



ESF 15 Business / Nonprofit Update

Produced by Emergency Support Function 15 – External Affairs

February 2013

ITEMS OF INTEREST FOR ESF 15

National Weather Service Review Finds Faults with June Derecho Forecast

An internal review of the National Weather Service's forecasts for the June 29, 2012 derecho finds it was unsuccessful in providing long-lead times for the thunderstorm complex that produced a trail of destruction from Indiana to the Mid-Atlantic coast. The self-assessment praised the short-term issuance of warnings, but stressed they should contain stronger language for conveying the urgency in such violent storm events. The review is very upfront with the fact the storm was "not forecast well in advance." As such, the public and key stakeholders (broadcast media and emergency management) had little time to prepare. The derecho downed untold numbers of trees and left several million customers without power along its path. The review offers two main reasons forecasts fell short. First, despite the explosive environment for thunderstorm development, a trigger for the storm appeared absent. Second, so-called "convection-allowing models" - which specialize in predicting thunderstorm development - were either unavailable at longer lead times or offered mixed signals. One model (known as the HRRR) provided a decent forecast for the derecho, but forecasters had reservations about it due to "past erratic performance," the report says. The report recommends NWS beef up its computing capacities to improve model performance.

Source: Capital Weather Gang – <http://goo.gl/cWrMr>

NWS Report (PDF): <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/os/assessments/pdfs/derecho12.pdf>

Be a Force of Nature During National Severe Weather Preparedness Week

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) have partnered to designate **March 3-9, as National Severe Weather Preparedness Week**, and is calling upon all Americans to *Be a Force of Nature*. Commit to *Being a Force of Nature* by knowing your risks, taking action and being an example in the community by sharing the steps you took to prepare. Because we live in an area prone to tornadoes, flash floods, severe thunderstorms, snow and more, we are reminded that this weather can strike anywhere and at any time. Join today and pledge to prepare for severe weather. Information on the different types of severe weather such as tornadoes, severe thunderstorms and flooding is available at <http://www.weather.gov> and ready.gov/severe-weather or the Spanish-language website www.listo.gov.

<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/com/weatherreadynation/force.html>



Richard R. Bowers Jr. Appointed Fairfax County Fire Chief

The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors this month appointed Richard R. Bowers Jr. as the county's next fire chief. Bowers succeeds Chief Ronald L. Mastin, who plans to retire May 7. Bowers' appointment is effective April 29, allowing overlap time for the transition of leadership. A 35-year veteran of the Montgomery County, Md. Fire and Rescue Service, Bowers has served as MCFRS fire chief since 2008, managing the combined (career and volunteer) service of over 2,100 firefighters/rescuers. While serving as chief, he managed an operating budget of \$204 million and a six-year capital improvement program budget of \$44 million. Bowers began in Montgomery County as a firefighter/EMT, rising through the ranks in numerous positions. He served in every rank in the department up to and including fire chief.

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/news/2013/bowers-appointed-fire-chief.htm>

Executive Order: Critical Infrastructure Security

Earlier this month, the White House released Presidential Policy Directive/PPD-21 on Critical Infrastructure Security

and Resilience and an Executive Order entitled “Improving Critical Infrastructure Cybersecurity.” The administration has been working on these documents and they were released jointly to promote an integrated approach to overall security needs. PPD-21 replaces Homeland Security Presidential Directive/HSPD-7, which served as the policy for critical infrastructure protection and security since 2003. The Fact Sheet for PPD-21 discusses six specific deliverables, including:

- Updating the National Infrastructure Protection Plan (NIPP) within 240 days.
- Developing a situational awareness capability within 240 days.
- Identifying baseline data and systems requirements for the federal government to enable efficient information exchange within 180 days.

The Executive Order’s press release discusses ways to strengthen ties between the federal government and private sector companies, as cybersecurity often falls jointly between the two. One specific need is a better reporting system for classified and non-classified cyber threat information in order to enable “near real time sharing...to assist participating critical infrastructure companies in their cyber protection efforts.”

Source: “The Infogram,” from EMR-ISAC

http://content.govdelivery.com/attachments/USDHSFACIR/2013/02/14/file_attachments/190875/February%2B14%2B52C%2B2013%2BInfoGram.pdf

Resource Links: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2013/02/12/presidential-policy-directive-critical-infrastructure-security-and-resil> and <http://epic.org/privacy/cybersecurity/PPD-21.pdf>

FEMA Seeks Applicants for National Advisory Council

The U.S. 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. The NAC is an advisory committee established to ensure effective and ongoing coordination of federal preparedness, protection, response, recovery, and mitigation for natural disasters, acts of terrorism, and other man-made disasters. The NAC advises the FEMA Administrator on all aspects of emergency management frameworks, strategies, and plans while incorporating the whole communities input through appointed council members. Appointments are for three-year terms to June 15, 2016, unless otherwise noted. The administrator may also appoint additional candidates to serve as a FEMA Administrator selection for three-year terms. Individuals interested in serving on the NAC are invited to apply for appointment by submitting a Resume or Curriculum Vitae (CV) to the Office of the National Advisory Council by fax, email or mail. Letters of recommendation may also be provided, but are not required. Applications and/or nominations must also include the following information: the applicant’s full name, home and business phone numbers, preferred e-mail address, home and business mailing addresses, current position title and organization, and the discipline area of interest (i.e., Emergency Management). Applications will be accepted until Friday, March 8, 5 p.m. EST.

