



ESF 15 Business / Nonprofit Update

Produced by Emergency Support Function 15 – External Affairs

August 2011

ITEMS OF INTEREST FOR ESF 15

A Time to Remember; A Time to Prepare – September is National Preparedness Month

This September marks the 10-year anniversary of the tragic terrorist attacks of 9/11 that included a jet airplane crashing into the Pentagon on Virginia soil, killing 125 military and civilian workers and all 64 people on the plane. In observing the 10th anniversary of Sept. 11, 2001, we can honor the memory of those who were lost by making sure we are ready to respond to all types of disasters and emergencies. There is no better time for Virginians to get ready for emergencies than September, which is National Preparedness Month. Those who are prepared for emergencies recover faster and can help others who also may be affected. Every family and business can take just a few simple steps to prepare and protect your family and your assets:

- Make an emergency plan. In a recent survey, just 15 percent of Virginia respondents had a written family emergency plan. This may be the single most important thing you can do for your family. Plan in advance what you will do in an emergency and how you will get in touch with each other. Write it down. Get a family emergency plan worksheet at www.ReadyVirginia.gov.
- Store at least a three-day supply of water and food. The rule of thumb is to store one gallon of water per person per day. That is enough for drinking, cooking and personal hygiene. Be sure to have canned and packaged food on hand that does not need electricity to store or prepare, in case the power is out.
- Get a battery-powered and/or hand-crank radio. To stay informed if the power is out, you'll need a radio to hear instructions from local officials. Make sure you have extra batteries, and choose one with a NOAA Weather Band so you'll get weather information direct from the National Weather Service.

This September: a time to remember; a time to prepare. Honor the past by being ready for whatever the future may hold. For more information, go to www.ReadyVirginia.gov or www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency. Emergency planning tools for families and businesses are available at www.ReadyNOVA.org.

9/11 Remembrance Ceremony

Fairfax County will host a [9/11 Tenth Anniversary Remembrance Ceremony](#) on Sunday, Sept. 11, 2 to 3 p.m. at the Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova, Fire Chief Ronald L. Mastin and Police Chief Col. David M. Rohrer are scheduled to deliver remarks reflecting upon the events of Sept. 11, 2001. The Public Safety Honor Guard and Fairfax County Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts also will be participating in the ceremony. The public is invited to attend and asked to arrive by 1:45 p.m. The ceremony will take place in the Government Center Forum, followed by a procession outside to the 9/11 Memorial Grove.

Join OEM for a Live Call-in Program About Emergency Preparedness

The Office of Emergency Management will host a live, call-in program, "OEM Live," on Fairfax County Government Channel 16 on Tuesday, Sept. 6, at 7 p.m. "OEM Live" is your opportunity to learn about National Preparedness Month and what you should do to prepare for emergencies. Find out about the county's emergency plans, what to do in inclement weather and how to put together an emergency supply kit for your car, home or office. Submit questions you have about emergency preparedness in advance to wwwcpd@fairfaxcounty.gov. County residents also can call in to 703-818-1445 or email questions that night. You may tune into Channel 16, or watch the program live on 16's streaming video on the county website, www.fairfaxcounty.gov; click on the Channel 16 logo in the left side navigation box, or simply visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/cable/channel16/asx/live_stream.asx.



Earthquake Rocks Virginia

The 5.8 magnitude earthquake on Tuesday, Aug. 23, near Mineral, Va. – approximately 100 miles from Washington,

D.C. – shook homes and businesses across large portions of the East Coast. The earthquake is a good reminder to have an emergency supply kit ready in your home, office and car; and to make a communications plan so you and your loved ones will know how to get in touch with each other following a disaster or emergency. As with many such large-scale events, communication networks are often overwhelmed, leading to difficulty making and receiving telephone calls. Texting is a good alternative, and the use of social media such as Twitter and Facebook are also good options for residents to consider for notifying family and friends. Fairfax County also uses such tools. Follow us on Twitter at www.twitter.com/fairfaxcounty and Facebook at www.facebook.com/fairfaxcounty.

Then Comes Hurricane Irene

If the earthquake wasn't enough, Hurricane Irene came up the East coast last week as well, passing through Fairfax County on Saturday, Aug. 27, and Sunday, Aug. 28. The Fairfax County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) was partially activated to respond to the impact of Irene, and the Office of Public Affairs fully activated the JIC – Joint Information Center – with public information staff. In addition, the Department of Public Works and Environmental Services opened their Stormwater Department Operations Center to monitor and respond to any potential flooding issues. OPA also launched the county's new emergency blog (www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency/blog) prior to Hurricane Irene, and used the blog throughout the weekend to provide regular updates to the public.

