



ESF 15 Business / Nonprofit Update

Produced by Emergency Support Function 15 – External Affairs

August 2013

ITEMS OF INTEREST FOR ESF 15

CERT Basic Training Classes

When emergencies happen, **Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)** members can give critical support to first responders, provide immediate assistance to victims and organize spontaneous volunteers at a disaster site. CERT members can also help with non-emergency projects to improve the preparedness and safety of the community. Fairfax County is offering three **CERT basic training classes this Fall**.

- Two identical classes will be conducted at the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Academy (4600 West Ox Road). The **first class is held on Mondays**, beginning Sept 9, and the **second on Wednesdays**, beginning Sept 11. Each class will have eight sessions, 7-10 p.m. There is a good mix of classroom instruction with practice drills and exercises to enhance skill learning.
- **A third CERT class** will be conducted at the Great Springfield Volunteer Fire Station 22 (7011 Backlick Road) beginning on Wednesday, Sept 11. This class also has eight sessions, 7-9:30 p.m.

CERT basic training does not require any special physical strength or agility. Safety and preparedness is stressed throughout the course of instruction. This training is free and CERT furnishes personal protective equipment for the training that the students retain upon completion of the class. People who go through CERT training have a better understanding of the potential threats to their home, workplace and community and can take the right steps to lessen the effects of these hazards on themselves, their homes or workplace. You can enroll in any of these three classes by going to www.fairfxcert.com. Register as a new volunteer and when confirmed you can login and register for CERT class 73, 74 or 75. For further information contact the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Volunteer Coordinator's Office, 703-246-3926, TTY 711. You can also follow the Fairfax County CERT volunteers blog (<http://fairfaxcountycert.blogspot.com>) for news and updates on CERT activities. CERT basic training can be conducted anywhere in the community for civic or church groups, businesses or neighborhood associations. Call the CERT volunteer training coordinator at 703-887-1421, TTY 711, for the requirements.

Practice Makes Perfect

When disaster strikes, will your community know how to respond? Practicing the appropriate actions to take before a disaster strikes is vital for saving lives. Did you know 46 percent of individuals expect to rely a great deal on people in their neighborhood for assistance within the first 72 hours after a disaster? Research shows **most people aren't as prepared as they think for disasters**. In a recent preparedness survey, 46 percent of the respondents did not have a home evacuation plan, 80 percent had not conducted home evacuation drills and 60 percent did not know their community's evacuation route. One way to ensure a positive response is to organize preparedness drills and practice them regularly to include knowing the pertinent evacuation route in your community. Consider learning the appropriate actions to take in advance of the following hazards:

- Fire.
- Tornado.
- Earthquake.

Remember, there is no substitute for running a live drill to practice your emergency plan. Join the National Preparedness Community (<http://community.fema.gov/connect.ti/READYNPM>) to learn best practices and find



resources on how to prepare your community.

<http://www.ready.gov/neighbors-helping-neighbors-through-preparedness>

<http://www.ready.gov/community-preparedness-toolkit>

McGruff the Crime Dog Share “Back to School” Tips to Protect Kids

Kids around the country are getting ready to go back to school and their safety is always a top priority. The National Crime Prevention Council (NCPC) offers several important tools and tips for administrators, parents and students to get the school year off to a great and safe start.



Tips for Administrators:

- Encourage students and parents to report to law enforcement and school administrators any threats to bring weapons or harm others.
- Enforce school policies toward the presence of weapons, alcohol and illegal drugs.
- Develop protocols between law enforcement and the school about ways to share information about school safety concerns.
- Involve teens in designing and running programs such as conflict resolution, mentoring, peer assistance, School Crime Watch and graffiti removal programs.
- Insist that all students put outerwear in their lockers during school hours.
- Establish a policy of positive identification such as ID badges for administrators, staff, students and visitors.

Tips for Parents:

- Ask about the safety and emergency plans for your children’s school. How are local police involved? How are students and parents involved? What emergencies have been considered and planned for?
- Talk to your children about their day. Ask your children if they see anyone bullied, if they are bullied, or if anything else makes them feel uncomfortable. Look for warning signs of bullying, such as a sudden drop in grades, loss of friends, or torn clothing.
- If you see something that is suspicious in your neighborhood, report to local law enforcement and share updates with your neighbors.
- Teach children to resolve problems without fighting. Talk to them about other ways they can work out a problem, such as talking it out, walking away, sticking with friends or telling a trusted adult.
- Keep an eye on your children’s Internet use. Talk to your children about what they do online – what sites they visit, who they email, and who they chat with. Encourage them to speak up if something makes them uncomfortable, or if they witness forms of cyberbullying such as threats or harassment.

Tips for Students:

- Map out with your parents a safe way to walk to school or to the bus stop. Avoid crossing busy roads and intersections, if possible. Do a trial run with your parents so that you can discuss areas to avoid along the way, such as vacant lots, construction areas, and parks where there aren’t many people.
- Discuss with your parents the trusted adults you should approach if you need to ask for help along your route to and from school.
- Walk to school or the bus stop with a sibling or friend, and wait at bus stops with other children.
- Follow traffic signals and rules when walking or biking. You should cross the street at crosswalks or intersections with crossing guards whenever possible.
- Do not talk to strangers or people you “sort of know,” and do not go anywhere with or accept gifts from them without your parents’ permission. If you see a suspicious stranger hanging around or in your school you should tell a trusted adult.
- Memorize your phone number and full address, including area code and ZIP code. Write down other important phone numbers such as your parents’ work and cellphone on a card to carry with you.

