



ESF 15 Business / Nonprofit Update

Produced by Emergency Support Function 15 – External Affairs

December 2009

ITEMS OF INTEREST FOR ESF 15

December Storm

A significant winter weather event impacted the Middle Atlantic region, Dec. 18-19, resulting in heavy snow across the Commonwealth of Virginia with areas in Northern Virginia unofficially receiving 16 to 24 inches of snow. The heavy snowfall led Fairfax County Executive Tony Griffin to declare a local state of emergency, which was ratified by the county Board of Supervisors at its Monday, Dec. 21 special meeting. Virginia Governor Timothy M. Kaine declared a state of emergency on Dec. 18; West Virginia, Maryland and North Carolina also declared such emergencies. For more information about winter weather safety, visit the Virginia Emergency Management winter weather preparedness Web page at <http://vaemergency.com/threats/winter/index.cfm> or the Fairfax County winter weather preparedness Web page at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency/prepare/winter/>.

Volunteer Award Program Launched

Virginia Citizen Corps is accepting entries for the 2009 Superstar Awards, an opportunity to recognize exceptional volunteers and programs. Eight winners will be selected in the following categories: Outreach Activity, Teen CERT, Local Citizen Corps Council, Business, Campus or Community Training, Volunteer Superstar, Volunteer Instructor or Instruction Team, Volunteer Recognition Event or Program, and Virginia Citizen Corps Program. Entries are due Jan. 15, 2010. Contact Citizen Corps Program Manager Linda Rubin at 804-897-6500, ext. 6594 or linda.rubin@vdem.virginia.gov for more information.

NOAA: El Niño to Help Steer U.S. Winter Weather

El Niño in the central and eastern equatorial Pacific Ocean is expected to be a dominant climate factor that will influence the December through February winter weather in the United States, according to the 2009 Winter Outlook released today by NOAA's Climate Prediction Center. Such seasonal outlooks are part of NOAA's suite of climate services.

- **Below-average temperatures** are expected across the Southeast and mid-Atlantic from southern and eastern Texas to southern Pennsylvania and south through Florida.
- **Above-average precipitation** is expected in the southern border states, especially Texas and Florida. Recent rainfall and the prospects of more should improve current drought conditions in central and southern Texas.

However, tornado records suggest that there will also be an increased chance of organized tornado activity for the Gulf Coast region this winter. This seasonal outlook does not predict where and when snowstorms may hit or total seasonal snowfall accumulations. Snow forecasts are dependent upon winter storms, which are generally not predictable more than several days in advance.

http://www.noaawebs.noaa.gov/stories2009/20091015_winteroutlook.html

DHS Announces Grant Guidance for More Than \$2.7 Billion in Fiscal Year 2010 Grant Programs

Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary Janet Napolitano this month announced the release of fiscal year 2010 grant application guidance kits for 13 DHS grant programs totaling more than \$2.7 billion—funds for state, local, tribal and territorial governments and private sector entities to strengthen our nation's ability to prevent, protect, respond to and recover from terrorist attacks, major disasters and other emergencies. The grant program guidance kits announced today also incorporate the input of DHS' state, local, tribal and territorial and private sector partners and include specific steps undertaken by DHS to improve the ability of state and local partners to apply for and utilize grant funding. The guidance announced by Secretary Napolitano today has increased tribal funding, reduced administrative paperwork for state and local government and enabled local jurisdictions to use preparedness funding for ongoing maintenance contracts, warranties, repair or replacement costs, upgrades and user fees for equipment purchased with previous DHS grants. These 13 preparedness grant programs may fund a variety of

activities including planning, organization, equipment purchases, training and exercises

http://www.dhs.gov/ynews/releases/pr_1260283102665.shtm

Secretary Napolitano Unveils “Virtual USA” Information-Sharing Initiative

Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary Janet Napolitano today officially launched Virtual USA, an innovative information-sharing initiative – developed in collaboration with the emergency response community and state and local governments across the nation – that helps federal, state, local and tribal first responders communicate during emergencies. The announcement came as part of the White House Open Government Initiative and reflects President Obama and Secretary Napolitano’s shared commitment to making government more efficient and fostering a culture of transparency, participation and collaboration. Virtual USA links disparate tools and technologies in order to share the location and status of critical assets and information – such as power and water lines, flood detectors, helicopter-capable landing sites, emergency vehicle and ambulance locations, weather and traffic conditions, evacuation routes, and school and government building floor plans – across federal, state, local and tribal governments.