Well Safety Following Quake

In the aftermath of the August 23rd earthquake, private well owners may notice changes in the appearance of their water supplies or may have concerns about the quality of their water supply. Well owners should inspect the structural integrity of their well and also the clarity of the water coming from the well. Discoloration, caused by sediment or minerals in the water, is not uncommon after an earthquake. Well owners who observe sediment in the water supply should use an alternate source of water until the water supply is clear. If in doubt regarding water quality, the water may be boiled before use or residents may consider using bottled water. If your water is cloudy or muddy, the well and waterlines should be flushed until the water has cleared. Owners may also use "shock chlorination," which is a process of disinfecting a private water supply and plumbing system by circulating a concentrated chlorine solution throughout the system.

<http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/news/PressReleases/2011/082411wells.htm>
www.fairfaxcounty.gov/hd

Atlantic Hurricane Season Update Calls for Increase in Named Storms

NOAA issued its updated 2011 Atlantic hurricane season outlook on 4 August raising the number of expected named storms from its pre-season outlook issued in May. Forecasters also increased their confidence that 2011 will be an active Atlantic hurricane season. NOAA's Climate Prediction Center, a division of the National Weather Service, updates its Atlantic hurricane season outlook every August. Based on these conditions and on climate model forecasts, the confidence for an above-normal season has increased from 65 percent in May to 85 percent. Also, the expected number of named storms has increased from 12-18 in May to 14-19, and the expected number of hurricanes has increased from 6-10 in May to 7-10. Across the entire Atlantic Basin for the whole season – June 1 to November 30 – NOAA's updated seasonal outlook projects, with a 70 percent probability, a total of:

- 14 to 19 named storms (top winds of 39 mph or higher), including:
 - 7 to 10 hurricanes (top winds of 74 mph or higher), of which:
 - 3 to 5 could be major hurricanes (Category 3, 4 or 5; winds of at least 111 mph).

These ranges are indicative of an active season, and extend well above the long-term seasonal averages of 11 named storms, six hurricanes and two major hurricanes.

http://www.noanews.noaa.gov/stories2011/20110804_update_atlantichurricaneoutlook.html

Focus on Fire Safety: Campus Fire Safety

Each year college and university students, on- and off-campus, experience hundreds of fire-related emergencies nationwide. There are several specific causes for fires on college campuses, including cooking, intentionally set fires, and open flame. Overall, most college-related fires are due to a general lack of knowledge about fire safety and prevention. According to information compiled by Campus FireWatch, the great majority of student fire deaths occur in off-campus housing that lacks insufficient exits, missing or inoperative smoke alarms, and automatic fire

sprinklers.

<http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/citizens/focus/campussafety.shtm>

Averting Bridge Disasters: New Technology Could Save Hundreds of Lives

Millions of U.S. drivers cross faulty or obsolete bridges every day, highway statistics show, but it's too costly to fix all these spans or adequately monitor their safety, says a University of Maryland researcher who's developed a new, affordable early warning system. This wireless technology could avert the kind of bridge collapse that killed 13 and injured 145 along Minneapolis' I-35W on Aug. 1, 2007, and do so at one-one-hundredth the cost of current wired systems.

<http://www.newsdesk.umd.edu/uniini/release.cfm?ArticleID=2474>

DHS Secretary Addresses Public Private Partnership Conference

Earlier this month, FEMA, DHS, and other partners hosted a conference on Public Private Partnerships. DHS secretary Janet Napolitano spoke to the attendees and reiterated the private sector's role as an important partner in strengthening the homeland security enterprise better to defend against evolving threats including disasters. Napolitano urged participants to get involved in this partnership program, which enables private entities to receive emergency preparedness certification. Napolitano commended the work that's been done in the last decade to strengthen the U.S. resilience to emergencies through public and private partnerships, but reminded the audience that more can be done. She challenged the participants to continue the conversation with their community partners after they leave the conference, and find ways to increase and enhance relationships between the private sector and public sector.

<http://www.homelandsecuritynewswire.com/napolitano-addresses-public-private-partnership-conference>

QR Codes and TSA

TSA understands the usefulness and the power of [QR codes](#)[®] and TSA is about to start using them in a few airports to

see how well the codes work with our checkpoint signage. QR Codes[®] are two-dimensional codes readable by barcode readers on smartphones. If your phone doesn't come with a reader, they're available from multiple sources on the Internet for free.

When the code is scanned, your phone will take you directly to a web page or other information without having to type any information into your phone. This is a perfect way to say more with the limited space of

traditional signage. For example, we can have a sign with a couple of tips about traveling with children, but by providing a QR code[®], we can point your smartphone to a video or a page with much more information. This is something you can review before the checkpoint, or you can bookmark it and read it later if you're in a hurry. TSA will be using the codes for lost and found info, customer service, procedural information, travel tips and more! If you have any ideas or suggestions, be sure to leave us a comment.