For more information on school safety, visit NCPC’s website at www.ncpc.org/topics/school-safety

August 2013 Security Threat to Americans Abroad

On Aug. 2, the U.S. State Department issued an alert to Americans traveling abroad, particularly in the Middle East and North Africa, citing potential threats from al-Qa’ida and affiliated organizations in the Arabian Peninsula. The

alert references a wide variety of potential tactics and targets, and remains in effect throughout the month of August. On Aug. 4, the State Department released a subsequent statement indicating that, out of an “abundance of caution,” diplomatic posts in Abu Dhabi,

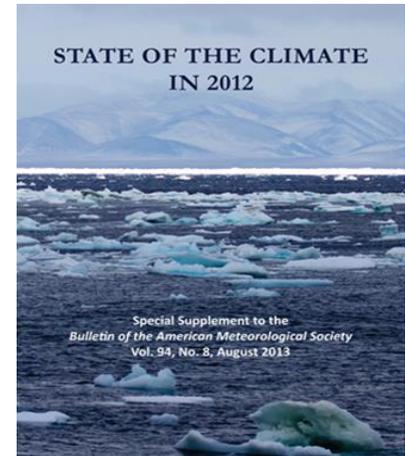


**NATIONAL CONSORTIUM FOR THE
STUDY OF TERRORISM AND RESPONSES TO TERRORISM**

Amman, Cairo, Riyadh, Dhahran, Jeddah, Doha, Dubai, Kuwait, Manama, Muscat, Sana’a, Tripoli, Antananarivo, Bujumbura, Djibouti, Khartoum, Kigali, and Port Louis will remain closed following the Eid celebration, through Saturday, Aug. 10. On Aug. 6, the State Department issued a warning to Americans traveling in Yemen and announced a reduction in emergency U.S. Government personnel in Yemen. In light of these events, START (National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism) has compiled background information on terrorist attacks against U.S. targets abroad, attacks on U.S. diplomatic targets in particular and the recent activity of al-Qa’ida in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP), using data from START’s Global Terrorism Database (GTD).
http://www.start.umd.edu/start/publications/br/STARTBackgroundReport_Aug2013SecurityThreats.pdf

2012 was One of the 10 Warmest Years on Record Globally

Worldwide, 2012 was among the 10 warmest years on record according to the 2012 State of the Climate report released earlier this month by the American Meteorological Society (AMS). The peer-reviewed report, with scientists from NOAA’s National Climatic Data Center in Asheville, N.C., serving as lead editors, was compiled by 384 scientists from 52 countries. It provides a detailed update on global climate indicators, notable weather events and other data collected by environmental monitoring stations and instruments on land, sea, ice and sky. The 2012 State of the Climate report is peer-reviewed and published annually as a special supplement to the “Bulletin of the American Meteorological Society.” This year marks the 23rd edition of the report – which is part of the suite of climate services NOAA provides to government, the business sector, academia and the public – to support informed decision-making.
http://www.noanews.noaa.gov/stories2013/20130806_stateoftheclimate.html



Report: <http://www.climate.gov/news-features/understanding-climate/state-climate-2012-highlights>

Video: McConnell Public Safety and Transportation Operations Center (MPSTOC)

Watch it and learn more about MPSTOC at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/mpstoc.



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AARP and FEMA Announce Partnership on Disaster Preparedness, Response and Recovery

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and AARP this month announced an agreement that will expand outreach around emergency preparedness for millions of older Americans. FEMA and AARP will work together to provide resources and services for older Americans with respect to disaster mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery operations in the event of natural, man-made or technological disasters. "This agreement today puts into writing what FEMA and AARP already do in practice," said FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate. "FEMA and AARP will continue to support communities and individuals to build, sustain and improve our capability to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from and mitigate all hazards." The agreement strengthens the shared responsibility approach to emergency management and will improve access to information to help individuals, families and communities stay safe before, during and after an emergency or disaster. This is an opportunity for FEMA and AARP to collaborate on emergency preparedness communications including social media outreach, training and exercise and evaluation opportunities that will raise awareness and help individuals to take the necessary steps to be prepared for emergencies.

<http://www.aarp.org/about-aarp/press-center/info-08-2013/AARP-and-FEMA-Partner-on-Disaster-Preparedness-Response-and-Recovery.html>

USGS to Discontinue Stream Gages Due to Sequestration

The U.S. Geological Survey will discontinue operation of up to 375 stream gages nationwide -- including four in Virginia -- due to budget cuts as a result of sequestration. The USGS is working to identify which stream gages will be impacted and will post this information as it becomes available. Stream gages are used nationwide to predict and address drought and flood conditions by monitoring water availability. The USGS and over 850 federal, state and local agencies cooperatively fund the USGS stream gaging network, which consists of over 8,000 stream gages.

http://streamstats.gis.usgs.gov/ThreatenedGages/gmaps/va_gm_base.html



www.CapitalRegionUpdates.gov

FEMA is on LinkedIn

Check out FEMA's latest social media platform and encourage staff to follow FEMA online.

www.linkedin.com/company/fema.