<http://www.fema.gov/news-release/2013/02/19/fema-seeks-applicants-national-advisory-council>



www.CapitalRegionUpdates.gov

Governor McDonnell Introduces School and Campus Safety Legislation

Building on the work of the Governor’s Taskforce on School and Campus Safety, Governor Bob McDonnell introduced eight pieces of legislation designed to make Virginia’s schools and campuses safer. Highlights of the agenda include legislation to develop a critical incident response model curriculum; to require School Boards to establish threat assessments teams and improve communication between school administrators, behavioral health

professionals and law enforcement officials; to establish a fund to assist local school systems with security upgrades; and, to create a new criminal offense for entering a school while armed or in possession of an explosive device with the intent to commit a violent felony. On Monday, Dec. 20, McDonnell issued Executive Order 56 establishing a multidisciplinary taskforce to review school and campus safety in light of the horrific and senseless murders that took place at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut. He has also established a separate mental health workgroup chaired by Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli and Secretary of Health and Human Resources Dr. Bill Hazel. The Taskforce provided preliminary recommendations last week on how to make the schools and campuses in the Commonwealth safer. This legislation complements budget items, including recommendations from the Mental Health and Education Workgroups, to provide additional funding for school safety.

<http://www.governor.virginia.gov/News/viewRelease.cfm?id=1663>



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Arlington County Office of Emergency Management Concludes Local Supply Chain Capacity

The Arlington County Office of Emergency Management this month announced the successful completion of its two-day event, Local Supply Chain Capacity in a Crisis Summit Exercise. The summit addressed a new way of thinking to improve disaster planning: the supply chain. Featuring prominent panelists from public sector, private sector and nonprofits, discussions centered on challenges and solutions related to the development of this new local supply chain approach to disaster-resource planning.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/02/13/arlington-crisis-summ-idUSnPH59856+160+PRN20130213>

Statewide 4 p.m. Burning Law

The Commonwealth's 4 p.m. Burning Law went into effect Feb. 15 – the start of spring fire season in Virginia. This law prohibits burning before 4 p.m. each day (Feb. 15-April 30) if the fire is in, or within 300 feet of, woodland, brushland or fields containing dry grass or other flammable materials. A violation of this law is a Class 3 misdemeanor punishable by up to a \$500 fine. In addition to the criminal violation, those who allow a fire to escape are liable for the cost of suppressing the fire as well as any damage caused to others' property. Burning of leaves, yard waste or trash continues to be the major cause of wildfires in Virginia. These "debris" fires can easily escape unless proper precaution is taken. Take a look at these mini-posters (color; black-and-white) and learn more about how to be safe when burning debris.

<http://www.dof.virginia.gov/>

PLANNING / PREPAREDNESS

Preventing Electrocutions by Undetected Feedback Electrical Energy

During power outages, many people use portable electrical generators. If the portable generator is improperly sized, installed, or operated, it can send power back to the electrical lines. This problem is called backfeed or feedback in the electrical energy in power lines. Backfeed can seriously injure or kill repair workers or people in neighboring buildings. This fact sheet provides workers with information on how to restore power safely to local communities when a portable generator is being used in a home or homes in the area.

<http://emergency.cdc.gov/disasters/poweroutage/workersafety.asp>

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.

Be Prepared for Nighttime Tornadoes

Shrouded in darkness, nighttime tornadoes can be especially deadly during the winter season when people do not expect such severe weather. Given the dangers, forecasters with NOAA's National Weather Service issue public severe weather outlooks online to alert people of a potential threat in their area before they go to sleep. In the event a nighttime tornado is expected, be sure to:

- Have a NOAA Weather Radio (<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/nwr/>) at your bedside.
- Build an updated Emergency Kit.
- Designate a safe room with no windows, preferably a basement.
- Know your Family's Communications Plan.

