



ESF 15 Business / Nonprofit Update

Produced by Emergency Support Function 15 – External Affairs

July 2011

ITEMS OF INTEREST FOR ESF 15

2011 National Preparedness Month Begins Coalition Registration

The Ready America campaign, Citizen Corps and the Advertising Council have begun registration for the eighth annual National Preparedness Month (NPM) Coalition. NPM is designed to encourage Americans to take simple steps to prepare for emergencies in their homes, businesses and communities. The theme for 2011's National Preparedness Month is ***"This September: A Time to Remember. A Time to Prepare."*** Because this year is the 10th anniversary of 9/11, much attention will be devoted to those tragedies. These observances could be just the motivation that many Virginians need to take some steps toward family and business preparedness. "As we move forward with planning for this year's events and activities, we also recognize that this September marks the ten year anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks," said FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate. "By doing what we can to ensure that our communities, and our nation, are prepared to respond and recover from all types of disasters and hazards, we honor the memory of those who were lost that day" Individuals and groups can now register to become NPM coalition members by visiting <http://community.fema.gov>. Once registered, members have access to a toolkit that includes suggestions for activities and events, templates, articles, banners and customizable materials. Coalition members also have access to an events calendar allowing them to post and promote preparedness events, share success stories, and participate in national and regional discussion forums to engage with fellow coalition members and FEMA representatives. By hosting events, promoting volunteer programs and sharing emergency preparedness information, coalition members can help ensure that their communities are prepared for emergencies. Becoming a coalition member is easy and free, so register now (<http://community.fema.gov/connect.ti/READYNPM>) to get started. Nearly 2,000 coalition members have already joined this year's campaign.



NPM Fact Sheet: http://www.ready.gov/america/npm11/downloads/NPM_Factsheet_20110620.pdf

Hearing Focused on Streamlining the Recovery Process

The Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings and Emergency Management, chaired by U.S. Rep. Jeff Denham (R-CA), held an oversight hearing earlier this month to examine ways to better manage federal disaster recovery programs, help communities get back on their feet sooner following major disasters and save taxpayers money. The Subcommittee is working to reauthorize the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the federal government's lead agency for preparing for, mitigating against, responding to and recovering from disasters and emergencies related to all hazards, whether natural or man-made. When states and local resources are overwhelmed by a disaster, federal resources are deployed in support of local response efforts. FEMA also partners with other key agencies to assist in various ways, including aiding with long-term housing needs, economic development and loans for small businesses impacted by a disaster. "I am holding this hearing to address the cost to the nation if we do not correctly and efficiently prepare for natural disasters. I am preparing legislation to reauthorize FEMA and to modernize our emergency warning system. A streamlined process will allow for better coordination among our emergency preparedness and response systems and will ensure that we are helping communities in the most efficient and cost effective way," said Chairman Denham. While the mechanisms are in place to assist states and local communities after widespread disasters, Chairman Denham and the subcommittee have conducted significant oversight over the impediments to speeding up recovery following a disaster like Hurricane Katrina. As recovery time is lengthened, costs escalate, jobs are impacted and local economies continue to suffer. The panel focused on finding ways to streamline the recovery process through expedited assistance processes, improved coordination among the relevant federal agencies, supporting mitigating efforts before a disaster strikes and ensuring

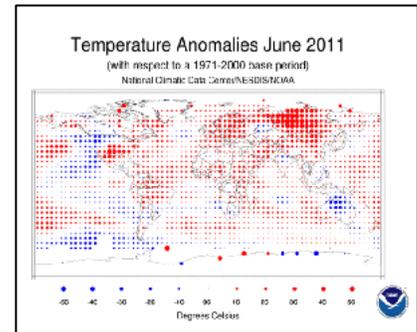
proper planning. Among those testifying was Craig Fugate, administrator, Federal Emergency Management Agency. <http://transportation.house.gov/hearings/hearingdetail.aspx?NewsID=1335>

Global Temperatures Were Seventh Warmest on Record for June

The globe experienced the seventh warmest June since record keeping began in 1880. The Arctic sea ice extent was the second smallest extent for June on record. The monthly analysis from NOAA's National Climatic Data Center is part of the suite of climate services NOAA provides government, business and community leaders so they can make informed decisions.

http://www.noanews.noaa.gov/stories2011/20110714_globalstats.html

Photo Credit: NOAA | [Link to High Resolution Image](#)



Tips for Staying Safe and Cool During Extreme Heat

High temperatures continue to affect much of the U.S., so having a plan to stay cool is important for both you and your pets. Summer is here, and much of the U.S. continues to deal with abnormally hot weather. And even if your community hasn't experienced hotter weather yet, there are ways you can stay safe and cool when warmer temperatures arrive. Here are some tips on staying cool and safe during extreme heat:

- Be familiar with your local weather forecast by visiting www.weather.gov or mobile.weather.gov on your phone
- Cover windows that receive morning or afternoon sun with drapes, shades, awnings, or louvers. (Outdoor awnings or louvers can reduce the heat that enters a home by up to 80 percent.)
- Eat well-balanced, light, and regular meals. Avoid using salt tablets unless directed to do so by a physician.
- Drink plenty of water and limit intake of alcoholic beverages. Persons who have epilepsy or heart, kidney, or liver disease; are on fluid-restricted diets; or have a problem with fluid retention should consult a doctor before increasing liquid intake.
- Check on family, friends, and neighbors who do not have air conditioning and who spend much of their time alone. Never leave children or pets alone in closed vehicles.
- Avoid strenuous work during the warmest part of the day. Use a buddy system when working in extreme heat, and take frequent breaks.