Anniversary Serves as a Reminder to Register for ShakeOut

Mineral quake hit Aug. 23; everyone can practice earthquake safety Oct. 17

Many Virginian residents remember where they were and how they reacted Aug. 23, 2011, when an historic 5.8 earthquake centered in Louisa County knocked buildings from foundations and destroyed schools. Following the Mineral earthquake, Virginia joined several southeastern states in the U.S. to help residents learn the safe response to an earthquake by co-sponsoring the Great Southeast ShakeOut multistate



earthquake drill. During the drill, residents can practice “Drop, Cover and Hold On,” the best response to an earthquake. The ShakeOut is set for Thursday, Oct. 17, at 10:17 a.m. Individuals, schools, businesses and organizations can sign up for the ShakeOut at www.shakeout.org/southeast. During the drill people practice these recommended actions should an earthquake occur:

- Drop to the ground where you are.
- Take Cover under a sturdy table or desk if possible, protecting your head and neck.
- Hold On until the shaking stops.

Those who register for the ShakeOut will receive information on how to plan a drill. The website provides many resources for learning how to be prepared for an earthquake and also for promoting the ShakeOut. To find these resources, go to www.shakeout.org/southeast/resources. Last year, nearly one million Virginians took part in the first Great Southeast ShakeOut, a simultaneous earthquake drill held in the southeastern U.S. to coincide with drills held in other states and several countries, giving the effect of a rolling drill.

Create an Emergency Water Supply

Keep at least a three-day water supply on hand for emergencies. If you're not using factory-sealed water containers, properly wash, sanitize, and rinse water storage containers before a disaster strikes
<http://emergency.cdc.gov/disasters/foodwater/prepare.asp>

PLANNING / PREPAREDNESS

Water, Water Everywhere

Rising summer temperatures typically means increased water use. Whether you're outside soaking up the sun or inside cooling off from it, water conservation is important for the environment and allows people to be prepared in case of a drought. It can also save money! Water is one of the world's most precious resources. While the Earth's surface is made up of 70 percent water, only 1 percent is available for human use. According to the Environmental Protection Agency, about 400 billion gallons of water is used in the United States each day. Water conservation means using less water or recycling used water so it can be used again and involves making behavioral changes. Water conservation tips:

- Check faucets, toilets and pipes for leaks. Household leaks waste 11,000 gallons of water each year.
- Turn off the water while brushing your teeth. There is no need to keep the water running after wetting your toothbrush.
- Put a full load in your dishwasher or washing machine. Adjust washing machine water levels to match the size of the load.
- Take shorter showers. A four-minute shower uses about 20 - 40 gallons of water.
- Install water-saving shower heads and low-flow faucet aerators. Low-flow uses less than 2.5 gallons per minute.



Learn more from the Environmental Protection Agency's water trivia facts Web page:

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http://water.epa.gov/learn/kids/drinkingwater/water_trivia_facts.cfm

Reprinted from FEMA's "Individual and Community Preparedness e-Brief," July 31

Get Your Business Ready For Any Kind of Disaster at Free National Preparedness Month Webinar Series

Each year small businesses nationwide are forced to close their doors in the aftermath of severe storms, flooding, tornadoes, wildfires and hurricanes. Business interruptions, even if it lasts just a few hours, are costly in terms of lost productivity and profits. You can get help with your own business preparedness planning through a series of free webinars in September hosted by the U.S. Small Business Administration and Agility Recovery. The September series is presented in collaboration with FEMA's Ready Campaign, as part of National Preparedness Month. The SBA wants to help business owners take charge of the well-being of their own companies, the safety of their employees, and the sustenance of their local economies by being prepared to rebound quickly from any kind of disaster. Below is a list of the topics. The hour-long webinars will be presented at 2 p.m. EDT each Wednesday in September.

- September 11: Protecting Your Organization by Preparing Your Employees
Registration Link: <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/668927705>
- September 18: The NEW 10 Steps to Preparedness - Lessons from the Past
Registration Link: <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/613804840>
- September 25: Crisis Communications for any Organization
Registration Link: <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/918980200>

The SBA has partnered with Agility to offer business continuity strategies through their "PrepareMyBusiness" website. Visit www.preparemybusiness.org to access past webinars and additional preparedness tools.

National Weather Service Doubles Computing Capacity

Whizzing through 213 trillion calculations per second, newly upgraded supercomputers at NOAA's National Weather Service are now more than twice as fast at processing sophisticated computer models to provide more accurate forecasts further out in time. And as the hurricane season ramps up, forecasters will be armed with an enhanced hurricane model that will improve track and intensity forecasts.

The scientific data and insights that these newly upgraded supercomputers will provide are essential to helping government officials, communities, and businesses better understand and manage the risks associated with extreme weather and water events.

