



ESF 15 Business / Nonprofit Update

Produced by Emergency Support Function 15 – External Affairs

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ITEMS OF INTEREST FOR ESF 15

Metro Creates Emergency Station Evacuation Maps

The Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority is creating customized evacuation maps for each of its 117 rail stations. The maps will show all bus service near the station and provide walking directions to the closest Metrorail station to help passengers find an alternative route if a station must be evacuated or suffers a major service disruption. http://www.wmata.com/about/MET_NEWS/PressReleaseDetail.cfm?ReleaseID=2099

Virginia Emergency Manager Testifies Before Congress

Capt. Jim Judkins, emergency management coordinator for the city of Suffolk, recently testified before the U.S. House of Representatives' Transportation and Infrastructure Committee about improvements to the Emergency Alert System. The "Assuring Public Alert Systems Work to Warn American Citizens of Natural and Terrorist Disasters" hearing offered several witnesses the opportunity to talk about the way the system currently works, which requires residents in an affected area to actively listen to local television and radio stations or to pre-register with a service to receive alerts. The Committee is investigating possible ways to alert residents who are not listening for alerts and who haven't registered to receive them in any other way. Judkins testified on behalf of the survivors of the April 28 tornadoes in Suffolk (where there were no fatalities) that EAS alerts saved many lives:

"In my 28-plus years [of] experience, I find there is no one perfect alert system. Sirens fail, either mechanically or [people do not hear them] due to the use of headphones on personal listening devices. Weather radios are turned off for unexplained reasons. More and more people are watching or listening to satellite radio and television where local warnings are not available. Subscriber-based weather warning services require pre-registering. My grandmother once said, 'You can lead a mule to water but you can't force him to drink.' The same thing applies to warning systems. Each of us has a responsibility to our families for their safety and well-being. That responsibility includes knowing your community's warning system and having a method to receive emergency messages. Three simple phrases say it all. Get a kit, have a plan and stay informed."

Judkins' entire testimony and that of each witness, including representatives from the International Association of Emergency Managers, the Federal Communications Commission, FEMA and the National Emergency Management Association, are available at <http://www.iaem.com/publications/news/news.htm#hearing060408>.

Reprinted from the June 18, 2008 edition of EM Update, the e-mail newsletter from the Virginia Department of Emergency Management.

FEMA to Assume Aggregator/Gateway Role for Nationwide Cell Phone Alert System

The Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has announced that it will perform the unified aggregator/gateway role for the Commercial Mobile Alert System, mandated by the Warning Alert Response Network (WARN) Act. It is anticipated that the Alert Aggregator/Gateway system, which has not yet been designed or engineered, will be able to verify that federal, state and local emergency alerts are sent by "authorized senders," and then transmit the alerts to commercial mobile service providers, which will, in turn, send them to their cellular subscribers in specific geographic areas. FEMA spelled out a number of conditions that it believes will create an environment in which it can successfully administer the Aggregator/Gateway system:

- The federal aggregator will interface with, but not interfere with, existing state and local alerting systems.
- The states will be responsible for determining and identifying those persons who have the authority to send alerts for their specific jurisdictions.
- The federal Aggregator system will be engineered with DHS/Science and Technology scientists.

In a related matter, it is expected that FEMA will announce its position on adopting the Common Alert Protocol (CAP) within the next 30 to 60 days.

<http://www.fema.gov/news/newsrelease.fema?id=43619>

DHS Announces Pre-Travel Authorization Program for U.S.-Bound Travelers from Visa Waiver Countries

