



# ESF 15 Business / Nonprofit Update

Produced by Emergency Support Function 15 – External Affairs

March 2011

## ITEMS OF INTEREST FOR ESF 15



### 8th Anniversary Celebration for Homeland Security

March marks the 8th anniversary of the Department of Homeland Security. Since it was formed in 2003, DHS has achieved significant progress across its key mission areas: preventing terrorism, securing our borders; enforcing our immigration laws; securing cyberspace; and ensuring resilience to disasters. According to the DHW website, “homeland security begins with hometown security.” Only three people have held the position of Secretary of Homeland Security, and today, all three joined

together to celebrate and reflect on our Department’s history. In front of a packed audience at Georgetown University, Secretary Napolitano joined her predecessors, former Secretaries Tom Ridge and Michael Chertoff, in a conversation about the Department’s ongoing efforts to protect our nation, and the challenges we face as we continue to prepare for, prevent, respond to and recover from terrorism and other threats.



From left: Former Secretary Tom Ridge, Secretary Janet Napolitano, and former Secretary Michael Chertoff. Photo by Bury Babak/CRD

<http://www.dhs.gov/xabout/history/8th-anniversary-celebration.shtm>

8th anniversary fact sheet: <http://www.dhs.gov/xlibrary/assets/dhs-8th-anniversary-fact-sheet.pdf>

### Virginia Task Force 1 Activated for Disaster in Japan

Virginia Task Force 1 (VATF-1) was activated by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), Friday, March 11, and departed Dulles International Airport early Saturday morning for Japan to assist in the aftermath of the earthquake and tsunami. The team arrived at Misawa Air Base, Sunday, March 13, by commercial aircraft, returning to Fairfax County on Sunday, March 20.

Approximately 32 tons of equipment and supplies, including four inflatable boats, were transported separately by military airlift. The self-contained, heavy task force of 74 personnel has technical search and rescue specialists, search and rescue canines, structural engineers, a medical component consisting of physicians and paramedics, and other critical support personnel. VATF-1 traveled to Ofunato, a seaport city of approximately 41,000, and established a base of operations. While enroute to Japan, VATF-1 stopped in Los Angeles, Calif., and joined with California Task Force 2 (CATF-2) for the trip to Misawa Air Base. Both teams worked under the direction of the Tokyo Fire Department. VATF-1 was activated last year following the earthquake in Haiti, assisting in the rescue of 16 people. The team has deployed worldwide to both natural and manmade disasters for approximately 25 years, including Kenya, Taiwan, Turkey, Oklahoma City, The Pentagon, and Armenia. Additionally, as a part of the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department, the team maintains constant operational readiness, and is a local resource for residents of Fairfax County.



One of six Virginia Task Force 1 dogs being deployed on search and rescue efforts in Japan. (Photo courtesy of Fairfax County)

County.

\* As the federal sponsoring agency, USAID pays for all costs and expenses incurred by VATF-1 when members are

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*activated or undergo training. All training, equipment, and personnel costs of VATF-1 are paid for by the federal government on a regular basis. Additionally, when firefighters and members are deployed, there is no loss in emergency response or service to Fairfax County residents, as minimum staffing for all apparatus is continuous for all fire and rescue stations.*

### **Health Officials Discuss Radiation Monitoring in Virginia**

*Multiple monitoring systems across the Commonwealth continue to show no levels of public health concern.*

“As a result of the incident with the nuclear power plant in Japan, several EPA air monitors have detected very low levels of radioactive material in the U.S.,” says State Health Commissioner Karen Remley, MD, MBA, FAAP. “To date, none of Virginia’s multiple monitoring systems has detected a level of radioactive material that would pose a public health concern.” In addition to the Virginia Department of Health’s (VDH) routine radiological monitoring, extensive routine monitoring is already being done in Virginia by the EPA, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Dominion Virginia Power, and the U.S. Military. VDH is also regularly advising the Secretary of Health and Human Resources and the Governor’s Office on the status of monitoring and levels of radiation detected. Although short-term elevations such as these do not raise public health concerns and are expected to be relatively short in duration <http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/news/PressReleases/2011/032711Radiation.htm>

### **February Major Disasters Roundup**

Aon Benfield has released the latest edition of its monthly Cat Recap report, which reviews the natural disasters that occurred worldwide during February. Published by Impact Forecasting, the firm’s catastrophe model development center of excellence, the report reveals that natural hazard activity during the month was dominated by the magnitude-6.3 earthquake that struck New Zealand’s South Island on Feb. 22, causing widespread damage, fatalities and injuries. Meanwhile, on Feb. 3, severe Tropical Cyclone Yasi made landfall near Mission Beach in Queensland, Australia; a major winter storm hit the U.S. from Colorado to Maine early in February killing at least 36 people; severe winter weather led to widespread snow damage along coastal sections of eastern South Korea; and flooding in the Philippines and Sri Lanka led to dozens of fatalities and the destruction of thousands of homes.

