



ESF 15 Business / Nonprofit Update

Produced by Emergency Support Function 15 – External Affairs

June 2013

ITEMS OF INTEREST FOR ESF 15

Comments Requested for National Infrastructure Protection Plan Update

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) National Protection and Programs Directorate (NPPD) Office of Infrastructure Protection (IP) is currently reviewing the National Infrastructure Protection Plan (NIPP) to conform to the requirements of Presidential Policy Directive 21, Critical Infrastructure Security and Resilience, and, as part of a comprehensive national review process, solicits public comment on issues or language in the NIPP that need to be updated. Written comments will be accepted until July 8. For further information, contact Lisa Barr, DHS/NPPD/IP/Office of Strategy and Policy; 245 Murray Lane SW., Mail Stop 8530, Washington, DC 20528-8530 or telephone 703-235-9542.

<https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2013/06/06/2013-13427/review-and-revision-of-the-national-infrastructure-protection-plan#h-9>.



Cellphone Carriers Must Notify Customer if They Can't Deliver a 9-1-1 Emergency Alert via Text Message

Some cellphone providers, in some geographic areas, offer their customers the ability to send text messages announcing an emergency to their local 9-1-1 dispatch center. Some users prefer to send such a text alert, rather than make a voice call to the 9-1-1 emergency call center. But what happens if a customer sends such a text message, but the cell phone provider is unable technically to deliver that text message to the 9-1-1 center? The Federal Communications Commission on May 29 issued a final rule that will require all “commercial mobile radio service” (CMRS) providers as well as providers of interconnected text messaging services – essentially providers of software applications that enable consumers to send text messages to all U.S. telephone numbers -- to send an instantaneous “bounce-back” alert to the sender whenever the provider cannot deliver the text message to a 9-1-1 center.

http://www.gsnmagazine.com/node/29806?c=disaster_preparedness_emergency_response

Study Examines Communities Where Terrorists Lived, Planned and Prepared

According to a new START study, perpetrators of terrorist attacks in the U.S. have lived, planned and prepared for attacks in communities that are generally characterized by lower socioeconomic status, poorer housing conditions and sociodemographic characteristics that are significantly different than those without residential or pre-incident activity. However, these overall patterns vary significantly by the type of extremist group -- environmental, far-right or al-Qa'ida and Associated Movements (AQAM) – with which the perpetrators were affiliated. The study, “From Extremist to Terrorist: Identifying the Characteristics of Communities where Perpetrators Live and Pre-Incident Activity Occurs” uses tract-level data from the 2000 U.S. Census to examine the characteristics of residential and pre-incident activity locations associated with 144 terrorism incidents investigated by the FBI between 1990 and 2010 and included in the American Terrorism Study.

<http://www.start.umd.edu/start/announcements/announcement.asp?id=535>

Social Media Proves an Effective Tool in Disaster Communications

Emergency management agencies have the potential to more creatively use social media, according to a new survey conducted by the National Emergency Management Association (NEMA) and CNA. "Social Media in the Emergency Management Field" reveals that many emergency management agencies already have experience using social media in real-world events, mainly pushing information out to communities. However, the more advanced uses of social media – such as the groundbreaking crowdsourcing and crisis-mapping activities conducted by digital volunteers in the 2010 Haiti earthquake – are not typically used. "Smartphones have put the power of social media in the pockets of citizens we serve, allowing them to be a partner in the disaster preparedness, response, and recovery process," said John Madden, NEMA President and Director, Alaska Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management. "Our challenge now is to find more ways to include social media into the existing emergency management culture and current work load with the existing funding streams." Such uses of social media could be critical to supporting emergency managers in obtaining rapid and ongoing situational awareness following a disaster, including identifying affected population needs and effectively allocating emergency response resources to save lives. According to survey respondents, the primary barrier to emergency management agencies' use of social media is a lack of dedicated personnel. While most respondents indicated that they would not necessarily look to the federal government to play a large role in supporting the development of their agency's social media capabilities, they did identify prime areas for potential support, including grant funding, training on how social media could be used and the provision of guidance and standards.