<http://blog.tsa.gov/2011/08/tsa-to-pilot-using-qr-codes-on.html>



Health Officials Inform Travelers of Possible Measles Exposure

Out of an abundance of caution, the Virginia Department of Health is informing people who were passengers on Amtrak's Northeast Regional train #171 on Wednesday, Aug. 17, that they may have been exposed to a person with measles. The Northeast Regional train #171 originated in Boston, Mass., at 8:15 a.m. and made stops in Maryland (Aberdeen, Baltimore – Penn Station, BWI and New Carrollton), District of Columbia (Union Station) and Virginia (Alexandria, Burke Centre, Manassas, Culpeper, Charlottesville and Lynchburg). The train ended its run in Lynchburg at 8:36 p.m. Passengers who got off of train #171 before its arrival in Philadelphia need not be concerned. Measles is a highly contagious illness that is spread through coughing, sneezing, and contact with secretions from the nose, mouth, and throat of an infected individual. For more on measles, go to

www.vdh.virginia.gov/Epidemiology/factsheets/Measles.htm. Virginia passengers with additional questions can contact their local health department.
<http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/news/PressReleases/2011/082111PWHdmeasles.htm>

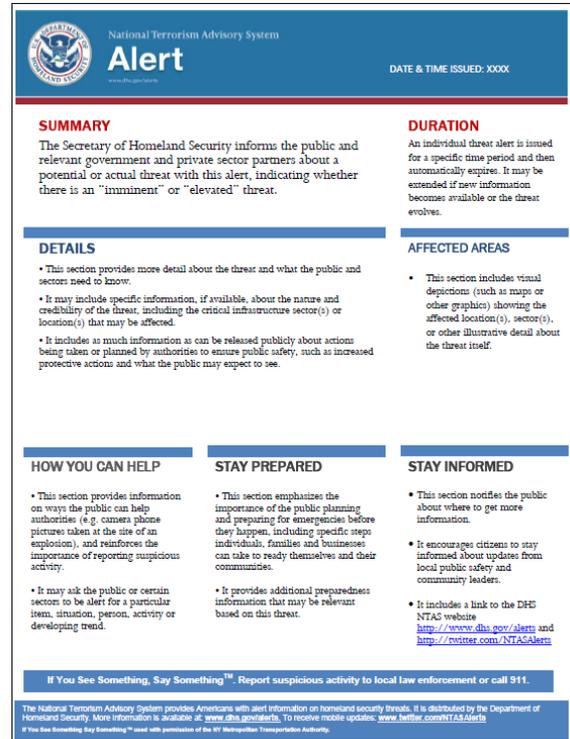
PLANNING / PREPAREDNESS

National Terrorism Advisory System

The Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) National Terrorism Advisory System (NTAS) is a robust terrorism advisory system that provides timely information to the public about credible terrorist threats and replaces the former color-coded alert system. Under NTAS, DHS will coordinate with other federal entities to issue detailed alerts to the public when the federal government receives information about a credible terrorist threat. NTAS alerts provide a concise summary of the potential threat including geographic region, mode of transportation, or critical infrastructure potentially affected by the threat, actions being taken to ensure public safety, as well as recommended steps that individuals, communities, business and governments can take to help prevent, mitigate or respond to a threat. NTAS Alerts will include a clear statement on the nature of the threat, which will be defined in one of two ways:

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

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



The image shows a template for a National Terrorism Advisory System (NTAS) Alert poster. At the top left is the DHS seal and the text "National Terrorism Advisory System Alert". To the right, it says "DATE & TIME ISSUED: XXXX". Below this are several sections: "SUMMARY" (describing the Secretary's role in informing the public), "DURATION" (explaining the alert's time period), "DETAILS" (providing more information about the threat), "AFFECTED AREAS" (listing areas impacted), "HOW YOU CAN HELP" (ways the public can assist), "STAY PREPARED" (steps for individuals and businesses), and "STAY INFORMED" (ways to stay updated). At the bottom, there is a slogan "If You See Something, Say Something™" and a call to report suspicious activity to local law enforcement or call 911. A small disclaimer at the very bottom states that the system provides information on homeland security threats and is distributed by the Department of Homeland Security.

Get Ready Fairfax! Fair

Want to learn about emergency preparedness initiatives in Fairfax County? Visit the Get Ready Fairfax! Fair hosted by the Fairfax County Citizen Corps Council. It will be held at Tysons Corner Center, 1961 Chain Bridge Road, Tysons Corner on Saturday, Sept. 10, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Representatives from local agencies and organizations, including Fairfax County's [Office of Emergency Management](#), will be there to answer your questions and to provide useful emergency preparedness information. For more details, call the emergency management office at 571-350-1000.

Five Tips to Starting a Business Continuity Program

According to a recent article by Tim Bonno, a business continuity and emergency management expert, small businesses should take a simple approach to business continuity. Bonno advocates avoiding cumbersome BC plans due to limited resources often available to smaller companies. Here are five simple steps to business continuity that any small business can follow:

1. Keep it simple and use common sense.

2. Include experts.
3. Document, document, document.
4. Communicate, communicate, communicate.

<http://disaster-resource.com/newsletter/2011/subpages/v388/newsclip4.htm>

Ten Technology Tools for Small Business Owners

Business expert Jeff Lorenz, vice president of Primus Business Services, recommends that small business owners utilize the following 10 technology tools to maintain a secure and profitable business environment. These business practices can also help a small business be prepared when disaster strikes.