http://www.dhs.gov/ynews/releases/pr_1260375414161.shtm

President Declares Major Disaster For Commonwealth Of Virginia

The head of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security’s Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) announced this month that federal disaster aid has been made available for the commonwealth of Virginia to supplement commonwealth and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms and flooding associated with Tropical Depression Ida beginning on Nov. 11, 2009, and continuing. Federal funding is available to state and eligible local governments and certain private nonprofit organizations on a cost-sharing basis for emergency work and the repair or replacement of facilities damaged by the severe storms and flooding in the counties of counties of Halifax, Isle of Wight, King and Queen, Northampton and Surry and the independent cities of Chesapeake, Hampton, Newport News, Norfolk, Poquoson, Portsmouth and Virginia Beach. Federal funding is also available on a cost-sharing basis for hazard mitigation measures for all counties within the commonwealth.

<http://www.fema.gov/news/newsrelease.fema?id=50068>

Secretary Napolitano Highlights DHS’ Major Accomplishments in 2009

Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary Janet Napolitano highlighted the Department’s 2009 accomplishments in an address to employees earlier this month – emphasizing the major steps the Department has taken this year to enhance America’s capabilities to guard against terrorism; secure the nation’s borders; engage in smart and enforcement of our immigration laws; prepare for, respond to and recover from disasters; and unify and mature the Department and its 230,000-employee global workforce.

http://www.dhs.gov/ynews/releases/pr_1260906632475.shtm

Fact Sheet: Department of Homeland Security 2009 Accomplishments & Reforms:

http://www.dhs.gov/xlibrary/assets/department_accomplishments_and_reforms_2009.pdf

DHS Announces Virtual Job Fair to Expand Cyber Workforce

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) earlier this month announced the launch of a virtual job fair at www.dhs.gov/cyberjobfair to recruit cybersecurity experts – capitalizing on DHS’ recently acquired authority to recruit and hire up to 1,000 cybersecurity professionals across the Department over the next three years. Through the virtual job fair, DHS is looking for applicants with experience in cyber risk and strategic analysis; malware/vulnerability analysis; incident response; exercise facilitation and management; vulnerability detection and assessment; intelligence analysis; and cyber-related infrastructure interdependency analysis. The new hiring authority, which results from a collaborative effort between DHS, the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) and the Office of Management and Budget, streamlines the hiring process to allow the Department to hire up to 1,000 positions over three years across DHS to fulfill critical cybersecurity roles.

http://www.dhs.gov/ynews/releases/pr_1260561277121.shtm

FEMA launches Commercial Mobile Alert System

FEMA and the Federal Communications Commission have adopted design specifications for wireless carriers to

develop an interface that can provide customers with timely and accurate emergency alerts and warnings via their cell phones and other mobile devices. The Commercial Mobile Alert System provides federal, state and local government officials the ability to send 90-character geographically targeted text messages to the public regarding imminent threats to life and property, Amber alerts, and presidential emergency messages. The CMAS is a combined effort of the federal government and cellular providers to define a common standard for cellular alerts. Commercial mobile service providers who have elected to participate in CMAS have 28 months to develop, test and deploy the system and deliver mobile alerts to the public by 2012. More information is available from FEMA at <http://www.fema.gov/news/newsrelease.fema?id=50056>.

Reprinted from the VDEM Update, Dec. 16, 2009.

DHS Integration Management Plan Is Years Behind, Says GAO

The Homeland Security Department has not yet developed a comprehensive strategy for management integration as required by the Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007 and with the characteristics GAO recommended in a 2005 report, that according to the Government Accountability Office.