Report: http://www.cna.org/sites/default/files/research/SocialMedia_EmergencyManagement.pdf



Department of Homeland Security Looks to Public Feedback to Strengthen Critical Infrastructure

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security has launched a platform for posting and sharing public comments and feedback, "The Integrated Task Force Collaboration Community on Ideascale," in implementation of the Executive Order on Cybersecurity. The easy-to-use platform is open to the public and includes trending topics such as the needs of Public Private Partnerships and information sharing. To view and post comments, visit www.eoppd.ideascale.com. For additional information on the Integrated Task Force, visit www.dhs.gov/eoppd.

Reprinted from issue #112 (June 12) "EM Update" from the Virginia Department of Emergency Management. Find past issues online at <http://www.vaemergency.gov/news/em-update/archives>.

Safety Tips for Storm Recovery

A line of severe thunderstorms with heavy winds affected many areas of Virginia Thursday, June 13, causing downed trees and widespread power outages. Here are some important safety tips to follow for storm cleanup from the Virginia Department of Emergency Management.

Travel Safety

- Use caution while driving. Where traffic signals are not operating, treat the intersection as a four-way stop.
- Watch for storm debris, downed power lines and tree limbs on the roads.
- Watch for police who may be directing traffic as well as road and power crews who are cleaning debris and fixing power lines.
- Call 511 or go to www.511Virginia.org for 24/7 road condition information.

Electrical Safety

- Portable generators should only be run outside. Keep them at least 10 feet away from your home. Connect

appliances directly to the generator. Never connect a portable generator to building wiring systems. Follow manufacturer's directions exactly to avoid carbon monoxide poisoning, electric shock and fire.

- Don't use candles for light. Flashlights are safer when the power is out.
- Avoid loose or dangling electrical wires. All wires should be considered live. Even wires that normally would not hurt you, such as telephone or cable wires, could have come in contact with energized wires or equipment.

Food Safety

- Refrigerators will store food safely for up to four hours without power if the door is unopened.
- Freezers that are half full will hold food safely for up to 24 hours without power; a full freezer will hold food safely for 48 hours.
- Throw away any thawed food that has a temperature of more than 40 degrees Fahrenheit. When in doubt, throw it out.

Chainsaw Safety

- Accidents during storm cleanup are frequent and often lead to severe injuries. Be especially careful while using chainsaws:
- Wear hard hat, safety glasses or goggles, hearing protection, leather work gloves, cut-resistant leg wear with two-inch boot overlap, and sturdy steel-toed boots.
- Make sure the chain brake is on when starting the saw, when both hands are not on the saw or when taking more than two steps.
- When starting the saw, place it on the ground and place the toe of your boot through the back handle to hold the saw down. Hold the front handle with your left hand; use your right hand to pull the start cord.
- Go to www.dof.virginia.gov for additional information and safety tips.

Personal Safety

- If you have medication that requires refrigeration but you lost power, check with the pharmacy on the label. They can advise if it still can be used.
- Empty outdoor containers, tarps and other items around your house that may be holding water from the storms. These create breeding sites for mosquitoes and other insects. Remember to use repellent when outside.
- During cleanup, avoid overexertion and strain in lifting and moving heavy objects or loads. Check with your locality to learn how to properly dispose of storm debris.



www.CapitalRegionUpdates.gov

Small Business Week: A Good Time to Remember Disaster Preparedness for Your Business

Every year since 1963, the President of the United States has issued a proclamation announcing National Small Business Week, which recognizes the critical contributions of America's entrepreneurs and small business owners. The Small Business Administration (SBA) celebrated its 50th anniversary of Small Business Week, June 16-22. According to the SBA, more than half of Americans either own or work for a small business, and they create about two out of every three new jobs in the U.S. each year. Small businesses play such a critical role to our economy; therefore, a plan is key if you and your business is faced with an emergency. Some tips small businesses should consider in disaster are:

- Contacting your insurance company to find out your exact coverage.

- Calculating the financial effect (per day) a disaster would have on your business.
- Creating a detailed communication plan for your employees.