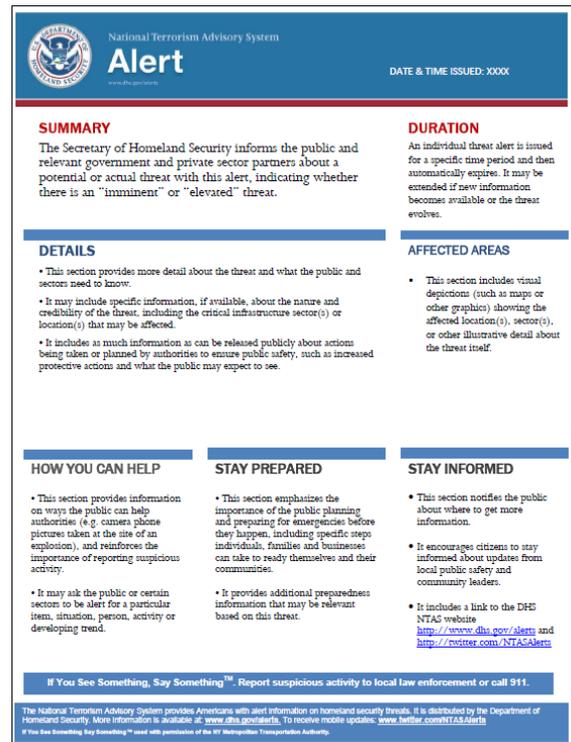
<http://www.weather.gov/>

National Terrorism Advisory System

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

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

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



The image shows a template for a National Terrorism Advisory System (NTAS) alert. At the top, it features the DHS seal and the text "National Terrorism Advisory System Alert" with a "DATE & TIME ISSUED: XXXX" field. Below this, there are several sections: "SUMMARY" (describing the threat), "DURATION" (explaining the alert's time frame), "DETAILS" (providing more information about the threat), "AFFECTED AREAS" (listing impacted locations), "HOW YOU CAN HELP" (guiding the public on actions), "STAY PREPARED" (advising on readiness), and "STAY INFORMED" (providing contact information). A footer contains the slogan "If You See Something, Say Something" and a disclaimer.

Disaster Averted: Make Emergency Preparedness Part of Your Job

When Hurricane Sandy roared up the East Coast in October, it brought immense destruction to heavily populated areas. Similarly, the June 2012 derecho storm that tore through the Midwest and Mid-Atlantic produced destructive winds and at least one tornado. People in the Midwest and the South are still dealing with prolonged drought. All brought business to at least a temporary standstill. Employers must be prepared for a variety of disaster scenarios. And while they focus on getting up and running again, they must still comply with federal employment laws. This information is provided by Business Management Daily.com:

<http://www.businessmanagementdaily.com/34280/disaster-averted-make-emergency-preparedness-part-of-your-job>

Al Roker PSA – Be Ready for Any Weather

Al Roker has seen his fair share of natural disasters in his time as America's favorite weatherman, and he wants to use his wealth of experience to make sure you're prepared like a pro. He teamed up with the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Ready campaign to create a public service announcement encouraging Americans to plan ahead for emergencies.

"Hurricane Sandy was the scariest," Roker told

TODAY.com of his most

terrifying experience on the job. "It

was so big and had the potential to create utter devastation. I used the emergency weather radio when power went out and was able to keep abreast of information when cell phones and Internet went out." Most people aren't as prepared as Al – only 15 percent say they are prepared for a disaster. He offers three key steps of disaster preparedness:

- Make a kit with enough supplies that you and your family can survive for a week without power.
- Hold regular home drills, checking your alarms every six months to make sure they're working.
- Know your area: Are you at risk of earthquakes or floods? This can help you prepare more effectively.

As for him, if Roker could only pack one thing in his disaster kit, it would be his radio: "If we lose power and cell service, the radio allows you to keep up with what you need to know." Learn more about getting prepared for the risks at www.Ready.gov.

<http://allday.today.com/news/2013/02/12/16928248-al-roker-reveals-3-steps-to-weathering-a-disaster>



Visit the New Citizen Corps and CERT Web Pages

The Citizen Corps website and CERT web page have relocated to new homes. FEMA has consolidated all of its online content, including content currently on the Citizen Corps website, into two websites: FEMA.gov and Ready.gov. In addition to reducing costs, this website migration provides an opportunity to increase the visibility of our programs to an entirely new audience and to recruit new volunteers. The new website locations also give you easy access to more resources than ever and an updated look and feel for online content. Now when you try visiting the original Citizen Corps website, you should be automatically redirected to the new page at www.ready.gov/citizen-corps. Likewise, if you try visiting the original CERT website, you should be automatically redirected to its new page at www.fema.gov/community-emergency-response-teams. The new Web pages should have all of the functions of the original Citizen Corps and CERT websites, including program registration and profile updates. We also intend to build out state-specific pages to drive more traffic to the state websites. If anything is missing or does not work properly, please do not hesitate to reach out to us at citizencorps@fema.dhs.gov. Be sure to check out the new Citizen Corps and CERT Web pages today for the latest program news and updates!

USGS Aims to Detect Earthquakes Before They Strike

The United States Geological Survey (USGS) is currently developing an Earthquake Early Warning System for the west coast of the United States in conjunction with scientists at academic institutions including: California Institute of Technology, University of California at Berkeley and University of Washington. Under the Stafford Act, the USGS has the federal responsibility to issue alerts for earthquakes, enhance public safety and reduce losses through effective forecasts and warnings. The Earthquake Early Warning System could provide as much as 60 seconds advance warning and allow people to take protective action in advance. Currently, USGS issues rapid, automatic earthquake information via the Internet, email, text messages and social media. Sign up today online at

<https://sslearnquake.usgs.gov/ens/%5D> for the USGS Earthquake Notification Service to receive automated notifications when earthquakes happen in your area.

<http://earthquake.usgs.gov/research/earlywarning/>

FEMA Reaches Out to PR Firms for Help with Ready Campaign

Ready? Set? Go! Beware. Prepare. Compare. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) probably wants better slogans for its public service announcements than these half-hearted suggestions for its Ready campaign. So it's seeking sources that can come up with one and provide full marketing services to get the word out. In a notice this month, FEMA said it would like to hire a "strategic partner with world renowned advertising, interactive, public relations and social media agency experience." To identify themselves as potential sources, interested companies are encouraged to submit a statement of capabilities along with an identification of their business skills and size specifications by March 4. The goal of the Ready campaign is to spur Americans into preparing for and responding to emergencies like terrorist attacks or natural disasters. Ready encourages Americans to put together an emergency supply kit, make emergency plans, and stay informed about the different kinds of emergencies and the various ways to respond to them. A potential contractor would assist FEMA with public outreach to educate Americans on emergency preparedness and prompt them to take action to fulfill those objectives. A successful bidder on a possible future solicitation could work with FEMA for up to four one-year periods beginning in October 2013.

