



ESF 15 Business / Nonprofit Update

Produced by Emergency Support Function 15 – External Affairs

July 2013

ITEMS OF INTEREST FOR ESF 15

Staying Safe On Social Networking Sites

Social networking sites (e.g., Facebook and YouTube), are used widely; but, we must learn how to be safe on such sites. While these sites can increase your circle of friends, they also can increase your exposure to people with less-than-friendly intentions. Learn how to help your kids – and other family members – socialize online safely. What can you do to protect yourself?

- Make sure your computer is protected before visiting sites.
- Do not assume you are in a trusted environment.
- Be cautious in how much personal information you provide.
- Use common sense when communicating with users you DO know.
- Use common sense when communicating with users you DON'T know.
- Understand what information is collected and shared.
- Make sure you know what sites your child is visiting.

For More Information:

- MS-ISAC Monthly Newsletter Tips - Staying Safe on Social Networking Sites.
- US-CERT Cyber Security Tips - Staying Safe on Social Networking Sites.

<http://msisac.cisecurity.org/newsletters/2011-12.cfm>

For more tips, visit <http://msisac.cisecurity.org/daily-tips/>.



Surry Nuclear Power Station Exercise Receives Praise from FEMA Evaluators

This year's Virginia Operations Exercise (VOPEX), conducted July 16-17 and evaluated by FEMA, received a highly positive review at a public meeting held in Newport News July 18. FEMA assigned 88 evaluators to 88 locations to evaluate a total of 483 criteria. Only one new performance issue and four new planning issues were recorded. The Isle of Wight Emergency Operations Center received praise from FEMA for "several unusual, real-life events [that occurred] during the exercise, and yet the EOC staff was able to take it all in stride... This is a testament to their professionalism and preparedness... resulting in smooth operations regardless of the situation." FEMA will publish extended evaluation of the exercise within approximately 90 days. Additional information on FEMA's Radiological Emergency Preparedness (REP) Program is at www.fema.gov/radiological-emergency-preparedness-program.



www.CapitalRegionUpdates.gov

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Second Annual Great SouthEast ShakeOut Earthquake Drill Coming in October

This fall, Virginia will participate again in the Great SouthEast ShakeOut, an event designed to practice earthquake safety steps. Several states across the Southeast U.S. will participate on Thursday, Oct. 17, at 10:17 a.m. to “drop, cover, and hold on,” the catch phrase for staying safe through an earthquake. Last year’s drill was the first extensive campaign in Virginia to promote earthquake safety awareness. The 2011 earthquake in Mineral, Va. has increased



awareness for Virginians in the heightened importance of preparing for the natural disaster. To register your organization or group, go to www.shakeout.org/southeast. To “drop, cover, and hold on,” “drop” to the ground where you are without attempting to run down stairs or go outside. “Cover” under a sturdy table or desk to protect your head and neck, the body’s most vulnerable areas during an earthquake. After dropping and taking cover, “hold on” until the shaking has stopped before safely evacuating. The Great SouthEast ShakeOut is part of an international campaign which began in California designed to promote earthquake safety.

Tips for Dealing with Extreme Heat

Extreme heat can be very dangerous, leading to heat stroke and death. Heat stroke occurs when your temperature rises quickly and your body cannot cool down. This condition is life-threatening, but it is preventable.

- Stay in air-conditioned space if possible. If your home is not air-conditioned, go to a public library, heat-relief shelter, or other cool location.
- Drink plenty of non-alcoholic fluids (check with your doctor if you are usually supposed to limit your fluids).
- Wear loose-fitting, lightweight clothing.
- Cut back on exercise.
- Closely watch those who are at high risk of heat-related illness, including older adults, young children, and individuals with physical and/or mental illnesses.
- NEVER leave anyone in an enclosed, parked vehicle.

If you believe that you or someone else may be suffering from heat stroke or another heat-related illness, get help right away. It could be a life or death emergency.

Lightning Strikes – Stay Safe

Thunderstorms are dangerous due to lightning. Although lightning fatalities have decreased over the past 30 years, lightning continues to be one of the top three storm-related killers in the United States. Most lightning deaths and injuries occur when people are caught outdoors in the summer months in the afternoon and evening. Although most lightning victims survive, people struck by lightning often report a variety of long-term, debilitating symptoms.

- Be smart this summer to help reduce your risks. Below are a few tips to start:
- Postpone outdoor activities when a storm is being forecasted.
- Unplug electronic equipment before the storms begins.
- Remember the 30/30 Lightning Safety Rule: The first “30” represents 30 seconds. If the time between when you see the flash and hear the thunder is 30 seconds or less, the lightning is close enough to hit you.
- During a storm, use your NOAA Weather Radio for updates from local officials
- Avoid contact with any metal – tractors, motorcycles, bicycles, and golf clubs
- Avoid contact with plumbing. Do not wash your hands, do not take a shower, wash dishes or do laundry. Plumbing and bathroom fixtures can conduct electricity.

