of the committee, how often it should meet and suggestions for information sharing among emergency support function 15: external affairs. Additionally, there will be a presentation from the Office of Emergency Management on business continuity and attendees will have a chance to meet Olivia McLean, the new coordinator for the county's Office of Emergency Management. For more information, contact Merni Fitzgerald, chair of the committee, at 703-324-3187, TTY 711, or by e-mail at <mailto:merni.fitzgerald@fairfaxcounty.gov>.

Meeting agenda: http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency/esf/agenda_9-12-08_meeting.pdf

OEM hires new coordinator (news release): <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/news/2008/150.htm>

National Preparedness Month

September is National Preparedness Month, a special time to focus on and to encourage residents to take four important preparedness steps:

- Get a Kit
- Make a Plan
- Be Informed
- Get Involved

First, get a kit. When preparing for a possible emergency situation, it's best to think first about the basics of survival: fresh water, food, clean air and warmth. You'll want to include:

- One gallon of water per person per day for at least three days, for drinking and sanitation
- At least a three-day supply of non-perishable food
- Battery-powered or hand crank radio and a NOAA Weather Radio with tone alert and extra batteries for both
- Flashlight and extra batteries
- First-aid kit
- Whistle to signal for help
- Dust mask, to help filter contaminated air and plastic sheeting and duct tape to shelter-in-place
- Moist towelettes, garbage bags and plastic ties for personal sanitation
- Wrench or pliers to turn off utilities
- Can opener for food (if kit contains canned food)
- Local maps
- Prescription or over-the-counter medications
- Infant formula and diapers if needed
- Food and water for family pets
- Cash, change and/or traveler's checks
- Change of clothing
- Pencils, pens and paper
- Games and toys for any young children in your family

Next, you'll want to make sure you have a family emergency plan. Your family may not be together when disaster strikes, so it is important to plan in advance: how you will contact one another; how you will get back together; and what you will do in different situations. It may be easier to make a long-distance phone call than to call across town, so an out-of-town contact may be in a better position to communicate among separated family members. Be sure every member of your family knows the phone number and has coins or a prepaid phone card to call the emergency

contact. Be informed about the different types of emergencies that could happen where you live and the appropriate ways to respond. This will impact the decisions you make and the actions you take. And finally, get involved. After preparing yourself and your family for possible emergencies by getting a kit, making a plan and being informed, take the next step and get involved in preparing your community. Learn more about Citizen Corps, which actively involves citizens in making our communities and our nation safer, stronger and better prepared. More information about National Preparedness Month, as well as details on how to become better prepared, can be found online at <http://www.ready.gov>. You may also want to visit <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency>, and for info on Citizen Corps, visit <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/oem>.

Emergency Management to Provide Preparedness Tip of the Day

The Fairfax County Office of Emergency Management will be providing a preparedness tip of the day to county residents during National Preparedness Month. The daily tips (each weekday) will be delivered by RSS and are also available daily on the county's emergency information Web page (<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency>). Residents are encouraged to subscribe to the "Emergency News and Information" feed via their favorite RSS reader. Tips range from water storage to pet preparedness, and Citizen Corps volunteering to helping children cope with emergencies. These daily tips will not only encourage and empower residents to prepare themselves and their families, but also their communities and workplaces. To subscribe to the emergency RSS feed (<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/rssfeeds>), right click on the orange RSS icon  appears in the URL or address bar of your Web browser, you can click the icon to bookmark the feed. For more information about emergency preparedness, call the Fairfax County Office of Emergency Management at 571-350-1000, TTY 711. Emergency information may be found online at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency>.

D.C. Homeland Security Checks Out Social Media

The District of Columbia Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency has launched its new blog, Be Ready DC, and a Facebook group, Be Ready DC.

<http://newsroom.dc.gov/show.aspx/agency/dcema/section/2/release/14043>

FYI... Fairfax County is online with social media at Facebook, MySpace and YouTube.

