



ESF 15 Business / Nonprofit Update

Produced by Emergency Support Function 15 – External Affairs

June 2012

ITEMS OF INTEREST FOR ESF 15

Atlantic Hurricane Seasonal Forecast

Colorado State University Department of Atmospheric Science updated their extended range forecast of Atlantic Seasonal Hurricane Activity and landfall strike probability for 2012. They foresee slightly below-average activity for the 2012 Atlantic hurricane season. They have increased their forecast slightly from early April, due to large amounts of uncertainty in both the phase of ENSO as well as in Atlantic basin conditions. They anticipate a slightly below-average probability of United States and Caribbean major hurricane landfall.

<http://hurricane.atmos.colostate.edu/forecasts/2012/june2012/jun2012.pdf>

FEMA National Flood Insurance Program Reauthorized for 60 Days

Congressional Action Extends the NFIP Until July 31, 2012

Congress passed and the President signed legislation to extend the National Flood Insurance Program for an additional 60 days, assuring FEMA has the legal authority to continue to sell, renew or modify flood insurance policies until July 31. This short-term extension allows consumers critical time to renew and purchase their flood insurance policies, and complete new mortgage and loan transactions where flood insurance is required. “This short-term extension of the National Flood Insurance program provides property owners, renters and businesses critical time to renew, purchase, or modify insurance policies to protect themselves against the devastating effects of flooding,” said FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate. Under the NFIP, federally backed flood insurance is made available to homeowners, renters and business owners in communities that adopt and enforce floodplain management ordinances designed to reduce future flood losses by regulating new construction. The NFIP identifies areas of flood risk, encourages communities to implement measures to mitigate against the risk of flood loss, provides financial assistance to help individuals recover rapidly from flooding disasters, and lessens the financial impact of flood disasters on individuals, businesses, and all levels of government. Learn more about your flood risk, flood insurance and hurricane preparedness at www.floodsmart.gov and www.ready.gov/hurricanes.

Modification in Relaying Code Orange Air Quality Alerts

The Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments, in association with the Maryland Department of the Environment, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality and the District of Columbia Department of Environment, issue daily air quality forecasts for parts of the region. The Baltimore/Washington weather forecast office relays these routine daily forecasts. Since the air quality program began in 2010, whenever the air quality index (AQI) was forecast to be greater than 100, the Baltimore/Washington weather forecast office relayed another product – the AQA (air quality alert). Effective June 5, the Baltimore/Washington weather forecast office will suspend relaying an air quality alert for code orange.

Air quality alerts will continue to be relayed by the National Weather Service Baltimore/Washington weather forecast office when the AQI is forecast to be above 150, .i.e. for code red, code purple and code maroon categories. The comprehensive routine daily AQI can be found on the Baltimore/Washington weather forecast office homepage at www.weather.gov/washington/airquality.

THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY CLASSIFIES THE AQI IN THE FOLLOWING MANNER:

CATEGORY	AQI	COLOR CODE
GOOD	0-50	GREEN
MODERATE	51-100	YELLOW
UNHEALTHY FOR SENSITIVE GROUPS	101-150	ORANGE
UNHEALTHY	151-200	RED
VERY UNHEALTHY	201-300	PURPLE
HAZARDOUS	301-500	MAROON

Building and Sustaining National Preparedness Efforts

FEMA and its partner agencies have begun a new campaign for public sector companies to contribute ideas to FEMA's new "Building and Sustaining National Preparedness Efforts." Your posts on this topic will help FEMA begin to develop a national campaign encouraging people to take actions in their everyday lives to prepare for disasters. This effort is a major part of Presidential Policy Directive 8 / PPD-8: National Preparedness – and it's one of the most visible ways the whole community will be involved in keeping our nation safe and resilient. For more information on PPD-8, visit www.fema.gov/ppd8 or contribute your ideas at <http://fema.ideascale.com>.

Remember Your Pets During Hurricane/Flood Season

It's hurricane and flood season. That means it's time to talk with your family about what you would do and where you would go if a bad storm comes. Maybe you've stocked up on bottled water and extra packaged food, just in case. And your battery-powered/hand-crank radio is standing by so you can get local emergency information if the power goes out. But what about your pet? Animals can't take care of themselves. During major disasters, animals often become separated from their owners. You can avoid that heartbreak.

- Prepare a pet disaster supply kit. Include food, water and bowls; a sturdy leash and collar with identification tags; a few days' worth of medication; current photos of you with your pet; blankets or towels for bedding and warmth; cat litter/pan; your vet's name and phone number; treats. Store items in a sturdy container that can be carried easily.
- Make sure all dogs and cats are wearing collars and up-to-date identification tags. Consider permanent identification for your pet such as a microchip, brand or tattoo.
- Purchase a pet carrier and label it with emergency contact information.
- Don't leave your pet behind. Make a plan for your pet. If you have to evacuate, where will you go that accepts pets? Ask friends or relatives outside your area whether they could shelter you and your pet in an emergency. Find a hotel or motel outside your area that accepts pets.

For more about making an emergency plan for your pet, go to www.vaemergency.gov/readyvirginia/getakit/pets.

Help Craft Our Nation's Preparedness Messaging

Our nation's resilience depends on you and your neighbors preparing for potential hazards in your communities. To facilitate this effort, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is increasing outreach efforts and encouraging everyone to take actionable steps to be prepared. A new topic -- **Building and Sustaining National Preparedness Efforts: A National Campaign** -- has been started on Ideascale (<http://fema.ideascale.com>) for you to contribute your experiences and ideas to. In addition to informing discussions throughout the workshop, your posts on this topic will help FEMA begin to develop a national campaign encouraging people to take actions in their everyday lives to prepare for disasters. This effort is a major part of Presidential Policy Directive 8 / PPD-8: National Preparedness – and it's one of the most visible ways the whole community will be involved in keeping our nation safe and resilient. Visit Ideascale through June 18, to post your ideas to this new topic and read and comment on others' ideas and experiences. For more information on PPD-8, visit www.fema.gov/ppd8; join the discussion at: <http://fema.ideascale.com/a/ideafactory.do?id=14692&mode=recent&discussionFilter=byids&discussionID=58561>

June is National Internet Safety Month

The National Cyber Security Alliance (NCSA), a nonprofit public-private partnership focused on cybersecurity awareness and education, is promoting National Internet Safety Month this June by encouraging all Internet users to follow three simple steps when connecting to the Web:

- **STOP:** Before using the Internet, take time to understand the risks and learn how to spot potential problems.
- **THINK:** Take a moment to be certain the path ahead is clear. Watch for warning signs and consider how your actions online could impact your safety, your kids' safety or that of your family.
- **CONNECT:** Enjoy the Internet with greater confidence, knowing you've taken the right steps to safeguard yourself, your family and your computer.