1. A secure IT infrastructure.
2. Access to the cloud.
3. Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP).
4. A solid Web presence.
5. Social media.
6. Online or Web conferencing.
7. Managed business continuity service.
8. Managed services expertise.
9. Business grade Internet.
10. Mobile technology

<http://disaster-resource.com/newsletter/2011/subpages/v389/newsclip4.htm>

The American Red Cross Ready Rating System helps you analyze your business' disaster preparedness.

www.readyrating.org/Businesses.aspx

Ready NOVA Family and Business Planner

Emergency management agencies in Northern Virginia recently partnered to create www.ReadyNOVA.org, a website designed to assist residents and businesses in the Northern Virginia region in developing a Family Emergency Preparedness Planner or a Business Emergency Preparedness Planner, both of which follow basic and accepted emergency management practices. The Family Emergency Preparedness Planner provides an easy to use tool for families in Fairfax County to develop their emergency plan, a family communications plan and guidelines for developing their emergency survival kit. The Business Emergency Preparedness Planner provides a detailed process for Fairfax County businesses to develop their emergency plan, including continuity of operations, communications plans and to identify the process for return to their facility after a disaster event. Both planners are user-friendly and meet ADA requirements for accessibility. Additionally, user privacy is guaranteed with no personal or business information saved by the website or either application. ReadyNova.org was made possible by a Department of Homeland Security grant and was coordinated by the many partner localities that make up the Northern Virginia metropolitan region.



Virginia Tech Professors Publish Research on Posttraumatic Stress

In the months after the April 16, 2007, shootings at Virginia Tech, two professors administered a survey to assess posttraumatic stress among students. The findings were recently published in the "Journal of Psychological Trauma: Theory, Research, Practice, and Policy," published by the American Psychological Association. According to researchers Michael Hughes, professor of sociology in the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences, and Russell T. Jones, professor of psychology in the College of Science, 15.4 percent of Virginia Tech students experienced high levels of posttraumatic stress three to four months following the shootings in which 49 students and faculty at the university were shot, 32 of whom were lost. These findings were from a Web-based survey of students that was conducted during the summer and fall after the shootings. A total of 4,639 students from the population of 23,214 (20 percent) agreed to complete the survey, which included questions about exposure to the shootings and other trauma-related stressors. Prevalence of posttraumatic stress was significantly higher among women (23.2 percent) than men (9.9 percent).

<http://www.vtnews.vt.edu/articles/2011/08/080511-science-hughesjones.html>

USFA Releases University Housing Fires Report

The Federal Emergency Management Agency's United States Fire Administration (USFA) has issued a special report focusing on the causes and characteristics of fires in college and university residential buildings that include dormitories and fraternity and sorority houses. The report, "University Housing Fires (2007-2009)," was developed by the National Fire Data Center and is a part of the USFA's Topical Fire Report Series. An estimated average of 3,800 university housing fires occur each year. Annually, these fires are responsible for 25 injuries and \$9 million in property loss. This report is based on data from the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS).

According to the report:

- 95 percent of university housing fires occur in dormitories or dormitory-type residences, and 5 percent occur in fraternity and sorority houses.
- University housing fires occur most frequently in the late summer and fall - peaking in September - and mainly in the early evening hours between 5 p.m. and 10 p.m., when students prepare snacks or cook meals.
- Cooking accounts for 88 percent of all university housing fires and is the leading cause.
- Confined cooking fires, those confined to the container, account for 81 percent of all university housing fires.

Topical Fire Reports are designed to explore facets of the U.S. fire problem as depicted through data collected in NFIRS. Each report briefly addresses the nature of the specific fire or fire-related topic, highlights important findings from the data, and may suggest other resources to consider for further information. Also included are recent examples of fire incidents that demonstrate some of the issues addressed in the report or that put the report topic in context.

For information regarding other topical reports or any programs and training available at the USFA, visit www.usfa.fema.gov.

Virginia Disaster Relief Fund

Gov. Bob McDonnell has announced an additional \$1.1 million in pledges and donations for the Virginia Disaster Relief Fund, raised through individual and corporate donors during August. The governor also ordered that the fund be made a permanent part of the Commonwealth's disaster relief tools, serving as a fund of last resort if other state, federal and private aid is not available to assist victims of disasters. The governor and his staff asked for corporate and private donations to augment the fund, which will support the victims of April's severe weather and will be used to aid Virginians impacted by future disasters. The governor also announced a state agency challenge contest to see which of Virginia's 89 executive branch agencies can raise the most money for the fund. The agencies that achieve the top dollar donations, highest percent participation and highest average gift will be announced at a special ceremony, and the governor will personally award a special prize to the winners. The challenge period will last 30 days beginning Aug. 24 through Sept. 22 and winners will be announced Sept. 29. A website has been established to collect credit card donations (\$10 minimum) at <http://DisasterFund.virginia.gov>. Any amount may be donated by check. Make checks payable to the Treasurer of Virginia with "tornado relief" noted in the memo line. Send checks to Comptroller's Office, P.O. Box 1971, Richmond, VA 23218-1971. Donations are tax deductible.