<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=7901829756> (account required)

<http://www.myspace.com/fairfaxcountygovernment>

<http://www.youtube.com/fairfaxcountygov>

Federal Agencies Add Twitter to the Mix

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the State Department, NASA and the U.S. Senate are among federal agencies using Twitter to spread news and information about their agencies. Many individuals have begun using Twitter, which allows for posts of up to 140 characters in length to be uploaded and read online or through instant messaging or mobile devices via text messaging. Twitter is a service for friends, family, and co-workers to communicate and stay connected through the exchange of quick, frequent answers to one simple question: What are you doing? "Tweets" have been used by individuals. Now businesses and even government agencies are finding value in the short messages. Learn more about Twitter and Microblogging by the feds at

<http://www.usa.gov/webcontent/technology/microblogging.shtml>.

<http://twitter.com/>



WMATA photo

Washington, D.C., Will Test Model Transit Emergency Management Program

The Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority, with assistance from the Federal Transit Administration, will establish a transit emergency management program to be used as a model by transit systems nationwide. The National Transit Institute, under a cooperative agreement, will administer the effort. It will focus on communications with customers during emergencies that affect travel on bus and rail.

http://www.wmata.com/about/MET_NEWS/PressReleaseDetail.cfm?ReleaseID=2215

DHS Releases National Emergency Communications Plan

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has released the National Emergency Communications Plan (NECP) to address gaps and determine solutions so that emergency response personnel at all levels of government and across all disciplines can communicate as needed, on demand, and as authorized. The NECP is the nation's first strategic plan to improve emergency response communications, and complements overarching homeland security and emergency communications legislation, strategies and initiatives. The NECP defines three goals that establish a minimum level of interoperable communications and a deadline for federal, state, local and tribal authorities:

- By 2010, 90 percent of all high-risk urban areas designated within the Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI) can demonstrate response-level emergency communications within one hour for routine events involving multiple jurisdictions and agencies.
- By 2011, 75 percent of non-UASI jurisdictions can demonstrate response-level emergency communications within one hour for routine events involving multiple jurisdictions and agencies.
- By 2013, 75 percent of all jurisdictions can demonstrate response-level emergency communications within three hours of a significant event, as outlined in the department's national planning scenarios.

The NECP enhances governance, planning, technology, training and exercises, and disaster communications capabilities with recommendations and milestones for emergency responders and relevant government officials. It is designed to drive measurable and sustainable improvements over the next five years consistent with the: National Response Framework; National Incident Management System; National Preparedness Guidelines; and Target Capabilities List. NECP goals, along with these other department strategies, will improve nationwide response efforts and bolster situational awareness, information sharing and command and control operations.

http://www.dhs.gov/xnews/releases/pr_1217529182375.shtm

FEMA Announces Interim Release of Comprehensive Preparedness Guide 101

The Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) announced the release of the interim "Comprehensive Preparedness Guide 101: Producing Emergency Plans: A Guide for All-Hazard Operations Planning for State, Territorial, Local, and Tribal Governments." The interim guide was developed by a team of tribal, state and local officials from all around the United States who worked together to develop guidance that can aid jurisdictions in protecting their citizens. CPG 101 is the first in the series of publications developed through the FEMA National Preparedness Directorate's CPG Initiative. Future CPGs will discuss planning considerations for a variety of emergency functions, hazards and special preparedness programs. Example topics include: Response Catastrophic Logistics Planning, Evacuation Planning, Debris Management, Emergency Public Information, and Natural Hazards. The next guide scheduled for release is "CPG 301 - Emergency Planning Guide for Special Needs Populations." Interim CPG 101 is the foundation for both public and private sector emergency planning in the United States. Emergency planners in all disciplines and organizations may find portions of the guide useful in the development of their emergency response plans.

<http://www.fema.gov/news/newsrelease.fema?id=45302>

Vital Records and Business Continuity Planning

An "all media" approach to data protection is a necessary requirement of all business continuity plans. Dr. Jim Kennedy explains. As business continuity and disaster recovery professionals we continue to address the rapidly changing face of business and technology. We are caught up in the frenzy of our employers or clients wishing to converge their voice and data networks. We must maintain the RTOs and RPOs necessary to restore mission critical infrastructures along with all of the electronic data that moves across networks or is stored on magnetic media. We know that companies that go through a severe loss of mission critical computerized records may never reopen. However, as we have seen from past disasters, like those suffered during hurricanes Katrina and Rita or even the most recent floods in the Midwestern portions of the United States, that electronic and digital data is not the only medium of information critical to an organization's business mission. Neither is electronic data the only storage medium of importance to customers or patients who rely upon critical paper records and their protection for their financial futures or health and wellbeing.