NCSA also encourages every adult to take a few moments to teach a young person about better online safety so that



they use good judgment and behavior all-year long. National Internet Safety Month brings an important opportunity to evaluate our digital behaviors and identify better ways to increase online safety. NCSA research released in November 2011 found that less than half of the U.S. population (46%) reports that they feel safe from viruses, malware and hackers while roughly half (48%) of parents are not completely confident that their kids can use the Internet safely (<http://www.staysafeonline.org/in-the-home/research-and-resources>). This data shows that Americans should further embrace their shared responsibility in making the Internet safer. Additionally, as young peoples' online use increases during summer break, parents should remain committed to teaching their children how to stay safe online.

<http://staysafeonline.mediaroom.com/2012-06-11-June-is-National-Internet-Safety-Month-National-Cyber-Security-Alliance-Calls-For-Online-Users-to-STOP.-THINK.-CONNECT.-When-Accessing-the-Web>

New First-aid App Brings American Red Cross Safety Tips to Smart Phones

The American Red Cross this month launched its official first-aid app, putting free and simple lifesaving information right in the hands of smart phone users. This app is the first in a series to be created by the American Red Cross, and is available for use on both the Android and iPhone platforms. It gives instant access to information on how to handle the most common first-aid situations, and includes videos and interactive quizzes. Users who take quizzes can earn badges they can share with friends through social media to show off their lifesaving knowledge. For more information and to download the app visit www.redcross.org.

**First Aid by
American Red Cross**



Emergency Preparedness for Federal Employees in the National Capital Region

A printable half-page booklet developed by the FEMA Office of National Capital Region Coordination, "Emergency Preparedness for Federal Employees in the National Capital Region," is available online with emergency preparedness information, guidance and resources specific to federal employees in the National Capital Region. This guide encourages federal employees and the whole community in the Washington, D.C. area to take practical steps to better prepare themselves and their families for emergencies that could threaten their homes, workplaces and communities. The brochure is specifically tailored to employees at the workplace and the National Capital Region and provides information on being informed, making a plan, building a kit and getting involved. The brochure is available in the FEMA Library: www.fema.gov/library/viewRecord.do?id=6018.

SBA Simplifies Online Disaster Loan Application

Applying for disaster recovery assistance from the U.S. Small Business Administration just got easier thanks to revisions made to its electronic loan application, significantly reducing the number of screens an applicant must read while filling out the form. The new online application is easier to read, and users will spend less time filling out the form. The original electronic loan application – launched in 2008 – guided applicants through a series of 80 screens, based on responses to questions aimed at determining eligibility. Now, applicants for disaster assistance can fill out a form on SBA's secure website that looks exactly like the paper application, four pages for home loans, and three pages for business loans. Homeowners, renters, businesses and nonprofits applying for disaster loans to cover losses to real estate and property, as well as economic injury, can access the form at <https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela/>. There's a help link at the top of each page, which directs users to a place where they can get questions answered. SBA's Military Reservist Economic Injury Disaster Loan application is also available at the electronic loan application site. Entering data is as secure as purchasing airline tickets online, since identity-proofing tools are used in the application. Questions about the electronic loan application can be directed to SBA's Disaster Customer Service Center at 1-800-659-2955, or by email at disastercustomerservice@sba.gov. <http://www.sba.gov/about-sba-services/7367/154031>

Virginia Department of Health Urges Immunizations for Travelers to 2012 Olympics

In just a few weeks, the world will watch as athletes from around the globe compete at the Olympic and Paralympic Games. If you are one of the millions of people who will travel to the United Kingdom (UK) to watch the Games firsthand, the Virginia Department of Health urges you to be current on your vaccinations before you go.

"Making sure that you are up-to-date on all routine vaccinations – especially measles – not only protects you and

your family,” said State Health Commissioner Karen Remley, “it also protects your neighbors and your community when you return home.” In 2011, 222 people in the United States were reported to have measles; seven cases were reported in Virginia. Both U.S. residents and visitors from other countries contracted measles while abroad and unknowingly brought it to the United States. In many instances, the disease then spread to individuals resulting in 17 measles outbreaks in various U.S. communities, including Virginia. Measles is still quite common in some popular tourist destinations, including parts of Europe, Asia, the Pacific and Africa. There is currently a large [measles outbreak](#) in Europe. There were 1,083 measles cases reported from the UK in 2011. This year, 1,279 suspected measles cases have been reported in the UK as of April 29. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) urges all travelers going to the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games be immunized against measles. The best protection against measles is the MMR (measles, mumps, and rubella) vaccine; so before departing, travelers should be sure they are fully vaccinated. Ideally, vaccination should take place at least two weeks prior to departure. If this time frame is not feasible, vaccination still should take place before leaving the United States.

<http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/news/PressReleases/2012/062212Immunization.htm>

Improving the National Preparedness System: Developing More Meaningful Grant Performance Measures

The U.S. Congress asked an expert panel of the National Academy of Public Administration to assist the FEMA Administrator in studying, developing, and implementing quantifiable performance measures to assess the effectiveness of homeland security preparedness grants. The Academy Panel focused the scope of this study on the State Homeland Security Grant Program (SHSGP) and Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI), as these are the two largest of FEMA’s homeland security grant programs. The Panel found that measuring the outcomes of these grants poses two challenges. First, the preparedness system’s greatest strength – conducting efforts in an integrated fashion that blends resources from multiple sources – is also its greatest weakness from a performance measurement standpoint. Second, the federal government has not developed measurable standards for preparedness capabilities to guide the performance of the states and urban areas receiving these grants. The Panel recommends a set of measures that collectively begin to address the effectiveness of the two grant programs.

