



ESF 15 Business / Nonprofit Update

Produced by Emergency Support Function 15 – External Affairs

February 2011

ITEMS OF INTEREST FOR ESF 15

Northern Virginia Hazard Mitigation Plan

The 2011 Northern Virginia Hazard Mitigation Plan Update is available online for public review and comment. The plan incorporates mitigation projects for Fairfax County and the towns of Vienna, Clifton and Herndon. Please e-mail any comments to oem@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Plan: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/oem/nova-draft-hazard-mitigation-plan.pdf>

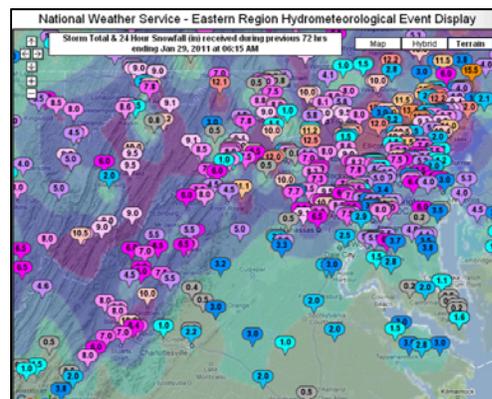
<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/oem/>

Everyone Should Practice Tornado Safety on March 15

Tornadoes in Virginia have hit in every month of the year and in every part of the state. Everyone needs to know what to do if a tornado warning is issued for their area. Every Fairfax County resident can practice taking cover from tornadoes by participating in the annual Statewide Tornado Drill, set for **Tuesday, March 15, at 9:45 a.m.** Every home, business, school, organization, government office and organization can hold a tornado drill. If you can't participate at that time, then choose another time or date that works better for you – the most important thing is to have a drill so that you can practice tornado safety. To start the drill, the National Weather Service will send a test tornado warning at 9:45 a.m. March 15 that will trigger a tone alert and message on NOAA Weather Radio, simulating what listeners will hear during an actual tornado warning. This will prompt radio and television stations to broadcast a test message. During the drill, you should go immediately to the lowest level of your home, office or school building and move to a windowless interior hallway, room or closet. Then take a “drop, cover and hold” position – this means crouch as low as possible to the floor, facing down and covering your head with your hands. If an actual tornado were heading your way, a NOAA Weather Radio with SAME alerts is the fastest way to get warnings. SAME stands for Specific Area Message Encoding, a feature that allows you to program your radio to hear alerts for your area. NOAA Weather Radios are available at electronics and sporting goods stores, discount and department stores, and online. Some have strobe lights for those who are hearing impaired. They come in battery-powered models, and many also have AM/FM bands, making them an excellent addition to your home and office emergency supplies. Tornadoes are common in Virginia. During the past three years, 62 struck the Commonwealth, injuring more than 220 people and causing nearly \$48 million damage to homes, businesses and other property. The Statewide Tornado Drill is a joint effort of the Virginia Department of Emergency Management and the National Weather Service. To learn more about conducting a tornado drill, and to register your participation in the statewide drill, go to www.vaemergency.com.

MWCOG Discusses Ways to Avoid Disaster Commute

The Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments held a special meeting on Feb. 9 to look at what they can do to make sure another disastrous commute does not occur in the future when the region sees only a few inches of snow. The National Capital Region Emergency Preparedness Council took charge of the meeting and opened it up to comments from a wide variety of area agencies: The U.S. Office of Personnel Management, Montgomery County council, D.C. City Council, Department of Homeland Security, local emergency management departments, local transportation agencies, Metro and more. Michael Cline, with the Virginia Department of Emergency Management is a big proponent of sheltering in place. He says employers have to create an atmosphere where it's easy for workers to stay at work overnight. Cline says agencies need better coordination with the private sector as well as the federal government.



<http://wtop.com/?nid=25&sid=2265894>

Wednesday, Jan. 26, snowfall totals image courtesy of the National Weather Service, Sterling, Va. Office.

http://www.erh.noaa.gov/lwx/events/snow_20110126/

Campus Safety and Violence Prevention PSA Challenge

Virginia Governor Bob McDonnell recently launched the “College Campus Safety and Violence Prevention Public Service Announcement Challenge” during a press conference at Virginia Commonwealth University. The Governor is challenging college students all across the Commonwealth to utilize their artistic talents and collaborate with their peers to create their own PSA addressing these major issues affecting our college communities. The PSA challenge is open to students enrolled at any Virginia public, private, four-year or two-year college or university. The winning video will air on television statewide. Video entries for the College Campus Safety and Violence Prevention Public Service Announcement Challenge must be postmarked or submitted online by April 30, 2011. Videos must be 30 seconds or less in length. Students may form teams of up to six people to work on the videos and there is no limit to the number of people who participate in the video. The public will select the winners through online voting. The Governor’s Office of Substance Abuse Prevention will narrow entries to a select group which will be posted online for voting. For more information about the College Campus Safety and Violence Prevention Public Service Announcement Challenge, visit www.gosap.virginia.gov.