Want to learn more? Read lessons learned from a small business owner in reestablishing business after a natural disaster at <http://www.sba.gov/sba-direct/article/118071>. For more information on preparing your business in case of disaster visit the SBA Web page: <http://www.sba.gov/content/disaster-planning>. Additional resources:

- PrepareMyBusiness.org (<http://www.preparemybusiness.org>)
SBA has teamed with Agility Recovery Solutions to help small businesses with their preparedness planning. The result is an online continuity planning workshop where small business owners can access helpful tools, such as June’s webinar entitled, “10 Steps to Business Preparedness.”
- DisasterAssistance.gov (<http://www.disasterassistance.gov/>)
The government’s disaster assistance portal provides citizens with pertinent information to help with preparedness and recovery of disasters. Here you can get help with developing a disaster plan and apply for federal aid that becomes available after a disaster. Visit <http://www.disasterassistance.gov/> for more information on the services they provide.
- Ready.gov (<http://www.ready.gov/>)
In addition to providing emergency kits, planning assistance, and informative resources, Ready.gov provides business owners with the steps to create an emergency plan. For more information, visit Ready.gov's business disaster preparedness portal (<http://www.ready.gov/business/index.html>).

Updates to CDC’s Solve the Outbreak iPad App

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has released an update to “Solve the Outbreak,” the popular, free iPad app that puts you in the shoes of a member of the Epidemic Intelligence Service. The app now has twice as many outbreaks as before, giving you double the opportunity to have fun. New features also are included:

- Sound effects.
- New levels.
- Achievements.



You can download the CDC app in the iTunes store at <https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/solve-the-outbreak/id592485067>.

Lightning Safety

Summer is the peak season for lightning-related deaths and injuries, though people are struck by lightning year-round. The National Weather Service provides a wide range of information about lightning, including facts and tips:

General Tips

- No outdoor area is safe when you hear thunder.
- If you hear thunder, find a safe indoor shelter (a substantial building or enclosed, metal-topped vehicle with the windows up).
- “When Thunder Roars... Go Indoors.”

Indoor Safety Tips

- Stay off corded phones, computers, and other electrical equipment.
- Avoid plumbing, including sinks, baths and faucets.
- Stay away from porches, windows and doors.
- Never lie on concrete floors or lean against concrete walls.

Outdoor Safety Tips

- No outdoor area is safe during a thunderstorm, but if you're caught outside with no safe shelter options, take these steps to reduce your risk of being struck by lightning:



- Come down from elevated areas.
- Never lie flat on the ground.
- Never shelter under an isolated tree.
- Never use a cliff or rocky overhang for shelter.
- Immediately get out and away from ponds, lakes and other bodies of water.
- Stay away from objects that conduct electricity, such as wire fences.

<http://www.lightningsafety.noaa.gov/> and <http://fairfaxcountyemergency.wordpress.com/2013/06/25/lightning-safety-remember-when-thunder-roars-go-indoors/>

PLANNING / PREPAREDNESS

Protect Your Family and Property Now

What should property owners, business owners and renters be doing now at the start of hurricane season? Tropical Storm Andrea's affects on Virginia are a great reminder to:

- **Consider getting flood insurance.** Most homeowners insurance does not cover flood damage. Inland flooding is often a problem in Virginia, so a direct hit from a hurricane isn't necessary for there to be extensive damage. Get free info at www.floodsmart.gov or call 1-888-379-9531. Talk to your insurance agent now. Coverage usually takes 30 days before it goes into effect.
- Install permanent storm shutters. These are the best protection for windows; tape doesn't prevent windows from breaking. Another option is to cover windows with 5/8" plywood.
- Be sure trees and shrubs around your property are well trimmed.
- Clear loose and clogged rain gutters and downspouts.
- Get a portable battery-powered/hand crank radio with NOAA weather band so you can hear information even when the power is out. Have plenty of batteries on hand.
- Store drinking water. Have at least a three-day supply: one gallon per person per day.
- Families should have an emergency plan. Print out a plan or fill in your plan at www.ReadyVirginia.gov.
- Download the new Ready Virginia app. The free app for iPhone® and Android™ devices provides emergency planning and guidance.
- Businesses should take steps to prepare for hurricane season. Visit www.vaemergency.gov/ready-virginia/business for planning resources.

What should residents do if a tropical storm warning is issued?