<http://www.napawash.org/publications-reports/improving-the-national-preparedness-system-developing-more-meaningful-grant-performance-measures/>



Stay connected to news and information, travel conditions, weather alerts and more from across the National Capital Region (NCR). Visit www.CapitalRegionUpdates.gov for more. And be sure to share this website with friends and colleagues across the NCR.

PLANNING / PREPAREDNESS

National Terrorism Advisory System

The Department of Homeland Security’s (DHS) National Terrorism Advisory System (NTAS) is a robust terrorism advisory system that provides timely information to the public about credible terrorist threats and replaces the former color-coded alert system. Under NTAS, DHS will coordinate with other federal entities to issue detailed alerts to the public when the federal government receives information about a credible terrorist threat. NTAS alerts provide a concise summary of the potential threat including geographic region, mode of transportation, or critical infrastructure

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potentially affected by the threat, actions being taken to ensure public safety, as well as recommended steps that individuals, communities, business and governments can take to help prevent, mitigate or respond to a threat. NTAS Alerts will include a clear statement on the nature of the threat, which will be defined in one of two ways:

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

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

The image shows a template for a National Terrorism Advisory System (NTAS) Alert poster. At the top left is the DHS seal and the text 'National Terrorism Advisory System'. The word 'Alert' is prominently displayed in the top center. To the right, it says 'DATE & TIME ISSUED: XXXX'. Below this is a 'SUMMARY' section with a blue header, followed by a 'DURATION' section. The main body contains four columns: 'DETAILS', 'AFFECTED AREAS', 'HOW YOU CAN HELP', and 'STAY PREPARED'. At the bottom right is a 'STAY INFORMED' section. A blue banner at the bottom reads 'If You See Something, Say Something™ - Report suspicious activity to local law enforcement or call 911.' Below the banner is a small disclaimer: 'The National Terrorism Advisory System provides Americans with alert information on homeland security threats. It is distributed by the Department of Homeland Security. More information is available at: www.dhs.gov/alerts. To receive mobile updates: www.hellfire.com/NTASAlerts. If You See Something, Say Something™ used with permission of the NY Metropolitan Transportation Authority.'

Private Sector Resources Catalog

The “Private Sector Resources Catalog,” originally released in May 2010, centralizes access to all DHS resources targeted for the private sector including small and large businesses, academia, trade associations, and other non-governmental organizations. The first catalog to be targeted specifically towards private sector partners and encompass the entire Department, this document collects the training, publications, guidance, alerts, newsletters, programs, and services available to the private sector across the Department. Recognizing the breadth and diversity of the available resources as well as the Department's continually evolving work, this catalog is a living document, updated twice per year. To view the catalog, visit: http://www.dhs.gov/xabout/gc_1273165166442.shtm.

Grilling Safety

Every year, many residents look forward to summer vacations, camping, family reunions, picnics and the Fourth of July. Summertime, however, also brings fires and injuries due to outdoor cooking and recreational fires. Annually, there are almost 3,800 Americans injured by gas or charcoal grill fires. Knowing a few fire safety tips and following safety instructions will help everyone have a safe summer.

- Propane and charcoal BBQ grills must only be used outdoors. If used indoors, or in any enclosed spaces such as tents, they pose both a fire hazard and the risk of exposing occupants to toxic gases and potential asphyxiation.
- Position the grill well away from siding, deck railing, and out from under eaves and overhanging branches.
- Place the grill a safe distance from lawn games, play areas, and foot traffic.
- Keep children and pets from the grill area: declare a three-foot “safe zone” around the grill.
- Put out several long-handled grilling tools to give the chef plenty of clearance from heat and flames when cooking.
- Periodically remove grease or fat buildup in trays below the grill so it cannot be ignited by a hot grill.

Find more grill safety information online at www.usfa.fema.gov/citizens/focus/summer.shtm.

Conducting CERT Drills and Exercises Just Got Easier

The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Program at FEMA is pleased to announce a new library of 20 ready-to-use CERT exercises of all types, now available for download on the new Drills and Exercises page of the National CERT website at <http://www.citizencorps.gov/cert/exercises.shtm>. The new materials will help CERT

programs conduct a variety of drills and exercises based on different scenarios. Drills and exercises are great opportunities for CERT programs to engage their volunteer members and to practice, assess, and improve their program's emergency response plans and on-the-ground operations. The scenarios, objectives and events of each exercise can be used as is or modified to address the local CERT program's training priorities. The new Web page includes materials for four drills, six tabletop exercises, four functional exercises, four full-scale exercises and two competitive events that were developed according to national guidance and principles outlined by the Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP). All drills and exercises were developed with common terminology and a systematic approach consistent with the National Incident Management System (NIMS) framework to ensure that CERT programs are well-integrated with emergency management and incident response operations. Planning exercises and drills does not have to be a daunting and time-consuming task for CERT programs. CERT practitioners and advocates are encouraged to comment on the new library of exercises or any aspect of CERT at the CERT online forum: <http://community.fema.gov>.

Small Business is Big Business – Be Prepared

Ready Business asks companies to take three simple steps: plan to stay in business; encourage your people to become ready; and protect your investment. Ready Business (www.Ready.gov/business) helps business owners and managers of small and medium-sized businesses prepare their employees, operations and assets in the event of an emergency. It contains vital information for businesses on how to get started preparing their business and their unique needs during an emergency. FEMA also has a publication, the "Emergency Management Guide for Business & Industry" that provides step-by-step advice on how to create and maintain a comprehensive emergency management program. It can be used by manufacturers, corporate offices, retailers, utilities or any organization where a sizable number of people work or gather. Whether you operate from a high-rise building or an industrial complex; whether you own, rent or lease your property; whether you are a large or small company; the concepts in this guide will apply.