<http://www.hstoday.us/industry-news/general/single-article/fema-reaches-out-to-pr-firms-for-help-with-ready-campaign/08b4ea676061f243ecdce722c9351a5a.html>

Prepare for Meteors and Other Space Weather

As Russia continues to recover from this month's meteor damage, FEMA is encouraging everyone to prepare for similar emergency events. The American Red Cross has offered some safety tips for meteors (<http://redcrosschat.org/2013/02/15/betcha-never-thought-about-preparing-for-meteors/>). Share these tips with others in your community, so everyone is prepared in case a meteor strikes in our backyard:

- Move away from windows, as they may shatter from the sonic boom;
- Have basic first aid tips available by downloading an app; and
- Move to the bottom floor of a building to get away from any falling debris.

In addition to the information above, Ready.gov also has space weather safety tips. Visit www.ready.gov/space-weather for more information.

Community Emergency Alert Network (CEAN)

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



MEDIA ARTICLES OF INTEREST

White House Issues Cyber Order, Giving NIST, DHS Lead Roles

The White House's long-awaited, and much anticipated, Executive Order to improve the cybersecurity of critical infrastructure is far from an answer to the lack of congressional action on the issue, and more about doing something to spur change. The order and corresponding Presidential Policy Directive-21 detail a "whole of government approach" to creating standards and improving information sharing with critical infrastructure owners and operators, which include water, power, communications and financial services.

<http://www.federalnewsradio.com/513/3224227/White-House-issues-cyber-order-giving-NIST-DHS-lead-roles>

The Business of Weather Watching Gets a Phone App

Weather research is taking a new turn that scientists hope will lead to better forecasts in the not-too-distant future. The linchpin of the effort is a free smartphone app. The National Severe Storms Laboratory (NSSL) wants volunteers to download the app to their iPhones or Androids to provide on-the-scene storm reports with a few taps on a screen. The information is important because the radar pictures seen by the public on television don't necessarily reflect what is happening at ground level, according to Dr. Kimberly L. Elmore, a research scientist leading the project dubbed "PING" for precipitation identification near the ground. The explanation is simple: Radar doesn't look at the ground. <http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/02/02/us-usa-weather-app-idUSBRE9110DX20130202>

WebEOC Parent Company Sold

ESi, headquartered in downtown Augusta and recognized for years on the Inc. 5000 as one of the fastest-growing companies in the nation, was acquired this month by Florida-based Intermedix Corp., a provider of billing and management software for the U.S. healthcare and emergency response industries. Intermedix officials said the Augusta operation will remain in place and some of the company leaders have accepted senior leadership roles with the new firm. Terms of the acquisition were not divulged. Atila Omer, a senior vice president with Intermedix, said the two firms had a working relationship for years prior to the merger. "Intermedix has acquired a series of technology companies over the years that are best-in-class in certain aspects of emergency services, be it public health, hospital and EMS operations," Omer said. He said Intermedix sought to buy ESi and will be expanding its major software offering, called WebEOC, with more functions.

<http://chronicle.augusta.com/news/business/2013-01-16/florida-firm-buys-augusta-software-company>

Preventing the Next Disaster

When Hurricane Sandy took aim at the Garden State in October 2012, Gov. Chris Christie crafted what would become a nationally visible leadership response, executed in part from a specially designed information sharing facility in West Trenton, N.J. On the ground floor of the six-year-old New Jersey Regional Operations Intelligence Center is the modern, wired up media room where Christie issued statements and answered reporters' questions, just steps away from an array of emergency operations. The facility is part of the Homeland Security Department's network of fusion centers. Within the complex is a meeting room for the governor's Cabinet, the New Jersey state troopers headquarters and cellphone 9-1-1 call center, along with state and federal intelligence units. Operations revolve around watches and warnings, analysis, information technology and fusion training. When a crisis erupts, be it dangerous weather, a violent crime or a terrorist attack, teams from agencies across New Jersey swing into action to augment the 24-7 operation inside the beige brick building outside the capital. When the superstorm hit near Atlantic City on Oct. 29 and Christie issued a disaster declaration, the fusion center, in collaboration with the state Office of Emergency Management, already had been working.

<http://www.govexec.com/magazine/features/2013/02/preventing-next-disaster/60956/>

How U.S. Marine Corps Base Quantico Trains for an Active Shooter

Security Management magazine was granted special access to be part of a training exercise at U.S. Marine Corps Base Quantico. You can share the experience by watching this short video, found in the February digital edition of the magazine, where you can also read more about how the base security forces does its job.

http://www.nxtbook.com/nxtbooks/asis/sm_201302_v2/index.php#/36

Some basic tips to follow in the event of an injury include:

- Do not attempt to move seriously injured people unless they are in immediate danger.
- If someone has stopped breathing, begin CPR if you are trained.
- Stop a bleeding injury by applying direct pressure to the wound.
- Have any puncture wound evaluated by a physician.
- Call 9-1-1.