Nicknamed "Tide," the supercomputer in Reston, Va., and its Orlando-based backup named "Gyre," are operating with 213 teraflops (TF) — up from the 90 TF with the computers that preceded them. This higher processing power allows the National Weather Service to implement an enhanced Hurricane Weather Research and Forecasting (HWRF) model.

http://www.noanews.noaa.gov/stories2013/2013029_supercomputers.html



Prevent Carbon Monoxide Poisoning

Always use portable generators, camp stoves, barbecue and charcoal grills outside and at least 20 ft. away from windows, doors, and vents to prevent deadly CO poisoning. More info is online at <http://emergency.cdc.gov>.

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.

Many Companies Still Not Leveraging Social Media as a Crisis Management Resource, New PwC Business Continuity Study Finds

As part of their business continuity management (BCM) efforts, companies today are re-thinking their approach to crisis management, but are still behind in leveraging social media as a crucial resource, according to the new Business Continuity Insights Survey by PwC US. The survey, which had approximately 300 respondents, was designed to help gain a better understanding of how business continuity practitioners and stakeholders believe their programs have adapted to a changing environment, and how the practice of business continuity management continues to evolve. According to PwC's survey, more than half of the respondents – 57 percent – do not officially use social media as a crisis management resource. For companies that have begun integrating social media into their crisis management efforts – Facebook and Twitter cited the most often – not all are seeing improvement in their capabilities. Thirty-eight percent of survey respondents are modestly leveraging it as a tool, but not necessarily seeing improvements in their capabilities, whereas eight percent of respondents believe that social media has become an enabler for their organization to proactively identify and respond to crisis events.

<https://www.bulldogreporter.com/dailydog/article/social-crisis-many-companies-still-not-leveraging-social-media-as-a-crisis-manageme>

Hurricane Sandy Rebuilding Strategy: Preparing Communities for Impacts of a Changing Climate

The Hurricane Sandy Task Force’s Rebuilding Strategy lays out recommendations that will help the Sandy-impacted region rebuild in a way that will prepare them for extreme weather impacts – and that will serve as models for communities across the country.

<http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/documents/huddoc?id=HSRebuildingStrategy.pdf>

Making Fire Safety a Priority in Your Home

Nearly 2,500 people die in home fires each year. Eighty-two percent of all fire deaths and 76 percent of all fire injuries in our country occur in the home – the very place we should feel most safe. Remember, in the event of fire, every second counts! Everyone should make and practice a home escape plan. If you have decreased mobility or a visual or hearing impairment, talk with your family members, building manager or neighbors about your fire safety plan and practice it.

- Arrange to have a first floor unit or bedroom if you live in an apartment building or multi-story home.
- Make sure that your house number is clearly visible from the street using numbers that are at least 4-inch high.
- Have at least two exits from every room and know how to open locked or barred doors and windows.
- Contact your local fire station. The Fairfax County Fire Department will provide a courtesy home inspection, review your escape plan and even install smoke alarms if necessary.
- If you encounter smoke, stay near the ground or crawl low to exit. Once out, stay out and call 9-1-1 from a neighbor’s house.
- If you are trapped in a room or do not feel that you can escape safely, close the door between you and the fire. Use a blanket or sheet to fill the gaps around the door to keep smoke out. Then, signal out the window using a blanket or sheet.

For more fire safety information, visit the U.S. Fire Administration's website at www.usfa.fema.gov.

Reprinted from the Disability Blog, the official blog of Disability.gov.

<http://usodep.blogs.govdelivery.com/2013/08/13/making-fire-safety-a-priority-in-your-home>

Community Emergency Alert Network (CEAN)

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



MEDIA ARTICLES OF INTEREST

Lessons Learned from the Boston Bombings

The bombings at the Boston marathon were a tragic reminder that terrorism can strike anywhere at any time. Business continuity professionals should be thinking about the effects of a terrorist attack and incorporate those scenarios into their plans.

<http://blog.missionmode.com/blog/lessons-learned-from-the-boston-bombings.html>

CSU Forecasters Predict Three Major Hurricanes in Atlantic

Meteorologists at Colorado State University made a slight modification to their forecast for the rest of the 2013 Atlantic Basin hurricane season, but they still think three major hurricanes are likely to form before the season ends. CSU forecasters Phil Klotzbach and William Gray had predicted four major hurricanes in the seasonal forecast they released in June. The updated forecast, released Friday, Aug. 2, predicted that 18 named storms will form before the hurricane season ends Nov. 30. That was the same number posted in the June forecast.

<http://newswatch.nationalgeographic.com/2013/08/03/csu-forecasters-still-think-3-major-hurricanes-will-form-in-atlantic-this-summer/>

Is the D.C. Area Ready for Another Disaster?