<http://www.governor.virginia.gov/news/viewRelease.cfm?id=581>

The National Advisory Council

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is requesting individuals who are interested in serving on the National Advisory Council (NAC) to apply for appointment. Applications for membership should reach FEMA at the address below before 5 p.m. EST, on Friday, March 4. Applications for membership should be submitted by e-mail to <mailto:FEMA-NAC@dhs.gov>; fax to 202-646-3930 or mail to the National Advisory Council Office, Federal Emergency Management Agency (Room 832), 500 C Street, SW., Washington, D.C. 20472-3100. The National Advisory Council (NAC) advises the administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) on all aspects of emergency management. The National Advisory Council incorporates state, local and tribal government and private sector input in the development and revision of the national preparedness goal, the national preparedness system, the National Incident Management System, the National Response Plan and other related plans and strategies.

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

http://www.fema.gov/txt/about/nac/nac_frn_membership_2011_published.txt

Spring Fire Season

Virginia’s spring fire season is just around the corner. The Department of Forestry says that starting on Feb. 15 outdoor burning of brush is prohibited before 4 p.m. The ban remains in effect until April 30. Department spokesman John Miller says dry conditions in late winter provide fuel for brush and forest fires. In addition to a ban on when you can start a fire, Virginia law also prohibits burns within 300 feet of woodlands, fields or any other possible fuel source. Last year, there were 897 fires across Virginia that burned nearly 8,500 acres.

<http://www.dof.virginia.gov/info/faqs-burning.shtml>

Resilience = Risk awareness + Personal responsibility + Relationships

By Philip J. Palin (Homeland Security Watch blog (Feb. 4)

Last week several of us agreed, disagreed, discussed and attempted to discern the meaning involved in a collision between tens-of-thousands of National Capital Region commuters with five inches of snow. This week it was the turn of commuters from Oklahoma City to Boston with a foot or more of snow.

“We know that hundreds of people were very inconvenienced, and we apologize for that,” Mayor Daley’s Chief of Staff Ray Orozco said. “While we wanted to get to these people as quickly as possible, we wanted to get to them as safely as possible,” Orozco said. Some motorists criticized the hours of delay, as they coped without food or water in their cars.

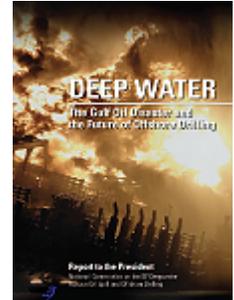
To which I feel compelled to respond, might others than the government have done a little planning or a little thinking before the blizzard arrived? Even if the risk is communicated — clearly and in advance — some significant

number will not plan or think about the risk until too late. It is the grasshopper and the ants all over again. Because I am in relationship with the grasshopper — and enjoy his music — I want to help as much as possible. But when the grasshopper's own choice (or non-choice) puts him at risk, could we at least stop criticizing the ant for not getting there more quickly?

<http://www.hlswatch.com/2011/02/04/resilience-risk-awareness-personal-responsibility-relationships/>

Deep Water: The Gulf Oil Disaster and the Future of Offshore Drilling

On April 20, 2010, the Macondo well blew out, costing the lives of 11 men and beginning a catastrophe that sank the Deepwater Horizon drilling rig and spilled nearly 5 million barrels of crude oil into the Gulf of Mexico. The spill disrupted an entire region's economy, damaged fisheries and critical habitats, and brought vividly to light the risks of deepwater drilling for oil and gas – the latest frontier in the national energy supply. Soon after, President Barack Obama appointed a seven-member Commission to investigate the disaster, analyze its causes and effects and recommend the actions necessary to minimize such risks in the future. The Presidential Commission's report offers the American public and policymakers alike the fullest account available of what happened in the Gulf and why, and proposes actions – changes in company behavior, reform of Government oversight, and investments in research and technology – required as industry moves forward to meet the nation's energy needs. The report is available as a hard copy book from the U.S. Government Bookstore at <http://bookstore.gpo.gov/collections/bp-oilspill.jsp>. It is also available as an e-book: http://books.google.com/ebooks?id=zDhMtUKWAPsC&dq=deep%2Bwater&as_brr=5



Influenza Intensity Is High – If you Missed Your Flu Shot, Get it Now!