<http://www.continuitycentral.com/feature0599.html>

2008 Business Resiliency Survey

iJET Intelligent Risk Systems, a provider of global intelligence and business resiliency services, has announced the publication of its “2008 Business Resiliency Survey Results: An Insiders’ Look at the Current State of Risk Management, Continuity and Resiliency in Multinational Organizations” report. The report is based on the results of a survey which drew responses from more than 600 executives in primarily large multinational organizations about the risk management and resiliency plans and practices in their organizations. Representing a diverse industry set, 65 percent of respondents work in organizations with more than \$1 billion annual revenue. According to the report, most responding organizations are prepared to respond to disruptions. Almost all survey participants had some type of disaster recovery or business continuity plan in place. A significant number (41 percent) also have a plan for business resiliency, defined as “the ability to rapidly adapt and respond to risks and opportunities in order to maintain continuity of business operations, remain a trusted partner and enable growth.” Most organizations are turning to business resiliency plans to protect individual employees and business operations as well as to protect the organization’s reputation and brand. Continuity of operations and brand protection were identified as the top two concerns when organizations did not having a resiliency plan in place, followed by loss of revenue. Senior executives and the boards of directors have the most internal influence on instilling resiliency processes and plans. But results show that it’s not just company leadership driving resiliency efforts; customers also play a significant role and were cited by 49 percent of respondents as a reason to create and maintain resiliency plans. Results suggest that as resiliency initiatives become more widespread, customers will likely have higher expectations and make greater demands for organizations to be resilient.

<http://www.ijet.com/news/whitepapers/index.asp>

Maps, Facts and Stats

Fairfax County maps can now be found online in one location. If you’re interested in finding maps of fire stations, police stations, county libraries or even schools and trails. Visit the county’s maps page for more.

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/maps/county/>. The maps page is also linked from "Maps, Facts, Stats" on the home page of the county Web site.

PLANNING / PREPAREDNESS

Current Threat Level

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



Under an elevated threat level, businesses should:

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

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

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

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

<http://vaemergency.com/>

Ready Business Mentoring Initiative

Designed as a call-to-action for business leaders, the Ready Campaign has created Ready Business Mentoring Initiative. This new initiative is designed to help owners and managers of small and medium-sized businesses prepare for emergencies. Ready Business Mentoring Initiative includes the Ready Business Mentoring Guides which are designed to teach business owners and managers about affordable ways to better protect their businesses. In addition, the Ready Campaign collaborated with the Education Disaster Extension Network (EDEN) to create presentation materials to support the Ready Business Mentoring Guides. These materials assist business and community leaders in hosting and delivering business preparedness workshops and training sessions. These sessions and the Ready Business Mentoring Guides outline how businesses can plan to stay in business; talk to employees; and protect assets.

<http://www.ready.gov/business/mentor/index.htm>

Lieberman Commends DHS for Start of Private Sector Preparedness Program

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee Chairman Joe Lieberman, ID-Conn., has expressed satisfaction that the Department of Homeland Security has begun implementation of its Voluntary Private Sector Preparedness Accreditation and Certification Program. DHS announced that it has retained ANSI-ASQ National Accreditation Board to manage the program (ANAB), which will set standards and guidelines that businesses can voluntarily subscribe to in order to obtain a preparedness certification. This program is directed by Public Law 110-53, Implementing the Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007, requiring the DHS to establish a common set of criteria for private sector preparedness in disaster management, emergency management and business continuity. Under Title IX of the Act, the department is charged with a number of core tasks to establish the voluntary program, to include the designation of an organization to act as an accrediting body. In this role, ANAB will be responsible for overseeing the certification process, managing the accreditation, and accrediting qualified third parties to carry out certifications of private sector entities. ANAB was selected based on its experience and expertise in managing and implementing accreditation programs.