And hotter weather also affects pets, so remember to give them plenty of water and keep them inside. Check out Ready.gov for more tips on getting prepared, for any emergency.

FEMA Blog: <http://blog.fema.gov/2011/07/tips-for-staying-safe-cool-during.html>

Picture courtesy of FEMA – A search and rescue dog cools off in a wading pool.



E-neighborhood Watch Program Spreads to Half of States

A law enforcement program designed to function like a nationwide e-neighborhood watch is now providing half of U.S. states with an information sharing capability that did not exist before 2001, according to a Homeland Security Department assessment of compliance with the 9/11 commission recommendations on the 10th anniversary of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. The Nationwide Suspicious Activity Reporting Initiative, or NSI, is a federally funded program that trains law enforcement jurisdictions on how to electronically share tips about potential threats using a standard, searchable format. In 2001, there was no mechanism for local agencies to share intelligence, partly because their computer systems were incompatible, they used different jargon to describe incidents and each had conflicting rules on disclosing personal information.

http://www.nextgov.com/nextgov/ng_20110722_9245.php

Winner Selected in CDC's Healthy Swimming Video Contest

Pools are great places to spend the summer, but they are also places where germs can spread. Germs in the water can cause recreational water illnesses (RWIs), such as diarrhea and skin, ear, and eye infections, when we swim. To help

prevent the spread of germs that cause RWIs, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)'s Healthy Swimming Program launched its first-ever video contest to encourage the public to create short, original videos that promote healthy swimming behaviors. Forty-nine videos were submitted to CDC, and CDC judges selected the top five videos based on communication of healthy swimming messages, creativity and appeal to a wide audience. The top five videos were posted on CDC's YouTube channel and the public voted for the winner. The winning video, entitled "Recreational Water Illness Police" was created by David Matthews, Vicksburg, Miss. Matthews will receive \$1,000 from the CDC Foundation and the chance for his video to be seen by thousands on CDC's Healthy Swimming Website and CDC's YouTube Channel. An unrestricted grant from ARCH Chemicals to the CDC Foundation provided the funding for the contest winner.

<http://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/swimming/rwi/video-contest.html>

Governor McDonnell Signs "Ashley's Law"

Law requires emergency vehicles proceeding through a traffic intersection to flash emergency lights and either sound a siren or horn, or yield the right-of-way, before proceeding

On Tuesday, July 26, Governor Bob McDonnell ceremonially signed SB 762, also known as "Ashley's Law," which requires emergency vehicles proceeding through a traffic intersection to flash emergency lights and either sound a siren or horn, or yield the right-of-way, before proceeding. This law is named in honor of Ashley McIntosh who was tragically killed in 2008 when her vehicle was struck by an emergency vehicle as it went through an intersection. The legislation was signed during an afternoon ceremony at Sherwood Regional Library in Alexandria. Fairfax County Police Department Chief of Police Colonel David M. Rohrer noted, "The Fairfax County Police Department supported „Ashley's Law“ because it puts the safety of the public and emergency responders first, as it should be. I'm pleased to say that our policies and the training our officers receive in emergency and response driving mirror this new law." Ashley's Law provides that emergency vehicles proceeding past any steady or flashing red signals, traffic lights, stop signs, or other devices indicating moving traffic shall stop, must flash emergency lights and either (i) sound a siren, exhaust whistle, or air horn designed to give automatically intermittent signals or (ii) yield right-of-way or, if required for safety, bring the vehicle to a complete stop before proceeding with due regard to the safety of persons and property.

<http://www.governor.virginia.gov/News/viewRelease.cfm?id=850>

PLANNING / PREPAREDNESS

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

National Terrorism Advisory System
Alert
DATE & TIME ISSUED: XXXX

SUMMARY
The Secretary of Homeland Security informs the public and relevant government and private sector partners about a potential or actual threat with this alert, indicating whether there is an "imminent" or "elevated" threat.

DURATION
An individual does not need to take any specific actions, but they should be aware of any information that may be available to the threat.

DETAILS
• This section provides more detail about the threat and what the public and sector should do to help.
• It may include specific information, if available, about the nature and magnitude of the threat, including the threat's nature, location, or location(s) that may be affected.
• It includes any information that can be released publicly about actions being taken or planned by authorities to ensure public safety, such as increased presence, actions and what the public may expect to see.