For more tips and helpful information, visit <http://www.ready.gov/thunderstorms-lightning>

Weather Alerts for the Unpredictable Summer

The summer weather can be unpredictable with the chance of major impacts across the country to include wildfires, tornados, hurricanes and more. It is important for individuals and communities to be aware of pending weather

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conditions. Be proactive to ensure safety measures are being met. The National Weather Service has developed a list of free and paid alerts available by email or SMS text that are beneficial for families and communities. To view the list of weather alert systems available, visit the National Weather Service at <http://www.weather.gov/subscribe>. And don't forget free weather alerts from Fairfax County's Community Emergency Alert Network (CEAN). Learn more and subscribe at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/cean>.

Protecting A Home From Storms And Flooding Begins On The Inside

To protect a home from damage from a flood or a hurricane takes more than just making the outside stronger. The inside of the house can be better protected from wind and water with a little planning and preparation. Several things can be done to minimize damage inside a structure. Here are some ideas:

Floors

- Consider using one or more area rugs or carpet remnants rather than wall-to-wall carpet; smaller pieces can be rolled up and stored on an upper floor in a heavy rain event.
- Completely dry subflooring before laying new flooring.
- Do not use laminate flooring on top of concrete – especially in a basement – where the floor could retain moisture or get wet.

Drains:

- Install a sewer backflow valve to prevent sewage from backing up into the house.
- Install a sump pump or pumps in the basement floor to help keep groundwater from entering a structure. Sump pumps are used to remove water from basements and other low areas. Consider choosing a model with a battery backup so that it continues to work if the power goes out.

Electrical System

- Raise wiring and electrical components – panel boxes, switches, outlets – at least 1 foot above the Base Flood Elevation. Homeowners who are not in a designated floodplain, should consider raising these components an extra 1 foot above the level required by building codes.
- Use wire rated for underground use if it has to run into areas that could get wet.
- Ensure that all junctions are in approved junction boxes.
- Change all outlets to Ground Fault Interrupters (GFI).
- Raise electric baseboard heaters above the Base Flood Elevation.
- Hire a licensed electrician for all wiring work and be sure the work is properly permitted and approved by the local building department.
- For questions about a home or building's Base Flood Elevation contact the local building or floodplain management department.

Appliances

- Elevate appliances – water heaters, furnaces, washers and dryers.
- When possible, move them from a basement or lower level to an upper floor. Otherwise, relocate appliances on a masonry or pressure-treated lumber base that's at least 1 foot above the Base Flood Elevation (or at least 6 inches tall if there is no Base Flood Elevation).
- Make sure washers/dryers will not vibrate off the platform during use.
- Hire a licensed contractor when plumbing or electrical changes are needed.

Interior Walls

- Wash and disinfect the studs and sills if the drywall and insulation have been removed. Give the studs and sills plenty of time to dry before hanging new drywall.
- Use a moisture meter to be doubly sure.
- Cut drywall so that it is one-half to 1 inch off the floor, especially in basements.
- Concrete floors commonly absorb ground moisture – especially in winter months.
- That moisture can wick up the wallboard if it's touching the floor, allowing mold to grow out-of-sight within the walls. (Hide the gap with wood or rubberized floor trim).
- If greenboard or other moisture-resistant drywall got wet, replace it. These materials can present the same health hazards as regular drywall when soaked with floodwaters.

Reprinted from FEMA (www.fema.gov)

Older Adults, Children Sidelined in Emergency Response

Humanitarian agencies are not paying enough attention to the aid needs of older people and young children when responding to emergencies, a study of U.N.-backed appeals said earlier this month. In the 2012 Consolidated Appeal Process (CAP), which covers both U.N. and NGO relief activities, about 2 percent of project proposals targeted older people, and about 4 percent were specifically aimed at children under five, said the report by HelpAge International, an aid group that supports the elderly in crises. Only around 55 percent of these projects were actually funded. Looking at the amount of funding, projects for young children fared better, getting 12 percent of the \$5.8 billion donated by governments, while those for older people were allocated a mere 1 percent.

<http://www.trust.org/item/20130716144620-4ycp9/>

Governor Proclaims Emergency Management Week

Governor Bob McDonnell proclaimed July 21-27 as Emergency Management Week, a nod to the profession's 40th anniversary in the Commonwealth. In July 1973, largely as a result of the devastation of Hurricane Camille in 1969, the Virginia Emergency Services and Disaster Act established the Virginia Office of Emergency Services. Today, the Virginia Department of Emergency Management works with local, state and federal agencies, volunteer organizations, and the private sector to protect the lives and property of Virginia's residents.

