



ESF 15 Business / Nonprofit Update

Produced by Emergency Support Function 15 – External Affairs

February 2009

ITEMS OF INTEREST FOR ESF 15

Public Health Preparedness: Strengthening CDC's Emergency Response

CDC's Coordinating Office for Terrorism Preparedness and Emergency Response (COTPER) has released its inaugural report on CDC activities in public health emergency preparedness. The report, "Public Health Preparedness: Strengthening CDC's Emergency Response," explains the key role CDC plays in preparing the public health infrastructure to respond effectively to all types of hazards, and provides an overview of the broad range of preparedness activities receiving Terrorism Preparedness and Emergency Response (TPER) funding. CDC accomplishments in preparedness are described. The report also details how CDC is addressing challenges to achieve its overarching public health preparedness goal: "People prepared for emerging health threats – people in all communities will be protected from infectious, occupational, environmental, and terrorist threats." The report is an important part of CDC's overall focus to demonstrate results, drive program improvements, and increase accountability for the country's investment in public health preparedness activities.

<http://emergency.cdc.gov/publications/jan09phprep/>

Full report: <http://emergency.cdc.gov/publications/jan09phprep/pdf/jan09phprep.pdf>

George Mason University Names Director of Emergency Preparedness and Response

To heighten campus safety and improve emergency preparedness programs, Mason appointed David Farris as its first director of emergency preparedness and response. Farris was formerly George Mason University's occupational safety and environmental compliance manager. The new position was created in response to rising expectations from the federal, state and local governments, as well as the Mason community, to have strategically run emergency preparedness programs in place. Though many might think the collaborative efforts of the Environmental Health and Safety Office (EHS) and the University Police focus on terrorism and crime, the most common emergency scenarios impacting Mason involve severe weather, hazardous materials incidents and regional emergencies that require university resources.

<http://gazette.gmu.edu/articles/13127/>

FEMA Requests Applicants For The National Advisory Council

The Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is requesting individuals who are interested in serving on the National Advisory Council (NAC) to apply for appointment. FEMA is seeking to reappoint or replace 11 seats on the Council in 2009 as the incumbents' terms end June 15, 2009. The NAC was established to ensure effective and ongoing coordination of Federal preparedness, protection, response, recovery, mitigation for natural disasters, acts of terrorism and other man-made disasters. The NAC assists FEMA in carrying out its missions by providing advice and recommendations in the development and revision of the national preparedness guidance, the national preparedness system, the National Incident Management System, the National Response Framework, and other related plans and strategies. Individuals seeking to be considered for an appointment on the Council should submit a resume or Curriculum Vitae (CV) detailing their experience in the arena of emergency management and related fields, along with letters of recommendation. FEMA also welcomes recommendations from organizations and stakeholder groups. Applicants should state for which discipline area or areas they are applying. Applications or resumes must be received on or before 5 p.m. EST on Friday, March 6, 2009, in order to be considered.

<http://www.fema.gov/news/newsrelease.fema?id=47421>

Happy Birthday to the National Weather Service

The beginning of the National Weather Service we know today started on Feb. 9, 1870, when President Ulysses S. Grant signed a joint resolution of Congress authorizing the Secretary of War to establish a national weather service. This resolution required the Secretary of War:

“to provide for taking meteorological observations at the military stations in the interior of the continent and at other points in the States and Territories...and for giving notice on the northern (Great) Lakes and on the seacoast by magnetic telegraph and marine signals, of the approach and force of storms.”

<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/pa/history/index.php>

NOAA: Seventh Warmest January for Global Temperatures

The combined global land and ocean surface average temperature for January 2009 was the seventh warmest since records began in 1880, according to a preliminary analysis by [NOAA's National Climatic Data Center](#) in Asheville, N.C. The combined global land and ocean surface temperature for January was 54.55 degrees F, 0.95 degree F above the 20th century mean of 53.6 degrees F.

http://www.noanews.noaa.gov/stories2009/20090218_globalstats.html

FEMA, In or Out: DHS IG report on FEMA

The DHS Inspector General report on FEMA is not that long (20 pages total) and it presents the case for whether FEMA should be a standalone agency or remain within the Department of Homeland Security. According to one blogger, “the abridged answer is “In” making the agency an ‘innie’ in the belly button wars on FEMA’s place on the organization chart.” A portion of the report can be seen at right acknowledging that the question is not a new one, in fact dating back to the Homeland Security Act of 2002.