Disaster Preparedness Is Good for Democracy

The blizzard that pounded the Northeast on Friday was no Hurricane Sandy, but it has left thousands of people without power throughout the region. For some households, losing power may be no big deal. But if you're old or disabled, this can be a dangerous situation. The problem is that it's hard in most communities to know which residents may badly need help. After Sandy, hastily organized volunteers knocked on doors in buildings in Rockaway and other places to identify the old and frail. It's also hard, if you want to volunteer to help others in a disaster, to know where to go or what to do. In badly hit Hoboken, large numbers of volunteers were needed to help evacuate people from flooded parts of town. The city recruited these helpers, in part, by Twitter and posters around town. With major storms likely to increase, it's time to get more serious about better disaster planning. One obvious idea is to step up efforts to organize citizens to prepare for emergencies by joining volunteer corps that stand at the ready.

<http://prospect.org/article/disaster-preparedness-good-democracy>

Fake EAS Message Warns of Zombie Apocalypse

KRTV-TV, in Montana, broadcast a bogus EAS message that said "the bodies of the dead are rising from their graves and attacking the living. Do not attempt to apprehend or approach these bodies as they are considered extremely dangerous." It appears that someone accessed an EAS unit via its Internet connection and created the false message. While details of the hack are being uncovered, it's believed a station may have left an EAS unit's factory default password in place, simplifying the effort of the hacker.

http://radiomagonline.com/currents/news/fake_eas_message_warns_of_zombie_apocalypse_0211/

<http://www.uppermichiganssource.com/news/story.aspx?id=859352>

UN Agencies Promote Use of GIS in Disaster Preparedness

The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) is working together with the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) in helping public sector organizations in the Asia Pacific region leverage geospatial information, GIS and satellite derived imagery in disaster risk reduction, preparedness and emergency response. According to an official statement, while there has been an increase in uptake in the use of GIS and other space applications, the said technologies are not fully maximized due to a lack of capacity in terms of human, scientific, technological and institutional resources. Under the Memorandum of Agreement, both UN agencies will focus their joint collaboration efforts on the priority areas of capacity development in space applications and ensuring optimal provision and dissemination of UNITAR's Operational Satellite Applications Programme (UNOSAT) products and services.

<http://www.futuregov.asia/articles/2013/feb/21/un-agencies-promotes-use-gis-disaster-preparedness/>

Experts Lament Cuts in Funds for Disaster Preparedness

The United States is grappling with increased threats from catastrophic superstorms like Sandy. An increasingly interconnected world means that a deadly contagious disease could spread to multiple countries before it has even been identified. Terrorism remains a serious threat, with many experts predicting that it is just a matter of time before the nation must grapple with another significant attack. It is against this backdrop that the federal and state governments have made significant cuts to disaster preparedness funding as they have grappled with budget shortfalls and growing debt.

http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-201_162-57571208/experts-lament-cuts-in-funds-for-disaster-preparedness/

FLU

WHO to Change the Way it Reports H5N1 Cases

WHO will publish information on human cases with H5N1 avian influenza infection on a monthly basis on the Influenza webpage: http://www.who.int/influenza/human_animal_interface/HAI_Risk_Assessment/en/index.html.

Cases of human infection with H5N1 will only be reported on Disease Outbreak News for events that are unusual or associated with potential increased risks. Member States will be continued to require to report information on every sporadic case of H5N1 human infection or novel influenza virus infection to WHO as per Article 6 of the International Health Regulations (2005).

http://www.who.int/influenza/human_animal_interface/H5N1_cumulative_table_archives/en/index.html

FDA Expert: Universal Flu Vaccine Still 5-10 Years Off

Top federal health officials who testified on Capitol Hill earlier this month said the nation has much better influenza defenses today than it had 10 years ago, but one of them predicted that a “universal” flu vaccine is probably still 5 to 10 years away. Officials from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) pointed to increases in flu vaccine production capacity and newly approved flu vaccines as signs of progress, but they also made clear that the goal of a vaccine offering broader, longer-lasting protection is still distant. The hearing before the House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations focused on the current flu season and flu preparedness generally. The panel heard from CDC Director Thomas Frieden, MD, MPH, FDA Chief Scientist Jesse Goodman, MD, MPH, and Marcia Crosse, PhD, healthcare director for the Government Accountability Office (GAO).

<http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/cidrap/content/influenza/panflu/news/feb1313hearing.html>

CDC: Pandemic Vaccine Prevented 1 Million Cases, 300 Deaths

The influenza vaccine that was developed to fight the 2009 pandemic saved roughly 300 lives and prevented about 1 million illnesses and 6,000 hospitalizations, or under 3 percent of the estimated total burden in each category, according to new estimates from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Those benefits would have been substantially higher if the vaccination program had begun a week or two earlier, the authors calculated. Because of difficulties growing the vaccine virus in eggs, the vaccine supply didn’t flow freely until after the pandemic peaked in the fall of 2009. The CDC has previously estimated that the 2009 pandemic H1N1 (pH1N1) virus caused about 61 million clinical illnesses in the United States, leading to around 274,000 hospitalizations and 12,500 deaths. About 81 million people received the vaccine, the agency estimates. If the vaccination program could have started 2 weeks earlier than it did – the launch was at the beginning of October – the inoculation would prevented close to 60 percent more cases, the authors of the current study estimated. Starting the program 8 weeks earlier would have tripled the number prevented. The authors, led by Rebekah H. Borse, PhD, MHS, undertook to estimate the benefits of the vaccination program from its advent in October 2009 until April 2010, a year after the virus was identified. They reported their study this week in *Emerging Infectious Diseases*.