Download the guide: www.fema.gov/pdf/business/guide/bizindst.pdf

More information: http://www.fema.gov/privatesector/small_big_business.shtm

How to Establish a CERT in Your Jurisdiction

"Have a kit, make a plan, stay informed." All good advice, but what the national message lacks is an emphasis on the need for every family to have solid emergency skills training. They can get that from a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training course. CERT training teaches emergency first-aid, basic rescue techniques, assessing a building to determine if it's safe to enter, basic firefighting, disaster psychology, securing utilities, operating with a team and neighborhood search. CERT-trained citizens learn to work with other CERT members to form a team, go into their neighborhood after a disaster and "do the most good for the most people." The basic CERT curriculum is available to anyone. Among the many things the federal government does well is provide a well designed, easy-to-access curriculum for instructing CERT classes in your community. Lesson plans, video clips and PowerPoint slides are all available for easy download at no charge on the Citizen Corps website (<http://www.citizen.gov/cert/index.shtm>). Developing an effective CERT program in a community involves more than simply instructing classes. The initial curriculum takes about 25 to 30 hours and is merely the foundation upon which a CERT Community must be built. Student enthusiasm begins with making the class worth a participant's time. Minimize classroom lectures — CERT is about learning hands-on emergency skills.

<http://www.emergencymgmt.com/training/How-to-Establish-CERT-Jurisdiction.html>

Bolstering SMBs' Disaster Preparedness

AT&T says the small and medium business (SMB) in the United States are not ready for natural or man-made disasters, and for the consequences of such disasters. This is worrisome, because for a small business, a disaster can be potentially devastating. Being prepared can sometimes mean the difference between surviving and sinking. There are more than 27 million small businesses in the United States, and they play a significant role in the economy. Together, they have generated more than 60 percent of new jobs over the last 15 years, according to the U.S. Small Business Administration. AT&T says that to help mitigate the impact of disasters, it yesterday launched an initiative — Safeguard Your Business — to shine light on the importance of small businesses being prepared and offer simple steps to preparedness. Small businesses do not have to be an AT&T customer to participate. Specifically, the initiative includes an interactive Quick Check for Disaster Prep online tool, enabling small businesses to assess their

state of preparedness or “readiness” for emergencies and disasters, based on responses to ten simple questions.
<http://www.homelandsecuritynewswire.com/dr20120607-bolstering-smbs-disaster-preparedness>

Make a Hurricane Continuity Plan for Your Business

The six-month hurricane season 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 U.S. Small Business Administration has tips to get you started.

<http://content.govdelivery.com/bulletins/gd/USSBA-457a93>



U.S. Forest Service, NFPA and Ad Council Launch National PSA Campaign

In the midst of wildfire season throughout much of the country, the U.S. Forest Service, National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) and the Ad Council announce the launch of a new public service advertising (PSAs) campaign, “Fire Adapted Communities,” which aims to help individuals prepare their homes and communities for the threat of wildfire.

Created pro bono by advertising agency Draftfcb, this campaign addresses the issue of proactively mitigating wildfire damage in fire-prone communities. Nearly 70,000 communities nationwide are at risk from wildfire, according to the National Association of State Foresters. Embers from a wildfire travel great distances, often causing new wildfires more than a mile from their origin. It can take years for communities and local ecosystems to recover from a wildfire. In addition, wildfires cost government, businesses and individuals billions of dollars each year in suppression costs and damage to homes, infrastructure, the economy and resources. The television, radio, print, outdoor and Web PSAs aim to empower residents to proactively take the steps to make their communities fire adapted by reinforcing that “you can’t control where a wildfire ember will land – but you can control what happens when it does.” The ads direct audiences to visit a new comprehensive Website,

www.FireAdapted.org, where they can find a host of resources on how to prepare for wildfires. The new web portal is a one-stop shop for the latest developments in wildfire safety, best practices, toolkits and programs of the nation’s leading wildfire organizations.
<http://www.fireadapted.org/en/News/2012/June/FAC.aspx>

A single ember from a wildfire can travel more than one mile, and can ignite and destroy your home or community. You can't control where it will land, only what happens when it does. Get fire adapted now.

PREPARE. PROTECT. PREVAIL.

FIRE ADAPTED.ORG

FAC | Ad Council | U.S.

App for Locating Friends After A Disaster Goes Live on Facebook

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has launched two new smartphone apps that allow people to

create emergency preparedness plans and track the status of Facebook friends in disaster zones. The apps, bReddi and Project: Lifeline, went live on Facebook recently, coinciding with the start of hurricane season.

<http://www.phe.gov/lifeline/Pages/default.aspx>

Americans Show Alarming Complacency in Emergencies

Despite a record-breaking year of federally declared disasters in 2011, including floods, tornadoes, hurricanes and wildfires, many Americans still lack basic awareness of their local emergency communications systems. At the BE Safe America Congressional Briefing presented by Safe America Foundation at the U.S. Capitol, Federal Signal Corporation today announced the findings of the 2012 Public Safety Survey, which takes a hard look at how knowledgeable and prepared Americans are for emergencies. While the survey found that more than 56 percent of Americans believe they are aware of the steps they need to take should disaster strike, the results uncover a shocking lack of knowledge--and even indifference--surrounding emergency alerts and notifications. Conducted for the third consecutive year by Zogby International, the survey found that 71 percent of Americans are unsure if they have a personal alerting and notification system (ANS) in their area, which includes a combination of options for calls, text and email message notifications. Yet, respondents said they would be more motivated to take action in an emergency by ANS alerts than any other communication, ahead of traditional warning sirens, radio and TV public services announcements and even word-of-mouth communication from friends and family. The survey also showed that the public is largely unaware of their local warning sirens. More than half (57 percent) of those surveyed do not know when sirens in their area are tested and 70 percent are unaware of the sounds and sirens associated with various warnings. More than one in four respondents did not know if their community has a warning siren system at all.

<http://www.fireengineering.com/articles/2012/06/americans-show-alarming-complacency-in-emergencies.html>

Public Complacency Toward Emergency Preparedness is Still a Problem

A comprehensive survey that takes an in-depth look at Americans' attitudes and concerns with regard to emergency preparedness and response conducted by Zogby International for Federal Signal Corp. "stresses how important it is for Americans to have an emergency plan in place that enables them to act quickly when their safety is threatened," the survey report said. The firm's 2012 public safety survey, "Americans' Awareness and Preparedness Surrounding Emergency Situations," which "hones in on the emotional reactions of citizens to disaster and emergency situations and evaluates the level of apathy towards public safety, notifications and alerts ... found that, despite an increase in the number of disasters, too many Americans remain disturbingly complacent. ... Consequently, many people fail to act with a sense of urgency in times of crisis, which not only compounds the efforts of emergency managers, but will inevitably lead to tragic results." The public's complacency toward emergency preparedness has been a problem for many years, but more than just a few preparedness officials and authorities say it's a problem that has grown worse in recent years, despite significant natural disasters in regions that are prone to severe weather like hurricanes and tornadoes.