<http://www.hlswatch.com/wp-content/uploads/2009/02/ig-fema-memo.pdf>

In the past few months, as the federal government prepared for the transition to a new administration, others also began to weigh in on whether FEMA should be a part of DHS or whether it should be pulled out and made a stand-alone agency. The question is not new. FEMA’s inclusion in DHS has been the subject of intense debate in Congress, including during consideration of both the legislation that created the department, the *Homeland Security Act of 2002* (P.L. 107-296), and the legislation passed in the wake of Hurricane Katrina, the *Post-Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act of 2006*, (P.L. 109-295, Title VI – National Emergency Management, of the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act of 2007, hereinafter *Post-Katrina Reform Act*). In both instances, after much consideration and debate, Congress voted to include FEMA in DHS.

In an effort to help focus and inform the current debate, we present in this white paper some of the important elements that should be considered when deciding FEMA’s placement in the federal government.⁴

Designation of the Presidential Address to a Joint Session of Congress as a National Special Security Event

U.S. Department of Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano designated the Presidential Address to a Joint Session of Congress on Feb. 24 as a National Special Security Event (NSSE). Secretary Napolitano named Gregory Marchio, of the U.S. Secret Service, to serve as the Principal Federal Official (PFO) for the Joint Session of Congress. In his role as PFO, Marchio was responsible for ensuring overall seamless coordination of the federal domestic incident management activities. A number of factors are taken into consideration when designating an event as a National Special Security Event, including anticipated attendance by dignitaries and the size and significance of the event. When an event is designated an NSSE, the U.S. Secret Service assumes its legally mandated role as the lead federal agency for the design and implementation of the operational security plan. Federal resources were deployed to maintain the level of security needed for the event. Since 1998, the Secret Service has led federal security operations at 30 National Special Security Events, including, the 2008 Democratic and Republican National Conventions, the G20 summit and the 2009 Presidential Inauguration.

http://www.dhs.gov/ynews/releases/pr_1235490026247.shtm

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 lever, businesses should:

- Continue all precautions from lower Threat Conditions.

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- 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/xinfo/share/programs/Copy_of_press_release_0046.shtm

<http://vaemergency.com/>

Study Looks Into Crisis Communications Processes

Despite the fact that disasters and unplanned business interruptions have made it absolutely critical for organizations to quickly and accurately communicate with all stakeholders during such an event, many businesses have not put in place an effective emergency notification system that can actually reach recipients, according to an annual study conducted by Varolli Corporation. According to the report, three quarters of respondents reported they have a formalized emergency notification process (either automated or manual) in place, but only 24 percent have integrated it with an enterprise application. Of these, only 34 percent (8 percent overall) have integrated with an HR system of record, and only 9 percent (2 percent overall) have integrated with a CRM system, making it extremely difficult to access up-to-date contact information and, therefore, highly unlikely an emergency notification will reach all internal and external stakeholders in a short period of time.

<http://www.continuitycentral.com/news04415.html>

Disaster Preparedness

Getting back to business after a disaster depends on preparedness planning done today. Small business owners invest a tremendous amount of time, money and resources to make their ventures successful, and yet, while the importance of emergency planning may seem self-evident, it may get put on the back-burner in the face of more immediate concerns. For small business owners, being prepared can mean staying in business following a disaster. An estimated 25 percent of businesses do not reopen following a major disaster, according to the Institute for Business and Home Safety. Visit the SBA Web site for resources and more information.

<http://www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance/disasterpreparedness/index.html>

MEDIA ARTICLES OF INTEREST

Economy Could Cause an Increase in Operational Risk in Coming Year

iJET Intelligent Risk Systems, a provider of global intelligence and business resiliency services, is advising organizations of a coming increase in operational, facility and supply chain disruptions due to the current state of the global economy. The intelligence firm is also offering recommendations for businesses to prepare for and mitigate increasing risk, as well as uncover potential opportunities during the current economic recession. iJET's intelligence analysts advise that a weakening global economy can pose a myriad of operational threats to multinational organizations. Civil unrest, strikes, crime and deterioration in health services often increase in occurrence and severity during recessions, frequently after cutbacks in government and municipal spending.