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) announced earlier this month the Interim final rule for the Electronic System for Travel Authorization (ESTA), a new online system that is part of the Visa Waiver Program (VWP) and is required by the Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007. "Rather than relying on paper-based procedures, this system will leverage 21st century electronic means to obtain basic information about who is traveling to the U.S. without a visa," said Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff. Currently, citizens of VWP countries complete a written I-94W form providing basic biographical, travel and eligibility information while en-route to the U.S. With ESTA, VWP travelers will provide this information online prior to departure for the U.S. ESTA will determine, almost immediately in many cases, if an individual is eligible for VWP travel, and if such travel poses any law enforcement or security risks. ESTA applications may be submitted at any time prior to travel, and once approved, will be valid for up to two years or until the applicant's passport expires, whichever comes first. Authorizations will also be valid for multiple entries into the U.S. To facilitate the authorization process, DHS recommends that ESTA applications be submitted as soon as an applicant begins planning U.S.-bound travel, and not less than 72 hours prior to travel. On Aug. 1, 2008, the department will begin to accept voluntary applications through the ESTA Web site at <https://esta.cbp.dhs.gov>. Until ESTA is mandatory for all VWP travelers, however, ESTA applicants will also still need to complete an I-94W form en-route, for presentation at a U.S. port of entry. The Secretary of Homeland Security is anticipated to publish a notice in the Federal Register by mid-November 2008, announcing implementation of mandatory ESTA requirements on Jan. 12, 2009. Last fiscal year, the U.S. welcomed more than 15 million VWP visitors. For more information about ESTA, please visit <http://www.cbp.gov/travel>.

DHS To Upgrade Homeland Security Information Network

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) announced early this month that it is taking steps to enhance its Homeland Security Information Network (HSIN). Known as HSIN Next Generation (NextGen), the enhancement will provide a secure and trusted national platform for Sensitive But Unclassified (SBU) information sharing and collaboration between federal, state, local, tribal, territorial, private sector and international partners. HSIN Next Generation will update the current HSIN technology to better enable Homeland Security to meet the requirements of a trusted and secure environment, combined with enhanced capabilities in many areas. HSIN NextGen will provide DHS, partners and stakeholders information management capabilities and services including a portal, search, collaboration, enterprise content management, and service oriented architecture-based information integration and analysis functions to facilitate their collaboration and information sharing needs for SBU data. Task order award took place on May 23, 2008, through the Enterprise Acquisition Gateway for Leading Edge Solutions (EAGLE) Indefinite Delivery Indefinite Quantity (IDIQ) contract to General Dynamics One Source, LLC of Fairfax, VA, to develop, operate, maintain and enhance the HSIN NextGen information sharing and collaboration portal. The initial award is for \$18 million and the total potential five year value, if all options are exercised, is \$62 million.

http://www.dhs.gov/xnews/releases/pr_1212787226112.shtm

HHS Provides more than \$1 Billion to Improve All Hazards Public Health

HHS Secretary Mike Leavitt announced early this month that the department has made available nearly \$1.1 billion to continue assisting public health departments, hospitals and other health care organizations to strengthen their ability to respond to public health and medical emergencies as a result of a terrorism attack or naturally occurring event. The HHS funding is awarded via two separate but interrelated cooperative agreements. HHS' Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is providing a total of \$704.8 million in funding to health departments in states, territories and metro areas of New York City, Chicago, Los Angeles County and Washington, D.C., through the Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) cooperative agreement. The HHS Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR) is also awarding \$398 million through the Hospital Preparedness Program (HPP). The CDC-provided funds are intended to upgrade public health departments' preparedness and response to all hazards public health emergencies including terrorism, as well as pandemic influenza and other naturally occurring emergencies. These funds will be used to meet goals that include:

- Integrating public health and public and private medical capabilities with other first responder systems.
- Addressing the public health and medical needs of at-risk individuals (such as children, or people with chronic medical disorders) in the event of a public health emergency.

- Assuring coordination among state, local, and tribal planning, preparedness, and response activities.

The ASPR-awarded funds are being provided to states, territories and the metro areas of New York City, Chicago, Los Angeles County and Washington, D.C. These funds will be used to improve the readiness of hospitals and other health care organizations in their jurisdictions. The goal is to strengthen medical surge capability across the nation.

<http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2008pres/06/20080603a.html>

For more information on the Hospital Preparedness Grants: <http://www.hhs.gov/aspr/opeo/hpp/>.