<http://www.continuitycentral.com/news05629.html>

Report: [http://www.aon.com/attachments/reinsurance/201103\\_if\\_monthly\\_cat\\_recap\\_feb.pdf](http://www.aon.com/attachments/reinsurance/201103_if_monthly_cat_recap_feb.pdf)

### **FEMA Loses Important Data**

The Federal Emergency Management Agency’s (FEMA) official post-disaster reports on lessons learned from Hurricane Katrina, Calif. wildfires, and other major recent disasters have been lost. According to a Federal Computer Week article, a new federal audit reported that the data has been permanently deleted from FEMA’s database. The article said that a February report from the Department of Homeland Security stated that seven years’ worth of post-disaster official reports were lost when a FEMA computer server failed in May 2010, and the agency hasn’t been able to access the data since then. According to an Information Week article, FEMA’s deputy administrator for protection and national preparedness told the 70 employees that accessed the database to stop using it because FEMA was no longer supporting the server on which it was housed. The article noted that FEMA had been working to implement a data-archiving plan when the server failed. The Federal Computer Week article stated that FEMA started creating the after-actions reports in 2003 under the Remedial Action Management Program (RAMP) to show lessons learned and pass on the best practices to its staff. According to the Information Week article, the database was run by RAMP and FEMA “after action” onsite reviews were entered into that database. The article noted that FEMA integrated some of the functions of RAMP’s database into the Corrective Action Program system and the Lessons Learned Information Sharing system. Both systems are new and backed up daily and stored to offsite servers. However, the old system remains inaccessible.

[http://www.arma.org/policy/policy/washingtonpolicybrief/11-03-01/FEMA\\_Loses\\_Important\\_Data.aspx](http://www.arma.org/policy/policy/washingtonpolicybrief/11-03-01/FEMA_Loses_Important_Data.aspx)

Federal Computer Week article:

<http://fcw.com/articles/2011/02/11/fema-loses-7-years-worth-of-official-reports-in-server-fail.aspx>

Information Week article:

[http://www.informationweek.com/news/government/enterprise-apps/showArticle.jhtml?articleID=229209496&cid=nl\\_IW\\_govt\\_2011-02-10\\_html](http://www.informationweek.com/news/government/enterprise-apps/showArticle.jhtml?articleID=229209496&cid=nl_IW_govt_2011-02-10_html)

### **Fugate Discusses FEMA's Role**

FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate recently shared his views on emergency response during the Center for Strategic and International Studies/Louisiana State University Series on Disaster Management and Emergency Response.

Fugate's three key messages:

- The public is part of the solution.
- The private sector is a valuable resource.
- FEMA is authorized to support governors or a lead federal agency.

The video is available at <http://csis.org/event/femas-role-disaster-response>

### **2009 Report on Chemical Releases**

Virginia industries reported that chemicals released onsite at facilities decreased by 8.3 percent in 2009, according to the latest Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) produced by the Department of Environmental Quality. Virginia industries reported 900.4 million pounds of chemicals managed on-site, transferred off-site or released, a 9.2 percent decrease from the previous year. The 2009 TRI is available at [www.deq.virginia.gov/sara3/3132009.html](http://www.deq.virginia.gov/sara3/3132009.html) on the DEQ website. Information on releases from 2010 is due to DEQ for analysis this summer and will be available to the public in early 2012.

<http://www.deq.virginia.gov/info/newsreleases.html?show=1171>

### **FEMA Makes Slow Progress Measuring Disaster Preparedness, Says GAO**

The Homeland Security Department "first developed plans to measure preparedness by assessing capabilities, but did not fully implement those plans," reports the Government Accountability Office. The Federal Emergency Management Agency "then issued the target capabilities list in September 2007 but has made limited progress in developing preparedness measures and addressing long-standing challenges in assessing capabilities, such as determining how to aggregate data from federal, state, local, and tribal governments."