<http://www.vaemergency.gov/news/history/40anniversary>

Proclamation: <http://www.vaemergency.gov/news/history/40thanniversay/gov-proclamation>



State Health Department Suggests Safety Tips for Fair Season

The Virginia Department of Health (VDH) reminds those attending agricultural fairs this summer and fall to take precautions when coming in contact with swine. An influenza virus that normally circulates in pigs, called influenza A H3N2v, may spread to humans more easily than usual. This H3N2v virus was circulating in pigs in 2010 and was first detected in people in 2011. "We encourage people to enjoy the many agricultural fairs around the Commonwealth," said State Health Commissioner Cynthia C. Romero. "However, it is important that they take certain precautions to protect their health while having a good time." In 2012, a multi-state outbreak of H3N2v resulted in 309 cases nationwide; there were no cases in Virginia. Since June of this year, Indiana has reported 12 cases of H3N2v infection. Similar to the cases identified in 2012, the majority of infections are associated with exposure to pigs, with many exposures occurring at agricultural fairs. An additional case of H3N2v infection has been confirmed in a non-Virginia resident who had close and prolonged contact with pigs at a fair in the northwest region of the state. Unlike regular flu, H3N2v is not commonly transmitted from human-to-human. People will not get the virus from eating pork.

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

It Doesn't Cost a Lot to be Prepared

September is National Preparedness Month

It's no secret that disasters, both natural and manmade, seem to be occurring frequently in the U.S. September is National Preparedness Month and the perfect time for Virginia families to get ready for whatever may come, including tropical storms. Being prepared for emergencies doesn't have to cost a lot.

- Make a plan. This may be the single most important thing you can do, and it's free. Make sure everyone in your family understands where to go and what to do in case of an emergency. Update your contact information and post it in visible places in your home and workplace. For help, use our free emergency plan worksheet at www.ReadyVirginia.gov or get the Ready Virginia app from the App Store and Google Play.
- Set aside emergency supplies. Don't wait for a storm. Buy preparedness items throughout the year instead of all at once. Shop at sales and used goods stores. Choose the essentials that fit your needs and budget. If you don't have emergency supplies, September is a good time to get started. Get a list at www.ReadyVirginia.gov.
- Request a gift. We all get things we don't need. Suggest preparedness supplies as gifts from friends and family.
- Store water. You don't have to buy expensive bottled water. Just make sure your water containers are

disinfected and airtight. Have at least a three-day supply of water on hand – that’s one gallon per person per day.

- Check your policy. Take a few minutes to review your insurance policy during National Preparedness Month. Get with your agent to make any necessary changes. Consider adding flood insurance because most policies don’t include it. Renters, you can get flood insurance, too. When a disaster strikes, you want to be sure that your coverage will get you back on your feet.

Encourage your loved ones to get ready for emergencies during National Preparedness Month. If you would like to join a national community of families and organizations that are preparing for emergencies, visit www.Ready.gov and click on the “Pledge to Prepare” banner.

Fall Classes for Fairfax County Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Training

The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Program educates people about disaster preparedness for hazards that may impact their area and trains them in basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization and disaster medical operations. Fairfax County is offering three CERT Basic training classes this fall. Two identical classes will be conducted at the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Academy (4600 West Ox Road). The first class is held on Mondays, beginning Sept. 9, and the second on Wednesdays, beginning Sept. 11. Each class will have eight sessions from 7-10 p.m. A third class will be conducted in the community at the Great Springfield Volunteer Fire Station 22, 7011 Backlick Road, beginning on Wednesday Sept. 11; eight sessions, 7-9:30 p.m. CERT Basic training does not require any special physical strength or agility. Safety and preparedness is stressed throughout the course of instruction. This training is free. The CERT program furnishes personal protective equipment for the training that the students retain upon completion of the class. Residents who go through CERT training have a better understanding of the potential threats to their home, workplace and community and can take the right steps to lessen the effects of these hazards on themselves, their homes or workplace. You can enroll in any of these three classes by going to www.fairfaxcountyCERT.com. Register as a new volunteer and when confirmed you can login and register for CERT class 73, 74 or 75. For further information contact the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Volunteer Coordinator’s Office at 703-246-3926, TTY 711.

PLANNING / PREPAREDNESS

Hurricane Season – What You Should Do Now

Much of Virginia has seen flooding already this year, and hurricane season is just beginning. What should you do now to protect your family and property?