For more information about the Public Health Emergency Preparedness grants:

<http://emergencydev.cdc.gov/planning/coopagreement/08/>

It's Good Business to Prepare for Disaster

Businesses that plan for disaster before a storm typically have less damage, loss, and downtime than those that do not. It's a good reason, according to federal and state officials, to include disaster preparations in the normal course of business planning. FEMA encourages disaster readiness for businesses not only as a means to reduce damage and loss but also as a way to help a community recover after a disaster. Businesses should consider several elements in preparing for a disaster. Not only is it important to protect the staff, building, data and inventory of a company during a damaging event, it's also critical to prepare a plan to continue operations after most everything is destroyed. A good plan may include provisions to relocate to a pre-identified site; retrieve data, including employee, customer and vendor records; and a way to operate efficiently with a smaller staff of key individuals. Protecting one's property from flooding is not a concern strictly for residential property owners or renters. Business owners may consider purchasing flood insurance through the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). The proceeds of a claim payment are usually received within a very short period of time, allowing insured property owners to restore their normal course of business. For questions concerning the NFIP, contact a local insurance agent or the NFIP Call Center at 866-925-8789. There are internet resources available to help businesses plan for disasters. FEMA provides a step-by-step approach to emergency planning, response and recovery for companies of all sizes in its Emergency Management Guide for Business and Industry in the FEMA publication library.

<http://www.fema.gov/library/index.jsp>

DHS Designates E-Verify as Employment Eligibility Verification System for All Federal Contractors

The Department of Homeland Security on June 10 designated E-Verify, operated by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services in partnership with the Social Security Administration, as the electronic employment eligibility verification system that all federal contractors must use as required by Executive Order 12989, as amended. E-Verify is a free Internet-based system that allows enrolled employers to confirm the legal status of new hires within seconds. President George W. Bush has amended Executive Order 12989 in order to direct all federal departments and agencies to require contractors, as a condition of each future federal contract, to agree to use an electronic employment eligibility verification system – designated by the Secretary of Homeland Security – to verify the employment eligibility of all persons hired during the contract term and all persons performing work within the United States on the federal contract. In response to this Executive Order, Secretary Michael Chertoff designated E-Verify as the system of choice to ensure that the federal government only does business with companies that agree to verify the legality of their new hires and further, that the specific employees tapped to perform contract services in the United States for the federal government are authorized to work in this country. Federal departments and agencies within the executive branch are already enrolling with E-Verify to check the status of all new hires within the federal workforce. Agencies responsible for federal acquisition regulations (FAR) will send a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) to the Federal Register soliciting public comment on proposed changes to these regulations. Comments will be accepted for 60 days. More than 69,000 employers currently rely on E-Verify to determine that their new hires are authorized to work in the United States. Employers have run more than 4 million employment verification queries so far in fiscal year 2008. Of those queries, 99.5 percent of qualified employees are cleared automatically by E-Verify. To view the Executive Order, visit <http://www.whitehouse.gov>.

Fairfax County Faith Communities in Action Wins National Award

The Fairfax County Faith Communities in Action (FCIA) Interfaith Emergency Planning Steering Committee has been awarded the National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster 2008 Preparedness Non-Profit Partnership Award. FCIA Interfaith Emergency Planning Steering Committee has partnered with local organizations, nonprofits

and government agencies since 2005 to strengthen regional emergency preparedness, response and recovery efforts. The following programs were recognized:

- Faith Community Connectivity and Coordination with Government and Non-Profit Emergency Agencies and Organizations.
- “Ready... Pack... Go” Campaign.
- Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Summit.
- Interfaith Emergency Planning Newsletter.

FCIA Interfaith Emergency Planning Steering Committee represents more than 600 individual faith communities and 50 faith-based organizations in Fairfax County. Its communication network reaches the surrounding Northern Virginia jurisdictions providing emergency preparedness, response and recovery information to over 900 houses of worship. For more information about these campaigns and the award, contact the Fairfax County Community Interfaith Liaison Office at 703-324-8272, TTY 703-324-7914.