AFFECTED AREAS
• This section includes visual information (such as maps or other graphics) showing the affected location(s), where(s), or other distinctive detail about the threat itself.

HOW YOU CAN HELP
• This section provides information on how the public can help authorities (e.g., citizens should provide information on the nature of an explosion, and describe the appearance of suspicious vehicles and activity).
• It may ask the public or sector to be alert for a particular event, situation, person, activity or developing threat.

STAY PREPARED
• This section emphasizes the importance of the public planning and preparing for emergencies before they happen, including specific age-appropriate, essential and business-related information that may be necessary.
• It provides additional preparedness information that may be relevant based on the threat.

STAY INFORMED
• This section notifies the public about where to get more information.
• It encourages citizens to stay informed about updates from local public safety and emergency services.
• It includes a link to the DHS NTAS website: <http://www.dhs.gov/ntas> and <http://www.dhs.gov/ntas>.

If You See Something, Say Something™ Report suspicious activity to local law enforcement or call 911.

The National Terrorism Advisory System (NTAS) provides information and alert information on terrorism security threats. It is authorized by the Department of Homeland Security. For more information, visit www.dhs.gov/ntas. To receive more updates, visit www.dhs.gov/ntas.

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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.

Survey Says Residents Relying More on Social Media, Texting in Natural Disasters

“Get Ready, America!” – The National Hurricane Survival Initiative -- released last month shows that social media and text messaging are fast becoming the leading ways Americans will communicate or get information in a disaster. The Sachs/Mason-Dixon Poll commissioned by the initiative found that 72 percent of Americans are members of a social network, such as Facebook, Twitter or MySpace and 45 percent said they would rely on it to communicate with friends and loved ones in the event of a natural disaster; another 24 percent said they might. Social media use is more prevalent among younger Americans, with 91 percent of those 18-34 years old active on a social media platform and 63 percent saying they will use those platforms to communicate in a disaster. Even among those ages 35-59, 75 percent say they are on a social media platform and 44 percent say they will use them to communicate in a disaster. Women are more likely to use these platforms than men, with 75 percent of women saying they use a platform compared to 68 percent of men, and 51 percent of women saying they will turn to these platforms to communicate in a disaster compared to 39 percent of men. Still, there is room to educate Americans about how to use new technology to protect themselves or seek help in a disaster. More than 50 percent of Americans said they would rely on a cell phone or home phone to communicate with family members in a disaster, although these tools often are not operational in the immediate aftermath of a storm. Only 8 percent said they would rely on text messaging, although this has proven to be one of the most reliable forms of communication in a disaster.

<http://hurricanesafety.org/2011/06/22/%e2%80%9cget-ready-america%e2%80%9d-survey-residents-relying-more-on-social-media-texting-in-natural-disasters/>

Preparing Your Pets for Emergencies Makes Sense

If you are like millions of animal owners nationwide, your pet is an important member of your household. The likelihood that you and your animals will survive an emergency such as a fire or flood, tornado or terrorist attack depends largely on emergency planning done today. Some of the things you can do to prepare for the unexpected, such as assembling an animal emergency supply kit and developing a pet care buddy system, are the same for any emergency.

<http://www.ready.gov/america/getakit/pets.html>

Focus on Fire Safety: Residential Fire Sprinklers Save Lives

In 2009, only 20 percent of reported fires occurred in one- and two-family homes but these fires caused 70 percent (2,107) of all civilian fire deaths. Homes also account for the largest share of civilian fire injuries and direct property damage. The Building and Fire Research Laboratory at the National Institute of Standards and Technology has studied the impact of both smoke alarms and fire sprinklers in residential occupancies and estimates that:

- When fire sprinklers alone are installed, the chances of dying in a fire are reduced by 69 percent, when compared to a home without sprinklers.
- When smoke alarms alone are installed, a reduction in the death rate of 63 percent can be expected, when compared to a home without smoke alarms.
- When both smoke alarms and fire sprinklers are present, the risk of dying in a fire is reduced by 82 percent, when compared to a home without either.

<http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/citizens/focus/residentialsprinklers.shtm>

Children Can Help Prepare for Hurricane and Flood Season

Hurricane and flooding season is here. That means every family needs an emergency plan. If you have children, let them help. Here’s what to do:

1. Children can help put an emergency kit together. Let them help choose supplies that will last your family for at least three days. Start with these essential items:

- Food that won't spoil – canned goods and packaged foods. Children like granola bars, peanut butter crackers and juice boxes.
 - Water, one gallon per person per day.
 - A battery-powered/hand-crank radio and extra batteries
 - Other useful items: flashlights with batteries, first-aid kit, special items for babies and children.
2. Store your kit in waterproof containers that you can carry or roll in case you need to leave your home quickly. Old suitcases or backpacks also can hold supplies.
 3. Make a family emergency plan together. Get a worksheet at www.ReadyVirginia.gov. Click on Make a Plan.
 4. Kids will like "Ready Kids," a website with games, quizzes and information on how to prepare families for emergencies. Find Ready Kids at www.ready.gov/kids.
 5. To see a short video from Ready Virginia about families getting ready for hurricane season, go to www.youtube.com/vaemergency#p/u.
 6. Don't forget your pets! Children can make a pet emergency supply kit with food, water, dishes, toys, leash and collar with identification.