- **Talk to an insurance agent about flood insurance.** Just one inch of water in a home or office can mean \$8,000 in cleanup and repairs, and most homeowners’ insurance policies do not cover flooding. Remember:
 - There is usually a 30-day waiting period before coverage begins.
 - Renters also can buy flood insurance, to cover personal belongings or business inventory.
 - Go to www.floodsmart.gov or call 1-800-427-2419 for more information.
- **Download the free Ready Virginia app** for iPhone and Android devices. Use the app to prepare for disasters and to stay informed during emergencies. Features include:
 - Location-specific weather watches and warnings issued by the National Weather Service.
 - A customizable emergency plan that can be easily shared with family and friends.
 - The latest disaster news on widespread emergencies from the Virginia Department of Emergency Management.
- **Build an emergency kit.** Start with three days’ water and three days’ food that doesn’t need electricity or refrigeration. Then add:
 - A battery-powered and/or hand-crank radio with a weather band and extra batteries to hear information from local officials.
 - Flashlights and extra batteries.
 - First aid kit and extra supply of medications.

- Special items for babies, older family members and pets.

Learn more about preparing for emergencies at www.ReadyVirginia.gov and www.ListoVirginia.gov.

Catastrophic Exercise Series Underway

The Catastrophic Exercise (CATEX) series is a multi-year exercise concept that will annually engage major urban areas with private sector partners in a multi-state tabletop and/or limited functional exercise using scenarios that will establish a framework for discussion and further promote integrated planning efforts and partnerships. CATEX will run in Washington, D.C., Philadelphia, and in the New York or New Jersey in 2013, 2014 and 2015, respectively, in the spring or fall of each year.

<http://www.ahcusa.org/CATEX.htm>

HHS Grants Bolster Health Care and Public Health Disaster Preparedness

The Department of Health and Human Services has awarded more than \$971 million to continue improving preparedness and health outcomes for a wide range of public health threats within every state, eight U.S. territories, and four of the nation's largest metropolitan areas. The funding awards included a total of approximately \$352 million awarded for the Hospital Preparedness Program (HPP) cooperative agreement and more than \$619 million awarded for the Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) cooperative agreement. Administered by the HHS Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR), HPP funding supports preparedness for health care systems, health care coalitions, and health care organizations. HHS' Centers for Disease Control and Prevention administers PHEP funding to support the preparedness of state, local, and territorial public health systems. To learn more about HPP and PHEP including grant awards to individual states, territories or localities, visit

<http://www.cdc.gov/about/organization/ophpr.htm>.

<http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2012pres/07/20120702a.html>

2014 Statewide Tornado Drill Set for March

Virginia's annual tornado drill, sponsored by the National Weather Service and the Virginia Department of Emergency Management, will take place on Tuesday, March 11, 2014, at 9:45 a.m. Local emergency managers, local and state agencies, the media and school systems across Virginia will be notified when registration is open. The date was selected by the Virginia Department of Education with the National Weather Service and the Virginia Department of Emergency Management. This year's tornado drill included over one million registered participants.

Prepping for Brownouts and Blackouts

The heat is rising across the country. The high demands for electricity to keep cool are increasing the risk of areas experiencing blackouts or brownouts. Brownouts typically occur during heat waves due to heavy equipment coming online, short circuits, or electrical companies decreasing voltage in order to meet the needs of peak time. While blackouts occur when it is a complete power outage and can last from hour to weeks. It's important that you take action now and prepare for the next time service interruptions occur in your area. Because the length of a power outage can vary from a few hours to several days, you need to plan to get by without utilities for at least three days.

Not sure how to prepare? FEMA is here to help. Use FEMA's "Going Off Grid: Utility Outages" online at http://emilms.fema.gov/IS909/assets/14_GoingOffGrid.pdf activity module to reference simple steps to get prepared for an outage. Some utility outage checklist items include:

- Document important phone numbers and vital power company information.
- Locate and label your utility shutoffs.
- Follow energy conservation measures to keep the use of electricity as low as possible, which can help power companies avoid imposing rolling blackouts.
- Have your disaster kit ready and stocked.

The "Going Off Grid: Utility Outages" activity module is part of FEMA's "Preparedness Activities for Communities Everywhere" tools (<http://emilms.fema.gov/IS909/CP0101150.htm>), which educate individuals about relatively easy steps to take to become prepared for all types of hazards. The tools are designed for anyone to use in coordination with local emergency preparedness partners to help better prepare for emergencies. For additional tips on blackouts visit <http://www.ready.gov/blackouts>

Poll Finds Public a Bit Wary About Taking Anthrax Pills

Federal officials have beefed up the nation's Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) with antibiotics to protect Americans in future anthrax attacks and public health plans are set for their distribution, but the public may not be willing to take the drugs, a new poll found. To get a handle on perceptions that could help public health departments craft messages that encourage more people to come to point-of-dispensing (POD) sites, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) partnered with the Harvard Opinion Research Program at the Harvard School of Public Health. The goal is to assess how the public might respond to an inhalation anthrax attack scenario. In an anthrax attack, federal response plans call for treating those at risk of *Bacillus anthracis* spore exposure with a 60-day course of antibiotics, and also offering three doses of anthrax vaccine for longer-term protection against late-germinating spores.