Cases of influenza have significantly increased in Virginia. In the past few weeks the intensity of influenza activity has risen from low to high. This means that more people are seeing their doctors for symptoms of influenza now than at any other time during this flu season, and people are at greater risk for catching the flu right now. Not only are reported cases rising, but the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) has confirmed two pediatric flu-associated deaths in Virginia. Two to three pediatric flu-associated deaths are usually reported each year in Virginia. Nationally, 19 flu-related pediatric deaths have been reported this season to the Centers for Disease Control and Surveillance as of Jan. 29. The most important thing to remember is that it's not too late to protect yourself from influenza. Vaccinations are still available across the state and are the best protection against getting the flu. Virginia's flu season typically begins in December and runs through March, hitting its peak in February, so if you've been putting it off, it is time to get the flu shot. To locate a pharmacy, physician or local health department clinic offering seasonal flu vaccine, log on to www.vdh.virginia.gov or contact the Fairfax County Health Department at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/hd. <http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/news/PressReleases/2011/020911FluIntensity.htm>

NTSB Moves into Social Media

The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) has established a Twitter account (www.twitter.com/ntsb) and a YouTube channel (<http://www.youtube.com/ntsbgov>) as the Safety Board broadens its communication efforts by moving into social media. NTSB will use Twitter to communicate with those interested in its investigative work and advocacy programs to enhance transportation safety. The YouTube channel will be a one-stop resource where the Safety Board's advocacy video messages, transportation accident animations and other video products can be accessed.

http://www.nts.gov/Pressrel/2011/110210_2.html

Emergency Management Awards

The Virginia Emergency Management Association is accepting applications for a number of awards to be presented during the Virginia Emergency Management Symposium, March 30-April 1. Awards include:

- Warren E. Trent Individual Achievement Award Roanoke City, Va. (Emergency Management Professional of the Year).
- Outstanding New Emergency Management Professional.
- Legislative Achievement Award.
- Volunteer Award.

- Corporate Award.
- Media Award.
- Innovation Award for Technology.
- Clarence P. "Pete" Rea, Jr. Group Achievement Award Danville, Va.
- Presidents Award.

The deadline for nominations is March 8. Award descriptions and the nomination form are available at <http://www.vemaweb.org/content/awards/>.

National Vaccine Plan

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services today unveiled a new National Vaccine Plan to enhance coordination of all aspects of federal vaccine and immunization activities. Its goal is to ensure that all Americans can access the preventive benefits of vaccines. The plan is a wide-ranging guide to innovating the nation's vaccine system. It addresses such issues as research and development, supply, financing, distribution, safety, global cooperation, and informed decision-making among consumers and health care providers. This is the first update of the National Vaccine Plan since the original version in 1994. For more about the new National Vaccine Plan, go to http://www.hhs.gov/nvpo/vacc_plan/.

Sterling Reporter

The Winter 2011 edition of the "Sterling Reporter," issued quarterly by the National Weather Service Baltimore MD/Washington D.C. Forecast Office, features the following information: MIC's Corner; Have You Heard About the CWSU; Eastern Region Employee of the Month; New Hydrologist Selected; Jan. 26, 2011 Winter Storm; Wintry Mix on January 17-18, 2011; Cooperative Observer Receives Length of Service Award; Marine Users Committee; City of Manassas Becomes StormReady; Winter Media Workshop; Forecaster Visits Dale City Elementary School; 2010 Winter Weather Workshop; SkyWarn Reporting Procedures; and Upcoming SkyWarn Classes. "Sterling Reporter Winter 2011" – http://www.erh.noaa.gov/er/lwx/reporter/winter_2011.pdf

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. 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: 



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

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/files/programs/Copy_of_press_release_0046.shtm

<http://vaemergency.com/>

Put a Freeze on Winter Fires

The nonprofit National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) and the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) are teaming up to reduce the risk of home heating fires this December, January and February, when half of all home fires occur in the United States. As part of a joint fire safety campaign, “Put a Freeze on Winter Fires,” Fairfax County residents and businesses are reminded that many of these winter fires can be prevented. You can prevent the loss of life and property resulting from heating fires by being able to identify potential hazards and following these safety tips:

- Keep fireplaces and wood stoves clean.
 - Have your chimney or wood stove inspected and cleaned annually by a certified chimney specialist.
- Clear the area around the hearth of debris, decorations and flammable materials.
- Always use a metal mesh screen with fireplaces that do not have a glass fireplace door.
- Install stovepipe thermometers to help monitor flue temperatures.
- Keep air inlets on wood stoves open, and never restrict air supply to fireplaces. Otherwise you may cause creosote buildup that could lead to a chimney fire.
- Use fire-resistant materials on walls around wood stoves.
- Build small fires that burn completely and produce less smoke.
- Never use flammable liquids to start a fire.
- Never burn cardboard boxes, trash or debris in your fireplace or wood stove.
- Never leave a fire in the fireplace unattended. Extinguish the fire before going to bed or leaving the house.
- Soak hot ashes in water and place them in a covered metal container outside your home.