<http://www.continuitycentral.com/news04068.html>

Immigrants Less Prepared for Disaster, Study Says

Immigrant and limited-English-proficient communities are likely less prepared for a major disaster, according to a study released today. The report cited a shortage of foreign-language materials about emergency preparedness and a shortfall in bilingual staff and volunteers to provide emergency preparedness education. The study, titled "Disaster Preparedness in Urban Immigrant Communities: Lessons Learned from Recent Catastrophic Events and Their Relevance to Latino and Asian Communities in Southern California," found a lack of preparedness materials in languages other than English. It also found a shortage of staff and volunteers among emergency response crews and nonprofits that do outreach during emergencies. Ethnic media outlets are also under-used to communicate with limited- or non-English-speaking communities, the report found. The study also noted that some immigrants will not come forward for emergency assistance for fear that their immigration status will come into question.

http://demographics.apalc.org/wp-content/uploads/2008/07/disaster-report_final.pdf

ASIS to Develop New American Business Continuity Standard

ASIS International, the organization for security management professionals, has announced that it is to initiate the development of a new American National Standard for business continuity. The "Business Continuity Management American National Standard" will be based on the ASIS Business Continuity Guideline. In addition, ASIS will also develop a new risk assessment standard, which will be based on the ASIS General Security Risk Assessment Guideline. The Business Continuity Management American National Standard will include "auditable criteria for preparedness, crisis management, business and operational continuity and disaster management."

<http://www.continuitycentral.com/news04063.html>

Federal and State Officials Stress Importance of NOAA Weather Radios

As we enter into the height of the 2008 hurricane season, federal and state officials encourage people to stay tuned to their weather radio. Buying a National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) weather radio now could be a wise and affordable investment in a family's safety if severe weather threatens. A few extra dollars could buy a few extra minutes for a family to get out of harm's way. During life-threatening weather conditions, NOAA Weather Radios send out a special alarm tone to signal a watch or warning alerting listeners to take appropriate safety measures. The signal transmits anytime day or night, even if a family is not listening to the broadcast. Early warning is critical because weather can quickly turn deadly. NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards (NWR) is a nationwide network of radio stations broadcasting continuous weather information directly from the nearest National Weather Service office. NWR broadcasts official Weather Service warnings, watches, forecasts and other hazard information 24 hours a day, seven days a week providing comprehensive weather and conjunction with federal, state, and local emergency managers and other public officials, NWR also broadcasts warnings and post-event information for all types of hazards – including natural events, such as earthquakes or avalanches; environmental events, such as chemical releases or oil spills; and public safety warnings, such as AMBER alerts or 9-1-1 telephone outages.

<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/nwr/>



emergency information. In

Conventions Designated National Special Security Events

The Department of Homeland Security designated both the Democratic and Republican National Conventions as National Special Security Events (NSSE) with the U.S. Secret Service as lead agency to coordinate security. In an NSSE, the Secret Service forms partnerships with participating law enforcement, security and public safety officials. The Democratic National Convention was held Aug. 25-28, in Denver. The Republican National Convention is Sept. 1-4, in St. Paul, Minn.

http://www.dhs.gov/xnews/releases/pr_1219416095765.shtm

Be Prepared for Floods

Flooding is the nation's most common natural disaster. Flooding can happen in every U.S. state and territory. However, all floods are not alike. Some can develop slowly, while others can occur quickly, even without any visible signs of rain. It's important to be prepared for flooding no matter where you live, but particularly if you are in a low-lying area, near water or downstream from a dam. Even a very small stream can overflow and create flooding.