<http://www.hstoday.us/single-article/public-complacency-toward-emergency-preparedness-is-still-a-problem-survey-finds/8f8a61283e68aa0ee22a1ecf06333b6a.html>

MEDIA ARTICLES OF INTEREST

Public Assistance Preliminary Damage Assessment Inaccurate, Says OIG

The Federal Emergency Management Agency is not realistically estimating the magnitude and economic impact of disasters through its public assistance preliminary damage assessment, says a new report from the Homeland Security Department office of inspector general. The process "is not thorough or detailed enough to accurately assess the impact of a disaster or predict the funding levels needed for a successful recovery effort," says an OIG report dated May 2 but not published publicly until May 12. In the process of determining whether an event could become a federally-declared disaster, FEMA is using inaccurate metrics for damage assessment, the OIG contends. In order to declare a major disaster for a state FEMA had been using a 26-year-old indicator based on the per capita national household income in 1986, which was \$11,667. Rather than adjust the metric to changing income levels, in 1999 FEMA began adjusting the per capita amount for inflation, says the report. If the indicator adjusted to changing

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economic conditions, “many recent disasters would not have met the financial statewide per capita indicator for federal assistance,” say report authors. Report authors add that there is likely a “better indicator based on a state's need for assistance than the current financial statewide per capita indicators, such as changes in per capita income or the Consumer Price Index.” The report recommends that FEMA change the public assistance preliminary damage assessment process and rethink how it measures a State's ability to respond to a disaster.

<http://www.fiercehomelandsecurity.com/story/public-assistance-preliminary-damage-assessment-innaccurate-says-oig/2012-05-31>

Report: http://www.oig.dhs.gov/assets/Mgmt/2012/OIG_12-79_May12.pdf

Report: FEMA Lacks Centralized Standards for Reserve Disaster Workforce

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) does not monitor how its reserve workforce applies disaster guidance and policies in different areas of the United States and thus does not ensure consistency across its 10 regional offices, congressional investigators warned. Moreover, FEMA lacks hiring standards for reserve employees under the Disaster Assistance Employee (DAE) program; therefore those employees are likely to have different skill sets from region to region, said the Government Accountability Office in a report, “Disaster Assistance Workforce: FEMA Could Enhance Human Capital Management and Training.” The report, released on the first day of the 2012 Atlantic hurricane season [June 1], drew criticism from Rep. Bennie Thompson (D-Miss.), who requested the study along with Sen. Daniel Akaka (D-Hawaii.)

<http://www.hstoday.us/industry-news/general/single-article/report-fema-lacks-centralized-standards-for-reserve-disaster-workforce/b3d262346daf6a7f68c8777c9441f964.html>

Report: <http://www.gao.gov/assets/600/591159.pdf>

Flood Insurance Program Gets another Two Months

Lawmakers on Capitol Hill moved to keep the federal government’s flood-insurance program running for another two months, giving Congress more time to finish a long-term overhaul that aims to shore up the program’s finances. On Wednesday night, May 30, the House, without taking a formal vote count, sent President Barack Obama a bill to extend the National Flood Insurance Program for 60 days, following Senate lawmakers who voted to do so last week. If lawmakers hadn’t acted, the program would have expired Thursday, May 31, just as hurricane season started (June 1). The flood insurance program was created in 1968 after private insurers were reluctant to sell insurance in flood-prone areas. It has accumulated more than \$17 billion in debt, much of which is tied to Hurricane Katrina in 2005. Nationally, about 5.6 million homes and businesses have such policies. The flood insurance program had \$1.267 trillion in insurance in force as of February. The policies are sold and claims are managed by private insurers, but the risk is borne by the federal government. Flood insurance is required for government-backed mortgages on properties in flood-prone areas. Had the program been allowed to expire, real estate and insurance industry groups have warned that the fragile housing market could be harmed as many buyers would no longer be able to be approved for loans.

<http://blogs.wsj.com/developments/2012/05/31/flood-insurance-program-gets-another-two-months/>

Homeland Security Warns Businesses About New Cyber Weapon

The United States Department of Homeland Security issued an alert on Saturday, June 2, to American businesses about the potential threat of the unusually potent computer virus, the “flame,” which was responsible for last month’s attack on Iran’s oil industry. DHS assured U.S. companies that no infections had been discovered so far inside the U.S. It described Flame as an espionage tool that was sophisticated in design, using encryption and other techniques to help break into computers and move through corporate or private networks. The virus can eavesdrop on data traffic, take screenshots and record audio and keystrokes. The department said the origin is a mystery.

<http://www.businessweek.com/ap/2012-06/D9V4VN580.htm>

Study Says Virginia and Florida Have the Best Building Codes

Virginia and Florida have received good marks in a survey that looks at building codes in hurricane-prone states. The Tampa-based Insurance Institute for Business & Home Safety conducted an analysis, evaluation and comparison of building code and enforcement systems for residential buildings in the 18 states most vulnerable to catastrophic hurricanes in the U.S.

<http://www2.timesdispatch.com/news/2012/jun/07/study-says-va-fla-have-best-building-codes-ar-1972549/>

Malware on the Rise Across Multiple Devices and Platforms in 2012

We're halfway through a year that's shaping up to be one of rising danger online, according to McAfee's latest threat report. Researchers discovered that 2012's first quarter saw personal computer and smartphone threats reach a four-year high, including an increase in malware across PC, Mac and mobile devices.

<http://www.govtech.com/security/Malware-on-the-Rise-Across-Multiple-Devices-and-Platforms-in-2012-Report.html>

Social Media Strategist Needed

You don't need a degree in homeland security to see how a Kenyan chief's idea for using Twitter to communicate in a crisis could be applied during terrorist attacks or other crises in the United States. However, the federal government has failed to come up with a plan for issuing emergency alerts over social media platforms. Fortunately, where the federal government is failing to innovate, smaller organizations are stepping up to the plate. One of these organizations is the office of New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg. The mayor's office, according to an Information Week report, has feeds on Twitter, Tumblr, Foursquare and Facebook. Currently, the streams broadcast city news, links to press conferences and responses to citizens' questions about city policy. The key, says Bloomberg, is to get information to New Yorkers the way that they want to receive it. In a crisis similar to 9/11, New Yorkers would have an invaluable lifeline to crucial city information.