<http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/news-perspective/2013/07/poll-finds-public-bit-wary-about-taking-anthrax-pills>

Creating a Family Communications Plan Can Help You During a Weather Disaster

As we learned during Superstorm Sandy, a natural disaster can disrupt communications and leave people literally in the dark and alone. As the historic storm swept across the region last October, power lines came down, traffic signals stopped working, and cable, internet and cell phone communication networks were blown out of action. Suddenly, thousands of people were on their own and “off the grid,” unable to communicate with friends and loved ones for days, and in some cases, weeks. When a disaster of the magnitude of Superstorm Sandy occurs, it’s a scary situation for everyone, but particularly for children, the elderly and those with special needs. And while we can’t predict the whims of Mother Nature, with a little planning we can be better prepared to handle the challenges such an event presents. Among the most important first steps to take is to develop a family communications plan that every member of the family can rely on should another disaster occur. Here are a few tips on reducing the worry and stress that naturally arises when you’re unable to get in touch with those you love:

- Complete a contact form for each member of your family that includes name, address, and home, work and cell numbers for family members. Include the name of a neighbor or relative who is willing to respond in an emergency.
- Agree on a meeting place in your neighborhood as well as out of town where family members can gather should you be unable to go home.
- Identify a family member or friend who lives out-of-state who can act as a central contact for household members to notify that they are safe. It may be easier to make an out-of-town call than to get a local connection.
- Be sure that every member of your family knows the phone number of that contact person, has a cell phone, or carries change or a prepaid phone card to be used in an emergency.
- Family members can program an “ICE” (In Case of Emergency) number in their phone. If you or a family member is injured, emergency personnel can use that number to contact your family or friends. Be sure to alert the person you choose that you are designating him or her as your emergency contact.
- Teach family members how to use text messaging (also known as SMS or Short Message Service). Text communications can often get through when phone calls fail.
- Subscribe to alert services. Many communities relay emergency messages to residents via phone calls, emails and text alerts. Check with your local emergency management office to sign up for the service.
 - Once you have created your family communications plan, practice your plan once or twice a year. That way, should an actual disaster happen, you’ll be comfortable with the routine and ready to act.
- Update the information it contains when necessary.

For downloadable emergency contact cards and more information on developing a Family Communications Plan, visit www.ready.gov/family-communications.

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.

Five Easy Ways to Safeguard Your Small Business Before Disaster Strikes

Eastern seaboard businesses continue their struggle to rebuild after Hurricane Sandy. In terms of economic losses, the October 29, 2012 storm will be remembered as one of the largest natural disasters in U.S. history. Many residents and businesses, particularly in the hardest hit coastal areas of New Jersey and New York, were caught off guard by the late-season storm. In addition to the property destruction caused by high winds and flooding, power outages created big headaches and huge financial losses for many small businesses. Weather experts from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) are predicting an “active” 2013 Atlantic hurricane season. The six-month season, which began June 1, typically peaks between August and October. Now is a good time to put a disaster preparedness plan in place to protect your employees and your business. The SBA and Agility Recovery recently hosted a free webinar giving tips on how to prepare for Hurricane season. But it doesn’t matter if you’re in the Gulf Coast or the Upper Midwest – all kinds of risks exist, and small businesses are particularly vulnerable. <http://www.sba.gov/community/blogs/official-sba-news-and-views/open-business/five-easy-ways-safeguard-your-small-busine>

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

10 Best Apps for Emergency Preparedness

Mobile devices such as smartphones and tablets can help agriculture retailers and their employees connect with each other and authorities, spreading critical information in a time of crisis. Helping to keep the lines of communication open are dozens of mobile apps specifically designed for emergency preparedness, because clear communication is at the heart of every successful plan.

<http://www.croplife.com/article/34563/10-best-apps-for-emergency-preparedness>



CERT App Will Help Coordinate Volunteer Responders

A new public safety mobile application may soon help emergency response coordinators stay up-to-date on their

volunteer teams and improve coordination with other public safety groups. Called CERTify, the app enables Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) coordinators to send messages and assignments to team members during an emergency situation. It also enables decision-makers to keep a closer eye on volunteers' safety and rescue credentials, to ensure that their skills and certifications are current. CERT training consists of instruction in first-aid, search-and-rescue, basic firefighting, and other basic emergency skills for citizens. The training curriculum takes about 30 hours to complete, and course materials are provided by the federal government. After training is complete, volunteers can form community teams and help first responders after a disaster. But as neighborhoods change and people move away, it can be difficult for CERT coordinators to have reliable information about their team members. CERTify may help alleviate that issue.