From hurricanes to earthquakes to “Snowmageddon,” Washington, D.C. has experience dealing with natural disasters. Now, as the national capital region and FEMA face tighter funding, policymakers are looking for ways to ensure the area is safe and prepared. Recently, the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Subcommittee on Emergency Management, Intergovernmental Relations, and the District of Columbia examined how prepared the region is for the next disaster.

http://www.rollcall.com/news/is_the_dc_area_ready_for_another_disaster_district_notebook-226894-1.html

S.C. Researchers Unveil New Hurricane Model; Program to Offer Landfall Probability

As hurricane season approaches its peak, researchers at South Carolina's Coastal Carolina University unveiled a new hurricane model program named after a massive Category 4 storm that smashed into South Carolina a quarter-century ago. Scientists say the model called Hurricane Genesis and Outlook, or HUGO, provides predictions of where hurricanes will hit coupled with a better estimate of storm surge and flooding. Hurricane Hugo hit South Carolina with 135 mph winds in 1989. Len Pietrafesa, the head of the research team, said the model, which was unveiled on Aug. 1, predicts both the number of storms expected in any given season and also the probability of a storm making



landfall along the East Coast or Gulf Coast. For this season, the model predicts the highest probability is that one storm will make landfall; the second-highest probability is two storms. In addition, he said, the model predicts track and intensity of hurricanes five days from landfall, reducing the so-called cone of uncertainty of where the storm will hit and providing better estimates of storm surge and flooding. The model considers statistical data from storms dating to 1950.

<http://www.insurancejournal.com/news/southeast/2013/08/07/301031.htm>

For Disaster Preparedness: Pack A Library Card?

In the wake of Hurricane Sandy, libraries in New York helped the storm's victims turn a new page. Librarians helped thousands of people fill out relief forms, connect to the Internet, and make plans to rebuild. The New Dorp Branch of the New York Public Library in Staten Island wasn't damaged during Sandy. But just a few blocks away, houses were inundated with as much as 16 feet of water. And days after the storm, many of the library's patrons still lacked the most basic services. "We even had people asking if they could use the restrooms to clean up a little bit," says Barbara Byrne-Goldie, a librarian at New Dorp. "They still didn't have running water, or hot water. So we came in very handy as community centers, that's for sure." Byrne-Goldie has been at the New Dorp branch for nearly 20 years, and she says she and the other librarians knew many of those patrons personally, and went out of their way to help. "People registering for FEMA. We showed them after we learned how to help them to register online for FEMA, that was a big request. And then just being an ear to listen compassionately. And maybe hug someone if you've known them from working with them for years here."

<http://www.npr.org/2013/08/12/210541233/for-disasters-pack-a-first-aid-kit-bottled-water-and-a-library-card>

Wireless Emergency Alerts: New York City Demonstration

The Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA) service, formerly known as the Commercial Mobile Alert Service (CMAS), is a national capability for delivering geographically-targeted alerts to the public on mobile devices. This Lessons Learned Report describes the adoption of WEA by the New York City Office of Emergency Management (NYC OEM), which was the first state and local government to adopt WEA. Some of NYC OEM's experiences were specific to being the first alert originator to deploy WEA, but their other experiences involved activities that others will have to perform to use the WEA service in their own jurisdictions.

PDF: <http://216.109.77.115/Operational%20Field%20Assessments/WEA%20NYC%20Case%20Study%206-13-2013.pdf>

Washington Post Website Hacked

The Washington Post said Thursday, Aug. 15, that its website was hacked. A group that supports Syrian President Bashar Assad's regime claimed responsibility. Washington Post Managing Editor Emilio Garcia-Ruiz said in a statement that for about 30 minutes Thursday morning, readers of some Washington Post stories were redirected to the website of the Syrian Electronic Army. The SEA has taken credit for a string of Web attacks on media targets that it sees as sympathetic to Syria's rebels. Among the targets the group claims to have hacked are Twitter feeds of The Associated Press, Al-Jazeera English and the BBC. Garcia-Ruiz said the hacking incident came a few days after a phishing attack which tried to obtain password information. As a result of the attack, purportedly orchestrated by the SEA, a personal email account of one of the newspaper's staff writers was used to send out an SEA message, he said. Garcia-Ruiz said the SEA claimed in a Twitter message that it gained access to parts of the newspaper's website by hacking one of its business partners, Outbrain, an Internet company that alerts readers of blogs and media sites to recommended links targeted to their specific interests. Outbrain tweeted on Thursday that its website was shut down as a result of a cyberattack. The Post said it has "taken defensive measures," which include the removal of the module affected by the hacking. The company said it doesn't believe there are any other issues affecting the website.

<http://www.wtop.com/109/3422624/Washington-Post-website-hacked>

When Disaster and Disability Converge

The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction launched a survey asking people with disabilities about their experience living with and preparing for disasters. The survey, believed to be the first time global data on emergency planning and disabilities is being collected, asks participants what kind of emergency, from landslides to insect infestations, their communities are vulnerable to, and whether they have been involved in municipal emergency

management planning. “We know from a number of major disasters that disabled people are overlooked...twice as many [disabled] people died in the Fukushima disaster [than non-disabled people],” said Denis McClean, spokesperson for UNISDR.

<http://www.ipsnews.net/2013/08/when-disaster-and-disability-converge-part-one/>

Your Family's Emergency Kit is Probably a Disaster

A new national advertising campaign shared with CNN exclusively ahead of its official launch Wednesday aims to get families like my own at least talking about what we would do in the face of a natural disaster or other emergency. “This is a pretty fearful topic for a lot of parents,” said Priscilla Natkins, executive vice president and director of client services for the Ad Council, the private nonprofit group spearheading the campaign along with the Federal Emergency Management Agency. “This is not something they want to think about or necessarily talk about with their kids,” she said. The Ad Council, which has produced many memorable PSA campaigns, ranging from Smokey Bear's warnings about forest fires to the “Friends Don't Let Friends Drive Drunk” series, conducted a national survey on emergency preparedness. The survey included 800 adults. Six out of 10 American families said they did not have a family emergency plan, according to the survey. Only 19 percent felt they were “very prepared” for a disaster.