<http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/cidrap/content/influenza/panflu/news/feb0113panvax.html>

Do You Want to Be a Disease Detective?

New outbreaks happen every day and CDC’s disease detectives are on the front lines, working 24/7 to save lives and protect people. When a new outbreak happens, disease detectives are sent in to figure out how outbreaks are started, before they can spread. In

our new, free iPad app, you get to “Solve the Outbreak.” You’ll play the role of an Epidemic Intelligence Service agent. Find clues about outbreaks



and make tough decisions about what to do next: Do you quarantine the village? Talk to people who are sick? Ask for more lab results? With fictional outbreaks based on real-life cases, you’ll have to puzzle through the evidence to earn points for each clue. The better your answers, the higher your score – and the more quickly you’ll save lives. You’ll start out as a Trainee and will earn badges by solving cases, with the goal of earning the top rank: Disease Detective. The new app includes three outbreaks, with more coming soon.

<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/solve-the-outbreak/id592485067?mt=8>

Review Finds Little Evidence of Missed H5N1 Infections

The authors of a new review say there is little evidence of unrecognized human cases of H5N1 avian influenza, but the studies done so far have too many limitations to settle the controversial question. Researchers from the Center for Biosecurity at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center reviewed 29 serologic studies and found only four that identified anyone carrying antibodies to currently circulating H5N1 strains. But many of the studies reviewed had methodologic problems, such as lacking a comparison group with no exposure to the virus. The authors say their findings suggest that mild or asymptomatic cases H5N1 cases are probably few, but the studies done so far are not capable of determining “the true prevalence or severity of H5N1 infections.” Their findings were published online yesterday in *Clinical Infectious Diseases*. The debate over the existence of mild or asymptomatic H5N1 cases has continued for years and was renewed last year amid the controversy over experiments in which lab-modified H5N1 viruses were found to have airborne transmissibility in ferrets. The question centers on whether H5N1 is really as dangerous as it appears from the 59 percent case-fatality rate (CFR) in confirmed human cases recognized by the World Health Organization (WHO).

<http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/cidrap/content/influenza/panflu/news/feb0613serology.html>

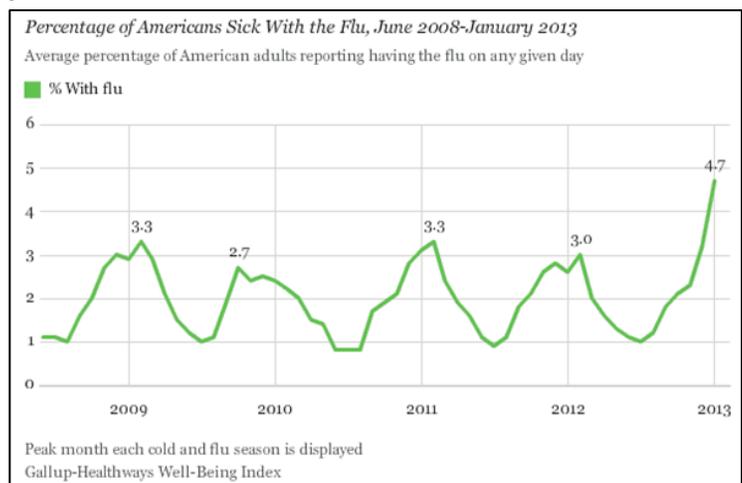
GAO Report: Progress Made in Responding to Seasonal and Pandemic Outbreaks

GAO’s prior work has identified a number of lessons from federal responses to seasonal influenza vaccine shortages and the 2009 H1N1 pandemic that carry implications for future influenza seasons or another influenza pandemic. These lessons include the value of planning that involves the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS); the importance of effective communication among all levels of government and with the public; and the difficulty of matching vaccine supply with the public's demand for it. First, planning is critical to an effective response, and it particularly helped in responding to the H1N1 pandemic. Planning activities, such as exercises and interagency meetings, built relationships that positioned the government to respond effectively. Second, clear and consistent communication, especially regarding the availability of vaccine is key. The failure to effectively manage public expectations of vaccine availability can undermine government credibility and contribute to individuals' failure to seek or receive an influenza vaccination. Recognizing the importance of sharing updated information, HHS's influenza website includes a vaccine finder for individuals, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) website helps providers find vaccine available for purchase. Third, predicting all of the influenza virus strains that will be circulating in a given season and their likely severity is difficult. Finally, matching influenza vaccine supply to demand is challenging, as the supply of and demand for vaccine can vary throughout seasons and across multiple seasons. HHS has taken a number of steps to address these lessons learned; however, the department continues to face challenges, particularly in communicating messages in changing circumstances and in facilitating the matching of available vaccine supply with public demand.