Winter fires are preventable! For more on the NFPA and USFA’s “Put a Freeze on Winter” campaign, visit www.nfpa.org/winter.

BY THE NUMBERS:

WINTER RESIDENTIAL BUILDING FIRES

Winter residential building fires result in an estimated average of **945 deaths, 3,825 injuries, and \$1,708,000,000** in property loss each year.

Fires in one- and two-family dwellings account for **67 percent** of all winter residential building fires.

Cooking is the leading cause of all winter residential building fires.

Winter residential building fires occur mainly in the **early evening hours, peaking from 5 to 8 p.m.**

Although at its highest in December, residential building fire incidence is collectively highest in the 3 winter months of **January, February, and March.**

Source: [Winter Residential Building Fires](#) (PDF, 1.0 Mb)

Know Your 4Ws

When it comes to weather, the National Weather Service is the official source of severe watches and warnings. But what do all the watches and warnings mean? Here’s a quick rundown:

- Winter Weather Advisory means cold, ice and snow are expected.
- Winter Storm Watch means severe weather such as heavy snow or ice is possible in the next day or two.
- Winter Storm Warning means severe winter conditions have begun or will begin very soon.
- Blizzard Warning is issued for winter storms when the following conditions are expected to last for at least three hours: winds of at least 35 miles per hour with considerable snowfall that reduces visibility to ¼ of a mile or less.

And always remember to follow the instructions of state and local officials, and listen to local radio, your NOAA Weather Radio (<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/nwr/nwrrcvr.htm>), or TV stations for updated emergency information. <http://blog.fema.gov/2011/02/know-your-4ws-winter-weather-watches.html>

Community Level Critical Power Failure Tabletop Exercise is Now Available

Earlier this month, FEMA’s Private Sector Division posted a new community level Tabletop Exercise, the third in its series of free tools for continuity planning, preparedness and resiliency. The first two exercises offered tips on

employee preparedness and emergency planning at the organizational level. This new one builds on that design, and has a broader community-wide scope that you can use in coordination with your local emergency management partners. As an added bonus, this new Community level exercise includes Twitter feeds and text alerts, in addition to the Virtual News Network (VNN) videos. It has the same great simple to use and scalable format. It also incorporates real-world examples. The new exercise is available at <http://www.fema.gov/privatesector/exercises.shtm>.

The 9/10/11 Project

Imagine it is Sept. 10, 2011 – a full decade since the devastating terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. Is our nation equipped for whatever catastrophe may happen tomorrow? How have our prevention, preparedness, response and resiliency structures changed, matured and become operational? The Homeland Security & Defense Business Council's 9/10/11 Project looks at how far the country has come since the day before 9/11/2001. Through fresh interviews with industry leaders the Council is seeking to vividly illustrate the strides our government at all levels, working with the private sector, has made to secure the country and to stay at least one step ahead of events and disasters that could destroy our way of life. On the 10th of each month through September, the Council will provide a historical context for how far we have come and where we are now, as well as an assessment of the future of the most pressing homeland security issues. Each monograph will include a running timeline illustrating the events, incidents and critical government responses pertinent to that month's topic. <http://www.homelandcouncil.org/91011-project.html>



MEDIA ARTICLES OF INTEREST

Homeland Security Faces Hurdles in Replacing Terror Alerts

National security experts applauded the decision to end the color-coded threat advisory system, but said the Department of Homeland Security needs to ramp up information-sharing and messaging efforts if a new system is going to succeed. As DHS pushes ahead with its new two-tiered message-driven advisory system over the next three months, experts say it will be a challenge for the department to strike a balance between disseminating the right amount of information to thwart an attack and giving out too much information that could jeopardize the security of the country's intelligence.

<http://thehill.com/homenews/administration/141117-security-experts-homeland-security-faces-challenges-in-replacing-terror-alerts>

2010 Disasters: Deadliest in Decades

There were 373 natural disasters that killed over 296,800 people in 2010, and affected nearly 208 million others, making 2010 the deadliest year in at least two decades, according to a new report from the Center for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters based in Brussels, Belgium. The report, "2010 Disasters in Numbers," estimated that the total global cost of disasters at nearly \$110 billion (U.S). The top two most lethal disasters of the year, the Jan. 12 earthquake in Haiti and the Russian the Russian heat wave in summer accounted for over 275,000 deaths. As bad as 2010 figures are, the costs of future disasters could be worse, the report cautioned, unless the challenges of unplanned urbanization and environmental degradation are addressed.