Experience shows that when children are involved in planning, it calms their fears. Get started today. Visit www.ReadyVirginia.gov to learn more about how to prepare for hurricane and flood season.

SBA and the American Red Cross Join to Help Individuals and Businesses Prepare for Disasters

The U.S. Small Business Administration and the American Red Cross have joined forces to intensify outreach efforts to educate the public about the importance of having a disaster recovery plan in place. "Studies show that between 15 to 40 percent of businesses fail following a natural or man-made disaster," said Gail McGovern, president and CEO of the American Red Cross. "By partnering with the SBA to get more families and businesses prepared for emergencies, we hope to save both lives and livelihoods." The core of the SBA-Red Cross agreement is a plan to work with SBA District Offices and its resource partners such as SCORE, the Small Business Development Centers and the Women's Business Development Centers to promote and, along with local Red Cross chapters, sponsor preparedness training workshops. The two agencies will also work to increase awareness in the business community about the Red Cross Ready Rating™ program. Ready Rating (www.readyrating.org) is a free, self-paced, web-based membership program that helps a business measure its ability to deal with emergencies, and gives customized feedback on how to improve those efforts. Materials on the Ready Rating program and other disaster preparedness tips will be disseminated to the public virtually, and via printed materials. Recent disasters have served as a reminder for individuals and businesses to make a plan. Disaster preparedness for homes and businesses should include a review of your property insurance to make sure you understand what is and isn't covered. Make backup copies of important documents, and store them at an offsite location. Put together an emergency kit, which contains first-aid supplies, cash, bottled water, non-perishable food, a flashlight and plastic garbage bags. For more preparedness tips for homes and businesses, visit www.sba.gov/disasterassistance.

"Pre-disaster preparedness and mitigation are critical to recovery and resilience-building. Additionally, timely decisions can significantly reduce recovery time and cost. Therefore, it is important that all members of the team understand their role in disaster response and recovery and to begin to **prepare for disasters before they occur.** Recovery is one of the most vital and sustained phases of the emergency management cycle. Coupled with pre-disaster planning and mitigation techniques, it can also be one of the most rewarding and positive phases following a disaster."

Testimony of Administrator Craig Fugate, Federal Emergency Management Agency, before the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Subcommittee of Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management, "FEMA Reauthorization and Cutting the Red Tape in Recovery"

Full testimony: <http://www.dhs.gov/ynews/testimony/20110714-fugate-cutting-red-tape-in-recovery.shtm>

Top 10 Cyber Tips for Small Businesses

With more than 10,000 cyberattacks happening every day, small businesses must stay vigilant to protect their intellectual property, as well as customer data. By letting customer information, such as credit card numbers or other personal information fall into the wrong hands, a company's customer loyalty and brand reputation will most

definitely suffer. In an effort to encourage small businesses to keep their information secure while using technology to enhance their operations, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) offers these 10 cyber tips:

Train employees in security principles.

2. Protect networked information from viruses and spyware.

3. Provide firewall security for your Internet connection.

4. Regularly download and install software updates for your operating systems and applications.

5. Create backup copies of business data and information.

6. Manage physical access to computers and networks

7. If you have a Wi-Fi network, make sure it is secure and hidden.

8. Require individual user accounts for each employee

9. Limit access to data and information.

10. Change passwords regularly.

For more information about these 10 cybersecurity tips, visit: <http://www.fcc.gov/cyberforsmallbiz>.

<http://disaster-resource.com/newsletter/2011/subpages/v387/newsclip2.htm>

Utility Offers Simple Conservation Measures to Save Money While Staying Comfortable

Dominion Virginia Power set a new all-time record peak demand for electricity from its 2.4 million customers Friday afternoon, July 22, as a summer heat wave continues. The utility company recommends the following energy conservation tips that require little or no expense and could help lower electric bills while keeping homes comfortable:

- Postpone activities that require hot water – such as washing dishes or clothes – to early morning or late evening. This will keep from adding more heat and humidity to the home.
- Avoid using your stove and oven if possible and consider using the microwave.
- If you are comfortable, raise your thermostat to 78 degrees in the summer.
- Turn off unnecessary lights during hot weather. They add to the heat in a house. Consider switching to cooler, energy-efficient CFL bulbs where light is needed.
- Use ceiling fans and portable floor fans to move the air around in the home. If the home does not have air conditioning, fans are essential for cooling. In homes with air conditioning, fans allow residents to raise the thermostat and save energy without affecting their comfort.
- Close drapes during the hottest times of the day to block heat from entering the home and to save energy.
- Make sure window air conditioners are sized correctly. Ones that are too small will run constantly, but they will not cool the room. Ones that are too large use more energy than necessary.
- Clean filters to window air-conditioning units and clean or replace filters to central air-conditioning systems. Clogged filters cause air conditioners to use more energy than necessary to keep a home cool.
- Clear attic vents. If the home has an attic fan, make sure it is functioning properly.