<http://www.emergencygmt.com/disaster/CERT-App-Coordinate-Volunteer-Responders.html>

Protecting the Commonwealth

The Virginia State Police Aviation Unit carries out its mission with a total of six helicopters – two Eurocopter EC145s, which are used for emergency air medical transport, and four Bell 407s, which are used primarily for law enforcement missions. VSP also operates three single-engine Cessna 182 airplanes to transport investigators and administrative personnel, perform surveillance work, conduct speed enforcement, and patrol the interstates. VSP partners with first responders from local governments and the private sector.

http://www.aviationtoday.com/rw/topstories/Virginia-State-Police-Protecting-the-Commonwealth_79597.html

WHO Sets up Emergency Committee on MERS Virus

The World Health Organization is forming an emergency committee of international experts to prepare for a possible worsening of the Middle East coronavirus (MERS), which has killed 40 people.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/07/05/us-coronavirus-emergency-committee-idUSBRE9640B320130705>

Inspector General Tells DHS to Fix Information Sharing Portal Fast

A new inspector general's report is recommending that the Homeland Security Information Network (HSIN) move quickly to upgrade its system and make it more readily available to DHS partners. HSIN is the secure, unclassified internet portal that enables information sharing and collaboration across homeland security networks. But it has been snared in a myriad of problems.

<http://www.hstoday.us/single-article/inspector-general-tells-dhs-to-fix-information-sharing-portal-fast/1bd2c9c64c4f0ab9d4010ac6ff68109e.html>

New Way Found to Battle Mosquitoes Carrying Diseases

In the global war against disease-carrying mosquitoes, scientists have long believed that a single molecular door was the key target for insecticide. This door, however, is closing, giving mosquitoes the upper hand. In a study published this month, a team of researchers has discovered a second gateway that could turn the tide against the mosquitoes' growing advantage.

<http://www.homelandsecuritynewswire.com/dr20130709-new-way-found-to-battle-mosquitoes-carrying-diseases>

When Disaster Strikes, Tweets Point to Ground Zero

People around the world have live-tweeted natural disasters, elections, and revolutions. Researchers at Harvard Medical School propose that public tweets selected by geography be included in the routine monitoring signals that emergency responders already track, targeting certain keywords. The monitoring would be particularly useful in local, community-organized events in which a large crowd gathering was expected.

<http://www.nbcnews.com/technology/when-disaster-strikes-tweets-point-ground-zero-6C10578539>

Is Your Hospital Prepared for a Disaster?

The United States Department of Health and Human Services recently announced that they have awarded \$916 million in emergency preparedness grants for states this year, which includes \$332 million for hospitals. The funding is meant to help hospitals address potential public health threats in states, eight U.S. territories, and four of the nation's largest urban centers: Washington D.C., Los Angeles, New York and Chicago.

<http://www.dotmed.com/news/story/21489/>

Hurricane Evacuation Maps Updated

Cities all along the Gulf and East coasts are heading into what's expected to be a whopper of a hurricane season, but are better prepared with newly revised evacuation zone maps. Previous maps were ready for an overhaul, and the new maps incorporate the latest population, development and elevation data as well as updated storm-surge information from the National Hurricane Center.

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/weather/2013/07/13/hurricane-evacuation-maps-storm-surge-new-york-miami/2506167/>

Researchers Aim to Create Disaster-proof Mobile Network

Several Australian telecommunications researchers have started taking steps to build a disaster-proof mobile network and are looking for more funding to expand their cause. They developed free software, called the Serval Mesh, which enables Android phones to send and receive information using built-in Wi-Fi without depending on established cellular networks. They also created a "mesh extender" device that substantially increases the Wi-Fi range, currently at 100 meters, between phones on the new network. The software could enhance the Internet's capabilities not only for people in disaster zones, but also for those in war zones and in developing countries, where the cost of mobile telecommunication is often prohibitive.

<http://www.brookings.edu/events/2013/07/16-mobile-technology-natural-disasters-public-safety>

Anonymous Hackers Exposes Details of U.S FEMA Contractors

Anonymous hackers claimed earlier this month that they had broken into a server used by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and leaked the database (password:fema) includes names, addresses and other information of FEMA contractors, private defense contractors, federal agents and local authorities. Hack was performed in response to Homeland Security training exercises that centered on a fictional version of the hacker collective. FEMA, under the Department of Homeland Security, conducts an National Level Exercise (NLE) each year.

<http://thehackernews.com/2013/07/Anonymous-hacker-FEMA-database.html>

Case Study and Analysis of Asiana Airlines Flight 214

Social media needs to be an integral part of any crisis management plan for an airline or airport today. There is no longer the luxury to respond in two hours, or even twenty minutes. The first tweet about the crash of Asiana Airlines Flight 214 was sent out just thirty seconds after the airliner impacted at San Francisco International Airport. Passengers were posting information not just on Twitter and Facebook, but also on Path and Sina Weibo. A number of organizations, including San Francisco International Airport, the NTSB, Boeing, and a few other airlines kept travelers updated on the latest situation. Asiana Airlines, however, was slow to respond and was far from satisfying the insatiable need for more information in the hours after the crash.