<http://www.hstoday.us/single-article/2010-disasters-deadliest-in-decades/fb168a0fad9cc02aa717ab66751ecf3.html>

Report:

http://www.unisdr.org/preventionweb/files/17613_rectoversodisasters2010.pdf



FEMA Invites Private-Sector Execs to Work at Its Headquarters

The Federal Emergency Management Agency has begun inviting private-sector executives to work at its headquarters for the first time, part of the agency's renewed outreach to corporate America and a tacit acknowledgment that government cannot handle disasters alone, reports the Post. Under the program, a key initiative of FEMA administrator Craig Fugate, corporate executives in industries ranging from retail to energy spend three months at the agency's response coordination center and serve as a liaison to the business world, particularly during a disaster. The executives also get a seat at the table for key meetings to provide a private-sector perspective.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2011/02/16/AR2011021603156.html>

iWatch Army

iWATCH ARMY is a modern version of neighborhood watch focused on the threat of terrorist activity. iWATCH ARMY is designed to heighten public awareness to the indicators of terrorist activity and encourage reporting of suspicious behavior or activity to Military Police or local law enforcement agencies for investigation. The Headquarters Department of the Army, Office of the Provost Marshal General (OPMG,) is leading this effort. OPMG's Antiterrorism Branch has developed the iWATCH ARMY initiative and media awareness products (including posters, brochures, websites and public service announcements) to educate the Army community.

<http://www.monroe.army.mil/monroe/sites/iwatch/iwatch.aspx>



A Legal Manual for an Apocalyptic New York

Major disasters like terrorist attacks and mass epidemics raise confounding issues for rescuers, doctors and government officials. They also pose bewildering legal questions, including some that may be painful to consider, like how the courts would decide who gets life-saving medicine if there are more victims than supplies. But courts, like fire departments and homicide detectives, exist in part for gruesome what-ifs. So this month, an official state legal manual was published in New York to serve as a guide for judges and lawyers who could face grim questions in another terrorist attack, a major radiological or chemical contamination or a widespread epidemic. Quarantines. The closing of businesses. Mass evacuations. Warrantless searches of homes. The slaughter of infected animals and the seizing of property. When laws can be suspended and whether infectious people can be isolated against their will or subjected to mandatory treatment. It is all there, in dry legalese, in the manual, published by the state court system and the state bar association.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/02/15/nyregion/15doomsday.html>

Motorola, Verizon Establish Public-Safety LTE Alliance

Motorola Solutions and Verizon Wireless have announced an alliance to provide a solution that is designed to ease public-safety agencies' transition to their own private LTE broadband networks operating in the 700 MHz band. While Motorola is working with more than 200 public-safety entities to deploy LTE networks, funding issues have caused many agencies to delay construction entirely or drastically reduce the scale of their initial broadband wireless buildouts. Through the new alliance, Motorola plans to provide public-safety customers with an opportunity to leverage LTE applications across Verizon's commercial network as a coordinated supplement to a private LTE network and/or a roaming partner when the private network is not available. To roam between private public-safety networks and Verizon's LTE systems, Motorola devices will have the capability of operating on public safety's Band 14 spectrum, as well as Verizon's Band 13 frequencies in the 700 MHz band. In addition, the devices will be able to access Verizon's 2G/3G networks and will include Wi-Fi connectivity.

<http://urgentcomm.com/news/motorola-verizon-lte-alliance-20110223/>

FLU

Fairfax County Pandemic Flu Preparedness

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

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

Study on How Flu is Spread

Catching the flu can be as simple as taking a breath. A Virginia Tech researcher published her results earlier this month about how we get the flu. Linsey Marr typically studies air pollution at Virginia Tech, but her most recent research study presented itself after her son starting getting sick more often in daycare. The associate professor of Civil & Environmental Engineering started reading up on influenza and realized it wasn't known for sure if the flu is transmitted by contact or just by breathing the same air where an infected person has coughed or sneezed. So, she got her team together last flu season.