<http://dom.mediaroom.com/index.php?s=43&item=1004>

MEDIA ARTICLES OF INTEREST

FEMA Rewrites Disaster-Relief Playbook

FEMA administrator Craig Fugate has spent the first two years of his tenure streamlining operations at the agency and shaking off deeply rooted habits to build a connected team of local, state and federal officials who are ready to move when emergencies happen. In a major shift at FEMA, Fugate is looking beyond the information provided by professional first responders during an emergency, instead creating a two-way dialogue with the public, media and private sector to help provide quicker disaster assessments

<http://thehill.com/business-a-lobbying/170299-fema-chief-craig-fugate-rewrites-the-disaster-relief-playbook>

Deadliest Hurricane Risk is Not Wind, But Water

Storm surge – the massive mound of water that builds up and comes ashore as a hurricane moves over the ocean or

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Gulf of Mexico – is the most dangerous aspect of hurricanes, but many public misconceptions persist about it, according to a recent survey of U.S. coastal residents.

http://www.usatoday.com/weather/hurricane/2011-07-11-hurricane-storm-surge-dangers_n.htm

2011 Already Costliest Year for Natural Disasters

Natural disasters across the globe have made 2011 the costliest on record in terms of property damage, and that's just six months in, according to a report by a leading insurer that tracks disasters. The first six months saw \$265 billion in economic losses, well above the previous record of \$220 billion set for all of 2005, the year Hurricane Katrina struck.

http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/43727793/ns/world_news-world_environment

U.S. Airports Still Have Security Vulnerabilities

It has been almost 10 years since the September 11 terror attacks, and US airports still are not as secure as they need to be. More than 14,000 people have found their way into sensitive areas, and about 6,000 travelers have made it past government screeners without proper scrutiny, according to a congressman who is leading an inquiry into the deficiencies. The Transportation Security Administration said these numbers represent “a tiny fraction of 1 percent” of the more than 5.5 billion people that have been screened across the country since 9/11.

<http://bit.ly/oVcUba>

Life-Saving Fire Department CPR App Going National

A mobile application developed to alert citizen volunteers trained in CPR of emergencies in California’s the San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District is spreading nationwide. The district has created the PulsePoint Foundation, a nonprofit organization formed specifically to distribute its Fire Department CPR notification app to other fire and rescue departments in communities throughout the United States. The app, which was launched in January, provides users within walking distance of someone suffering from sudden cardiac arrest with a message on their iPhone with incident details, the location of where CPR is needed and the site of the nearest publicly-accessible defibrillator. The app also gives notifications of fires and pinpoints where on a map those blazes are occurring.

<http://www.govtech.com/public-safety/Lifesaving-Fire-Department-CPR-App-Going-National.html>

10 Years After Baltimore Tunnel Fire, Much is Unchanged

Ten years ago this month, scenes out of Baltimore, Md., gripped the nation – and much of the world – when a CSX freight train carrying hazardous cargo derailed and caught fire in the century-old tunnel that winds below downtown. A decade later, freight trains continue to rumble through the 1.7-mile tunnel, often with toxic cargo in tow. Work to replace the tunnel could be decades – and more than \$1 billion – away.

<http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/maryland/bs-md-howard-street-tunnel-20110716.0.2360576.story>

154 Treated for Heat During Reenactment in Manassas

Manassas battle reenactment day proved much hotter than the original clash, when the high in Georgetown, the nearest weather station at the time, was 81. The morning high for the reenactment was 97, with a heat index of 106, and the mercury topped out at 100 at 4 p.m. with an index of 110.

<http://www2.timesdispatch.com/news/2011/jul/23/7/amid-heat-manassas-re-enactment-set-get-under-way-ar-1191915/>

Virginia Sets Electricity Record During Heat Wave

Dominion Virginia Power’s 2.4 million customers used a record amount of electricity on Friday, July 22, during a scorching heat wave. The utility company said in a news release that it supplied 20,061 megawatts of power between 3 p.m. and 4 p.m. on July 22, an all-time high. One megawatt is typically enough electricity for 250 homes.

Dominion says the previous summertime record was 19,668 megawatts set on Aug. 8, 2007.

http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/V/VA_ELECTRICITY_CONSUMPTION_VAOL-

FLU

Fairfax County Pandemic Flu Preparedness

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

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

Indonesia: H5N1 Kills Over 10,000 Birds in South Sulawesi

Bird flu H5N1 outbreaks in Sidrap municipality, South Sulawesi, and killed at least ten thousands chickens. The disease has spread to nearly entire farming area in Sidrap. The outbreak has possibly spread in Desa (village) Wanio, Kecamatan Panca Lautang, Desa Lanrang and Bulu, and Desa Tanete. Desa Tanete is the largest of layer chicken farms center in Sidrap. The outbreak was first noticed in Desa Wanio, before then it spread to other area. The Head of Livestock Service of Sidrap, Muhammad Azis said they dispatched a team for monitoring as they received disease report from people. Test to the dead chickens showed positive bird flu H5N1. Azis mentioned the outbreak mostly hit native/backyard chickens and rarely found in commercial chickens. Officials had taken control measures by disinfection of susceptible chicken farms in Sidrap. There are about 3.4 millions layers and 2 millions broiler chickens that need be rescued in Sidrap, said Azis.