National Survey Gauges Americans' Attitudes About Terrorism

The National Emergency Management Association, the International Association of Emergency Managers, and other emergency management groups have launched a national online survey to assess how American's behaviors and attitudes towards terrorism have changed since Sept. 11, 2001. These organizations will distribute a parallel survey to their members to compare the attitudes of professional emergency managers and public health professionals with the views of citizens. The ongoing survey is available at <http://www.911opinionsurvey.org>. Results will be published on the same site prior to Sept. 11, 2011.

FEMA Seeks Comment on the National Preparedness Goal

FEMA is currently seeking public input on the National Preparedness Goal. The National Preparedness Goal will define the core capabilities necessary to prepare for the specific types of incidents posing the greatest risk to the security of the Nation. The National Preparedness Goal will also establish concrete, measurable, prioritized objectives to mitigate specific threats and vulnerabilities and emphasize actions intended to achieve an integrated, layered, accessible, and whole community preparedness approach while optimizing the use of available resources. Everyone is encouraged to review the National Preparedness Goal posted below, and provide comments using the

posted comment matrix to PPD8-Engagement@dhs.gov. The public comment period closes Friday, September 2. Draft National Preparedness Goal: <http://www.fema.gov/pdf/prepared/npg.pdf>

Four in 10 Americans Say They Won't Observe 9/11 Anniversary

Nearly a decade after the events of Sept. 11, 2001, 45 percent of Americans either won't or aren't certain that they will observe the 10th anniversary of 9/11, according to a national survey on grief and remembrance. Among those who do plan to mark the milestone anniversary, nearly 70 percent say they will do so through quiet reflection, without pomp and circumstance. The poll of 1,000+ Americans was commissioned by the Dignity Memorial network, a provider of funeral, memorialization and grief support services. Importantly, the Dignity Memorial survey shows that many Americans describe themselves as "hopeful" (32 percent) or "resilient" (22 percent), a decade after 9/11. Yet, 16 percent of respondents still say they are "sorrowful" or "grieved." Individuals affected by the trauma of 9/11 say they were helped most by quiet reflection and praying (each representing 20 percent of respondents), followed closely by the simple passage of time (19 percent) and the comfort provided by other people (17 percent). "Ten years later, the story is one of remarkable resilience," said Lisa Marshall of Dignity Memorial in a news release. "Grief experts tell us that the healing process is different for everyone, yet the overall mood today about 9/11 is one of healing."



<http://www.bulldogreporter.com/dailydog/article/four-10-americans-say-they-wont-observe-911-anniversary-new-dignity-memorial-survey>

FLU

"Super Antibody" Fights off Flu

The first antibody which can fight all types of the influenza A virus has been discovered, researchers claim. Experiments on flu-infected mice, published in Science Express, showed the antibody could be used as an "emergency treatment." It is hoped the development will lead to a "universal vaccine" – currently a new jab has to be made for each winter as viruses change. Virologists described the finding as a "good step forward." Many research groups around the world are trying to develop a universal vaccine. They need to attack something common to all influenza which does not change or mutate. It has already been suggested that some people who had swine flu may develop 'super immunity' to other infections. Scientists from the Medical Research Council's National Institute for Medical Research at Mill Hill and colleagues in Switzerland looked at more than 100,000 samples of immune cells from patients who had flu or a flu vaccine. They isolated an antibody – called FI6 – which targeted a protein found on the surface of all influenza A viruses called haemagglutinin.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-14324901>

H5N1 Bird Flu Mutant Strain Spreading In Asia and Elsewhere, UN Warns

The possibility of a major resurgence of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza H5N1 – also known as bird flu – has prompted the United Nation's FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization) to advise health authorities around the world to step up surveillance and readiness. There are signs that a mutant strain of Bird Flu is making inroads in Asia and other parts of the world. The FAO describes current the risks to human health as "unpredictable." Out of 565 individuals who have been officially infected with the H5N1 virus since 2003, at least 331 died, says the World Health Organization (WHO). Cambodia has had 8 deaths so far this year, one in August 2011; every infected person died.

<http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/233492.php>

MEDIA ARTICLES OF INTEREST

Emergency Kit Gets High-Tech Makeover

You can update your emergency plans with the ReadyBox, a high-tech emergency supply kit. In addition to containing traditional emergency standbys, such as a flashlight and water, the kit also includes a universal phone charger powered by a hand crank.

http://www.usatoday.com/tech/products/2011-07-30-new-technology-product-reviews_n.htm

How Smartphones are Fighting Floods

A new smartphone app is helping the Army Corps of Engineers to strengthen its levees and fight floods in Kansas. In the past when civil engineers identified weak spots in levees, they had to take a picture with a digital camera, note the location, drive back to their desks, download the photo, and file a written report. Now filing reports is as simple as using a smartphone to take a picture, adding a note, and uploading the information to a database, which only takes a few seconds. This new system helps reduce the time it takes to gather critical information about levees by as much as 36 hours, giving engineers valuable additional time to detect and save a failing levee.