- **If power is out, listen to a battery-powered/hand-crank radio for instructions from local officials.**
- Those in mobile homes should check tie downs and go to a sturdier building for shelter.
- Keep a supply of flashlights and extra batteries. Don't use open flames such as kerosene lamps and candles for light.
- Be sure you have at least a three-day supply of food that doesn't need refrigeration or electricity for preparation.
- Store personal papers in a waterproof container on the highest level of your home.
- Stay inside, away from windows, skylights and glass doors.
- If power goes off, turn off major appliances to reduce power "surge" when electricity is back on.



<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/oem/outreach/newsletter.htm>

Emergency Operations Plans for Schools, Institutions of Higher Education and Houses of Worship

On June 18, the Obama Administration released the Guide for Developing High-Quality School Emergency

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.

Operations Plans, the Guide for Developing High-Quality Emergency Operations Plans for Institutions of Higher Education and the Guide for Developing High-Quality Emergency Operations Plans for Houses of Worship. These guides are the culmination of years of emergency planning work by the Federal government, and the first joint product of ED, DHS, DOJ and HHS on this critical topic. The guides incorporate lessons learned from the recent shootings in Newtown and Oak Creek as well as the recent tornadoes in Oklahoma, can be customized to each type of community, and may be used to create new emergency plans as well as to revise and update existing plans. The planning process outlined in the guides will help schools, IHEs and houses of worship align their emergency planning practices with those at the national, state, and local levels. National preparedness efforts, including emergency planning, are now informed by Presidential Policy Directive (PPD) 8, signed by the President in March 2011, which describes the nation's approach to preparedness. This directive represents an evolution in our collective understanding of national preparedness, based on the lessons learned from terrorism, hurricanes, school incidents, and other emergencies. The guides may be accessed on the REMS TA Center website (<http://rems.ed.gov>) at <http://rems.ed.gov/EOPGuides>.

ASPCA Reminds Public: Hurricane Mitigation Plans Must Include Pets

The 2013 hurricane season is here and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Climate Prediction Center expects this season to be an active one. Taking precautions and being prepared are important, and a key aspect of preparedness involves pets. In a press release, the ASPCA advised that pet owners should have essential supplies on hand and establish a plan.

<http://www.emergencymgmt.com/disaster/Hurricane-Mitigation-Plans-Include-Pets-ASPCA.html>

Food Storage and Your Emergency Supply Kit

With the outlook for storms and hurricanes on the rise this year, individuals should consider every facet when planning for an emergency including food storage. All living things must eat to stay healthy, so you may think that the foods you store must be of the highest nutritional content. While nutrition is very important, it is not the single most important thing to be concerned about when storing food. Your food storage program must be designed to sustain life. Here are a few suggestions for keeping life in your food storage program:

- Store food in food grade containers that can be tightly sealed to keep bugs and moisture out;
- Keep food, even when tightly sealed, away from gasoline, kerosene, chemicals or household cleaning products;
- Store appropriate items as cold (45-55°) as possible for maximum shelf life;
- Rotate food every five years; and
- Have oxygen absorbers such as bay leaves and dry ice on hand. They can be effective in keeping bugs away.

Read more on shelf-stable food safety at [www.fsis.usda.gov/factsheets/Shelf Stable Food Safety/](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/factsheets/Shelf_Stable_Food_Safety/).

Reprinted from FEMA "Individual and Community Preparedness" eBrief, June 11, 2013

Turn Around, Don't Drown

If you are caught in a storm, remember to stay away from flood waters. Driving through a flooded area can be extremely hazardous and **almost half of all flash flood deaths happen in vehicles**. When in your car, look out for flooding in low lying areas, at bridges, and at highway dips. **As little as six inches of water may cause you to lose control of your vehicle**. Remember – turn around, don't drown.

<http://tadd.weather.gov/tadd-intro.shtml>

National Terrorism Advisory System

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

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

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

FBI Unveils Page for Active Shooter Events

The FBI has collected its active shooter information and resources into one convenient page. The site Active Shooter and Mass Casualty Incidents lists:

- Guides for developing operations plans for schools, houses of worship, and institutes of higher education.
- Links to active shooter information from other agencies.
- Information on the Office for Victims Assistance (OVA).
- Active shooter statistics.