<http://birdflucorner.wordpress.com/2011/07/07/sidrap-south-sulawesi-bird-flu-kills-over-ten-thousands-birds/>

Bird Flu Virus Develops Resistance to Key Drug

One of the two available medicines for bird flu in India may soon be redundant. The virus that caused the outbreak in certain pockets of West Bengal last year has been found to be resistant to Amantadine. Amantadine and Tamiflu are the two drugs available in India to treat humans who contract bird flu. If the avian influenza virus, H5N1, grows entirely resistant to Amantadine, another drug will have to be developed soon, which is an expensive and time-consuming proposition. The detection was made recently at the High Security Animal Disease Laboratory (HSADL) in Bhopal. Joint director in-charge of HSADL, Dr. SC Dubey told HT: "We tested virus samples and found genomic alterations in about ten batches. They show resistance to the drug. This is a first for the country." Amantadine resistance has been detected in China, Vietnam and Thailand. The scientists are however, relieved the Amantadine resistant virus batches are still resistant to Tamiflu.

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/Bird-flu-virus-develops-resistance-to-key-drug/Article1-719981.aspx>

Swine Flu Vaccine and Guillain-Barré Syndrome Not Linked

The adjuvanted vaccines used during the 2009 swine flu (H1N1) pandemic did not significantly increase the risk of Guillain-Barré syndrome, a large, multinational study, commissioned by the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC), concludes the British Medical Journal. The vaccine-related concerns stem from the sevenfold increase in Guillain-Barré syndrome experienced during the US pandemic H1N1 flu vaccine campaign of 1976. Guillain-Barré syndrome is a rare neurological disorder, which can result in severe nerve damage caused by the body's own immune system. Adjuvanted vaccines contain substances that stimulate the immune system to boost the efficacy of the vaccine. After the 1976 vaccine was abruptly discontinued, flu vaccines became controversially linked to Guillain-Barré syndrome, even though no or little risk was found in studies on subsequent seasonal flu vaccines. The consortium conducted the study across five European countries which launched vaccination campaigns against the 2009 pandemic; a total sample of 50 million people. They reassuringly found that any risk of Guillain-Barré syndrome is negligible. The risk is estimated to be less than three excess cases of Guillain-Barré syndrome for every million people protected by the vaccine.

http://blogs.nature.com/news/2011/07/swine_flu_vaccine_and_guillain.html

Dangerous Progeny Can Result When Flu Strains 'Hook Up'

A new University of Maryland-led study finds that "sex" between the virus responsible for the 2009 flu pandemic (H1N1) and a common type of avian flu virus (H9N2) can produce offspring – new combined flu viruses – with the potential for creating a new influenza pandemic. Of course, viruses don't actually have sex, but University of Maryland Virologist Daniel Perez, who directed the new study, says new pandemic viruses are formed mainly

through a process called reassortment, which can best be described as viral sexual reproduction. “In reassortment, two viruses enter the same cell; their genetic material is mixed; and new genetically distinct viruses emerge,” explains Perez, an associate professor in the VA-MD Regional College of Veterinary Medicine, Maryland Campus. <http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/releases/231099.php>

H5N1 as Hollywood Imagines It

I've just seen the trailer for Contagion, which will open on Sept. 9. It's directed by Steven Soderbergh, with a cast full of stars (Matt Damon, Kate Winslet, Gwyneth Paltrow, et al.) who are dealing with a no-kidding H5N1 pandemic – evidently brought from Asia just as we used to imagine before H1N1 turned up right in our front yard. I'd bet the script was written circa 2006-07, before H1N1, but its basic point is well taken: Some kind of bird flu could still figure out how to infect us more efficiently. No doubt it will be a big hit, but not as a date movie. Not when the message is, “Don't touch anyone!”