<http://www.businessinsider.com/the-department-of-homeland-security-needs-a-social-media-strategist-2012-6>

Standard to Assist People with Disabilities During Disaster

Taking into account the particular needs of people with disabilities is an important aspect of planning for a possible disaster and the aftermath of such an event. A proposed new American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) International standard will provide planning guidance for helping those with disabilities in a disaster or emergency situation.

<http://news.thomasnet.com/companystory/ASTM-Standard-to-assist-people-with-disabilities-during-disaster-616687>

House Fully Funds Disaster Relief Fund

As part of the fiscal 2013 Homeland Security Department appropriations bill approved June 7 by the House, the Federal Emergency Management Agency would receive its full request of \$6.09 billion for the disaster relief fund. Under the provision of the bill (H.R. 5855), \$24 million of the total amount would go to the DHS office of inspector general for audits and investigations related to disasters. In the report (<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CRPT-112hrpt492/pdf/CRPT-112hrpt492.pdf>) accompanying the bill, the House Appropriations Committee also recommends that Congress authorize FEMA to implement many of the initiatives tested in a debris-removal pilot program. The need for speedy debris removal following a disaster has become a strong lesson learned within FEMA in the past years, particularly following the tornado that devastated Joplin, Mo., in May 2011.

<http://www.fiercehomelandsecurity.com/story/house-fully-funds-disaster-relief-fund/2012-06-11>

Federal, State and Local Preparedness Efforts Still Need Better Coordination, New Report Finds

Because of the persistent "threat of bioterrorism and the ever-present public health consequences of all-hazards disasters and emergencies," it is "vital for the public health and emergency management communities to continue to strengthen their partnership in order to prepare for, respond to and recover from all types of emergencies and incidents," concluded a new report by George Washington University's Homeland Security Policy Institute (HSPI) Preparedness, Response and Resilience Task Force. "The resilience of communities and of the nation as a whole depends on the integration of public health and emergency management efforts," but "while progress towards such integration has been made, national unity of effort is lacking and many barriers to success remain," the HSPI task force said in its new report, "Public Health and Emergency Management: Challenges and Opportunities," that was released this month. "The public health challenge will only grow as the population becomes more mobile and international borders become easier to cross.

<http://www.hstoday.us/single-article/federal-state-and-local-preparedness-efforts-still-need-better-coordination-new-report-finds/1be0dfd51d9c5f61c3a6c01252eb3386.html>

Report: http://www.gwumc.edu/hspi/policy/report_phem.pdf

Mentoring Small Business in Disaster Resiliency

Statistics from the Institute of Business and Home Safety (IBHS) indicate that 25 percent of all businesses do not reopen after a major disaster. The U.S. Chamber of Commerce reveals that this number rises sharply, to 43 percent, when a business does not have a formal emergency plan in place. In January 2012, FEMA announced a new campaign Small Business is Big, aimed to increase outreach and educational opportunities to small businesses in the emergency management arena. Small NIMSAT and IAEM-USA say that the Business Emergency Management Mentorship program is directly inspired by this FEMA campaign and is an effort to help small businesses often lacking the resources to be better prepared for all-hazards disasters. The program's main objective is to connect the dots between the big businesses that are willing to mentor and the small businesses that are preparing for, protecting against, responding to, recovering from, and mitigating against all-hazards emergency events, such as hurricanes, floods, power outages, snow storms and other natural or man-made events. Participation in the program is voluntary and open to all businesses.

<http://www.homelandsecuritynewswire.com/dr20120607-mentoring-small-business-in-disaster-resiliency>

FLU

Antibodies Against Multiple Flu Strains Produced By Pandemic 2009 H1N1 Vaccination

The pandemic 2009 H1N1 vaccine can generate antibodies in vaccinated individuals not only against the H1N1 virus, but also against other influenza virus strains including H5N1 and H3N2. This discovery adds an important new dimension to the finding last year that people infected with pandemic 2009 H1N1 virus produced high levels of antibodies that were broadly cross-reactive against a variety of flu strains. Development of a universal influenza vaccine that protects against multiple viral subtypes has long been the goal of immunologists working to overcome the requirement for a new vaccine during each flu season and the need for a rapid response to potentially dangerous mutations. The new discovery brings the researchers closer to being able to design a pan-influenza vaccine that reliably induces broadly cross-reactive antibodies at sufficiently high levels to protect against different influenza subtypes. The findings are published recently in the "Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences" (PNAS). The researchers are from Emory University, the University of Chicago and the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) of the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

<http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/releases/245671.php>

WHO on Hong Kong's H5N1 Boy

The Centre for Health Protection of the Department of Health, Hong Kong, China, has reported a human case of avian influenza A(H5N1) virus infection. The case is a 2 year-old male from Guangzhou City, Guangdong province. He developed symptoms on May 23 in Guangdong province and went to a private clinic in Hong Kong, China, on May 26. He developed febrile convulsion and was transferred to a hospital on May 28 and was laboratory confirmed as A(H5N1) on June 2. His condition remains serious and he remains hospitalized. The mother brought the case to visit a wet market with live poultry in Guangzhou in mid-May 2012 and a live duck was bought and slaughtered in the market. Close contacts of the case have tested negative for the virus. Evidence so far indicates that this is a sporadic case of human infection with A(H5N1) virus, with no secondary spread or clustering. So far, a total of 22 human cases of influenza A(H5N1) infection were reported in Hong Kong, China, including 18 cases in 1997, two cases in 2003, one case in 2010, and the current case in 2012.