<http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-11-260T>

## **PLANNING / PREPAREDNESS**

### **Current Threat Level**

- The United States government's national threat level is Elevated, or Yellow.
- The U.S. threat level is High, or Orange, for all domestic and international flights. See the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) Web site (<http://www.tsa.gov>) for up-to-date information on items permitted and prohibited on airlines.
- Virginia Threat Level: 



[http://www.dhs.gov/files/programs/Copy\\_of\\_press\\_release\\_0046.shtm](http://www.dhs.gov/files/programs/Copy_of_press_release_0046.shtm)

Under an elevated threat level, businesses should:

- Continue all precautions from lower Threat Conditions.
- Announce Threat Condition ELEVATED to employees.
- Review vulnerability and threat assessments and revise as needed.
- Identify and monitor governmental information sharing sources for warnings and alerts.
- Update and test call down list for emergency response teams and key employees.
- Review and coordinate and update mutual aid agreements with other critical facilities and government agencies.
- Establish and monitor active and passive security measures.
- Review employee training on security precautions (bomb threat procedures, reporting suspicious packages, activities and people).
- Conduct communications checks to ensure radio contact can be established.

At this time there is no credible information warning of an imminent, specific threat to the homeland. All Americans

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should continue to be vigilant, take notice of their surroundings, and report suspicious items or activities to local authorities immediately. Everyone should establish an emergency preparedness kit and an emergency plan for themselves and their family, and stay informed about what to do during an emergency.

[http://www.dhs.gov/files/programs/Copy\\_of\\_press\\_release\\_0046.shtm](http://www.dhs.gov/files/programs/Copy_of_press_release_0046.shtm)

<http://vaemergency.com/>

### **A Toolkit for Integrating Culturally Diverse Communities into Emergency Response and Planning**

The toolkit, “Guidance for Integrating Culturally Diverse Communities into Planning and Responding to Emergencies,” was developed to provide preparedness planning and response agencies, organizations and professionals with practical strategies, resources and examples of models for improving existing activities and developing new programs to meet the needs of racially and ethnically diverse populations. An underlying tenet of this toolkit is the recognition that effective preparedness and response requires the ongoing and active engagement of diverse communities. Only then can plans and programs be tailored to a community’s distinct social, economic, cultural, and health-related circumstances. Thus, recommendations and information offered in the toolkit are grounded in community engagement, while also providing specificity around issues of race, ethnicity, culture, language, and trust. The aims of the toolkit are closely aligned with those of the six guidance for integrating culturally diverse communities into preparedness and response.

<http://www.diversitypreparedness.org/SiteData/docs/OMH%20DIVERS/d0d13950c7423ddb/OMH%20DIVERSITY%20PREPAREDNESS%20TOOLKIT%20FINAL%2002.28.2011%20508.pdf>

### **Rain Dampens Spring Wildfire Season**

On the heels of a significant week of wildfire activity in Virginia (Feb 14 - Feb 21), the recent rains could create a false sense that wildfires are no longer a threat. But they still are, according to a state wildfire mitigation specialist. “Weather conditions of the same type that led to the 293 wildfires that burned 8,436 acres that week will continue throughout the remainder of Virginia’s spring wildfire season, which runs through the end of April,” said Fred Turck, wildfire prevention and education specialist with the Virginia Department of Forestry. “Around the 1st of May, grasses and other vegetation will have greened up and the high winds and low humidity that are typical of springtime in the Commonwealth will begin to moderate. December through February was particularly dry for much of Virginia; the recent rain, while welcome and much-needed, was not enough to lift the region completely out of the wildfire danger,” he said. Virginians should protect their lives and property by clearing brush near their home; keeping pine needles off their roofs and out of their gutters, and do their part and not let a wildfire start. Also, obey the statewide 4 PM Law (no open-air burning between midnight and 4 p.m. each day) and all local restrictions. Turck said, “More than 95 percent of Virginia’s wildfires are caused by human activity. So, listen to those you admire – like Smokey Bear – and don’t play with fire. When it’s raining, wildfire isn’t probably on your mind. But, please, take a moment to learn what you can do to prevent a wildfire from starting. It takes just a few minutes to learn when and how you can safely burn, as well as how you can protect your life and your property from the threat of a wildfire.”