The page also lists training for local law enforcement, specifically the Advanced Law

Enforcement Rapid Response Training (ALERRT) program. ALERRT was started in Texas and adopted by the FBI as a national standard in tactical instruction.

Ready Houston’s 6-minute video “Run. Hide. Fight”

shows real actions people can take to survive if encountered with an active shooter event. It stresses always trying to escape over hiding, and commit with aggression if you must fight back. Watch the video under the “Run.Hide.Fight” tab on the ReadyHouston website at <http://www.readyhouston.tx.gov/videos.html>.

Reprinted from "The InfoGram" newsletter, volume 13, issue 25, dated June 20, published by the EMR-ISAC, the Emergency Management & Response-Information Sharing & Analysis Center

http://content.govdelivery.com/attachments/USDHSFACIR/2013/06/20/file_attachments/220003/June%2B20%252C%2B2013%2BInfoGram.pdf

* Active shooter statistics reprinted from the FBI active shooter and mass casualty incidents Web page:

<http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cirg/active-shooter-and-mass-casualty-incidents>

Active Shooter Statistics

- The average active shooter incident lasts 12 minutes, while 37 percent last less than five minutes. (Source: John Nicoletti, lecture entitled “Detection and Disruption of Insider/Outsider Perpetrated Violence”)
- Two percent of the shooters bring improvised explosive devices (IEDs) as an additional weapon. (Source: Blair & Martaindale, “United States Active Shooter Events from 2001 to 2010”)
- In 10 percent of the cases, the shooter stops and walks away. In 20 percent of the cases, the shooter goes mobile, moving to another location. (Source: Blair & Martaindale)
- Forty-three percent of the time, the crime is over before police arrive. In 57 percent of the shootings, an officer arrives while the shooting is still underway. (Source: Blair & Martaindale)
- Patrol officers are most likely responding alone or with a partner. When responding alone, 75 percent had to take action, and a third of those officers are shot by the intruder. (Source: Blair & Martaindale)

Community Emergency Alert Network (CEAN)

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



National Safety Month

June is National Safety Month and the Office of Emergency Management and the county’s Risk Management Division teamed up to deliver a series of safety messages on the county’s emergency information blog (www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency/blog). Twice per week during the month, OEM and Risk Management encouraged residents to take a few minutes to become aware of some leading causes of preventable injuries and deaths, and the easy steps to take to stay healthy and injury-free. Some of the topics included slips, trips and falls prevention and how to safely play and work in the summer heat. Read the complete series – along with several videos – at <http://fairfaxcountyemergency.wordpress.com/category/national-safety-month/>

MEDIA ARTICLES OF INTEREST

Before the Flood

Batteries, flashlights, bottled water. Now more jumbo-mortgage borrowers will be required to add another item to their storm-preparedness checklist: flood insurance. The Federal Emergency Management Administration is currently re-evaluating flood maps, requiring more jumbo-mortgage holders with homes in high-hazard areas to buy flood insurance. Also, changes to federal law enacted in July are expected to jack up premiums.

<http://stream.wsj.com/story/latest-headlines/SS-2-63399/SS-2-243267/>

Department of Homeland Security Forced to Release List of Keywords Used

If you are thinking about tweeting about clouds, pork, exercise or even Mexico, think again. Doing so may result in a closer look by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. In a story appearing earlier today on the U.K.'s Daily Mail website, it was reported that the DHS has been forced to release a list of keywords and phrases it uses to monitor various social networking sites.