http://www.who.int/csr/don/2012_06_05/en/index.html

California Senate Approves Healthcare Worker Flu Vaccination Bill

The California Senate approved a substantially reworked bill requiring healthcare facilities to hit a 90 percent flu vaccine health worker compliance rate by 2015. SB 1318, proposed by Sen. Lois Wolk (D-Davis), initially met major opposition over a requirement that workers refusing to get the vaccine would need to wear a paper mask in

patient areas during flu season. The requirement was excised in the reworked bill. In addition, the revised bill, which passed 23-9, would delay implementation to give facilities and working groups time to try alternate method to improve their compliance rates, California Health Line reports. “We compromised dearly here,” Wolk said, according to California Health Line. “We agreed to delay the implementation for two years. We think that’s reasonable.” Wolk said that protecting patient health is the most important aspect of the bill. She said that influenza deaths occur among the most vulnerable groups at risk for flu, including seniors, infants, chemotherapy patients and people with compromised immune systems. Approximately 64 percent of health care workers in California receive influenza vaccinations, compared to 90 percent of workers in several other states.

http://vaccinenewsdaily.com/medical_countermeasures/318990-california-senate-approves-healthcare-worker-flu-vaccination-bill/

WHO Report Sums up Northern Hemisphere Flu Season

The 2011-12 flu season in most temperate countries of the Northern Hemisphere started later than usual, except for North Africa, and was mild in many countries, the World Health Organization (WHO) said today in a wrap-up report. The circulating flu strains varied widely by country and even by region, according to WHO report, which appeared in its “Weekly Epidemiological Record.” For example, in North America, the 2009 H1N1 virus predominated in Mexico, with H3N2 dominating in the United States, and influenza B taking the lead in most parts of Canada. In temperate parts of Asia, influenza B peaked first in China and Mongolia, followed by a rise in H3N2 activity later in the season. The reverse pattern was seen in South Korea and Japan. Many countries saw doctors' visits for flulike illness at or below last season's levels, but Japan reported its highest number of confirmed flu cases since 2002, except for during the 2009 pandemic period, the WHO report said. Some European countries such as Spain and France reported excess mortality in older adults, much of it related to H3N2 that circulated in those areas. European officials also reported that the 2009 H1N1 virus was overrepresented in cases of severe influenza. As the season progressed, influenza lab experts noted drift in the H3N2 strain and increasing numbers of influenza B samples from the Yamagata lineage, which prompted WHO advisors to recommend changing two of the three strains for the Northern Hemisphere's 2012-13 flu season. Little oseltamivir (Tamiflu) resistance was seen in 2009 H1N1 viruses, except for 16 cases from Texas late in the flu season. Among 14 cases with available information, 3 patients had taken the drug for 1 day or more at the time of specimen collection, and 2 had family members taking the oseltamivir. Nine had no oseltamivir exposure.

<http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/cidrap/content/influenza/general/news/jun1512flu.html>

Studies: Antiviral Prescribing Reflects CDC Guidance, Flu Activity

Clinicians are heeding antiviral prescribing guidance changes made over the past decade because of antiviral resistance and a greater focus on protecting high-risk patients, particularly during the 2009 H1N1 pandemic, researchers reported earlier this month. The report is one of two new studies on antiviral dispensing published in “Influenza and Other Respiratory Diseases.” Both compared data from prescribing databases with U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) flu surveillance data and found that antiviral prescription trends are a useful adjunct for monitoring flu patterns.

<http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/cidrap/content/influenza/panflu/news/jun1112antivirals.html>

Report: H1N1 Phone Triage Lines Informed, Aided Patients

Phone-based flu lines that operated during the 2009 H1N1 pandemic increased public flu knowledge, may have prevented unnecessary 9-1-1 calls and visits to health facilities, and eased access to antivirals when appropriate, a recent report found. The report is from the Nurse Triage Project (NTP), which is assessing the feasibility of developing a national telephone triage model to reduce some of the burden on the US healthcare system during a severe flu pandemic. The group released its initial findings recently in a report posted on the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) website. Besides representative from NACCHO, NTP collaborators include experts from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO), and several other stakeholders. The phone triage study is part of a larger effort to improve antiviral distribution and dispensing based on lessons learned during the 2009 H1N1 pandemic, according to the report.

<http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/cidrap/content/influenza/panflu/news/jun0412trriage.html>

Simulating School Closure Policies for Cost Effective Pandemic Decision Making

Around the globe, school closures were used sporadically to mitigate the 2009 H1N1 influenza pandemic. However, such closures can detrimentally impact economic and social life. These findings highlight the importance of obtaining early estimates of pandemic severity and provide guidance to public health decision-makers for effectively tailoring school closures strategies in response to a newly emergent influenza pandemic.

<http://www.biomedcentral.com/content/pdf/1471-2458-12-449.pdf>

Without Adjuvant, H1N1 Vaccine Induces Weak Response in Dialysis Patients

A study from Taiwan suggests that a single dose of 2009 H1N1 influenza vaccine without an adjuvant induces only a weak immune response in adult and elderly hemodialysis patients, according to a report today in "Vaccine." The researchers administered the monovalent vaccine to 110 hemodialysis patients and 173 healthy volunteers. Only 25.4 percent of adult (ages 18 to 60) and 23.4 percent of elderly (over 60) dialysis patients showed seroconversion (at least a fourfold increase in hemagglutination-inhibition antibody titer) after vaccination. When participants who had elevated antibodies before vaccination (a titer of 1:40 or higher) were excluded from the analysis, the results were similar. The researchers also found that cholesterol and hemoglobin levels were significant predictors of the immune response in dialysis patients, suggesting that nutrition status and anemia played a role. The report says previous studies showed that adjuvanted H1N1 vaccines generated varying responses in dialysis patients

<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0264410X12007177>

Fairfax County Flu Preparedness

Be sure to visit the county's flu Web page.

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

TRAININGS / EXERCISES / CONFERENCES



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

What Are the Top Five Disaster Risks to Small Businesses?

July 10; Webinar

Small businesses are particularly vulnerable to losses caused by natural disaster, cyberattacks, and – on a smaller scale – structural failure due to random events like faulty sprinkler systems or localized fires. The U.S. Small Business Administration is hosting an online discussion on Tuesday, July 10, titled "The Top 5 Risks for Business Disaster in America." The discussion will focus on how to protect your business from the risks that could force you to close your doors for good.

<http://www.sba.gov/about-sba-services/7367/156101>

IED Counterterrorism Workshop

July 10; Richmond, Va.