<http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-10-318T>

PLANNING / PREPAREDNESS

Current Threat Level

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



Under an elevated threat level, businesses should:

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

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

http://www.dhs.gov/xinfohare/programs/Copy_of_press_release_0046.shtm

<http://vaemergency.com/>

As Hurricane Season Ends FEMA Continues To Urge The Public To Be Prepared

Nov. 30 marked the official end of the 2009 Atlantic Hurricane season which ran from June 1 to Nov. 30. Although it was a quiet season along the Atlantic coast, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) continues to urge residents to stay prepared, as disasters are not limited to hurricanes or a specific time of year – they can occur anytime, anywhere. Families can log on to www.ready.gov to learn about the few simple steps you can take to get prepared for any emergency. Some of those steps include, gathering a preparedness kit including a three-day supply

of food and water, blankets and first-aid kits for your home and car, ensuring your family preparedness plan and contacts are up to date, rehearsing your plan and learning about emergency plans that have been established in your area by your state and local government.

<http://www.fema.gov/news/newsrelease.fema?id=50024>

New Study to Protect Against Chemical Attacks and Bolster Emergency Planning Efforts

Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary Janet Napolitano and the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) this month announced a new DHS Science & Technology Directorate-led study that will examine the behavior of airborne contaminants if they were to be released into the subway—reflecting Secretary Napolitano’s emphasis on preparedness and the shared responsibility of protecting the nation’s critical infrastructure. The study involved the release of common, harmless tracer gases used for indoor and outdoor air testing; an inert particle tracer tagged with a biologically inert, non-toxic organic dye used in medical imaging applications; and a common optical brightener often used in laundry detergents and paper manufacturing. The study will help scientists understand the airflow characteristics for smoke or unintentional spills of chemicals or fuels—providing data that will help guide the design of next generation detection systems and enable transportation systems to strengthen evacuation, ventilation and other incident response strategies. Particle and gas concentrations were sampled in more than 20 stations and in subway cars in the underground portion of the MBTA subway system from Dec. 5-11.

http://www.dhs.gov/ynews/releases/pr_1259790815577.shtm

New Online Forum Increases Public’s Access to EPA

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has launched an online discussion forum designed to enhance communication between EPA and the public on contaminated sites, waste management, and recycling issues. The forum, which is a public comment board, is another important component in EPA’s ongoing efforts to increase transparency and public engagement. The first four discussion topics on the new forum pertain to community involvement, Superfund metrics, toxic material reduction, and land revitalization. Potential topics for future discussions include recycling, waste management, brownfields, leaking underground storage tanks, and emergency response. The forum invites stakeholders, members of the public, EPA program managers, and EPA policy experts to engage in a dynamic discussion about EPA’s work. The agency plans to post a new topic of discussion each month to generate discussion related to hazardous waste, recycling, and emergency response activities. More information on the forum: <http://blog.epa.gov/oswerforum/>.

GAO Cites DHS Progress and Problems

In a review of the Homeland Security Department’s efforts in the areas of maritime, aviation, and cybersecurity, the Government Accountability Office cited some progress and problems. For example, Customs and Border Protection has implemented the Secure Freight Initiative at select foreign ports. However, CBP does not have a plan for fully implementing the 100 percent [container] scanning requirement. The Transportation Security Administration “has made progress” toward screening “100 percent of air cargo transported on passenger aircraft” but is challenged by “the voluntary nature of the program,” making sure the “technologies are effective,” exemptions, and “harmonizing security standards with other nations.... DHS has made progress in strengthening cybersecurity” but “has not fully satisfied its key responsibilities for protecting the nation’s computer-reliant critical infrastructures.”

<http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d10106high.pdf> (50KB PDF)]

FEMA Highlights Holiday Gifts That Increase Preparedness

This year FEMA has assembled a list of gift ideas for the holidays to help keep your family and friends prepared. Emergencies can happen at any moment; these gifts can serve as a great starting point to ensure that your friends and family have an emergency communications plan, a disaster supply kit, and stay informed about emergencies in their area. A list of possible gifts that may assist in disasters includes:

- Disaster kits for homes, offices and autos (first-aid kits; food, water and prescription medications for three days; i.e., extra clothing, blankets, and flashlights).
- NOAA weather radios with extra batteries.
- Enrollment in a CPR or first-aid class.
- Smoke detectors.