<http://www.wdbj7.com/news/wdbj7-virginia-tech-flu-study-20110202,0,4591016.story>

8,500 Chickens Infected with H5N1 Virus in Bangladesh

Some 8,500 chickens of two poultry farms in Narayanganj have been found infected with H5N1 virus, commonly known as bird flu virus. According to reports, around 200 chickens of the two farms in Batenpara area of Siddhirganj under Sadar Upazila died on Monday morning, Feb. 7. The infection was confirmed when the officials of the Upazila livestock department, sent a sample of the tissue to the Central Diseases Investigation Laboratory (CDIL) in Dhaka for analysis. District livestock department official A K M Ariful Islam told bdnews24.com that some chickens of the twin farms had died over the last few days. The owners of the farms, Abdul Hai and Younus Mia, had brought it to the notice of the local livestock department. The livestock officials visited the farms on Monday and sent the sample of the tissue to CDIL to establish whether it was H5N1 virus infection.

<http://bdnews24.com/details.php?id=186727&cid=4>

Migratory Birds Trigger AI Outbreak in Korea

Migratory wild birds are mainly responsible for the severest outbreak of avian influenza (AI) to hit South Korea, the government said earlier this month. Seoul confirmed its first outbreaks of the virulent H5N1 strain on Dec. 31, after some poultry farms reported sudden deaths of animals earlier in the month. It has since ordered the culling of more than 5.41 million birds to stop the spread of the highly contagious disease. An analysis of the 40 confirmed cases of bird flu in the country showed contact with wild birds was the primary cause of local AI cases, said Joo Yi-seok, head of the animal disease control bureau at the National Veterinary Research and Quarantine Service.

<http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/business/2011/02/07/11/0501000000AEN20110207004700320F.HTML>

Hong Kong Combats More Severe Flu Season with New Antibodies

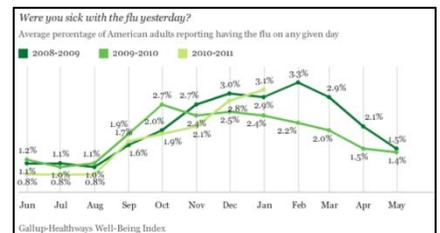
Doctors hope to treat this year's severe flu epidemic in Hong Kong by harvesting antibodies from patients who have recovered, medical experts said earlier this month. The experts said they hoped to treat more than 70 severely ill flu patients with certain antibodies taken from patients who have recovered earlier from the H1N1 swine flu virus, now the most prevalent seasonal flu strain in Hong Kong. Kelvin To, clinical assistant professor at the University of Hong Kong's microbiology department, told reporters that this winter had proved colder, dryer and longer than previous years and "that increases the survival of this virus and its transmission."

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/02/08/us-flu-hongkong-idUSTRE71738220110208>

In U.S., Flu, Colds Hit Hard in January

After a slow start to the season, Americans' self-reports of colds and the flu are on the rise, tracking higher now compared with the last two years, according to the Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index. In January, 3.1 percent of Americans reported having the flu the day before the survey, compared with 2.4 percent last season and 2.9 percent in 2008-2009.

<http://www.gallup.com/poll/146015/Flu-Colds-Hit-Hard-January.aspx>



Don't Pitch Stockpiled Avian Flu Vaccine

A stockpiled vaccine designed to fight a strain of avian flu that circulated in 2004 can be combined with a vaccine that matches the current strain of bird flu to protect against a potential pandemic, researchers from Saint Louis University's Center for Vaccine Development have found. The findings suggest public health officials can get a jump on fighting a pandemic caused by avian flu virus because they won't have to wait for a vaccine that exactly matches the current strain of bird flu to be manufactured. They can begin immunizing against the bird flu by giving an injection of a vaccine made from a related, yet mismatched strain of flu to prime the body for a second shot of a vaccine that matches the current strain.

<http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/216107.php>

CDC: Flu Visits, Deaths Trending Above Seasonal Average

The nation's flu activity increased again for the fourth week in a row with both doctor visits for flu and influenza-related deaths trending above seasonal norms, the Centers for Disease Control reported earlier this month. Although the CDC said overall rates of deaths from flu and pneumonia dropped slightly, from 8.5 percent to 8 percent, the percentage was still above the level expected for this time of year. The CDC also reported that for the first time the number of specimens testing positive for the 2009 H1N1 virus topped the H3N2 strain, which for the past several weeks had dominated. Although influenza activity can rise and fall during an influenza season, activity in the United States generally peaks in January or later in most years.

<http://www.hstoday.us/industry-news/general/single-article/cdc-flu-visits-deaths-trending-above-seasonal-average/be2024763cf06b43d0729e99f51f64d5.html>

TRAININGS / EXERCISES / CONFERENCES

National Capital Region Homeland Security Events

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

Virginia Emergency Management Courses

<http://www.vaemergency.com>

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

EMS Today

March 1-5; Baltimore, Md.

Emergency Medical Services Today offers clinical topics, presented by leaders in the field; hundreds of the newest products and technologies in the exhibit hall; and networking events to connect thousands of emergency medical services professionals.