CNN

<http://www.cnn.com/2013/08/27/living/parents-emergency-preparedness-ad>

FLU

H7N9 Bird Flu Alarm Raised by First Report of Human Spread

Early this month, the BMJ publishes the strongest evidence yet of probable person-to-person transmission of the new bird flu virus H7N9 in a family cluster in Eastern China, where the virus first emerged earlier this year. The event concerns a father who most likely contracted the virus from live birds, and his daughter, who likely caught it while caring for him in hospital. However, the Chinese scientific and public health team that investigated the case conclude that since no outbreak occurred, the ability of H7N9 to transmit itself is “limited and non-sustainable.” The emerging avian influenza A (H7N9) virus was recently identified in Eastern China. Reports up to the end of June 2013 show 133 have so far been infected, resulting in 43 deaths. Although there is currently no evidence of sustained spread of H7N9 among humans, some experts believe it is just a matter of time before the virus acquires the ability to do so.

<http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/264488.php>

India: 61 Percent of H1N1 Victims in Maharashtra Young and Fit

The H1N1 infection appears to have zeroed in on the young and the healthy this year. An analysis of the 105 statewide deaths has revealed around 61 percent of the victims did not have any co-morbid condition. Also, 44 out of the 105 deceased, around 42 percent, were in their 20s and 30s. Three teenagers were also among those who succumbed while two infants, including a one-month-old, were among its youngest victims. Another 25 each were in the age groups of 41 to 50 and 51 to 70. Five senior citizens aged 71 to 80 also fell prey to the viral infection that caused a global pandemic in 2009. Experts, surprised at the trend, advise maximizing surveillance activities. Dr Om Srivastava, director, department of infectious diseases at Jaslok Hospital, said, “It is unusual and the reasons may be difficult to pinpoint. If the young without other health conditions are falling prey to the virus, then we need to find out if they are getting treatment at the right time, or if the duration of treatment is correct.” A state official said there is no change in the strain and that Tamiflu is still as effective.

http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2013-08-11/mumbai/41293870_1_infection-highest-deaths-h1n1-victims

Quadrivalent Flu Vaccines Coming; Companies Cite Good Demand

Quadrivalent (four-strain) influenza vaccines will make their US market debut during the upcoming vaccination season, and vaccine makers are reporting good demand for them, spurred in part by a large order from the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). On the market this year are quadrivalent vaccines made by MedImmune, GlaxoSmithKline (GSK), and Sanofi Pasteur, all of which won approval from the US Food and Drug Administration

(FDA) within the past 18 months. For decades, seasonal flu vaccines have targeted three flu strains—two type A (H1N1 and H3N2) and one type B. In contrast, quadrivalent vaccines include two different B strains, in an effort to ensure that vaccines will have reasonable protection regardless of which type B lineage turns out to be most common. In recent years it has been difficult to predict which B lineage would predominate in any given winter. Projections from the six companies that make flu vaccines for the US market suggest that production for this season will total about 135 million to 139 million doses. How many of those will be the quadrivalent form is unclear, but the available information points to somewhere over 25 million. The CDC has ordered 8.4 million doses of quadrivalent vaccine, along with 9.6 million doses of trivalent vaccines, according to Jeanne Santoli, MD, MPH, head of the agency's Vaccine Supply and Assurance Branch. The vaccines are intended for the Vaccines for Children and Section 317 programs, which provide vaccines mainly for low-income, uninsured, and underinsured children.

<http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/news-perspective/2013/08/quadrivalent-flu-vaccines-coming-companies-cite-good-demand>

Study: Mortality Pattern in 1918 Flu Pandemic Related to 1889 Pandemic

A team of Canadian and U.S. scientists says that 28-year-olds had the highest mortality during the 1918 flu pandemic, and they suggest that the high death rate in young people was related to childhood exposure to flu during the pandemic of 1889-90. Writing in PLoS One, the authors say they used historical records from Canada and the United States to determine that 28-year-olds had the highest risk of death during the 1918 pandemic. The team was headed by Joaquin Madrenas of McGill University as senior author. The scientists suggest that the vulnerability of young adults in 1918 was shaped by their exposure to the “Russian flu,” which spread from Russia to Western Europe in the fall of 1889 and reached North America in the winter of 1889-90. They speculate that the 1889 pandemic was caused by an influenza A/H3 virus, and argue that “commitment very early in life to this subtype would have led to an immune profile offering little or no humoral protection to the antigenically dissimilar H1N1 subtype that emerged in 1918,” resulting in an increased risk of death. The scientists also suggest that exposure to a virus in utero or infancy may permanently affect later health and mortality by causing changes in the T cell repertoire, impairing lung maturation, or affecting metabolism.