<http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-13-374T>

U.S. Flu Reports Reach Five-Year High in January

Americans’ self-reports of the flu spiked in January, increasing to the highest level Gallup has measured in any month since it started tracking flu daily in 2008. An average of 4.7 percent of Americans reported having the flu the day before they were surveyed in January – up from 3.2 percent in December. Americans were more likely to report having the flu on any given day in January than they were during the peak months of any of the last four flu seasons. The previous highs each flu season included an average 3.3 percent saying they had the flu “yesterday” in February of the 2008-2009 and the 2010-2011 seasons, 3.0 percent in February of the 2011-2012 season, and 2.7 percent in October of the 2009-2010 season



amid the outbreak of the H1N1 flu virus. Americans' self-reports of daily flu in December and January also exceeded the same months in every past year since 2008, suggesting that the 2012-2013 flu season may be the worst in five years. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, which tracks clinically confirmed influenza through collaborating laboratories in all 50 states and the District of Columbia, has reported a similar trend. The CDC announced that the percentage of people visiting their healthcare provider for flu-like illnesses ranged from 4.8 percent during the week ending Jan. 5 to 4.4 percent in the week ending Jan. 26.

<http://www.gallup.com/poll/160508/flu-reports-reach-five-year-high-january.aspx>

Human Infection With Avian Influenza A(H5N1) Viruses and Associated Animal Health Events

From 2003 through Feb. 15, 620 laboratory-confirmed human cases with avian influenza A (H5N1) virus infection have been officially reported to WHO from 15 countries, of which 367 died. Since the last update on 16 January 2013, ten new laboratory-confirmed human cases with influenza A(H5N1) virus infection were reported to WHO. Source: WHO Monthly H5N1 Risk Assessment (February edition)

http://www.who.int/influenza/human_animal_interface/Influenza_Summary_IRA_HA_interface_15Feb13.pdf

Fairfax County Flu Preparedness

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

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



Wash Hands Frequently

Wash hands frequently and properly. The most important and easiest action we can take to keep from getting sick and spreading illness to others is to wash our hands. Learn how and when to wash:

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/hd/handwashing/



Learn more from the Fairfax County Health Department at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/flu.

TRAININGS / EXERCISES / CONFERENCES

MeriTalk Data Center Brainstorm

March 7; Washington, D.C.

Data center consolidation continues to be a high priority as we move closer to OMB's rigorous 2015 deadlines. How is the intersection of consolidation, cloud, mobility, and even big data going to affect the path forward? Which mandates are realistic and which should change? Join MeriTalk's Data Center Exchange for the second annual 2013 Data Center Brainstorm on Thursday, March 7, 2013 at the Newseum in Washington, D.C. The event will bring together savvy Federal data center movers and shakers to share best practices, collaborate on challenges, and discuss what is needed for effective consolidation. We'll cover key topics on today's data center horizon.

<http://meritalk.com/datacenterbrainstorm>

EMS Today Conference

March 5-9; Walter E. Washington Convention Center, Washington, D.C.

The EMS Today Conference is co-located with the International Conference on Disaster & Terrorism Preparedness and your conference registration gives you access to all of the sessions.

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

DHS Industry Day

March 18; Washington Convention Center, Washington, D.C.

DHS Places Industry Day at Washington Convention Center: The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) will hold its upcoming annual industry day at the Walter Washington Convention Center in Washington, DC, on Monday, March 18. DHS also opened registration to the industry day, encouraging large and small businesses to send up to two representatives to attend two sessions presented in a daylong series of panels.

<http://www.fbcinc.com/e/dhsindustryday/>

NEMA 2013 Mid-Year Emergency Management Police and Leadership Forum

March 18-22; Alexandria, Va.

At this forum, the agenda will weave together three very timely issues – EMAC (Emergency Management Assistance Compact), THIRA (threat hazard identification and risk assessment) and the private sector. Each committee meeting will examine these issues from their perspective and discuss how best to work with other committees. Formal presentations will be rare and spirited conversations will be common.

http://www.nemaweb.org/index.php?Itemid=209&id=97&option=com_content&view=article

National Hurricane Conference

March 25-28; New Orleans, La.

The primary goal of the National Hurricane Conference is 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. In addition, the conference serves as a national forum for federal, state and local officials to exchange ideas and recommend new policies to improve Emergency Management.

<http://hurricanemeeting.com/>

Essentials of Community Cyber Security

April 2, 8 a.m. - noon; Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Pkwy, Suite 151C (AEOC), Fairfax, Va.

The Essentials of Community Cyber Security course provides individuals, community leaders, and first-responders with information on how cyber attacks can impact, prevent, and/or stop operations and emergency responses in a community. The course also provides a cursory introduction to cyber security vulnerabilities, risks, threats, and countermeasures. It introduces the Community Cyber Security Maturity Model as a framework for understanding community cyber security and offers a brief introduction to low-cost or no-cost approaches to securing against cyber security threats and attacks.

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- Why cyber security is important.
- Unstructured threats /Structured threats /Highly structured threats.
- The Community Cyber Security Maturity Model (CCSMM).
- Things a community can do to initiate a cyber security program.

To register, visit <http://goo.gl/EAXOe>. For more information, contact Michael Guditus at 571-350-1011, TTY 711; email Michael.guditus@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Learning in Disaster Health: A Continuing Education Workshop

April 2-3; Georgetown University Hotel and Conference Center, Washington, D.C.