- Fire extinguishers (for kitchen, garage, car, etc.)
 - Foldable ladders for second-story escape in a fire.
 - Car kits (emergency flares, shovels, ice scrapers, flashlights and fluorescent distress flags).
 - Pet Disaster kits (food, water, leashes, dishes and carrying case or crate).
 - Battery powered lamps
- <http://www.fema.gov/news/newsrelease.fema?id=50059>

MEDIA ARTICLES OF INTEREST

Most Companies' Employees Cannot Work Remotely During a Crisis

The majority of employees at approximately three out of four organizations could not work remotely if they had to, according to a new survey ... commissioned by Cisco and conducted by InsightExpress, reports "Security Management." The healthcare and finance sectors were more likely to give workers the ability to work remotely than the retail, education, and government sectors.

<http://securitymanagement.com/news/survey-most-companies-employees-cannot-work-remotely-during-a-crisis-006438>

Chip Turns Phones Into Chemical Detectors

A NASA scientist [Jing Li] has unveiled a postage-stamp-sized sensor that can plug into an iPhone and convert Apple's beloved product into a mobile chemical detector, reports TopTenReviews. The tiny device can sniff out low amounts of ammonia, chlorine gas and methane, and send alerts to other phones or computers over regular phone networks or a Wi-Fi connection.... Homeland Security hopes to eventually see such sensing chips embedded in everybody's cell phone, so that the mobile devices could form a huge chemical-alert network wherever people go.

<http://www.livescience.com/technology/091127-smartphone-chemical-detection.html>

Maryland Report: Maryland in Middle on Preparedness

An annual study of public health preparedness ranked Maryland in the middle of the pack in its readiness. Maryland scored 7 out of 10 on the key indicators (as did Virginia). Called "Ready or Not? Protecting the Public's health from Diseases, Disasters, and Bioterrorism" report, the report was released on Dec. 15 by the Trust for America's Health and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. It said this year, the H1N1 flu outbreak exposed serious gaps in the nation's ability to respond to public health emergencies. This year, economic crisis is putting more pressure on the already fragile public health system. The researchers used publicly available data and interviewed public health officials. They concluded that 20 states scored six or less out of 10. Nearly two-thirds of states scored seven or less. Seven states tied for the highest score of nine out of 10. Montana had the lowest score at three out of 10.

http://weblogs.baltimoresun.com/health/2009/12/new_report_shows_state_in_midd.html

A full list of all of the indicators and scores and the full report are available on TFAH's Web site at www.healthymericans.org and RWJF's Web site at www.rwjf.org. For the state-by-state scoring, states received one point for achieving an indicator or zero points if they did not achieve the indicator. Zero is the lowest possible overall score, 10 is the highest. The data for the indicators are from publicly available sources or were provided from public officials.

FLU

Fairfax County Pandemic Flu Preparedness

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

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

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

It's Official (sort of): The Swine Flu Pandemic Is Mild So Far

By Peter Sandman, noted risk communications expert

People who get swine flu are one-sixth as likely to die as people who get the ordinary seasonal flu. That's according to estimates released by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on Nov. 12. But the CDC didn't say so. And journalists didn't do the math. So nothing like the previous paragraph appeared anywhere in the mainstream media on the day of the CDC announcement or the days that followed. Here I am, three weeks later, a risk communication expert not a flu expert, telling you that the CDC "secretly" (well, quietly) thinks the swine flu pandemic is mild.

<http://psandman.com/col/swinecomm.htm>



H1N1 Flu: Preparedness Tools for Professionals

An Easy-to-use software tool to estimate the potential days lost from work due to the 2009 H1N1 influenza pandemic.

<http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/tools/>

HHS and Ad Council Launch New Nationwide PSA Campaign Urging Vaccination against H1N1 Flu

HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius announced earlier this month that the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is joining with the Ad Council to launch a new nationwide public service advertising (PSA) campaign called "Together We Can All Fight the Flu." The campaign features television, radio, online banner, and outdoor public service advertisements that encourage Americans to get vaccinated against the 2009 H1N1 flu virus.

<http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2009pres/12/20091207a.html>

Swine Flu Vaccine Plentiful in Half the States

After weeks of shortages, swine flu vaccine is plentiful enough that nearly half the states now say everyone can get it, not just people in high-risk groups, reports the Associated Press. Health officials in 24 states have lifted their recommended restrictions ... But demand appears to be down in many areas where infections are dropping—and more and more states are falling into that category.