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

2008 Hurricane Forecasts Updated

The National Hurricane Center has increased its Atlantic hurricane season forecast, predicting that there is a 67 percent chance that the Atlantic will produce 14 to 18 named storms, seven to 10 hurricanes and three to six major hurricanes (Category 3, 4 or 5). The NHC issues hurricane season forecasts in May and August. Read the full text of the NHC's forecast: <http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/outlooks/hurricane.shtml>. Colorado State University has also increased its forecast in its August update. CSU is calling for a total of 17 named storms for the season, nine hurricanes and five intense hurricanes (Category 3, 4 or 5). The tropical meteorology research group from CSU's Department of Atmospheric Science will update its forecast in September and October. Read the full text of CSU's forecast: <http://hurricane.atmos.colostate.edu/Forecasts>. To date, the 2008 Atlantic hurricane season has produced five named storms, two hurricanes and one major hurricane. In addition, the Virginia Department of Transportation, the Hampton Roads Emergency Management Committee and VDEM have updated the Virginia Hurricane Guide. The guide contains essential hurricane preparedness information, such as traffic reversal plans along I-64, evacuation routes and bridge/tunnel/ferry closure plans in the Hampton Roads area. The guide is available for download at <http://www.readyvirginia.gov/brochures.cfm>. Printed guides are available from the VDEM Public Affairs Office at (866) 782-3470 or pio@vdem.virginia.gov.

Office Depot Offers Preparedness Advice for Small Businesses

A recent national survey, commissioned by Office Depot, reveals that 40 percent of small businesses admit they are not ready for a disaster and one-third indicate having no current plans to get prepared. Of those businesses indicating they were not prepared for a natural disaster:

- 37 percent said they had not taken the time to do so.
- 17 percent indicated it was too expensive.
- 11 percent claim not to know what to do.

While the most important step in readiness planning is to ensure the safety of family and friends, business owners also need to protect their organization and property in order to bring operations up-to-speed as quickly as possible after an unexpected event. Not only is valuable data and property at risk, but also the ability to financially support employees who might not have the ability to endure a lapse in pay due to a disaster. Before a storm, small businesses should take the following steps:

- **Protect Your People**
 - Build solid contact lists. Include names and phone numbers of employees, vendors, and emergency agencies.
 - Establish emergency communications procedures.
 - Organize supplies. Ensure you have sufficient water, batteries, food, and janitorial products, and that your company has access to cash, generators, and batteries.
 - Provide employee assistance. Train at least one staff member in CPR and first aid and, if possible, prepare family disaster kits and alternative family housing.
- **Protect Your Data**
 - Copy data to removable media such as DVD-R or CD-R discs, or removable disk drives, like the Ativa flash memory drive, that connect to systems via their USB ports.
 - Back-up as much data as possible and store hard copies of important documents (such as insurance forms) in a fire- and water-proof safe.
 - Take a copy of software used to make backups to a secure, off-site location.

At its core, disaster planning is about business survival. One in four businesses will experience a significant crisis in a given year, according to the Association of Small Business Development Centers, and of those businesses that experience a disaster and have no emergency plan, 43 percent never reopen. While these statistics are startling, the Office Depot survey did show that small business owners living in natural disaster-prone regions (Coastal areas or the Midwest) are far more inclined towards disaster preparation. But nationally speaking, a full 25 percent of business owners describe their attitude towards disaster preparation as “live and let live,” explaining they would rather deal with a disaster when it occurs than get ahead of a potential problem.

How Did the Regions Compare? Conducted by TNS NFO, the survey of 5,000 business owners reveals surprising regional differences in the readiness efforts of businesses operating in disaster-prone regions:

- The Gulf Coast and Eastern seaboard region lead in preparedness planning, however, nearly a third (27 percent) of business owners across the hurricane-prone Gulf Coast and Eastern seaboard report their businesses are not prepared for a disaster.
- Slightly less than half (42 percent) of business owners survey in Southern California say they are not prepared, despite the devastation caused by recent wildfires and earthquakes.
- Nearly four out of 10 (39 percent) of businesses in the Midwest, which has experienced one of the most destructive tornado seasons this year, state they do not have a disaster readiness plan in place.

For more information and to download the free brochure titled “Expecting the Unexpected: Disaster Preparedness Strategies for Small Business,” visit <http://www.officedepot.com/getprepared>.