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/news/2008/133.htm>

PLANNING / PREPAREDNESS

Statewide Preparedness Study

VDEM, the Virginia Department of Emergency Management, has created a short online survey to assess the public’s perception of their level of preparedness. The study will help determine Virginians’ awareness of potential hazards and threats in their area, the steps they have taken to get ready for disasters and the level of participation in disaster response volunteer groups. The survey is available online at

https://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=dIV_2b262GQMCPjiW02a3WTw_3d_3d

Fairfax County Damage Assessment Plan

Fairfax County’s Damage Assessment Plan, which was completed on May 30, 2008, provides detailed procedures for assessing the conditions of homes, business establishments, private property and all other non-government owned buildings and structures affected by a disaster. The damage assessment process dramatically aids coordination of relief efforts, reconstruction and financial reimbursement. The plan was completed just days before Fairfax County experienced damaging storms. The plan assisted in coordination and communication efforts among emergency response agencies while identifying and evaluating the affected areas. Damage assessment is a major task throughout the response and short-term recovery phases of a disaster. After establishing a baseline during the initial damage assessment, the county partners with the Virginia Department of Emergency Management, the Federal Emergency Management Agency and other agencies to complete the preliminary damage assessment (PDA). The PDA enables federal and state authorities to evaluate sustained damages to assist the governor in making the decision to declare a state of emergency or, if further assistance is needed, the president in approving the governor’s request for a presidential disaster declaration. The accuracy of the analysis and information tracking during each of the assessments is particularly crucial when final justifications for financial reimbursement are made at the end of the long-term recovery phase. The plan will be shared with the National Capital Region as part of the county’s program focused on the long-term recovery and revitalization efforts after a major disaster. The plan satisfies the requirement of the National Flood Insurance Program, a federal program enabling property owners in participating communities to purchase insurance to protect them against flood losses. More information on the flood insurance program can be found at www.fema.gov/business/nfip. For more information, contact the Fairfax County Office of Emergency Management at 703-324-2362, TTY 711, or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/oem.

Small Business Disaster Planning Resource Now Available in Spanish

The US Institute for Business & Home Safety (IBHS) has announced that its popular “Open for Business” disaster planning toolkit is now available in Spanish.

<http://www.continuitycentral.com/news03960.htm>

FEMA Makes \$27.2 Million Available for Preparedness Training Initiatives

FEMA has announced that it is making \$27.2 million available to state, local, tribal and territorial governments;

national associations, non-profits, higher education institutions and the private sector as part of the fiscal year 2008 Competitive Training Grant Program (CTGP). This program awards funds to competitively selected applicants to develop and deliver innovative training programs addressing high priority national homeland security training needs. In FY08, the emphasis is on the development and delivery of courses in any of the following five focus areas:

- Intelligence/information sharing and dissemination
- Critical infrastructure protection
- Regional collaboration
- Citizen preparedness and participation
- Citizen evacuation and/or shelter-in-place.

Eligible entities may apply for funding through the www.grants.gov portal. Applications can be received no later than 8 p.m. EST June 9, 2008.

<http://www.grants.gov>

Blast Injury Fact Sheets

In an instant, an explosion or blast can wreck havoc; producing numerous casualties with complex, technically challenging injuries not commonly seen after natural disasters such as floods or hurricanes. To address this issue, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), in collaboration with partners from the Terrorism Injuries Information, Dissemination and Exchange (TIIDE) Project, as well as other experts in the field, have developed fact sheets for health care providers that provide detailed information on the treatment of blast injuries. These fact sheets address background, clinical presentation, diagnostic evaluation, management and disposition of blast injury topics. The fact sheets may be viewed and downloaded for use in the treatment of blast injury patients, in the training of clinical staff or to disseminate to others. These fact sheets will soon be available in Spanish, Chinese, and French. Additional fact sheet topics will be posted as they are developed.