<http://www.emstoday.com/en/home/?campaignid=61594943&iusercampaignid=64386314>



Mitigating Disaster Through Design & Construction

March 2-3; Washington, D.C.

This conference will explore issues that are critical to advancing the dialogue regarding disaster mitigation: how the public and private sectors can improve planning to create resilient urban and rural communities to withstand natural hazards; creating common risk-assessment methodologies, inspection mechanisms, and training programs; managing society's evolving expectations; incentive and disincentive programs that plan for mitigation and resilience;

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.

determining funding priorities; and how social media have helped raise awareness.

<http://construction.com/events/2011/mitigatingdisaster/>

2011 National Severe Weather Workshop

March 3-5; Norman, Okla.

The 2011 National Severe Weather Workshop will be held in Norman, Okla. from March 3-5. This is a unique and growing workshop focused on hazardous weather information-sharing, and discussions on the effective transmission of messages about meteorological risk. Emergency managers, weather enthusiasts, teachers, students, meteorologists, broadcasters and vendors in threat alerting, sheltering and communications will gather, present and discuss inter-related topics about weather hazards. Visit NOAA's National Weather Service website at

<http://www.norman.noaa.gov/nsww/> for more information.

Emergency Management Symposium

March 9; Seton Hall University, South Orange, NJ

The Emergency Management Symposium for Colleges and Universities will promote the development of all hazards emergency management programs for institutions of higher education to help them mitigate, prepare for, respond to, and recover from the impact of critical incidents or disasters.

<http://www.shu.edu/news/article/329195>

Homeland Defense and Security Education Summit

March 10-11; Hyattsville, Md.

The summit will address whether the homeland security and defense education community is meeting the needs of practitioners and policymakers. Does the scholarly work – in terms of research, critical thinking, education programs, and strategic advising – adequately respond to multifaceted requirements of homeland security and defense professionals? The summit will discuss the most pertinent issues, address the return on investment in homeland security and defense education, and identify current and relevant applied research areas.

<http://www.chds.us/?special/info&pgm=2011Summit>

International Family Assistance Conference

March 28-29; Washington, D.C.

Coinciding with the 15th anniversary of the Aviation Disaster Family Assistance Act and the 10th anniversary of ICAO Circular 285, the National Transportation Safety Board will host the International Family Assistance Conference, March 28-29, at the NTSB Conference Center in Washington, D.C. The first day will include four panel discussions featuring family members, transportation industry representatives, vendors, non-governmental organizations, transportation accident investigative agencies, and the media examining transportation family assistance from their perspectives. The day's events will be webcast, and links to the webcast will be provided on this page. The second day, a didactic training provided by the NTSB Transportation Disaster Assistance staff, will provide an overview of the NTSB model for family assistance operations.

<http://www.nts.gov/Events/ifac/index.html>



Homeland Security Finance Forum

March 29; Washington, D.C.

This forum is an opportunity for dynamic, high-growth companies in the homeland security market seeking capital or contemplating an acquisition, a recapitalization, or another form of transaction to present their business to qualified institutional investors and advisers active in the sector. Qualified investors include venture capital funds, private equity funds, hedge funds, institutional asset managers, family offices, and investment banks.

<http://www.globalsecuritypipeline.com/Login.aspx#hsff>

Government Security Expo and Conference

March 29-31; Washington, D.C.

This conference offers training and skills to meet the challenges facing safety, security, and law enforcement professionals. Experts will discuss solutions to pressing issues in physical and cybersecurity, critical infrastructure protection, advanced persistent threats, attacks and emergencies, and law enforcement.



<http://govsecinfo.com/Events/GovSec-2011/Home.aspx>

Virginia Emergency Management Symposium

March 30-April 1; Hilton Richmond Hotel & Spa, Short Pump (Richmond), Va.

Sponsored by the Virginia Emergency Management Association and the Virginia Department of Emergency Management, the 2011 Virginia Emergency Management Symposium is designed for anyone whose professional commitment causes them to seek a greater understanding of emergencies, both natural and man-made. The event, "Managing the Emergency-All in a Day's Work," will be held March 30-April 1 in Richmond. E. Pat Santos, deputy director of emergency preparedness for the Louisiana Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness, will serve as keynote speaker. He will speak about his experiences in Louisiana during Hurricane Katrina and the BP oil spill. In 2004, Santos accepted a position as the Joint Director of Military Support, coordinating military support efforts during hurricanes Katrina and Rita before moving on to assistant deputy director of Emergency Management within the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness, where he has primary oversight of all the state's emergency management functions.