MEDIA ARTICLES OF INTEREST

Internet Phone Services Must Offer 9-1-1

President Bush last week signed the New and Emerging Technologies 9-1-1 Improvement Act of 2008. It requires Internet Protocol “telephony service providers to provide 9-1-1 services and to create plans for a national IP emergency response network,” reports Government Computer News. Cellular phone service and voice-over-IP providers already must “provide 9-1-1 emergency call services and Enhanced 9-1-1 service, which includes

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answering points with information on the location and identity of callers.”

http://www.gcn.com/online/vol1_no1/46709-1.html

TSA Opens Registered Traveler Program to All Airports

The Transportation Security Administration is opening the Registered Traveler program to any airport that wants to use it, and is eliminating the \$28 fee it has charged to perform background checks, reports Government Computer News. But TSA also is distancing itself from the public-private program, which uses biometric cards for identity verification to speed members through airport security checkpoints. It is not considered a meaningful part of the agency’s security mandate.... Registered Traveler programs now are in operation in 19 U.S. airports.” Registered Traveler “primarily is a customer benefit service for members who pay a fee to private operators, and not a security program. Member benefits include special shorter lines and concierge services, although members have to go through the same checkpoint screening.

http://www.gcn.com/online/vol1_no1/46735-1.html?page=1



National Consortium for the
Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism

University of Maryland Terrorism Center Receives Federal Funding

A University of Maryland center has received federal funding to study homegrown terrorist groups. The researchers will also study the effectiveness of counterterrorism strategies and efforts to build community resilience to attacks. University officials say the National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism, established in 2005, will receive nearly \$12 million over three years from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. The center, known as START, is developing what it says will be the world’s largest and most comprehensive database of terror incidents. START hopes to have the database, covering all incidents since 1970, complete by the end of the year. About 50 social scientists will be involved in the effort.

<http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/education/bal-md.terrorists28jul28,0,451074.story>

New Threat Alert System Under Fire

Responding to warnings in a government audit, congressional Democrats are calling on the Homeland Security Department to suspend a new threat alert system until the program is retooled to meet state and local needs. Department spokesman Russ Knocke responded that the department does not plan to put the program on hold. The new system, which is to be the main way the department communicates regular threat information to local and private sector officials, has had a troubled history. The department scrapped a \$91 million system, dubbed the Homeland Security Information Network or HSIN, after reports found that the program lacked critical security and structural functions that made it unworkable. It’s been placed on life support until it can be replaced by “HSIN Next Gen,” which is due to be completed next September with an estimated price tag of \$62 million. But a new Government Accountability Office audit found that the department hired a contractor, General Dynamics, to develop the system without sufficiently planning for the new program. For example, the department hasn’t adequately staffed the effort, and it hasn’t consulted with most of those who would use the system, such as state and local officials. That, GAO says in a briefing document, “is not a recipe for success.” In fact, it risks repeating the problems of the program it’s supposed to replace. Investing money in the program, given its inadequate planning thus far, “puts the project at risk” of failure, GAO concludes.

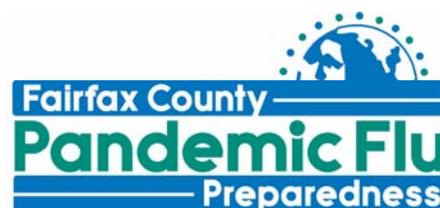
<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB121693824624682635.html>

Private Planes on TSA’s Radar

The Transportation Security Administration is planning a massive expansion of aviation security that for the first time will regulate thousands of private planes now flying with no security rules, reports USA Today. The new regulations ... stop short of passenger screening, but would aim to prevent someone from flying a small plane, possibly packed with explosives, into a building. Authorities also worry about terrorists transporting hazardous materials or themselves on private aircraft.

http://www.usatoday.com/travel/flights/2008-08-10-charter-planes_N.htm

PANDEMIC FLU



Fairfax County Pandemic Flu Preparedness

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

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

UN Finds New Bird Flu Strain in Nigeria

A strain of highly pathogenic avian influenza previously not recorded in sub-Saharan Africa has been detected in Nigeria for the first time, reports the UN Food and Agriculture Organization. "The detection of a new avian influenza virus strain in Africa raises serious concerns as it remains unknown how this strain has been introduced to the continent," warned Scott Newman, International Wildlife Coordinator of FAO's Animal Health Service.