<http://www.forbes.com/sites/reuencohen/2012/05/26/department-of-homeland-security-forced-to-release-list-of-keywords-used-to-monitor-social-networking-sites/>

Summer Emergency Guide: Tips to Prepare the Home Against Most Threats

Tips to prepare the home against most threats: It's not if you are going to lose power, it's really a matter of when," says David Botkins, a spokesman for Dominion Virginia Power. Stock up on flashlights, batteries, water and food, in addition to any medical supplies you might need. Botkins also recommends homeowners invest in a battery-operated radio so they can listen to weather reports and news alerts during an outage. Have one gallon of water per person per day for at least three days, Botkins says. Also stock food for several days for everyone in the family and your pets.

http://www.masslive.com/living/index.ssf/2013/06/summer_emergency_guide_tips_to_prepare_the_home_against_most_threats.html

Disaster Recovery: Test, Invest and Educate

All disaster recovery efforts, whether they are for natural disasters or security threats, must ultimately be tested for efficiency and reliability. Institutions are being asked more frequently than ever what plans they have in place for speedy recovery, should systems be compromised. Following a number of hard-hitting storms in the United States, including Hurricane Sandy and the devastation wrought on the Midwest following recent tornadoes, attention is focused on preparing for a recovery after natural disasters.

<http://www.banktech.com/risk-management/disaster-recovery-test-invest-and-educat/240156076>



Pandemic Influenza Risk Management: New Guidance from WHO

The World Health Organization has published new interim guidance to replace the 2009 Pandemic Influenza Preparedness and Response advice. 'Pandemic Influenza Risk Management' includes the following:

- Focus upon risk assessment at national level to guide national level actions.
- Revised approach to global phases.
- Flexibility through uncoupling of national actions from global phases.
- Inclusion of principles of emergency risk management for health.
- New and updated annexes on planning assumptions, ethical considerations, whole-of-society approach, business continuity planning, representative parameters for core severity indicators, and containment measures.

<http://www.continuitycentral.com/news06817.html>

WHO document (PDF):

http://www.who.int/influenza/preparedness/pandemic/GIP_PandemicInfluenzaRiskManagementInterimGuidance_Jun2013.pdf

Natural Disasters Prove Costly

The latest annual risk survey by global insurance brokerage Aon has shown a sharp rise in concerns over business grinding to a halt due to a natural disaster. Indeed, the concern over business interruption has climbed two places to be the fourth most significant risk ranked by businesses this year.

<http://www.smh.com.au/business/natural-disasters-prove-costly-20130616-2ocg9.html>

When all Else Fails, Ham Radio Works

In Palatine Village near Chicago, the public will have a chance to meet and talk with ham radio operators and see for themselves what the Radio Amateur Emergency Service (RACES) and the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) are all about. Palatine's ham radio operators will join with thousands of others to demonstrate their ability to provide voice communications and even historical Morse code communication when commercial power fails.

http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/local/suburbs/palatine_rolling_meadows/community/chi-ugc-article-when-all-else-fails-ham-radio-works-2013-06-16,0,3812032.story

One in Nine U.S. Bridges in Need of Repair

More than one in nine bridges in the U.S. are structurally deficient, according to a new report from Transportation for America, a coalition based in Washington, D.C. that works to improve transportation. The report comes less than a month after the May 23 collapse of a bridge in Washington state, and states that Americans take 260 million trips over structurally deficient bridges each day.

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2013/06/19/transportation-for-american-us-bridges-repair/2434369/>

Is Your Business Prepared for Disaster?

Many companies are not prepared for the day their system goes down and data is lost. Beyond the compromised data, the loss of productivity can immobilize an entire business for hours or even days. The current backup and disaster recovery environment is leaning toward solutions that offer integrated and simplified next-generation approaches. These include faster recovery times, easier rebuilds, hardware-independent recovery, bootable backups and bare-metal restore. Successful solutions will require integration with legacy and current data, scale to handle big data, span virtualized and cloud environments, and implement automation while integrating the functions of backup protection and disaster recovery. Even with the best-laid plans, disaster can strike. Those who are prepared suffer the least.

<http://www.datacenterjournal.com/it/business-prepared-disaster/>

\$110 Billion in Damages Makes 2012 Second Only to 2005 in Terms of Weather-related Disasters

The U.S. National Climatic Data Center's (NCDC) says that 2012 saw eleven weather and climate disaster events each with losses exceeding \$1 billion in damages. This makes 2012 the second costliest year since 1980, with a total of more than \$110 billion in damages throughout the year. The 2012 total damages rank only behind 2005, which incurred \$160 billion in damages due in part to four devastating land-falling hurricanes. According to the U.S. National Climatic Data Center's (NCDC) 2012 weather and climate disasters information, 2012 saw eleven weather and climate disaster events each with losses exceeding \$1 billion in damages. This makes 2012 the second costliest year since 1980, with a total of more than \$110 billion in damages throughout the year. The 2012 total damages rank only behind 2005, which incurred \$160 billion in damages due in part to four devastating land-falling hurricanes.