<http://www.homelandsecuritynewswire.com/how-smartphones-are-fighting-floods>

Inadequate Coast Guard Data Sharing Obstructed Communication After Oil Spill

The failure of a beleaguered \$30 billion U.S. Coast Guard modernization program to resolve communication problems hampered the exchange of data between aircraft and vessels during last year's Deepwater Horizon oil disaster, federal auditors say. The program, also named Deepwater, was started in 1996 to refresh nearly all the service's assets, including command-and-control operations. But the C4ISR upgrade -- which stands for command, control, communications, computers, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance -- has not produced intended benefits, according to a July 28 Government Accountability Office report. Data sharing, centralized networks and information from sensors are essential to achieving the Coast Guard's mission in a tight budget environment, federal officials have said.

GOA Report: <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d11743.pdf>

http://www.nextgov.com/nextgov/ng_20110801_9805.php?oref=topnews

National Level Exercise 2011: Lessons Learned and a Look Behind the Scenes

An earthquake in "the New Madrid Seismic Zone, stretching across Southern and Midwestern states, ... was the basis for National Level Exercise (NLE) 2011, one of the largest emergency exercises in U.S. history and the first of its scale to simulate a natural disaster," reports "Emergency Management." For five days in May, eight states, four FEMA regions, and thousands of emergency managers and first responders from all disciplines and levels of government responded to a magnitude 7.7 earthquake that struck near Marked Tree, Ark., and this time had the potential to cause massive damage to modern-day infrastructure.... preparation had been ongoing for more than a year.... Although the participating states responded to the same overarching scenario, they exercised their capabilities differently.... Arkansas wanted to test several objectives, including communications, and ... playing without modes that people have grown accustomed to like cell phones and e-mail was stressful. The Kentucky Emergency Operations Center "retained communications during the exercise, but completed the largest communications test in the state's history ... Though much of the response occurred in" emergency operations centers, "many actions took place in real time in the real world, including medical evacuation sites, damage assessments, urban search and rescue operations, and aircraft movement."

<http://www.emergencymgmt.com/video/Behind-the-Scenes-at-National-Level.html>

Post-9/11: Is U.S. Hiding Too Much Public Info?

As a staggered nation scrambled after Sept. 11, 2001, to anticipate possible next targets, there was a widespread sanitizing of publicly available information suddenly viewed as tip sheets and road maps for terrorists.

<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/44232626/ns/>

USGS Crowd Sources Earthquake Reports

By 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 23, nearly three hours after a 5.8 magnitude earthquake hit Mineral, Va., more than 9,000 people had responded to a U.S. Geological Survey crowd sourcing page that aimed to gather information about the earthquake's effects. A 4.4 magnitude quake that hit Southern California in June garnered only 282 responses.

http://www.nextgov.com/nextgov/ng_20110823_8857.php

Virginia Quake Highlights Overlooked Danger: Decrepit Dams

Tuesday's [Aug. 23] Virginia-centered earthquake, which shook the East Coast of the United States, caused a nuclear power plant in Virginia to be immediately taken off line, and for its cooling system to be powered by back-up generators. Many may have feared the tremor may bring about a Fukushima-like disaster, but "Scientific American" notes that Americans should be more worried about a quieter danger: tens of thousands of dams, many built before seismic engineering came of age, have the potential to release tsunami-like flash floods in the event of a seismic breach. In 2009 the American Society of Civil Engineers released a survey of the state of infrastructure in the United States. The group found that dams are, in terrible disrepair. Of the more than 85,000 dams in the United States, more than 4,000 are unsafe or deficient, and nearly 1,800 of those are located in areas where a breach would cause serious damage to life and property. "Scientific American" notes that with so many dams in state of disrepair, it is difficult to decide which dam poses the greatest threat.

<http://www.homelandsecuritynewswire.com/virginia-quake-highlights-overlooked-danger-decrepit-dams>

TRAININGS / EXERCISES / CONFERENCES

National Capital Region Homeland Security Events

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

Virginia Emergency Management Courses

<http://www.vaemergency.com>

FEMA Independent Study Courses

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

American Red Cross Disaster Services Training

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

Catastrophe & Catalyst: 10 Years Since 9/11

Sept. 1; Washington, D.C.

This summit hosted by the National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism offers an opportunity for individuals in the national security, policy, and research communities to consider the direction that terrorism and the fight against terrorism have taken since 9/11. It will include leading experts on critical issues such as radicalization and the success of methods for countering violent extremism and will feature a debate between Peter Bergen and Daveed Gartenstein-Ross on security in America 10 years later.