<http://www.fao.org/newsroom/en/news/2008/1000909/index.html>

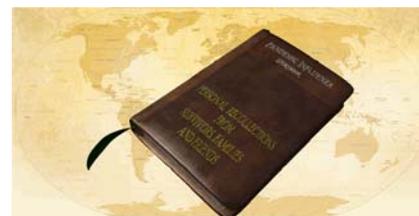
Bacterial Pneumonia Caused Most Deaths in 1918 Influenza Pandemic

The majority of deaths during the influenza pandemic of 1918-1919 were not caused by the influenza virus acting alone, report researchers from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), part of the National Institutes of Health. Instead, most victims succumbed to bacterial pneumonia following influenza virus infection. The pneumonia was caused when bacteria that normally inhabit the nose and throat invaded the lungs along a pathway created when the virus destroyed the cells that line the bronchial tubes and lungs. A future influenza pandemic may unfold in a similar manner, say the NIAID authors, whose paper in the Oct. 1 issue of "The Journal of Infectious Diseases" is now available online. Therefore, the authors conclude, comprehensive pandemic preparations should include not only efforts to produce new or improved influenza vaccines and antiviral drugs but also provisions to stockpile antibiotics and bacterial vaccines as well.

<http://www.nih.gov/news/health/aug2008/niaid-19.htm>

CDC Releases 1918 Pandemic Flu Storybook

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has released an online storybook containing narratives from survivors, families, and friends about one of the largest scourges ever on human kind – the 1918 influenza pandemic that killed millions of people around the world. The storybook provides valuable insight for public health officials preparing for the possibility of another pandemic sometime in our future. This year marks the 90th anniversary of the 1918 influenza pandemic. The Internet storybook contains about 50 stories from individuals from 24 states around the country as well as photos and narrative videos from the storytellers. The idea for such a storybook emerged during crisis and emergency risk communication (CERC) training CDC has been conducting with health professionals over the past few years. The online storybook contains narratives from survivors, families and friends who lived through the 1918 and 1957 pandemics. The agency welcomes new submissions and plans to update the book each quarter. Narratives from the 1968 pandemic are also welcome. The storybook can be found at



<http://www.pandemicflu.gov/storybook/index.html>.

TRAININGS / EXERCISES / CONFERENCES

National Capital Region Homeland Security Events

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

Virginia Emergency Management Courses

<http://www.vaemergency.com>

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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

Virginia Public Safety Outreach Conference Postponed

The Virginia Department of Emergency Management and the Virginia Citizen Corps have postponed the 2008 Virginia Public Safety Outreach Conference due to budget constraints; they do plan to hold the event in November 2009.

Hospital Security Preparedness Training

Sep 2-5; Sep 29-Oct 2; Nov 3-6; Dec 1-4; Washington Hospital Center, Washington, D.C.

This four-day immersion course uses hands-on training, live drills and classroom instruction from instructors who have extensive security and counterterrorism experience. Participants will learn how to effectively handle all threats pertaining to the hospital security officer, from routine situations to mass casualty incidents and terrorist attacks.

Disaster Planning Training

Sept. 3; Fairfax County Government Center (Conference Rooms 2/3)

Volunteer Fairfax will offer disaster planning/training and will cover the basics of a Continuity of Operations Plan, public messaging, an introduction to the Office of Emergency Management and pre-planning and community coordination.

<http://www.volunteerfairfax.org>

Disruptive Technologies Conference

Sept. 4-5; Washington, D.C.

The Command, Control, Communications, Computers, Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance Division of the National Defense Industrial Association will convene a forum for government and industry senior leaders to exchange the status of programs that have innovative technology applications possessing disruptive operational capabilities. The leaders will learn of the pressing areas of need and promising technology prospects that will affect air, cyber, ground, sea, space-based, and intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (see-act-decide) operations.

<http://tinyurl.com/5d8965>

Risk and Crisis Communication in the 21st Century – Are We Ready?

Sept. 30, 2008; Washington, D.C.