<http://www.continuitycentral.com/news04416.html>

Survey Looks into E-mail Downtime

Damage to corporate reputation is seen as the biggest impact of e-mail downtime according to the results of a survey

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into e-mail downtime conducted on behalf of Neverfail. The global survey, which polled 220 IT managers and directors at mid-size companies worldwide, found that 25 percent would experience a significant loss in employee productivity during e-mail downtime and 19 percent would lose revenue. However, 34 percent of respondents said that e-mail downtime would potentially damage their company or customer relationships. 36 percent of respondents report that e-mail downtime is typically caused by planned maintenance, providing an opportunity to improve e-mail availability by streamlining maintenance processes. Overall, 74 percent of respondents indicated that their organizations' tolerance for downtime was one hour or less. Just under 24 percent said downtime of up to four hours would be tolerated while none of the respondents could tolerate 12 hours or more.

<http://www.continuitycentral.com/news04408.html>

Animal Doctors Vital to Homeland Security, GAO Says

A growing shortage of veterinarians nationwide has led to current or potential veterinarian workforce shortages in the federal government, which may find itself lacking necessary expertise in the event of a catastrophe such as an outbreak of avian influenza, according to a report from congressional investigators released Thursday.

The American Veterinary Medical Association told the Government Accountability Office (GAO) that the veterinarian shortage places the nation's food supply at risk and could impede a response to a pandemic originating from animals, said the GAO report, titled "Veterinarian Workforce: Actions Are Needed to Ensure Sufficient Capacity for Protecting Public and Animal Health." The veterinarian shortage is expected to worsen, as the 28 U.S. veterinary colleges can graduate only 2,500 students annually, according to the American Association of Veterinary Medical Colleges. The Bureau of Labor Statistics projects an increase in demand for veterinarians of 35 percent from 2006-2016. As such, the demand for 62,000 full-time veterinarians in 2006 will rise to 84,000 in 2016. In response, Congress has passed legislation recently to encourage increased opportunities and enrollment at veterinary colleges. More than 3,000 veterinarians work for the federal government in agencies at the Departments of Agriculture, Defense, Health and Human Services (HHS), and Homeland Security (DHS), contributing to plans to keep American agriculture secure. For example, the veterinarians at DHS, which employs a small number of them overall, work to develop policies for defending the national food supply against natural or man-made emergencies. Veterinarians at the Animal Research Service at the Department of Agriculture have been vital to the agency's research on the detection of avian influenza and the development of vaccines for the bird flu. But the US federal government has not conducted any broad, comprehensive assessment of its veterinarian workforce needs, despite the important contributions of veterinarians to homeland security, the GAO report noted, although some individual agencies have made smaller assessments. HHS is one department that has not assessed its veterinarian workforce needs department-wide, with HHS officials reporting to GAO that they did not feel veterinarians were mission critical.

<http://www.hstoday.us/content/view/7313/128/>

Texas Issues Next Generation 9-1-1 Master Plan

The Texas Commission on State Emergency Communications (CSEC) has issued its Next Generation 9-1-1 Master Plan. "The current 9-1-1 system, while working well today, is approaching the end of its useful life," says the executive summary, citing "convoluted systems" that "deliver 9-1-1 calls and location data for landline voice, landline teletype/telecommunications device for the deaf (TTY/TDD), wireless/cellular voice, and VoIP 9-1-1 to the Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP)." In addition new technologies require substantial system modification. The master plan, continues the executive summary, will help communicate the vision of the next-generation 911 system and "charts the course of CSEC initiatives and activities on this extensive, multi-year effort to ensure successful transition." The transition begins with buildout of IP networks to and between PSAPs, followed by the implementation of the applications that provide next generation functionality. The roles and responsibilities of 9-1-1 stakeholders from PSAPs to state government will likely evolve as NG9-1-1 matures. The new system will require considerable investment, planning and cooperation, continues the document. The opportunity lies in the ability to enhance a vital public safety service and increase efficiency. The challenge will be to marshal the resources required to effect the change.