<http://emergency.cdc.gov/masscasualties/blastinjuryfacts.asp>

COOP Toolkit Chosen as Best Practice

The Emergency Management Accreditation Program has recognized VDEM's online Continuity of Operations Plan Toolkit as a best practice. COOP planning ensures the continued performance of an organization's essential functions during an emergency; employee safety; and equipment, records and other asset protection. VDEM's COOP Toolkit helps local governments, state agencies and institutions of higher learning develop plans that address their specific needs. The manuals offer procedural and operational guidance for preparing and implementing a COOP plan. The worksheets assist in assembling the information necessary to develop the critical elements of a COOP plan and correspond with the seven phases of the COOP planning process. The templates help to complete cohesive documentation for a COOP plan that is specific to the organization's needs. In addition, VDEM developed a Pandemic Influenza COOP Annex to assist organizations in planning for the unique impacts of a wide-spread, highly communicable disease. The Toolkit also received an Honorable Mention Media Award from the International Association of Emergency Managers in 2006. The COOP Toolkit is available at

<http://www.vaemergency.com/library/coop/index.cfm>.

Reprinted from the June 4, 2008 EM Update e-mail newsletter from the Virginia Department of Emergency Management.

NOAA Releases Atlantic Hurricane Season Forecast

NOAA's Climate Prediction Center is predicting a near normal or above normal hurricane season in the Atlantic this year. The outlook calls for a 90 percent chance of a near-normal or above-normal season and indicates a 60 to 70 percent chance of 12 to 16 named storms, including six to nine hurricanes and two to five major hurricanes. An average season has 11 named storms, including six hurricanes for which two reach major status. NOAA will update the forecast on Aug. 7.

<http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/outlooks/hurricane.shtml>.

40 Percent of U.S. Small Businesses Not Prepared for Disasters

An Office Depot survey reveals that time and perceived expense are the biggest barriers to adequate preparation. The survey of small businesses found that 40 percent of small businesses admit that they are not prepared for a disaster

and one-third indicate that they have no current plans to get prepared. Of those businesses indicating they were not prepared for a natural disaster:

- 37 percent said they had not taken the time to do so.
- 17 percent indicated it was too expensive.
- 11 percent claim not to know what to do.

The Office Depot survey did show that small business owners living in natural disaster-prone regions (Coastal areas or the Midwest) are far more inclined towards disaster preparation. But nationally speaking, a full 25 percent of business owners describe their attitude towards disaster preparation as “live and let live,” explaining they would rather deal with a disaster when it occurs than get ahead of a potential problem.

<http://www.officedepot.com/getprepared>

Energy and Resources Companies Make Progress on Security

Energy and resources businesses are working hard to improve their security and to be one step ahead of the latest security threats, according to the 2008 Energy and Resources Global Security Survey published recently by Deloitte. Human error remains the greatest threat and firms still need to get to grips with the latest available security technology. According to the survey, a majority of companies (62 percent) are “very confident” they are safe from an external attack, while 41 percent said they are “very confident” that they are safe from internal attack. However, the need for security to remain a high priority is highlighted by the threats faced by business. More than half of respondents (53 percent) suffered from an email attack in the last 12 months and 44 percent have experienced repeated email attacks. One way companies can stay on top of their information security is by training their staff. More than a quarter of organizations (29 percent) give their employees no training at all on information security or privacy issues, or how to identify suspicious activities. The survey reveals that companies have developed a strong governance framework around their security. The majority of energy and resources organizations have appointed a chief information security officer. The majority of companies (72 percent) have information security governance frameworks and strategies in place. This senior leadership driving the information security governance framework reveals a long-term commitment to information security among energy and resources companies globally. In addition, the survey found that more than half of energy and resources companies (55 percent), including critical utilities and infrastructure organizations, have a formal business continuity plan in place; and that although the majority of companies have some form of crisis management plan in place (81 percent), only a minority (27 percent) have specific crisis management teams or regularly test their crisis management plans.