At the Risk and Crisis Communications in the 21st Century Forum, you will examine in-depth changes and progress made in risk and crisis communications, looming opportunities and threats to watch for, and practical applications for policy and practice. Through expert perspectives and small group interaction, the Forum will present insights, analysis and forecasts on the current state of risk and crisis communications, where it needs to be, the hurdles to overcome, and solutions to get there on both an individual and collective basis. Some of the most influential leaders in risk and crisis communications will discuss the impact of emerging forces and trends on current leadership, strategy development and innovations.

<http://www.homelanddefensejournal.com/hdl/Crisis-Communication-21st-Century.html>

ASTHO-NACCHO Joint Conference

Sept. 9-12; Sacramento, Calif.

The theme of this year's Association of State and Territorial Health Officials and the National Association of County and City Health Officials conference is "Becoming the Healthiest Nation in a Healthier World." Members, affiliates, alumni, partners, and the public can learn about the associations' recent activities and accomplishments, as well as current public health issues, resources, and innovations. Conference features will include skills-building training, educational sessions, networking opportunities, and access to information about available resources.

<http://tinyurl.com/5vumxm>



Making the World Safer From Disasters: The U.S. Role

Oct. 2; Washington, D.C.

The Disasters Roundtable of the National Research Council–National Academies is organizing this public workshop, which will feature presentations by experts from the hazards research, policy, and practitioner communities on issues related to U.S. efforts to help reduce disaster losses globally.

<http://dels.nas.edu/dr/>



Virginia Hazardous Materials Conference and Expo

Oct. 13-17; Hampton, Va.

This event, sponsored by the Virginia Association of Hazardous Materials Response Specialists in conjunction with the Virginia Department of Emergency Management, features over 60 educational workshops and an exhibition area featuring the latest products and technology for the hazardous materials industry.

<http://virginiahazmat.org/displayconvention.cfm>

U.S. EPA Emergency Preparedness and Prevention & Hazmat Spills Conference

Oct. 26-29; Richmond, Va.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency presents an all-hazards conference for government and industry with education, training, and networking.

<http://www.2005conference.org/>

3rd System of Systems Conference

Dec. 9-10; Gaithersburg, Md.

The conference will stimulate scientific, technical, and professional interest in systems of systems and bring together members of the system-of-systems community including acquisition professionals, program managers, scientists, engineers, and policy makers spanning government, academia, and industry and provide a forum to share experiences, best practices, and research in the management, engineering, and support of system-of-systems solutions.

http://www.upcomingevents.ctc.com/SoSECE/SoSECE_event_home.html

LINKS

Ready Business

<http://www.ready.gov/business/index.html>

Fairfax County Blogs and Web Resources

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

DHS Science & Technology Directorate Newsletter

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

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

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DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report (OSIR)

The Department of Homeland Security provides a Web-based “Daily OSIR,” which is posted on the DHS public Web site. Accessing the report via the Web enables readers to retrieve the current Daily Report as well as 10 days of archived DHS Daily Reports. Once you arrive at the Web page you will find the most recent Daily OSIR at the top of the page, under the title “Current Report.” This report is posted each morning, except for weekends and holidays. Simply click on the title “DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report.” This will launch the current days report in PDF format. You can continue to submit content comments or make suggestions by contacting the DHS Daily Report Team by telephone at 202-312-5389 or by e-mail at NICCCReports@dhs.gov. You can access the Daily OSIR at: http://www.dhs.gov/xinfoshare/programs/editorial_0542.shtm.

Fairfax County Government Emergency Information Web Page

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

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency/

Fairfax County Government Emergency Information Line

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/opa/infoline.htm



ESF 15 Contact Information

Merni Fitzgerald, Director
Fairfax County Office of Public Affairs
12000 Government Center Parkway, Suite 551 ♦ Fairfax, Va. 22035-0065

Tel: 703-324-3187 ♦ Direct: 703-324-3189

E-mail: Merni.Fitzgerald@fairfaxcounty.gov

Web site: www.fairfaxcounty.gov

Emergency Information: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency

To Unsubscribe:

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

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

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

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

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

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