<http://www.vemaweb.org/content/symposium2011/>

DHS Science Conference

March 30-April 1; Washington, D.C. Renaissance Hotel

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Science and Technology Directorate, Office of University Programs, is sponsoring the DHS Science Conference - Fifth Annual DHS University Summit. The Summit is an excellent opportunity to learn about cutting-edge homeland security science and technology research related to transportation systems and will focus on the role of transportation systems in preventing, mitigating, responding to, and recovering from natural or man-made disasters.

<http://www.orau.gov/dhssummit/>

Impact 2011

April 4-6; Westfields Marriott Hotel, Chantilly, Va.

The National Security Institute's 26th Annual IMPACT Security Conference, "Protecting Secrets: Confronting a New World of Risk," an essential for government and contractor security directors and managers responsible for protecting classified and sensitive information assets from a growing array of threats posed by espionage, terrorism, computer crime and information warfare.

<http://www.nsi.org/impact-2010.html>

National Training and Exercise Conference

April 12-14; Emmitsburg, Md.

This conference will review current and proposed training and exercise programs within the Federal Emergency Management Agency that apply to its state and tribal partners, providing examples of best practices.

<http://training.fema.gov/>

The Women in Public Safety Communications Leadership Conference

April 13-14; Orlando, Fla.

Delve into the daily demands and long-term career issues confronting women in leadership positions in the public safety communications industry. Take control of your career – discuss concerns, experiences and successful solutions and tactics with women just like you. Following last year's highly praised inaugural event, the 2011 Conference program covers everything from office communication and social media to career development and maintaining a work-life balance while excelling in this demanding field.

<http://wipsc.apointl.org/>

Trade Symposium

April 13-14; Washington, D.C.

The theme for this Customs and Border Protection Trade Symposium is “Working Together to Strengthen Economic Competitiveness.”

http://cbp.gov/xp/cgov/trade/trade_outreach/symp_trade.xml



**STUDENT CAPSTONE
CONFERENCE**

**MODELING,
SIMULATION,
& VISUALIZATION**

Student Capstone Conference

April 14; Suffolk, Va.

The conference provides a forum for students to share their research in modeling, simulation, and gaming. One of the six conference tracks is “Homeland Security/Military.”

<http://www.vmasc.odu.edu/conferences/capstone2011.htm>

National Hurricane Conference

April 18-22; Atlanta, Ga.

This conference aims to improve hurricane preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation in order to save lives and property in the United States and the tropical islands of the Caribbean and Pacific. It is a national forum for federal, state, and local officials to exchange ideas and recommend new policies to improve emergency management. It emphasizes lessons learned from hurricane strikes, state-of-the-art programs, new ideas being tested or considered, new or ongoing assistance programs, and the ABC’s of hurricane preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation.

<http://www.hurricanemeeting.com/index.asp>

MEMA 2011 Conference

May 31-June 3; Clarion Fontainebleau Hotel and Resort, Ocean City, Md.

The Maryland Emergency Management Association and the Maryland Emergency Management Agency present the 25th Anniversary Celebration of the Maryland Emergency Management Association and the 2011 Conference, May 31-June 3. Updates on training topics and registration will be coming to www.mdema.org.

10th Workshop on Economics of Information Security

June 14-15; George Mason University, Arlington, Va.

The Center for Infrastructure Protection and Homeland Security (CIP/HS) at the George Mason School of Law will be hosting The Tenth Workshop on Economics of Information Security, or WEIS 2011. CIP/HS will be co-hosting this event with the Interdisciplinary Center for Economic Science (ICES) at George Mason University. This two-day workshop will take place at George Mason University’s Arlington Campus on Tuesday, June 14, and Wednesday, June 15, 2011.

<http://weis2011.econinfosec.org/index.html>

Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials - International 2011 Conference

August 7-12; Philadelphia, Pa.

“Powerful Connections.” Don’t miss this opportunity to make powerful connections with executives, dispatchers, and technicians involved in all aspects of public safety communications – from law enforcement to PSAPs to government agencies. The APCO Annual Conference is a great place to learn new skills, explore new products and services, and connect with people who will enhance your career.

<http://www.apco2011.org/>

LINKS

Fairfax County Blogs and Web Resources

- 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/>
- 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 submit content comments or make suggestions by contacting the DHS Daily Report Team by telephone at 202-312-3421 or by e-mail at NICCRports@dhs.gov. You can access the Daily OSIR at:

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

Fairfax County Government Emergency Information Web Page

The county's emergency information page 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/>

FAIRFAX COUNTY 703-817-7771
EMERGENCY
INFORMATION LINE

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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 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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