<http://crofsblogs.typepad.com/h5n1/2011/07/h5n1-as-hollywood-imagines-it.html>

Indonesia: Bird Flu Widespread in 10 Regions

Veterinary Disease Investigation Center, General Directorate of Livestock in Maros reported 10 regions in South Sulawesi tested positive bird flu H5N1 infection according to the research conducted from January to July 2011, said spokesman of Veterinary Disease Investigation Center in Maros, Affendi. Of 2,404 birds tested, over 100 of them were positive bird flu H5N1. The samples came from Kabupaten (municipality) Bantaeng, Takalar, Makassar, Palopo, Pinrang and Maros. The virus had also been found in Kabupaten Konawe, Southeast Sulawesi. It is unclear whether the virus has spread to Sidenreng Rappang (Sidrap), Parepare, Gowa and Enrekang, said Affendi, as the laboratory has not examined the samples of dead chickens recently occurred in those areas. Officers in field have got rid of the dead poultries, but until now they have not sent the samples to Maros laboratory. Previously, the head of Livestock Service in South Sulawesi, Murtala Ali, said bird flu H5N1 has spread in Sidrap, Parepare, Enrekang, Gowa and Pinrang. Bird flu in Sidrap has affected 11 sub-districts resulting 109,909 chickens death (72,909 layers, 29,200 broilers and 7,032 native/backyard chickens).

<http://birdflucorner.wordpress.com/2011/07/14/maros-south-sulawesi-bird-flu-widespreads-in-10-regions/>

New H1N1 Breath Test Could Help Pinpoint Who is Infected with Flu Virus

Breath tests are commonly used to detect blood alcohol levels and monitor asthma, and now a similar test could possibly help identify people infected with the H1N1 flu virus, a new study suggests. A breath test measuring the immune response to the H1N1 flu virus could help doctors avoid doling out unnecessary vaccinations to people already infected with the virus, and prioritize those most in need of them, researchers say. The study was conducted by the Cleveland Clinic in Ohio and New Zealand-based Syft Technologies and published Friday [July 8] in the “Journal of Breath Research.” Study co-author Dr. Raed Dweik said when the H1N1 epidemic happened a couple of years ago physicians were faced with a dilemma related to patient treatment.

<http://www.healthzone.ca/health/newsfeatures/swineflu/article/1025517--new-h1n1-breath-test-could-help-pinpoint-who-is-infected-with-flu-virus>

TRAININGS / EXERCISES / CONFERENCES

National Capital Region Homeland Security Events

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

Virginia Emergency Management Courses

<http://www.vaemergency.com>

Pack local maps, food and cell phone chargers in your summer travel emergency kit.

www.ready.gov/america/getakit/index.html

FEMA Independent Study Courses

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

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American Red Cross Disaster Services Training

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

2011 National Sports Safety and Security Conference and Exhibition

Aug. 2-4; New Orleans, La.

The gathering of top professionals in sports safety and security will provide a wholesome environment dedicated to security/safety technologies, products, services, and education for safeguarding the assets and spectators that attendees are charged to protect.

<http://www.ncs4.com/conference/>

The Fukushima Factor: Applying Lessons Learned to the Future of Nuclear Power

Aug. 3-4; Washington, D.C.

This seminar by Electric Utility Consultants Inc. will present factual technical information addressing the lessons from the Japanese catastrophe and what actions may be required at operating nuclear plants and for future nuclear projects as a result. It also will explore the relationship between the Japanese nuclear industry regulator and the industry it regulates and will compare the Fukushima accident with the Chernobyl and Three Mile Island accidents. The seminar will include a discussion of nuclear power plant emergency planning.

<http://www.euci.com/events/?ci=1366&t=O>

Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials - International 2011 Conference

Aug. 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/>

Radiological Emergency Planning: Terrorism, Security, and Communication

Aug. 15-19; Boston, Mass.

This program combines lectures and case studies with access to expert faculty. The curriculum will examine the latest principles and requirements to prepare for and respond to a radiological emergency and help students develop the skills necessary to effectively communicate with the media and public during crises.

<https://cepe.sph.harvard.edu/programs.cfm?CSID=REP0811&pg=cluster&CLID=1>

Organization of Agreement States

Aug. 22-25; Richmond, Va.

A conference of 39 member states of an agreement on regulation of radioactive materials and radiation safety.

<http://www.phoenixrisingsolutions.com/program>

Defense Industrial Base Critical Infrastructure Protection Conference

Aug. 23-25; Philadelphia, Pa.

The theme is “Setting the Vision and Strategy for the Next Decade.” Topics will include managing risks; defense industrial base cyber-mission assurance; infrastructure dependencies; information sharing; acquisition strategy for a more resilient defense industrial base; engagement in preparedness resiliency; and the future of response, recovery, and capability reconstitution.

<http://www.ndia.org/meetings/1030/Pages/default.aspx>

Household Pets and Service Animals in Disasters

Aug. 24; Henrico, Va.

The University of Illinois, Center for Public Safety and Justice (CPSJ) will be holding a free training opportunity in the Richmond, Va., area. CPSJ, in partnership with the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services,

is hosting "Household Pets and Service Animals in Disasters: an Introduction to Evacuation and Emergency Sheltering," a DHS/FEMA Training & Exercise Integration / Training Operations Course (AWR-218). The training will be held on Aug. 24, at the Henrico County Training Center, 7721 East Parham Road, Henrico. To register, call 217-206-6049 or 877-864-7427, or email cedmi1@uis.edu.

EMS World

Aug. 29-Sept. 2; Las Vegas, NV

This conference offers three days of presentations covering every aspect of emergency medical services, along with displays by almost 300 exhibitors.