<http://www.start.umd.edu/start/events/event.asp?id=210>

Homeland Security Leadership Forum

Sept. 8; Washington, D.C.

This forum will feature members of Congress, Homeland Security Department officials, and homeland security experts discussing homeland security accomplishments during the past decade and the challenges before us. It will include presentations on aviation security, cargo security, transit security, border security, infrastructure security, cybersecurity, emergency communications, bioterrorism, and current and projected Homeland Security budgets.

<http://www.leadershipforum.us/homeland-security-leadership/>

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Information-Sharing Models and Guidelines for Collaboration: Applications to a National Integrated Biosurveillance Strategy

Sept. 8-9; Washington, D.C.

This workshop held by the National Institute of Medicine aims to illuminate innovative successful practices and values for information sharing; illustrate the value added in collaboration through scenarios that specify important and necessary information resources; and explore approaches to developing an effective and sustainable concept of operations that includes guidelines and procedures, as well as performance measurement. View event website

<http://www.iom.edu/Activities/PublicHealth/BioStrategy/2011-SEP-08.aspx>

FEMA Hosts Disability-planning Conference

Sept. 12-14; Washington, D.C.

FEMA's Office of Disability Integration and Coordination is hosting "Getting Real II- Promising Practices in Inclusive Emergency Management for the Whole Community," Sept. 12-14 in Washington, D.C. The conference will focus on expanding partnerships and sharing promising practices in disability-inclusive emergency management.

Applications to present or attend are due by Aug. 1.

<http://www.fema.gov/about/odic/>

IT for Disaster Response

Sept. 13; Springfield, Va.

The theme of this conference, presented by the Association for Enterprise Information, is "9-11 Ten Years Later: Integration and Interoperability." It will bring together stakeholders from across the broad spectrum of disaster and emergency response organizations to address information sharing and interoperability needs, alignment of organizational priorities and roles in response operations, full-spectrum connectivity and interoperability challenges, significant academic research pointing to advanced solutions, and opportunities for industry to provide more interoperable capabilities.

<http://afei.org/events/1A07/Pages/default.aspx>

National Exercise Lessons Learned Conference

Sept. 13-14; Arlington, Va.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency will host this conference in association with the September 11 anniversary. The conference will feature plenary sessions and interactive panel discussions each day. It is open to all emergency managers, planners, exercise professionals, training and education professionals, responders, exercise media, exercise modeling and simulation professionals, disaster preparedness professionals, private-sector participants, and whole community partners. It will allow participants to review lessons learned from ten years of national and linked exercises specific to improving the readiness of the United States to prepare for, respond to, and recover from an "event" of national significance and to discuss exercise design, response, recovery, and policy.

http://www.courtesyassocevents.com/index.php?src=gendocs&ref=DHS_FEMA-2011-09-13_LLC_Overview&category=EVENT_DHS_FEMA&link=DHS_FEMA-2011-09-13_LLC_Overview

5th Annual Conference on Security Analysis and Risk Management

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



George Mason University School of Law's Center for Infrastructure Protection and Homeland Security (CIP/HS) is partnering with the Security Analysis and Risk Management Association (SARMA) for the 5th Annual Conference on Security Analysis and Risk Management. The

conference will be held on Tuesday, Sept. 13, 2011 at 8:30 a.m. through Thursday, Sept. 15, at 12:30 p.m. The conference will be held in Founder's Hall on the Arlington Campus of George Mason University.

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

The Ongoing Afghanistan War, the War on Terror, and From Clausewitz to Beyond New Centers of Gravity

Sept. 14-15; Washington, D.C.

The Ambivium Institute on Security Cooperation in association with the Center for Terrorism Law at St. Mary's Law

School is presenting this conference, at which leading scholars will debate the wisdom of the use of force against al-Qa'eda and their allies the Taliban from a strategic perspective and address the legal issues related to specific uses of force, including targeted killing.

http://www.ambivium.org/Ambivium-CTL_Conference2011_2.pdf

National Capital Region Interoperability Forum

September 14-15; Silver Spring, Md.

This forum, funded by the Interoperable Emergency Communication Grant Program and contracted support from the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory and the All Hazards Consortium, will bring together state and local government representatives from the District of Columbia and surrounding counties and municipalities in Maryland and Virginia to discuss key topics related to “interoperability,” including policy, governance structures, key projects, present and future technologies, common standards, and “actionable” best practices.

<http://ncrinterop.ahcusa.org>

Homeland Security Symposium

Sept. 26-27; Arlington, Va.

This symposium presented by the National Defense Industrial Association will present an overview of the ongoing challenges associated with large-scale disasters (and their various forms) and the risks, strategies, and investments necessary to address these ever-evolving and dynamic threats. This year’s theme is “Disasters: Preparing, Surviving and Responding to Dynamic Threats.”

<http://www.ndia.org/meetings/1490/Pages/default.aspx>

Anhydrous Hydrogen Chloride Seminar

Sept. 27-28; Charleston, S.C.