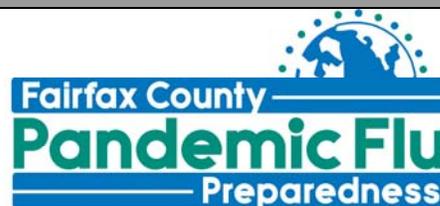
<http://tinyurl.com/bod8u6>

PANDEMIC FLU

Fairfax County Pandemic Flu Preparedness

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

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



220 Million Tamiflu Doses Held by Governments

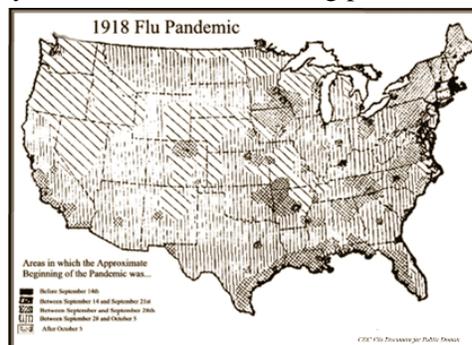
Some 220 million doses of Tamiflu, the vaccine against bird flu, are in the hands of governments worldwide, that according to the Swiss pharmaceutical giant Roche. The quantity of Tamiflu held by governments is a relatively "modest level of preparedness" given that the world population stands at over six billion people. Roche also confirmed that sales of the drug dropped last year as expected by 68 percent, or 1.6 billion Swiss francs (\$1.38 billion). Around 250 people have died from bird flu worldwide since 2003, mostly in Asian countries, according to the World Health Organization. The H5N1 virus typically spreads from birds to humans through direct contact, but experts fear it could mutate into a form easily transmissible between humans, with the potential to kill millions in a pandemic. Studies cited by Roche indicate that administering Tamiflu to an entire population during a flu pandemic would limit fatal cases to 1.3 deaths per 1,000 people, compared to 6.8 deaths per 1,000 if nothing is given.

http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20090204/hl_afp/healthfludrugtamiflucompanyroche

H5N1 Worse than 1918 Virus

In the waning months of the First World War, a lethal virus known as the Spanish flu (influenza A, subtype H1N1), swept the United States, Europe and Asia in three convulsive waves. The year was 1918. The ensuing pandemic claimed up to 100 million victims, most of whom succumbed to severe respiratory complications associated with rapidly progressing pneumonia. Many died within days of the first symptoms. In a new study, Carole Baskin, formerly assistant research professor at Arizona's Biodesign Institute, currently with Science Foundation Arizona, and an interdisciplinary team of collaborators, compared the recent avian strain known in the scientific community as H5N1, with genetic reassemblants of the 1918 virus—source of the most severe influenza pandemic in recorded history. The results, which appear in the latest issue of the "Proceedings of the National Academy of Science," are sobering.

<http://projectdisaster.com/?p=11717>



U.N. Says Bird Flu Remains a Threat to Humans

A handful of new human fatalities from bird flu underscore that the H5N1 virus has become entrenched in some countries, such as China, and that it still could mutate and flare into a global pandemic, U.N. officials said on Feb. 18. China has reported five deaths from eight cases of bird flu so far this year. U.N. advisers said that the victims had come into contact with infected poultry in scattered areas of China, and that the virus still wasn't contagious among humans. They cautioned against dismissing the H5N1 virus as a threat to humanity, however. The deadly H5N1 strain of avian influenza began to infect humans in late 2003 and has spread to 15 countries, killing 254 of the 407 people who've contracted it.

http://news.yahoo.com/s/mcclatchy/20090218/wl_mcclatchy/3170746

HHS Seeks Comments on Pandemic Flu Web Site

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) requests feedback on the Pandemic Flu Web site. There is a free text box on the center of the page where comments and suggestions can be entered. This is your opportunity to share your thoughts to improve site usability and access to content.

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

Scientists Identify Human Monoclonal Antibodies Effective Against Bird And Seasonal Flu Viruses

Researchers at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute (Dana-Farber), Burnham Institute for Medical Research (Burnham) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have reported the identification of human monoclonal antibodies (mAb) that neutralize an unprecedented range of influenza A viruses, including avian influenza A (H5N1) virus, previous pandemic influenza viruses, and some seasonal influenza viruses. These antibodies have the potential for use in combination with other treatments to prevent or treat certain types of avian and seasonal flu. The study will be published online on February 22 in Nature Structural and Molecular Biology. The antibodies identified by the team of scientists neutralize a broad range of influenza A subtypes because they bind to the highly conserved stem region of H5 type hemagglutinin (HA). Binding to the stem prevents a conformational change in the protein that is necessary for viral entry into the host cell, thereby preventing further infection of host cells and the rise of escape mutants.