<http://simpliflying.com/2013/asiana-airlines-flight-214-crash-in-sfo-crises-management-case-study-and-analysis/>

Wall Street Runs Cybersecurity Drills

A simulated cyber attack, codenamed Quantum Dawn 2, tested the cybersecurity readiness of the biggest financial institutions in the world, including the U.S. Treasury and other government agencies. The drill was organized by Securities Industry and Financial Markets Association, an industry trade group.

<http://www.itbusinessedge.com/blogs/data-security/wall-street-runs-cybersecurity-drills-to-test-preparedness.html>

First Half of 2013 Global Natural Disasters-related Losses: \$85 Billion

Impact Forecasting issued its mid-year natural disaster analysis, which aggregates the key global natural disaster perils data for the first half of 2013. The data show that economic losses from global natural disasters during the six month period ending 30 June totaled \$85 billion (2012: \$75 billion) -- around 15 percent lower than the 10-year (2003-2012) average of \$100 billion.

<http://www.homelandsecuritynewswire.com/srdisasters20130725-first-half-of-2013-global-natural-disastersrelated-losses-85-billion>

Hurricane Hunters Facing Tough Choices Because of Budgets

The commander of the Hurricane Hunters says the squadron is facing some tough choices as to which storms they fly into and how often. The 53rd Weather Reconnaissance Squadron flies into the eye of the storm and gathers information to help predict where that storm is likely to head next. Officials said if two simultaneous missions prove to be too much, it may come down to some hard choices. “The options will be either we prioritize the storms, or we don’t fly certain storms, or we fly to all the storms less often,” Colonel Craig LaFave said.

<http://www.weather.com/news/weather-hurricanes/hurricane-hunters-facing-tough-choices-20130725>

National Network of Fusion Centers Report Released

On Friday, officials released a majority staff report entitled “The National Network of Fusion Centers,” detailing the Committee’s findings and recommendations developed from a comprehensive study of fusion centers across the country. The network includes 78 fusion centers across 49 states, the District of Columbia, and three territories. The report concludes that the network is not functioning as cohesively as it should be and fusion centers are facing numerous challenges that prevent the network from realizing its full potential.

http://m.yourhoustonnews.com/mobile/magnolia/news/mccaul-king-release-report-on-national-network-of-fusion-centers/article_d03f113a-f737-11e2-a5fc-0019bb2963f4.html

<http://homeland.house.gov/sites/homeland.house.gov/files/documents/CHS%20SLFC%20Report%202013%20FINAL.pdf>

FLU

Mandatory Flu Vaccination of Healthcare Personnel Does Not Lead to Worker Exodus

A 4-year analysis finds 99 percent get vaccinated; very few employees choose to terminate

Mandatory influenza (flu) vaccination, as a condition of employment, did not lead to excessive voluntary termination, according to a four-year analysis of vaccination rates at Loyola University Medical Center in Maywood, IL. Flu infections result in approximately 150,000 hospital admissions and 24,000 deaths annually.¹ The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends that all healthcare personnel (HCP) receive the annual flu vaccine, yet the national average for HCP vaccination is only 64 percent. Infection control and prevention specialists at Loyola worked with a multidisciplinary task force to develop a facility-wide policy that made flu vaccination a condition of employment. Their successful approach was presented on Sunday, June 9, at the 40th Annual Conference of the Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology (APIC).

http://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2013-06/afpi-mfv060613.php

H7N9 Prompts Fresh Look at H7 Pandemic Potential

Some of the U.S. government’s top influenza experts weighed in recently on the threat from the new H7N9 virus, airing some unusual properties of H7 viruses that challenge the notion that they aren’t likely to adapt to humans or cause pandemics. The same experts addressed the H7N9 virus linked to China’s recent outbreak more specifically in the June 20 issue of the New England Journal of Medicine (NEJM), but their report looks at the pandemic potential through the lens of what’s known about other H7 viruses. The group’s review appears in the latest issue of mBio, the online journal of the American Society for Microbiology.

<http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/news-perspective/2013/07/h7n9-prompts-fresh-look-h7-pandemic-potential>

Global Transformers and the Pandemic Threat

A pandemic has occurred every 10-15 years for the past few centuries. The last one was in 1968, so epidemiologists do not talk of whether there will be a new pandemic, but of when it will occur. Human encroachment on wild lands means that diseases that infect animals have an unprecedented chance to jump across species to us. Additionally, because we are living in greater numbers and densities than ever before, and because so many of us travel internationally – and do so much faster – there is a greater opportunity for pathogens to spread. If a virus can infect someone in one part of the world, it is unlikely to be contained.