http://www.deloitte.com/dtt/section_node/0,1042,sid%3D1104,00.html

Small Business Disaster Planning Resource Now Available in Spanish

The U.S. Institute for Business & Home Safety (IBHS) has announced that its popular “Open for Business” disaster planning toolkit is now available in Spanish. The United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce estimates there are more than 2.5 million Hispanic owned businesses in the United States that generate more than \$388 billion in revenue annually. IBHS President and CEO Julie Rochman, said, “Small businesses are particularly vulnerable, because they typically operate on thin margins. Unforeseen interruptions – even for just a few days – can be devastating to a company. Toward that end, we are proud to release this new Spanish-language version of Open for Business.”

Free single copies of the Open for Business toolkit in English or Spanish are available by e-mailing info@ibhs.org or by calling toll-free, 1-866-657-4247.

http://www.disastersafety.org/business_protection/

Kidnap Checklist

In various parts of the world, top executives are increasingly at risk from kidnap, ransom and extortion: what can companies do to reduce the threat in the first place? Although it is impossible to completely eliminate the risk, there are preventative measures companies can take to protect their employees. These include:

- Acknowledge the threat.
- Conduct a risk analysis: a thorough assessment of the individuals at risk, the geopolitical environment and the possible hazards they may face.
- Use the results of the risk analysis to develop a risk management strategy, which generally includes creating a contingency plan, purchasing quality insurance coverage and hiring executive protection professionals.

If you become a kidnapping victim:

- Remain calm.
- Be alert.
- Assess the situation thoroughly.
- Do not antagonize the abductor.
- Do not make any promises on your end. They may conflict with the response team's negotiation.

Source: *Universal Protection Service*

Public Health Preparedness: A CDC Report on the Public Health Emergency Preparedness Cooperative
CDC's Coordinating Office for Terrorism Preparedness and Emergency Response (COTPER) has released its inaugural report on public health emergency preparedness. The report, "Public Health Preparedness: Mobilizing State by State," highlights the progress that has been made in state and local preparedness and response, identifies preparedness challenges facing public health departments, and outlines CDC's efforts to address those challenges. Designed to increase accountability regarding the country's investment in preparedness activities, the report presents national data as well as state-specific snapshots for all 50 states and four directly funded localities: Chicago; Los Angeles County; New York City; and Washington, D.C.

<http://emergency.cdc.gov/publications/feb08phprep/>

Snapshots of Public Health Preparedness in Virginia:

<http://emergency.cdc.gov/publications/feb08phprep/section2/Virginia.asp>

Summer Safety Tips

Heat takes the greatest toll on the very young and the very old, especially children younger than 5 and adults older than 65. Intense summer temperatures also greatly affect people who are sick or take certain medications, including diuretics, antihistamines, beta-blockers and tranquilizers. To keep cool, follow this general advice:

- Drink plenty of water. Avoid caffeinated or alcoholic beverages because they dehydrate the body.
- Stay indoors as much as possible. Spend time in an air-conditioned place if possible; resting for just two hours in air conditioning can significantly reduce heat-related illnesses.
- Slow down. Avoid strenuous physical activities or reschedule them for the coolest part of the day, usually the early morning.
- Eat light meals.
- Don't take salt tablets unless directed by a physician.
- Wear light-colored clothing, which helps reflect sunlight.
- Wear sunscreen to prevent sunburn. Sunburn makes it more difficult for your body to cool off.
- Never leave children or pets unattended in a car — not even for a few minutes. Even with the windows slightly open, the temperature in a car on a 93-degree day can soar to 125 degrees in just 20 minutes and approximately 140 degrees in 40 minutes.

Residents who need immediate, life-saving help, should call 9-1-1. For other safety help, call the public safety non-emergency phone number at 703-691-2131, TTY 711.