<http://emsworldexpo.com/>



Technology for Critical Incident Preparedness Conference and Expo

Aug. 30-Sept. 1; National Harbor, Md.

The Interagency Council for Applied Homeland Security Technology will bring together as many as 1,000 frontline responders, representatives from government and industry, academic experts, and state and local associations to share their knowledge of cutting-edge technological advances made over the past 10 years that strengthen our nation's ability to prevent and respond to critical incidents however and whenever they occur.

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



FEMA Hosts Disability-planning Conference

Sept. 12-14; Washington, D.C.

FEMA's Office of Disability Integration and Coordination is hosting "Getting Real II- Promising Practices in Inclusive Emergency Management for the Whole Community," Sept. 12-14 in Washington, D.C. The conference will focus on expanding partnerships and sharing promising practices in disability-inclusive emergency management. Applications to present or attend are due by Aug. 1.

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

5th Annual Conference on Security Analysis and Risk Management

Sept. 13-15; Founder's Hall, George Mason University, Arlington Campus
George Mason University School of Law's Center for Infrastructure Protection and Homeland Security (CIP/HS) is partnering with the Security Analysis and Risk Management Association (SARMA) for the 5th Annual Conference on Security Analysis and Risk Management. The conference will be held on Tuesday, Sept. 13, 2011 at 8:30 a.m. through Thursday, Sept. 15, at 12:30 p.m. The conference will be held in Founder's Hall on the Arlington Campus of George Mason University.

<http://sarma.org/news/homepageboxes/4thannualconferenc/>

The Ongoing Afghanistan War, the War on Terror, and From Clausewitz to Beyond New Centers of Gravity

Sept. 14-15; Washington, D.C.

The Ambivium Institute on Security Cooperation in association with the Center for Terrorism Law at St. Mary's Law School is presenting this conference, at which leading scholars will debate the wisdom of the use of force against al-Qa'eda and their allies the Taliban from a strategic perspective and address the legal issues related to specific uses of force, including targeted killing.

http://www.ambivium.org/Ambivium-CTL_Conference2011_2.pdf

Anhydrous Hydrogen Chloride Seminar

Sept. 27-28; Charleston, S.C.

This free event provides basic emergency responder training for incidents involving anhydrous hydrogen chloride.

<http://www.transcaer.com/events.aspx?ID=487>

Homeland Security Symposium

Sept. 26-27; Arlington, Va.

This symposium presented by the National Defense Industrial Association will present an overview of the ongoing challenges associated with large-scale disasters (and their various forms) and the risks, strategies, and investments necessary to address these ever-evolving and dynamic threats. This year's theme is "Disasters: Preparing, Surviving and Responding to Dynamic Threats."

<http://www.ndia.org/meetings/1490/Pages/default.aspx>

National Workshop on 9-1-1 Overload

Oct. 4-5; Washington, D.C.

The 9-1-1 Industry Alliance is hosting this workshop to address the problem of 9-1-1 systems increasingly experiencing overload during routine emergencies, major weather events, natural disasters, mass shootings and other incidents. People calling 9-1-1 for help are experiencing busy signals, unanswered calls, or long hold times, and public expectations are not matching the realities of 9-1-1 in these situations.

<http://911calloverload.com/>

16th Annual Virginia Occupational Safety and Health Conference

Oct. 4-7; Portsmouth, Va.

The Virginia Department of Labor and Industry is hosting the Virginia Occupational Safety and Health Conference, Oct. 4-7 in Portsmouth, to help educate employers and employees in developing safe and healthy work environments and to provide affordable safety and health training opportunities to employers, employees and safety and health professionals.

http://www.doli.virginia.gov/vosh_conference/vosh_conference.html

Modsim World Conference and Expo

Oct. 11-14; Virginia Beach, Va.

This is a multidisciplinary international conference for the exchange of modeling and simulation knowledge, research, and technology across industry, government, and academia. One of the tracks is "Defense, Homeland Security & First Responders."

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



2011 Virginia Hazardous Materials Conference and Expo

Oct. 17-21; Hampton, Va.

The Virginia Association of Hazardous Materials Response Specialists and VDEM are sponsoring the 27th annual Virginia Hazardous Materials Conference and Expo, Oct. 17-21: "Confronting New Challenges: Are We Ready," at the Convention Center and Embassy Suites Hotel in Hampton. The Virginia Hazardous Materials Conference and Expo features over 60 educational workshops and an exhibition area featuring the latest products and technology for the hazardous materials industry.

<http://www.vaemergency.gov/news/conferences/2011-virginia-hazmat-conf>

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

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Snapshots,” featuring stories about current research projects and opportunities with laboratories, universities, government agencies, and the private sector. The newsletter is produced monthly by the DHS Science and Technology Directorate in partnership with the Homeland Security Institute, a Studies and Analysis Federally Funded Research and Development Center.

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

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report (OSIR)

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



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To Unsubscribe:

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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.

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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