<http://www.homelandsecuritynewswire.com/dr20130620-110-billion-in-damages-makes-2012-second-only-to-2005-in-terms-of-weatherrelated-disasters>

CDC Study of Extreme Heat Shows Importance of Staying Cool

As temperatures are heating up, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is reminding people to keep a cool head. Heat-related illnesses and deaths are preventable. In 2012, one large-scale heat event claimed 32 lives, but taking steps to stay cool, hydrated and informed in extreme temperatures can prevent heat exhaustion and heat stroke.

http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-204_162-57588031/cdc-study-of-extreme-heat-shows-importance-of-staying-cool/

Provision of Pandemic Disease Information by Health Sciences Librarians

The research provides an understanding of pandemic information needs and informs professional development initiatives for librarians in disaster medicine. Comparison of the four cases revealed a distinct difference between “client-initiated” and “librarian-initiated” provision of pandemic information. Librarian-initiated projects utilized social software to “push” information, whereas client-initiated projects operated within patron-determined parameters to deliver information. Health care administrators were identified as a key audience for pandemic information, and news agencies were utilized as essential information sources. Librarians’ skills at evaluating available information proved crucial for selecting best-quality evidence to support administrative decision making. Qualitative analysis resulted in increased understanding of pandemic information needs and identified best practices for disseminating information during periods of high organizational stress caused by an influx of new cases of an unknown infectious disease.

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3324800/>

WHO Proposes New Pandemic Flu Alert Levels

The World Health Organization (WHO) proposed (on June 10) a new pandemic alert system, one that’s designed to focus more on disease risk than geographic spread and to streamline communications to the public. At a media briefing in Geneva, David Harper, CBE, special adviser to the WHO’s assistant director-general for health, security, and environment, said the interim guidance reflects lessons learned during the 2009 H1N1 pandemic, according to an Agence France-Presse (AFP) report. A few months into the 2009 H1N1 pandemic the WHO faced tough questions from countries about its pandemic alert phases. At the time, WHO officials said the pandemic alert phases in use were crafted in the shadow of threat from H5N1 avian influenza, which was causing severe disease in humans. The 2009 H1N1 virus spread quickly around the world and caused mainly mild-to-moderate illness. The WHO had said it would seek expert advice to consider possible changes to its pandemic phase definitions. The WHO described the alert phase in its interim guide for pandemic influenza risk management, which when finalized would replace its 2009 document. The new 4-phase alert system would replace the current 6-phase one that includes an additional post pandemic level. The new phases are:

- Interpandemic, the period between pandemics.
- Alert, when a new subtype has been identified and increased vigilance and risk assessment are warranted.
- Pandemic, a period of global spread of a new subtype as indicated by global risk assessment based on virologic, epidemiologic, and clinical data.
- Transition, global risk drops, prompting stepdowns in global actions and response activities.

Presumably, the world would be at the “alert” level for H5N1 avian flu, H7N9 and Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV).

<http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/cidrap/content/influenza/panflu/news/jun1013pandemic.html>

Federal Officials Weigh H7N9 Vaccine Options

Intensive federal deliberations are under way on whether to stockpile a vaccine against the H7N9 flu virus that emerged this spring in China, similar to the government’s response to the H5N1 avian flu threat, health officials said earlier this month. In the meantime, vaccine companies are getting ready to produce enough vaccine for clinical trials, which are slated to begin in August, according to an update presented before the National Vaccine Advisory Committee (NVAC), an outside group that assists the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

<http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/news-perspective/2013/06/federal-officials-weigh-h7n9-vaccine-options>

CDC Study Shows Flu Vaccination Prevents Significant Flu Illness, Doctor’s Visits and Hospitalizations