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency/prepare/summer/>

MEDIA ARTICLES OF INTEREST

Washington Area Not Ready for a Disaster, Report Says

Washington has just 5 percent of the housing needed to shelter residents in the event of a major disaster, according to a new report. And it will cost between \$60 million and \$70 million to get the region where it needs to be, the report from the Greater Washington Nonprofit Emergency Preparedness Task Force says. The task force is a collaboration between the Nonprofit Roundtable and consulting firm Deloitte. The Washington area is supposed to be able to shelter between 300,000 and 715,000 people during a disaster, according to Department of Homeland Security guidelines. The housing gap is the most glaring issue in the report, which outlines how prepared nonprofits are to respond to a disaster. The group's work takes into account not only nonprofits that are intimately involved in disaster

response, such as the American Red Cross, but other organizations that may be called upon during or after an emergency, such as housing-related organizations.

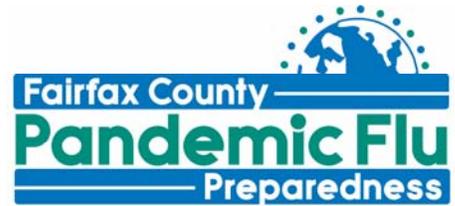
http://www.examiner.com/a-1429551~Washington_area_not_ready_for_a_disaster_report_says.html

PANDEMIC FLU

Fairfax County Pandemic Flu Preparedness

Visit the county's pandemic flu Web page for more information.

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



Scientists Create Avian Flu Vaccine with Monkey Cells

Using the cells of monkeys instead of chicken eggs can make an effective vaccine against pandemic avian flu, reports the New England Journal of Medicine. Vaccines to protect people against a highly virulent H5N1 bird flu pandemic are made using the embryos of hens' eggs. "Although it is the best we have, for the long term it's probably not" explained Peter Wright, a professor of pediatrics at Dartmouth College in Hanover, New Hampshire.

http://www.worldpoultry.net/news/id2205-49508/scientists_create_avian_flu_vaccine_with_monkey_cells.html

HHS Seeks Comment on Pandemic Guidances

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services is requesting comments from the public and interested stakeholders on three draft guidances: Interim Guidance on the Use and Purchase of Facemasks and Respirators by Individuals and Families for Pandemic Influenza Preparedness; Proposed Guidance on Antiviral Drug Use During an Influenza Pandemic; and Proposed Considerations for Antiviral Drug Stockpiling by Employers In Preparation for an Influenza Pandemic.

<http://www.ohsonline.com/articles/64611/>

CDC Head Warns of Complacency and Bird Flu

Dr. Julie Gerberding, head of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, warned at a health conference in Malaysia about the still-lingering danger of a bird flu pandemic, a risk which is heightened by complacency. The official said that she thinks complacency is indeed "public health enemy No. 1," heightening the risk of many outbreaks beyond bird flu. Gerberding urged to continue preparations for a possible outbreak, so that countries can be ready in the event of a possible mutation which might allow the virus to spread among humans. She also warned that preparedness is only as strong as its weakest link.

http://www.efluxmedia.com/news_CDC_Head_Warns_of_Complacency_and_Bird_Flu_19325.html

TRAININGS / EXERCISES / CONFERENCES

National Transit Institute—Terrorist Activity Recognition and Reaction

July 25; Williamsburg, Va.

This class for transit employees who have direct contact with the public teaches participants to identify and report suspected pre-attack terrorist activity; distinguish normal, suspicious, and dangerous activity; define roles in recognizing and reacting to suspicious activity; and describe immediate actions to take when confronted with dangerous activity.

<http://www.drpt.virginia.gov/events/otc/details.aspx?ID=30>

Georgetown U. Master's Programs in Microbiology and Immunology

Fall 2008; Washington, D.C.

Georgetown University's Department of Microbiology and Immunology is now accepting applications for its fall 2008 semester master of science degree programs in microbiology and immunology; biomedical science, policy, and advocacy; and biohazardous threat agents and emerging infectious diseases.