This free event provides basic emergency responder training for incidents involving anhydrous hydrogen chloride.

<http://www.transcaer.com/events.aspx?ID=487>

Cybersecurity Summit

Sept. 27; Washington D.C.

This is “an intimate, unclassified gathering for industry professionals and government insiders to discuss how to defend and protect government and industry’s cyber infrastructure.” Experts from the Defense, Commerce, Homeland Security, and State departments will make presentations, as will experts from other government agencies and industry.

http://www.fedmarket.com/l/federal_sales_training/contracting_seminars/2nd_annual_cybersecurity_summit/

National Workshop on 9-1-1 Overload

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

The 9-1-1 Industry Alliance is hosting this workshop to address the problem of 9-1-1 systems increasingly experiencing overload during routine emergencies, major weather events, natural disasters, mass shootings and other incidents. People calling 9-1-1 for help are experiencing busy signals, unanswered calls, or long hold times, and public expectations are not matching the realities of 9-1-1 in these situations.

<http://911calloverload.com/>

16th Annual Virginia Occupational Safety and Health Conference

Oct. 4-7; Portsmouth, Va.

The Virginia Department of Labor and Industry is hosting the Virginia Occupational Safety and Health Conference, Oct. 4-7 in Portsmouth, to help educate employers and employees in developing safe and healthy work environments and to provide affordable safety and health training opportunities to employers, employees and safety and health professionals.

http://www.doli.virginia.gov/vosh_conference/vosh_conference.html

Modsim World Conference and Expo

Oct. 11-14; Virginia Beach, Va.

This is a multidisciplinary international conference for the exchange of modeling and simulation knowledge, research, and technology across industry, government, and academia. One of the tracks is “Defense, Homeland Security & First Responders.”



<http://www.modsimworldconference.com/index.html>

2011 Virginia Hazardous Materials Conference and Expo

Oct. 17-21; Hampton, Va.

The Virginia Association of Hazardous Materials Response Specialists and VDEM are sponsoring the 27th annual Virginia Hazardous Materials Conference and Expo, Oct. 17-21: “Confronting New Challenges: Are We Ready,” at the Convention Center and Embassy Suites Hotel in Hampton. The Virginia Hazardous Materials Conference and Expo features over 60 educational workshops and an exhibition area featuring the latest products and technology for the hazardous materials industry.



<http://www.vaemergency.gov/news/conferences/2011-virginia-hazmat-conf>

Terror on Trial

Nov. 3-5; Washington, D.C.

The theme of this conference sponsored by the Association for the Study of the Middle East and Africa is “Out of the Past, Into the Future: Reflections on the Middle East and Africa.” It will feature a keynote address by Barham Salih, Prime Minister of the Kurdistan Region, along with presentations by top policymakers and scholars, roundtable discussions on “Turkey as a Democratic Ally Under the AKP [Party for Justice and Progress]” and “The Saddam Tapes, 1978-2001: The Inner Workings of a Tyrant’s Regime,” and panel discussions of the latest academic research in Middle Eastern and African studies and related disciplines.

http://www.asmeascholars.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=1417&Itemid=108

MAST Americas 2011

Nov. 14-16; Washington, D.C.

The conference and expo unite the major global shareholders in maritime security and defense to discuss and debate maritime capabilities and concepts, evaluate future and state-of-the-art enabling technologies, and develop international partnerships.

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



International Workshop on Innovation, Diversity and Sustainable Development in Areas of Social Vulnerability

Nov. 17-18; Boston, Mass.

This workshop organized by the Center for Rebuilding Sustainable Communities After Disasters will discuss strategies for the empowerment of residents in the areas of social vulnerability and the implementation of public policies with a sustainable basis in such areas.

<http://www.rebuilding.umb.edu/idsd.php>

LINKS

Fairfax County Blogs and Web Resources

- Fairfax County CERT - <http://fairfaxcountycert.blogspot.com/>
- Fairfax County Citizen Corps Web Page - www.fairfaxcounty.gov/oem/citizen corps/

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- Fairfax County Citizen Corps Blog - <http://citizencorps.blogspot.com/>
- Virginia Citizen Corps - <http://www.vaemergency.com/citcorps/index.cfm>

DHS Science & Technology Directorate Newsletter

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

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

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report (OSIR)

The Department of Homeland Security provides a Web-based "Daily OSIR," which is posted on the DHS public Web site. Accessing the report via the Web enables readers to retrieve the current Daily Report as well as 10 days of archived DHS Daily Reports. Once you arrive at the Web page you will find the most recent Daily OSIR at the top of the page, under the title "Current Report." This report is posted each morning, except for weekends and holidays.

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

Fairfax County Government Emergency Information Web Page

The county's emergency information page.

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency/

Fairfax County Government Emergency Information Line

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/opa/infoline.htm



FEMA Private Sector

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

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To Unsubscribe:

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

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

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

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

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