<http://www.detnews.com/article/20091217/NATION/912170379/1040/Supplies-of-H1N1-vaccine-increasing>

Pandemic Influenza Plan Needs Updating, Says GAO

The Implementation Plan for the National Strategy for Pandemic Influenza, issued by the Homeland Security Council in 2006, has problems, reports the Government Accountability Office. Neither the council nor the federal agencies involved "monitor or report on the 17" nonfederal action items, such as "asking state, local, and tribal entities to ensure [that] their preparedness plans address mass immunization, even though the information may have been available from other sources." Also, "of 60 action items" GAO reviewed, "it was difficult to determine the actual status of some of the 49 designated as complete."

<http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-10-73>

Nearly Three Quarter of a Million H1N1 Doses on its Way

On Monday, Dec. 21, the State Health Commissioner has opened the door for all Virginians to get immunized against H1N1 influenza. "Today's allocation of 700,000 doses of vaccine makes it possible to now offer H1N1 vaccinations to all Virginians," said State Health Commissioner Karen Remley, M.D.. "Put down on your holiday list making sure your family and loved ones get their vaccinations." With this latest release of vaccine from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, over 3 million doses will have been sent to Virginia. Over 3,000 physician offices, pharmacies, big box stores, clinics and health departments are registered in the state as H1N1 vaccinators. To find vaccination sites serving the public, use the Vaccine Flu Locator tool on the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) Web site at www.vdh.virginia.gov. Information for the public is also available from the Virginia Department of Health Inquiry Center toll free weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at 1-877-ASK-VDH3.

<http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/news/PressReleases/2009/122109H1N1Doses.htm>

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.redcrossna.org/Online/disaster_registration.php

Homeland Security Executive Breakfast

Jan. 14; Washington, D.C.

The breakfast will feature Hugh McLeod, founder of Assynt Associates—a team of 12 experts who provide briefings and analysis on terrorism and country risk issues to large companies and government entities with interests in the Middle East and beyond.

<http://www.ndia.org/meetings/049C/Pages/default.aspx>

Combating Terrorism Technical Support Office Advance Planning Briefing for Industry

Jan. 26; Washington, D.C.

This briefing forecasts the requirements for potential projects that will be funded in the coming fiscal year (2011) and advertised using a Broad Agency Announcement.

<http://www.ndia.org/meetings/0090/Pages/default.aspx>

Hospital Management of Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear & Explosive Incidents

(Feb. 1-5 and Aug. 2-6; Aberdeen, Md.)

This is a postgraduate course for emergency planners, hospital administrators, clinicians, and emergency responders who could face mass casualties from a catastrophe. It was developed with hospital-level objectives—clinical and nonclinical.

https://ccc.apgea.army.mil/courses/in_house/cbrne.htm



Technologies for Critical Incident Preparedness Conference and Exposition

Feb. 2-4; Philadelphia, Pa.

This conference presented by the International Association of Emergency Managers will bring together leaders and decision makers in a unique forum with responders, business and industry, academia, and local, tribal, state and federal stakeholders to address critical incident technology and preparedness needs, protocols, and solutions.

<http://www.iaem.com/events/calendar/events.htm>



Military Operations Research Society Meeting on Interagency Perspectives, Issues and Analysis

Feb. 9-10; online

The conference will examine how analysis can improve coordinated national security planning and execution among federal and state governments and nongovernment organizations.

http://www.mors.org/events/2010_interagency.aspx

CBRN Defense

Feb. 8-10; Washington, D.C.

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

Next year's chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear defense conference will deliver an overview of the requirements, technologies, and programs necessary for mission managers and commanders to counter these threats.

http://www.cbrnevent.com/redForms.aspx?id=230498&pdf_form=1

Homeland Defense and Security Education Summit

Feb. 24-25; Washington, D.C.

"Homeland Security in Transition" will focus on validating homeland security and defense education and will discuss the issues most pertinent relevant to security professionals, the return on investment in homeland security and defense education, and current and relevant research.

<http://www.chds.us/?special/info&pgm=2010Summit>



National Emergency Management Summit

March 3-5; Washington, D.C.