<http://www.bbc.com/future/story/20130711-what-if-a-pandemic-strikes>

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>



TRAININGS / EXERCISES / CONFERENCES

The 127th Annual Virginia State Firefighters Association Conference/Expo

Aug. 14-17; Hampton Roads Convention Center, Hampton, Va.

July 29 is the cutoff date to receive conference rates.

<http://www.vsfa.org/conference-expo/>

National Course on Earthquake-Resilient Engineering Techniques

Aug. 16; Reston, Va.

Engineers, building officials and design professionals may receive certification on Earthquake Engineer Techniques at the National Institute of Building Sciences Building Seismic Safety Council (BSSC) on Friday, Aug. 16 in Reston, Va. The seven-hour course, "Earthquake Engineering Techniques: From the NEHRP Provisions to Building Seismic Design," will be held at the Bechtel Conference Center of the American Society of Civil Engineer (ASCE). Students may strengthen their seismic design skills in the course and improve their understanding of the current FEMA National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program (NEHRP) Recommended Seismic Provisions. To register, go to <http://bit.ly/186Tjzz> or email Roger Grant at rgrant@nibs.org.

Learning in Disaster Health: A Continuing Education Workshop

Sept. 17-18; Washington, D.C.

The National Center for Disaster Medicine and Public Health (NCDMPH) presents Learning in Disaster Health: A Continuing Education Workshop which seeks to explore the following overarching question: How can the nation effectively conduct education and training in disaster health to mitigate death and injuries from all-hazards disasters?

<http://www.cvent.com/events/learning-in-disaster-health-a-continuing-education-workshop/event-summary-8688867233a844d3b5a3afeccebbf288.aspx>

International Facility Security Officer Conference (IFSO)

Sept. 17-19; Niagara Falls, N.Y.

The IFSO conference was created to give members of the international port community a unique opportunity to have direct access to the foremost leaders that establish the industry's best practices and procedures. The conference will allow port facility professionals from around the country and world to share their expertise as well as current and future trends.

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

IEEE Communications & Network Security Conference 2013

Oct. 14-16; Washington, D.C.

Cyber security has become an important research and development area for academia, government, and industry in

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recent years. As a leading professional society focusing on communications technologies, IEEE Communications Society (ComSoc) has identified the need for a high-quality security conference and will serve as a premier forum for cyber security researchers, practitioners, policy makers, and users to exchange ideas, techniques and tools, raise awareness, and share experience related to security and privacy.

<http://www.ieee-cns.org/>

Homeland Security 2013

Oct. 15-18; OMNI Hotel, Washington, D.C.

Evolving from two successful years as the Border Management Conference & Technology Expo, that conference has expanded its focus to also include tracks on Cyber Security & Critical Infrastructure and Disaster Preparedness & Response along with additional topic areas impacting homeland security. This presents a unique opportunity to connect with potential customers across various civilian and defense agencies just as they gain access to their fiscal year 2014 budgets. Over 30 speakers already are scheduled.

<http://www.homelandsecurityexpo.com/Opportunities.aspx>

120th Annual International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) Conference

Oct. 19-23; Philadelphia, Pa.

This year, IACP 2013 is your best opportunity to learn, network, and problem solve at a one-of-a-kind event dedicated specifically to law enforcement professionals. With renowned keynote speakers, forums and technical workshops, and the largest exhibit hall of products and services in the law enforcement community, leaders from around the globe come together at the IACP Annual Conference to foster a continuing exchange of information and experience.

<http://www.theiacpconference.org/iacp2013/public/enter.aspx>

34th Annual Virginia EMS Symposium

Nov. 6-10; Norfolk, Va.

The Virginia Office of EMS invites you to take a look at the 34th Annual Virginia EMS Symposium Pre-Conference Guide. This year's symposium will feature over 250 courses at the Norfolk Waterside, Marriott. General registration opens August 1.

http://www.vdh.state.va.us/OEMS/Files_Page/symposium/Pre-ConferenceGuide2013.pdf

FEMA Offers Mass Casualty Training to Schools, Universities and Houses of Worship

Emergency managers and administration in schools, higher education and religious establishments may receive online training to be prepared for mass casualty events. Available on FEMA's training website, the course is designed to help develop planning and response procedures to possible threats. The three-hour course offers 0.3 "Continuing Education Units (CEUs)" and a course certification upon completion of the exam. To register for the course, go to

<http://go.usa.gov/jxhG>.

National Capital Region Homeland Security Events

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

Virginia Emergency Management Courses

<http://www.vaemergency.com>

FEMA Independent Study Courses

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

American Red Cross Disaster Services Training

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

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/>
- 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 NICCCReports@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/>

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To Unsubscribe:

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

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

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

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

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