<http://microbiology.georgetown.edu/>

Systems Integration in Biodefense

Aug. 18-19; Washington, D.C.

The conference will discuss getting products to market, technology transition from a research setting to the real world, and pragmatic issues of implementation; and it will showcase novel vaccines and antidotes for biodefense applications. It will be paired with Enabling Point-of-Care Diagnostics, which will expand coverage of devices for dual-use biodefense and clinical applications. Sessions include Protective Countermeasures, Advancements in Rapid Biodefense Countermeasures, Medical Countermeasures: From Mechanism of Action to a Next Generation Vaccine, and Bridging Biodefense and Clinical Applications.

<http://www.healthtech.com/btr/overview.aspx?c=590>.

Hospital Disaster Life Support Course

Sept. 10-11; Oct. 15-16; Dec. 10-11; Washington, D.C.

This course by the ER One Institute at the Washington Hospital Center teaches hospital disaster management response principles for physicians, critical care and emergency nurses, physician extenders, paramedics, hospital administrators, protective services, and emergency preparedness staff. The course combines classroom discussion of all-hazards response issues with hands-on exercise simulation for conventional, chemical, and biological mass-casualty incidents.

http://www.web.sitelms.org/view_event.php?event_id=2

Field Management of Chemical and Biological Casualties

Sept. 22-26 and Nov. 17-21; Aberdeen, Md.

This course is conducted by the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Chemical Defense. It is designed for Medical Service Corps officers and noncommissioned officers in medical or chemical specialties. It comprises classroom, laboratory, and field training.

https://ccc.apgea.army.mil/courses/in_house/brochureFCBC.htm

Supply Chain Security, Resilience & Sustainability

Oct. 17, 2008; Arlington, Va.

This one day conference will be held on the George Mason University Arlington, Virginia Campus.

<http://cipp.gmu.edu>

Altered Standards of Care & Surge Capacity Training Conference

Oct. 27-28, 2008; Washington, D.C.

The Altered Standards of Care & Surge Capacity Conference will bring together an influential gathering of medical and public health leaders to teach preparedness planners at the federal, state, regional, community and health systems levels how to plan and support surge capacity in healthcare systems and develop altered standards of care to meet mass casualty needs during all-hazard and hazard-specific emergencies.

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

LINKS

Fairfax County Blogs and Web Resources

- Fairfax County CERT - <http://fairfaxcountycert.blogspot.com/>
- Fairfax County Citizen Corps Web Page - <http://www.fairfaxcountycitizencorps.org/>
- Fairfax County Citizen Corps Blog - <http://citizencorps.blogspot.com/>
- Virginia Citizen Corps - <http://www.vaemergency.com/citcorps/index.cfm>

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report (OSIR)

The Department of Homeland Security provides a Web-based “Daily OSIR,” which is posted on the DHS public Web site. Accessing the report via the Web enables readers to retrieve the current Daily Report as well as 10 days of archived DHS Daily Reports. Once you arrive at the Web page you will find the most recent Daily OSIR at the top of

the page, under the title “Current Report.” This report is posted each morning, except for weekends and holidays. Simply click on the title “DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report.” This will launch the current days report in PDF format. You can continue to submit content comments or make suggestions by contacting the DHS Daily Report Team by telephone at 202-312-5389 or by e-mail at NICCRports@dhs.gov. You can access the Daily OSIR at: http://www.dhs.gov/xinfoshare/programs/editorial_0542.shtm.

Fairfax County Government Emergency Information Web Page

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

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency/

Fairfax County Government Emergency Information Line

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/opa/infoline.htm



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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.

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

The ESF 15 Business / Nonprofit Update is designed to provide information about Emergency Support Function 15 (External Affairs) along with news articles and informational updates relating to Homeland Security and emergency management to ESF 15 partners. Inclusion of any resource, information or Web link is not an endorsement of the product, service or organization. The ESF 15 Business / Nonprofit Update is produced by Fairfax County’s Office of Public Affairs – the lead agency for ESF 15.