This forum on medical preparedness and response to disasters, epidemics, and terrorism will cover H1N1 experience in the United States and beyond, pandemic planning and readiness, hospital surge, supply chain management, patient evacuations, tsunami warning systems, health 2.0 tools, coordinating communitywide response, crisis standards of care, and more.

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

Medical Management of Chemical and Biological Casualties

March 14-19 and May 16-21; Aberdeen, Md., and Ft. Detrick, Md.

This course is conducted by the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Chemical Defense. It is designed for Medical Corps and Nurse Corps officers and physician assistants, Medical Service Corps officers, and other selected medical professionals. It comprises classroom, laboratory, and field training.

https://ccc.apgea.army.mil/courses/in_house/BrochureMCBC.htm

Biothreat Agent Workshop

March 15-16; Charlotte, N.C.

The theme of the third annual workshop is "Pathogens to Policy." Experts from academia, government, and industry will interact and share their ideas and the latest developments, providing a forum where researchers, responders, vendors, and students can discuss advances in the fight against bioterrorism.

<http://www.cleanearthtech.com/news.htm>

GovSec & U.S. Law

March 23-24; Washington, D.C.

This conference provides products, strategies, tactics, education, and networking for the professionals whose mission is to secure our nation and their communities. At its core is the convergence of information technology and physical security so that attendees will be better prepared to anticipate, prepare for, prevent, and respond to domestic and international terrorism, accidental and natural disasters, and attacks on critical infrastructure.

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

2010 Virginia Emergency Management Symposium

The 2010 Virginia Emergency Management Symposium, formerly the Virginia Emergency Management Conference, is scheduled for March 31-April 2, 2010, at the Hampton Roads Convention Center in Hampton, Va. The theme will be "Heads Up: Eye-Opening Experiences and Changes in Emergency Management." The symposium will include traditional breakout workshops coupled with new training opportunities. Tentative sessions include Intro to HAZUS, WebEOC overviews, Legislative Info 101, and Legal Concerns for Emergency Managers. Visit

<http://www.vemaweb.org> for additional information; registration will open soon.

Sport Event Risk Management Workshop

DHS has identified professional and collegiate stadiums and arenas as potential targets for terrorist activity. The Sport Event Risk Management Workshop has been specially designed for NCAA institutions to help them develop

university security action teams, which are composed of specialists from five distinct areas: campus police, athletic department, emergency management, fire/hazardous materials and emergency medical/health services. The workshop will be delivered to these key personnel via regional workshops; training will be available at FedEx Field in Washington, D.C., April 27-28. Emergency managers that have an NCAA institution in their areas are encouraged to participate; contact National Center for Spectator Sports Security Project Manager Nick Nabors at (601) 266-4694 or by e-mail at nick.nabors@usm.edu. More information about the workshop and registration are available at www.ncs4.com/workshop.

Save the date: Emergency Management Procurement Forum

VDEM's Procurement Office will host the 2010 Emergency Management Procurement Forum, May 2-4, 2010, to raise awareness about being better prepared to procure goods and services during emergencies. The conference will begin with an overview and tour of the Virginia Emergency Operations Center and continue with presentations and demonstrations that address Virginia Department of Minority Business Enterprises Small, Woman- and Minority-owned certification, legal issues, Small Purchase Charge Cards, prequalified contracts, ethics and more. Attendees will be able to network with state and local emergency procurement personnel from all over Virginia and to see a vendor trade show. Additional details and registration will be available soon.

LINKS

Fairfax County Blogs and Web Resources

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

DHS Science & Technology Directorate Newsletter

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

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report (OSIR)

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

Fairfax County Government Emergency Information Web Page

The county's emergency information page features easy navigation and a clean look so that residents can easily find emergency information.
www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency/

Fairfax County Government Emergency Information Line

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/opa/infoline.htm

Emergency Management Magazine

<http://www.govtech.com/em/toc.php>

FEMA Private Sector

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



ESF 15 Contact Information

Merni Fitzgerald, Director

Fairfax County Office of Public Affairs

12000 Government Center Parkway, Suite 551 ♦ Fairfax, Va. 22035-0065

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

E-mail: Merni.Fitzgerald@fairfaxcounty.gov

Web site: www.fairfaxcounty.gov

Emergency Information: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency

To Unsubscribe:

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

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

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

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

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