A free IED Counterterrorism Workshop is being sponsored by the Department of Homeland Security, Office for Bombing Prevention and the Virginia Office of Veterans Affairs and Homeland Security. The workshop will be held July 10 at the Richmond City Police Department's Law Enforcement Training Academy Auditorium. To register for

the workshop, email Jeremiah Hockman, Virginia Office of Veterans Affairs and Homeland Security at dhstraining@governor.virginia.gov (by July 2) with the name, agency, position, email and phone number of the officials attending.



VASART Conference

July 13; Blue Ridge Community College, Weyers Cave, Va.

The Virginia State Animal Response Team will be sponsoring a training day on July 13, at Blue Ridge Community College, from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. There is limited seating available.

Questions: 804-346-2611.

www.virginiasart.org

Damage Assessment Workshop

July 19; Park West Lions Club, Manassas, Va.

The damage assessment workshop is led by the Virginia Department of Emergency Management Recovery and Mitigation Division. To register: send email or mail registration and payment by July 13. There is no charge for code officials; \$75 for non-code officials. Include your name, jurisdiction or company, title and email address and indicate whether you want to purchase lunch. Send to VBCOA c/o Charles M. Black, Neighborhood Services, DPW, Suite 280, 5 County Complex Ct., Prince William, VA 22192. For more information contact Charles M. Black at

CBlack@pwcgov.org; 703-792-5269.

Symposium on Homeland Security: Enhancing Public-Private Partnerships and Coordination

July 19-20, 2012; Christopher Newport University, Newport News, Va.

Increasingly complex threats to the U.S. require innovative, cross-disciplinary responses from local, state and federal government entities. Private sector firms continue to work hand in hand with government to produce new technology, develop groundbreaking practices and shape products and services to robustly address today's evolving threat environment. Natural disasters, man-made incidents, and acts of cyberterrorism and cyberespionage underscore that strong partnerships and coordination are more needed now than ever before in American history. Held at Christopher Newport University's Center for American Studies, the Greater Hampton Roads Chapter of the National Defense Industrial Association, Continuity First and Verizon Wireless will present the 2nd annual "Symposium on Homeland Security: Enhancing Public-Private Partnerships and Coordination."

<http://symposiumonhomelandsecurity.com/>

Building Resilience through Public-Private Partnerships Conference

July 20-27; Colorado Springs, CO

U.S. Northern Command (USNORTHCOM), in collaboration with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Department of Homeland Security Headquarters, will host the 2nd annual Building Resilience through Public-Private Partnerships Conference July 23-24, in Colorado Springs, Colorado. The conference will cover a wide range of issues related to effective, whole- community collaboration toward resilience.

https://resweb.passkey.com/Resweb.do?mode=welcome_ei_new&eventID=9559689

Building Resilience through Public-Private Partnerships Conference

July 23-24; Colorado Springs, Colo.

U.S. Northern Command (USNORTHCOM), in collaboration with FEMA and DHS, will host the 2nd annual Building Resilience through Public-Private Partnerships Conference July 23-24, 2012 in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Registration is underway. The conference will cover a wide range of issues related to effective, whole-community collaboration toward resilience. For a complete list of topics, panel descriptions and additional information, email

NNC.ICGPS.OMB@northcom.mil.

https://resweb.passkey.com/Resweb.do?mode=welcome_ei_new&eventID=9559689

2012 Chemical Sector Security Summit

July 31-Aug. 2; Baltimore, Md.

The National Protection & Programs Directorate's Office of Infrastructure Protection and the Chemical Sector

Coordinating Council are co-sponsoring the 2012 Chemical Sector Security Summit in Baltimore, Md. The sixth annual Summit will provide a forum for representatives from the chemical community to exchange information and network with other security professionals, share best practices, learn more about chemical security regulations, and gain insight into the roles of state, local and federal agencies and departments involved in chemical security.
http://www.dhs.gov/files/programs/gc_1176736485793.shtm

Public/Private Situational Awareness Workshop

Aug. 16; McLean, Va.

The All-Hazards Consortium, the Department of Homeland Security Science and the Technology Directorate's Office of First Responder Programs, and MITRE will co-host a multi-state and regional workshop focused on situational awareness and information sharing between public and private sectors during natural and man-made disasters. The workshop will develop recommendations from participants on a "suite of standards and approaches" that support a framework and path forward for the integration of the various situational awareness platforms in order to better support collaborative decision making in both the public and private sectors during disasters
www.ahcusa.org

APCO International 78th Annual Conference and Expo

Aug. 19-22; Minneapolis Convention Center, Minneapolis, MN

It's the public safety communications industry's biggest event of the year.

<http://www.apco2012.org/>

IAEM Annual Conference

Oct. 26-Nov. 1; Orlando, Fla.

The International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM) will host the annual IAEM Conference, Oct. 26-Nov. 1, in Orlando, Fla. The theme of this year's conference is "Resilience."

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

2013 Mid-Atlantic Expo and Symposium

Feb. 21-24, 2013; Virginia Beach, Va.

The Virginia Fire Chiefs Association is calling for presenters for its 2013 Mid-Atlantic Expo and Symposium Feb. 21-24, 2013, at the Virginia Beach Convention Center. Presentation subject matter can include, but is not limited to strategy and tactics; EMS, ICS, leadership; management; safety and health; new initiatives/concepts/trends; case studies; etc.

http://www.vfca.us/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=92&Itemid=108

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 Blogs and Web Resources

- Fairfax County Emergency Information Blog – <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency/blog>
- Fairfax County CERT - <http://fairfaxcountycert.blogspot.com/>
- Fairfax County Citizen Corps Web Page - www.fairfaxcounty.gov/oem/citizencorps/
- Fairfax County Citizen Corps Blog - <http://citizencorps.blogspot.com/>
- Virginia Citizen Corps - <http://www.vaemergency.com/citcorps/index.cfm>

DHS Science & Technology Directorate Newsletter

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

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

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report (OSIR)

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

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

Fairfax County Government Emergency Information Web Page

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

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency/

Fairfax County Government Emergency Information Line

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/opa/infoline.htm

Emergency Management Magazine

<http://www.govtech.com/em/toc.php>

FEMA Private Sector

<http://www.fema.gov/privatesector/>

FAIRFAX COUNTY 703-817-7771
EMERGENCY
INFORMATION LINE

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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.

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.