Flu vaccination prevented an estimated 13.6 million flu cases, 5.8 million medical visits and nearly 113,000 flu-related hospitalizations in the United States over a 6-year period (2005-2011), according to a study by CDC experts. Since 2010, all people 6 months of age and older in the United States have been recommended to receive annual flu vaccination. The study, published in PLOS ONE on June 19, presents a new model to estimate the direct annual

impact of flu vaccination in the United States. CDC researchers used flu surveillance data collected during the flu season to project the burden of flu in the absence of vaccination compared to the burden of flu with vaccination. By looking at the difference between the two, the researchers estimated the burden of flu averted by vaccination. This new model will help CDC experts to quantify the public health benefit of the flu vaccination program in the United States. In the past, CDC has relied on surveys of vaccine coverage and observational studies of vaccine effectiveness that focused on specific populations at specific times to assess and communicate the benefits of vaccination. The new CDC model provides a more standardized and repeatable way to measure and communicate some of the direct public health benefits of flu vaccination. According to the study, the flu season where the greatest benefit of flu vaccination was measured occurred during the 2010-11 season, when flu vaccination averted more than 18.5% of potential flu cases. This translates into flu vaccines having averted approximately 5 million flu cases, 2.1 million flu-related medical visits and 40,400 flu-related hospitalizations across all age groups in the United States during that season. <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/spotlights/vaccination-prevents-flu-illness.htm>

Fairfax County Flu Preparedness

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

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

Pandemic Influenza Overview

<http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/infectious-disease-topics/pandemic-influenza>

TRAININGS / EXERCISES / CONFERENCES

Pandemics, Bioterrorism, and International Security

July 22-24; George Mason University, Fairfax, Va.

Three-day, non-credit short-course designed to introduce participants to the challenges facing the world at the intersection of biodefense and public health. Research with dangerous pathogens and the development of dual-use biotechnologies poses a dilemma for policy-makers and researchers who seek to maximize the benefits of such research while minimizing the risks. Thus, public health, law enforcement and national security agencies, pharmaceutical and biotech industries, and the academic life sciences community need to establish new priorities, such as developing new types of expertise, adopting new types of risk assessment and risk management strategies, and learning to collaborate with each other.

<http://masonbiodefense.wordpress.com/summer-courses/>

2013 Building Resilience through Public-Private Partnerships Conference

July 23-25; Rutgers University-Newark, The Paul Robeson Campus Center, Newark, N.J.

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

Terrorism Analysis: Quantitative and Qualitative Research Methodologies and Tools

July 25-26; George Mason University, Fairfax, Va.

This course introduces participants to a variety of quantitative and qualitative methodologies for the study of terrorism. This two-day course provides participants with an in-depth understanding of single and multi-

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methodological tools and techniques. Ultimately, participants learn how to create and utilize analytical tools applicable to the current and emerging needs of professionals and academics with responsibilities for preventing, preparing for, responding to, or predicting terrorism.

http://www.ocpe.gmu.edu/programs/health_public_safety/terrorism_analysis.php

The 127th Annual Virginia State Firefighters Association Conference/Expo

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

July 29 is the cutoff date to receive conference rates.

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

Learning in Disaster Health: A Continuing Education Workshop

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

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

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

International Facility Security Officer Conference (IFSO)

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

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

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

IEEE Communications & Network Security Conference 2013

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

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

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

Homeland Security 2013

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

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

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

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

Oct. 19-23; Philadelphia, Pa.

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

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

34th Annual Virginia EMS Symposium

Nov. 6-10; Norfolk, Va.

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

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

National Capital Region Homeland Security Events

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

Virginia Emergency Management Courses

<http://www.vaemergency.com>

FEMA Independent Study Courses

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

American Red Cross Disaster Services Training

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

LINKS

Fairfax County Web Resources

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

Additional Web Resources

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

DHS Science & Technology Directorate Newsletter

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

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

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report (OSIR)

The Department of Homeland Security provides a Web-based "Daily OSIR," which is posted on the DHS public Web site. Accessing the report via the Web enables readers to retrieve the current Daily Report as well as 10 days of archived DHS Daily Reports. You can access the Daily OSIR at:

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

Fairfax County Government Emergency Information Line

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/opa/infoline.htm

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Emergency Management Magazine

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

FEMA Private Sector

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

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To Unsubscribe:

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

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

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

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

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