<http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/139687.php>

NGA Center Issue Brief Highlights Best Practices Gleaned from Regional Pandemic Exercises

Governors can play a critical role developing policies that preserve day-to-day operation of critical state services and continuity of government during a pandemic outbreak, according to a new Issue Brief from the National Governors Association Center for Best Practices “Sustaining the State Workforce: Strategies for Effective Pandemic Planning.” In 2007 and early 2008, the NGA Center conducted a series of regional pandemic preparedness workshops involving 55 states and territories and the District of Columbia to examine the non-medical implications of a pandemic. The workshops explored continuity of government, the provision of essential government services, the maintenance of critical infrastructure and the effects of a pandemic on commerce and the economy. Policies to effectively protect and manage state workers were consistently found to be among the leading concerns of workshop participants. Governors can play a critical role in providing the leadership required to develop effective workforce policies and should consider the following strategies when formulating these policies:

- Create multiagency steering committees to identify services that must be maintained during a pandemic.
- Assess which personnel are essential, which personnel can be easily reassigned, and which departments, agencies or offices could close during a pandemic emergency.
- During a pandemic, address worker shortages in essential areas by reassigning healthy employees, drawing on alternative worker pools.
- Stop the spread of a pandemic in the workplace by providing adequate leave and incentives for ill employees to stay at home, promote social distancing measures and sanitary work environments, and allow for alternative work schedules—including telecommuting and flexible scheduling.
- Explore partnerships with labor unions and private sector partners to raise awareness of the threat and develop coordinated and consistent workforce strategies to avoid perceptions of unequal treatment.

For more information, visit www.nga.org/center/hst.

<http://www.nga.org/Files/pdf/0902PANDEMICWORKFORCEPLAN.PDF>

Scientists Identify Lab-Made Proteins That Neutralize Multiple Strains of Seasonal and Pandemic Flu Viruses

Scientists have identified a small family of lab-made proteins that neutralize a broad range of influenza A viruses, including the H5N1 avian virus, the 1918 pandemic influenza virus and seasonal H1N1 flu viruses. These human monoclonal antibodies, identical infection-fighting proteins derived from the same cell lineage, also were found to protect mice from illness caused by H5N1 and other influenza A viruses. Because large quantities of monoclonal antibodies can be made relatively quickly, after more testing, these influenza-specific monoclonal antibodies potentially could be used in combination with antiviral drugs to prevent or treat the flu during an influenza outbreak or pandemic. A report describing the research, supported by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) of the National Institutes of Health as well as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, appears online in “Nature Structural & Molecular Biology.”

http://www3.niaid.nih.gov/news/newsreleases/2009/flu_mab.htm

WHO to Give Poor Countries Flu Vaccine Technology

The World Health Organization said in late February that a deal with U.S. drug maker Schering-Plough Corp. will allow it to provide poor countries with improved vaccine-making technology to prepare for a possible flu pandemic.

WHO will license the technology free of charge to vaccine manufacturers in developing countries who take part in a U.N. action plan to stop a global outbreak of the deadly H5N1 flu strain. Schering-Plough, based in Kenilworth, New Jersey, said in a statement that the new technology allows vaccines to be delivered more efficiently using a single-dose intranasal spray. A recent study released by the pharmaceutical industry group IFPMA found that if an H5N1 pandemic outbreak occurred today, manufacturers would likely need four years to meet global demand for a vaccine. Vaccine makers have increased their capacity threefold in the last two years thanks to improved production yields and new dose-saving technologies, the study found. Even in a “best case scenario” where vaccines are produced in the most efficient possible way, it would currently take one-and-a-half years to meet global demand.

http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20090224/ap_on_he_me/un_un_bird_flu_schering

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

EMI Offers New Online Independent Study Course

As part of the National Response Framework, support annexes describe how government agencies, the private sector and volunteer organizations coordinate and process administrative tasks required during an event. In this one-hour course, “IS-821 Critical Infrastructure and Key Resources Support Annex,” students will learn:

- The relationship between the NRF and critical infrastructure and key resources preparedness, protection, response and recovery
- How the Infrastructure Liaison can coordinate CIKR tasks at all levels
- The NRF processes designed to ensure that CIKR considerations are a part of incident response efforts

The course and prerequisites are available at <http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/IS821.asp>

The Third National Emergency Management Summit

March 4-6, 2009; Renaissance Washington, D.C. Hotel

With an all star line-up of government agency leaders, leading researchers, clinicians and disaster planning and response professionals, the National Emergency Management Summit is a must for health care organizations. The Summit features a pre-conference on disaster drills; mini-summits on pandemics, hospital surge and evacuations; and 24 practical, concurrent sessions.