<http://www.plosone.org/article/info:doi/10.1371/journal.pone.0069586;jsessionid=19696606CB89A6B03F2FB028E2573B08>

Study Says H7N9 May Have Lurked in Live Poultry Markets

A phylogenetic analysis of the evolution of influenza A virus H7 and N9 subtypes in wild and domestic birds in East Asia found that the novel H7N9 virus that has caused more than 130 human cases in China this year probably emerged after long, silent circulation in live-poultry markets, according to a study today in Emerging Infectious Diseases. U.S. and Reunion researchers used Bayesian Markov Chain Monte Carlo coalescent analyses on 715 hemagglutinin (HA) and 309 neuraminidase (NA) sequences of viruses isolated from 1927 through 2012 worldwide. Consistent with previous studies, they found that the HA of human H7N9 viruses belongs to clade A and is most genetically related to viruses isolated from domestic ducks at live-poultry markets in Zhejiang Province, China. They further determined that the HA did not evolve from the H7 HA circulating in these domestic birds but was derived from a common ancestral flu virus circulating in an “unidentified host” during 2010. The researchers write that the most recent common ancestor was an H7N3 virus in a domestic duck and an H7 subtype circulating in wild birds from 2004. They say this indicates “that silent introduction and circulation of influenza A virus H7 subtypes in domestic animals might have occurred in this virus before influenza A(H7N9) virus was identified in humans.” They further write that H7N9 NA might have originated from influenza H1N9 viruses that circulated in eastern China, although data on the NA portion of the virus are limited.

<http://www.eurosurveillance.org/ViewArticle.aspx?ArticleId=20547>

H5N1: The Most Widespread and Expensive Zoonotic Disease Recorded

Highly pathogenic avian influenza virus (HPAI) strain H5N1 has had direct and indirect economic impacts arising from direct mortality and control programs in over 50 countries reporting poultry outbreaks. HPAI H5N1 is now reported as the most widespread and expensive zoonotic disease recorded and continues to pose a global health threat.

<http://www.plosone.org/article/info:doi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.pone.0072279>

Zoos Simulate Bird Flu Disaster

This month, eight zoos and aquariums in Illinois participated in the Zoo Animal Health Network exercise on communication during emergencies, along with the U.S. Department of Agriculture and other agencies. With more extreme weather and the threat of a disease outbreak or even terrorist attacks, the program prepares zoos to work with the government to create the best solution for animals and staff. Emergency responders use a standardized protocol that zoos need to be fluent in, in order to communicate their needs, because the last thing anyone wants is for rare and endangered species to be needlessly put down, zoo officials said.

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/local/breaking/chi-lincoln-park-zoo-simulates-bird-flu-disaster-20130821.0.4768601.story>

CDC Funding Helps States Boost Disease Detection

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recently announced \$75.8 million in funding for states and communities to strengthen their ability to quickly respond to infectious disease threats. Money from the Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity for Infectious Diseases Cooperative Agreement (ELC) goes to all 50 state health departments, six of the country's biggest local health departments, and eight territories and U.S. affiliates. The funding infusion comes as state health departments and their federal partners are working to pinpoint the source of a multistate Cyclospora outbreak and as state health departments gear up to test for new diseases such as Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV) and the new H7N9 flu strain infecting people in China.

<http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/news-perspective/2013/08/cdc-funding-helps-states-boost-disease-detection>

Fairfax County Flu Preparedness

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

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



TRAININGS / EXERCISES / CONFERENCES

Virginia Hazmat Conference Celebrates 30 Years, Returns to Virginia Beach

Sept. 16-20; Virginia Beach, Va.

The Virginia Hazardous Materials Conference and Expo, Sept. 16-20 in the Virginia Beach Convention Center, will celebrate its 30th year of educating attendees on the trends and latest information on response and safety in the HAZMAT field. "This is one of the premier hazardous materials conferences in the country. It provides great learning and networking opportunities for all response professionals and emergency managers," says K. Wade Collins, Deputy Director of the Hazardous Materials Division of the Virginia Department of Emergency Management. The event is organized by the Virginia Association of Hazard Materials Response Specialists (VAHMRS) and the Virginia Department of Emergency Management. To view conference workshops and to register, go to <http://www.virginiahazmat.org/displayconvspecific.cfm?convnbr=12231&showmember=3630064>.

Learning in Disaster Health: A Continuing Education Workshop

Sept. 17-18; Washington, D.C.

The National Center for Disaster Medicine and Public Health (NCDMPH) presents Learning in Disaster Health: A Continuing Education Workshop which seeks to explore the following overarching question: How can the nation

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effectively conduct education and training in disaster health to mitigate death and injuries from all-hazards disasters?
<http://www.cvent.com/events/learning-in-disaster-health-a-continuing-education-workshop/event-summary-8688867233a844d3b5a3afeccebbf288.aspx>

International Facility Security Officer Conference (IFSO)

Sept. 17-19; Niagara Falls, N.Y.

The IFSO conference was created to give members of the international port community a unique opportunity to have direct access to the foremost leaders that establish the industry's best practices and procedures. The conference will allow port facility professionals from around the country and world to share their expertise as well as current and future trends.

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

2nd Annual Cyber Resilience for National Security

Sept. 17-19; Washington, D.C.