A unique opportunity to assist with the nation's disaster health preparedness. This workshop will focus on education and training in disaster health and provide an interdisciplinary academic forum to:

- Explore concepts of adult learning in the context of disaster health.
- Highlight the implications of the latest research and practice for disaster health learning and performance and identify key areas for future research.
- Present a unique opportunity for collaboration among disaster health, human resource development and adult education professionals.
- Identify potential solutions for maximizing learning in a resource-constrained environment.

<http://ncdmph.usuhs.edu/KnowledgeLearning/2013-04LearningWorkshop.htm>

Defense Intelligence Worldwide

April 8-10; Baltimore, Md.

Formerly known as the DoDIIS Worldwide Conference, the Defense Intelligence Worldwide is expanding to focus on all-source intelligence and information technology as it contributes to mission success, hence the theme, "Beyond DoDIIS - Mission Readiness 2020." This year the DoDIIS Worldwide Conference will now focus on all-source intelligence with a continued emphasis on information technology as it contributes to mission success.

<http://www.ncsi.com/dia/2013/index.php>

Critical Infrastructure Symposium

April 15-16; West Point, N.Y.

Symposium promotes the exchange of ideas and experiences among students, educators, practitioners and government officials developing critical infrastructure.

<http://www.tisp.org/index.cfm>

NSI's 28th Annual IMPACT 2013 Conference and Expo

April 22-24; Westfields Marriott, Chantilly, Va.

NSI's annual IMPACT conference is 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-2013.html>

SPIE Defense Security + Sensing

April 29-May 3; Baltimore, Md.

Meeting for scientists, researchers and engineers from industry, military, government agencies and academia throughout the world.

<http://spie.org/x6766.xml>

GovSec Featuring TREXPO

May 13-15; Walter E. Washington Convention Center, Washington, D.C.

Description: Advanced-level education from public and private sector industry experts on today's hot topics and challenges, including: Homeland Security; Counter and Anti-Terrorism; Critical Infrastructure Protection; Cyberterrorism and Cybercrime; and Law Enforcement Case Studies, Tactics and Technologies.

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

International Hazardous Materials Response Teams Conference

June 6-June 9; Baltimore, Md.

The Hazmat Conference is recognized as a high quality, in-depth conference with cutting-edge educational programs designed for professionals at all levels of experience. For nearly 30 years the Hazmat Conference has offered informative sessions and unique hands-on training designed to tackle the most pressing issues facing hazmat professionals.

<http://www.iafc.org/micrositeHazConf/homeHazConf.cfm?ItemNumber=6165&navItemNumber=6150>

2013 Building Resilience through Public-Private Partnerships Conference

July 23-25; Rutgers University-Newark, The Paul Robeson Campus Center, Newark, NJ

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security Headquarters, in partnership with the Federal Emergency Management Agency, U.S. Northern Command, and Rutgers University will present the third annual Building Resilience through Public-Private Partnerships Conference at Rutgers University in July. This year's conference themed, "Partnerships in Action: Enhancing National and Economic Security," will highlight successful public-private partnerships across the homeland security enterprise and is designed to identify solutions to coordination gaps between the public and private sectors. From Hurricane Sandy response efforts and global supply chain resilience to campus resilience and cyber security, building resilient communities continues to be a whole community approach. More detailed registration information and a call for topics is forthcoming. Call the DHS Private Sector Office at 202-282-8484 and PPPConference@hq.dhs.gov for immediate inquiries.

IS-450.NC - Emergency Preparedness for Federal Employees in the National Capital Region

The goal of this independent study course is to provide practical steps you can take to prepare for emergencies that could threaten your home, workplace, and community. This course is intended specifically for Federal employees living and working in the National Capital Region. The first lesson focuses on the importance of personal emergency preparedness and its relationship to your professional responsibilities as a Federal employee. The second lesson introduces the four steps to personal emergency preparedness: Be Informed, Make a Plan, Build a Kit, and Get Involved. The last lesson reinforces the concepts learned in the previous lessons by applying the four steps of emergency preparedness to a given scenario.

<http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/is450nc.asp>

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

LINKS

Fairfax County Web Resources

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

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- Fairfax County Citizen Corps Web Page - www.fairfaxcounty.gov/oem/citizencorps/
- Fairfax County Citizen Corps Blog - <http://citizencorps.blogspot.com/>

Additional Web Resources

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

DHS Science & Technology Directorate Newsletter

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

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

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report (OSIR)

The Department of Homeland Security provides a Web-based "Daily OSIR," which is posted on the DHS public Web site. Accessing the report via the Web enables readers to retrieve the current Daily Report as well as 10 days of archived DHS Daily Reports. Once you arrive at the Web page you will find the most recent Daily OSIR at the top of the page, under the title "Current Report." This report is posted each morning, except for weekends and holidays. Simply click on the title "DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report." This will launch the current days report in PDF format. You can submit content comments or make suggestions by contacting the DHS Daily Report Team by telephone at 202-312-3421 or by e-mail at NICCRports@dhs.gov. You can access the Daily OSIR at: http://www.dhs.gov/files/programs/editorial_0542.shtm.

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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 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.

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