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

Natl. Emergency Management Assn. Midyear Conference

March 6-11; Alexandria, Va.

Conferees will hear from those who are shaping the future of homeland security and emergency management, strengthen relationships with partner organizations, and share NEMA’s views on all-hazards emergency preparedness with leaders in Washington.

<http://www.nemaweb.org/?2781>

GovSec and U.S. Law

March 11-12; Washington, D.C.

Civilian and military security professionals from the federal government, along with law enforcement and first responders from the federal, state, and local levels, will gain insight into the latest tools and tactics for ensuring the safety and security of our nation and its people. GovSec and U.S. Law provide a comprehensive approach to securing our country; preparing for and responding to all hazards, threats and disasters; and ensuring public safety.

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

Homeland Defense and Security Education Summit

March 12-13; Washington, D.C.

The theme for this year's summit is "Creating the Professional Homeland Defender." The summit is hosted by the Naval Postgraduate School Center for Homeland Defense and Security, the Homeland Security and Defense Education Consortium Association, the DHS Office of the Chief Learning Officer, and the Homeland Security Policy Institute at George Washington University. The focus this year is shifting toward academic content, with discussion of the most pertinent issues that homeland defense and security professionals need to be knowledgeable of, how academic practitioners have developed courses to convey this knowledge, and current and relevant research. Educators and trainers will exchange and compare best practices, improve leadership and workforce development, and network with colleagues from more than 150 learning institutions nationwide.

http://www.chds.us/?summit:special/info&pgm=UAPI_Mar09



EMS Today Conference

March 24-28; Baltimore, Md.

This event showcases an overview of the emergency medical services industry: people, products, and ideas, along with cutting-edge topics, practices, and procedures and a chance to evaluate current equipment and discover the many new products being launched.

<http://www.emstodayconference.com/App/homepage.cfm?moduleid=2115&appname=100426>

The American Water Works Association Water Security Congress

April 8-10, 2009; Washington, D.C.

With the rise in emergency planning issues, security has inarguably become an important facet of daily operations and a priority for today's water professionals. AWWA's Water Security Congress consistently attracts water industry professionals who are looking for the most current



information on water security and how to address new and emerging challenges faced by the industry.

<http://www.awwa.org/Conferences/Content.cfm?ItemNumber=753&navItemNumber=3543>

Virginia Security Summit

April 27, 2009; Marriott, Richmond, Va.

This event is for and about local government. The purpose of the event is to foster discussion and dialogue on the use of information technology as a strategic tool for managers, executives and policy makers. If you are interested in attending the Virginia Cyber Security Summit 2009, contact Anthony Yanez, registration coordinator, 800-917-7732 ext. 1348.

<http://www.govtech.com/events/vatech2009>

National Radiological Emergency Preparedness Conference

April 20-23, 2009; Norfolk, Va.

The mission of the National Radiological Emergency Preparedness Conference is to provide a professional forum for individuals involved with the Radiological Emergency Preparedness programs to gather in the spirit of continuous self improvement to share program experiences, develop solutions to common challenges, and create innovative planning, exercising and training methodologies.

<http://www.nationalrep.org/>

Save the date! 2009 National Community Preparedness Conference

August 9-12, 2009; Arlington, Va.

The 2009 National Conference on Community Preparedness: “The Power of Citizen Corps,” is being hosted jointly by FEMA’s Community Preparedness Division and the International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM) on. The conference is open to all who are interested in making their communities safer, stronger, and better prepared for all types of hazards.

<http://www.citizencorps.gov/>

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/xinfoshare/programs/editorial_0542.shtm.

Fairfax County Government Emergency Information Web Page

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

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency/

Fairfax County Government Emergency Information Line

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/opa/infoline.htm

Emergency Management Magazine

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

FAIRFAX COUNTY 703-817-7771
EMERGENCY
INFORMATION LINE

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

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

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

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

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