Many advancements have occurred in the landscape of cyber resilience. However, cyberspace remains a mysterious terrain. A realistic perspective on unknowns must be established to combat and ward off the myriad of risks that threaten our national and economic interests. This event will bring together defense, government and industry leaders to devote a concentrated focus on breaking down the latest in policy, information sharing, security technology and identifiable threats for a cohesive mission strategy that can be directly applied to cross-agency goals.

<http://www.marcusevans-conferences-northamerican.com/marcusevans-conferences-event-details.asp>

2013 Cyber Security Summit

Sept. 25; The Hilton; New York, New York

The 2013 Cyber Security Summit connects C-Suite executives in need of innovative solutions to protect their business and critical infrastructure.

<http://cybersummit.eventbrite.com/?discount=HSNW>

4th Annual Cybersecurity Summit

Sept. 25; National Press Club, Washington, D.C.

General Keith Alexander, Commander of U.S. Cyber Command, Director of the NSA/Chief, Central Security Service and Dr. Pat Gallagher, Director, NIST are among the distinguished speakers confirmed to keynote at the 4th Annual Cybersecurity Summit.

<http://www.billingtoncybersecurity.com/2013summit/>

IEEE Communications & Network Security Conference 2013

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

Cyber security has become an important research and development area for academia, government, and industry in recent years. As a leading professional society focusing on communications technologies, IEEE Communications Society (ComSoc) has identified the need for a high-quality security conference and will serve as a premier forum for cyber security researchers, practitioners, policy makers, and users to exchange ideas, techniques and tools, raise awareness, and share experience related to security and privacy.

<http://www.ieee-cns.org/>

Homeland Security 2013

Oct. 15-18; OMNI Hotel, Washington, D.C.

Evolving from two successful years as the Border Management Conference & Technology Expo, that conference has expanded its focus to also include tracks on Cyber Security & Critical Infrastructure and Disaster Preparedness & Response along with additional topic areas impacting homeland security. This presents a unique opportunity to connect with potential customers across various civilian and defense agencies just as they gain access to their fiscal year 2014 budgets. Over 30 speakers already are scheduled.

<http://www.homelandsecurityexpo.com/Opportunities.aspx>

120th Annual International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) Conference

Oct. 19-23; Philadelphia, Pa.

This year, IACP 2013 is your best opportunity to learn, network, and problem solve at a one-of-a-kind event dedicated specifically to law enforcement professionals. With renowned keynote speakers, forums and technical workshops, and the largest exhibit hall of products and services in the law enforcement community, leaders from around the globe come together at the IACP Annual Conference to foster a continuing exchange of information.

<http://www.theiacpconference.org/iacp2013/public/enter.aspx>

34th Annual Virginia EMS Symposium

Nov. 6-10; Norfolk, Va.

The Virginia Office of EMS invites you to take a look at the 34th Annual Virginia EMS Symposium Pre-Conference Guide. This year's symposium will feature over 250 courses at the Norfolk Waterside, Marriott. General registration opens Aug. 1.

http://www.vdh.state.va.us/OEMS/Files_Page/symposium/Pre-ConferenceGuide2013.pdf

Society for Risk Analysis Annual Meeting

Dec. 8-11; Baltimore, Md.

Conference sessions will identify ways that risk analysis can assist private and public policy makers to improve decisions in a world of complex and uncertain governance challenges. Special emphasis will be placed on the role of risk analysis as a tool for policy making and risk-benefit balancing.

<http://sra.org/events/sra-2013-annual-meeting>

Global Summit on Borders

May 13-14, 2014; Washington, D.C.

Conference focuses on international trade, travel and homeland security. Topics include critical issues in trade facilitation, supply chain security, customs enforcement, safe and efficient immigration, and border and maritime security.

<http://www.global-borders.com/>

National Capital Region Homeland Security Events

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

Virginia Emergency Management Courses

<http://www.vaemergency.com>

FEMA Independent Study Courses

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

American Red Cross Disaster Services Training

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

LINKS

Fairfax County Web Resources

- Fairfax County Emergency Information Blog - www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency/blog
- Fairfax County Emergency Information Web page - www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency/
- Fairfax County CERT - <http://fairfaxcountycert.blogspot.com/>
- Fairfax County Citizen Corps Web Page - www.fairfaxcounty.gov/oem/citizencorps/
- Fairfax County Citizen Corps Blog - <http://citizencorps.blogspot.com/>

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Additional Web Resources

- Capital Region Updates - www.CapitalRegionUpdates.gov
- Virginia Citizen Corps - www.vaemergency.com/citcorps/index.cfm

DHS Science & Technology Directorate Newsletter

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

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

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report (OSIR)

The Department of Homeland Security provides a Web-based "Daily OSIR," which is posted on the DHS public Web site. Accessing the report via the Web enables readers to retrieve the current Daily Report as well as 10 days of archived DHS Daily Reports. Once you arrive at the Web page you will find the most recent Daily OSIR at the top of the page, under the title "Current Report." This report is posted each morning, except for weekends and holidays. Simply click on the title "DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report." This will launch the current days report in PDF format. You can submit content comments or make suggestions by contacting the DHS Daily Report Team by telephone at 202-312-3421 or by e-mail at NICCCReports@dhs.gov.

http://www.dhs.gov/files/programs/editorial_0542.shtm.

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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