[http://www.dof.virginia.gov/press/nr/2011/2011-03-10\\_Rain-Dampens.htm](http://www.dof.virginia.gov/press/nr/2011/2011-03-10_Rain-Dampens.htm)

### **Prepare For Springtime Flooding**

With many communities throughout the nation facing threats of spring flooding, the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s National Weather Service are once again joining forces to provide tips and information to help individuals and families prepare for flooding dangers during the spring season. According to the National Weather Service, **more deaths occur due to flooding each year than from any other severe weather related hazard.** The main reason is people underestimate the force and power of water. All areas of the country can be at risk for flooding and when such conditions are forecast, important information and life-saving alerts are available at [www.weather.gov](http://www.weather.gov). More than half of all flood-related deaths result from vehicles being swept



downstream. Remember, flash flooding can take only a few minutes to a few hours to develop. Be prepared to take detours and adjust your route due to road closures if there is standing water. As little as six inches of water may cause you to lose control of your vehicle. Flood water may be much deeper than it appears as the roadbed may be washed out. Be especially cautious at night when it is harder to recognize flood dangers. Learn more about seasonal flood risks and what to do to prepare by visiting FEMA's FloodSmart.gov website ([www.floodsmart.gov/floodsmart/](http://www.floodsmart.gov/floodsmart/)), or by calling 1-800-427-2419.

[www.ready.gov/floodawareness](http://www.ready.gov/floodawareness) | *U.S. Spring Flood Risk Map for 2011, cCourtesy of NOAA*

### **After the Flood, Mold Can be a Danger**

Residents in flood-damaged homes should begin cleanup as soon as it is safe to re-enter their houses because mold can create serious health problems, according to disaster recovery and health officials. Care must be taken to clean and completely dry any areas of the home that have gotten wet from floodwaters. Wear gloves and a mask and ventilate the area. Clean wet places immediately using these suggestions:

- Identify the source of moisture and correct it. Mold cannot grow without moisture.
- Discard porous materials that already have mold growth (i.e. carpets, drywall, ceiling tiles)
- Thoroughly clean non-porous materials (glass, ceramic, metal and plastic), with a 10 percent solution of household bleach and soap or detergent. Wash down walls, floors and other mold contaminated areas. Be sure to wear rubber gloves and other protective clothing including goggles and air filter masks.
- When using bleach, be sure the area is well ventilated.
- **WARNING: Never mix chlorine liquids (bleach) and ammonia.**
- Remove damaged wallboard at least two feet above the water line.
- Change heating and air conditioning filters and have ductwork inspected by a professional.
- For large problems, or if you are allergic to mold, a professional should do the work because disturbing mold while cleaning it can cause exposure.
- Monitor the area for new mold growth and signs of moisture.

Per the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), everyone should avoid unnecessary exposure to mold, especially anyone at high risk for infection. For more information on mold or mold cleanup visit [www.cdc.gov/mold/cleanup.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/mold/cleanup.htm).

More tips on what to do after a disaster are available online at [www.DisasterAssistance.gov](http://www.DisasterAssistance.gov). If you have health and safety questions regarding flood cleanup, contact the Fairfax County Health Department.

### **DHS Announces Release of New Training Course: Workplace Security Awareness**

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has announced the availability of IS-906, Workplace Security Awareness, a no-cost training course developed by the department's Office of Infrastructure Protection Sector-Specific Agency Executive Management Office. The online training now available provides guidance to individuals and organizations on how to improve security in the workplace. No workplace – be it an office building, construction site, factory floor or retail store – is immune from security threats. Employees are often the target of these threats as well as the organization's first line of defense against them. Threats endanger the confidentiality, integrity, and security of your workplace, as well as your virtual workplace and computer systems. This course presents information on how employees can contribute to your organization's security.

<http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/IS906.asp>

## **MEDIA ARTICLES OF INTEREST**

### **Cyberattacks Pose Greatest Emerging Threat to States**

Cyberattacks on state and federal databases are "one of the nation's greatest emerging threats", warned Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley during a panel at the annual National Governors Association (NGA) meeting on Feb. 27

<http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/maryland/politics/bs-md-omalley-nga-speech-20110227,0,2130498.story>

## U.S. Readying Itself for Another Tsunami

The US Government has been trying to prepare itself in recent months for another destructive tsunami by deploying a tsunami measuring buoy off the coast of Chile to model tsunami hazards in the United States and by getting ready to upgrade facilities maintained by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) in Hawaii and the Pacific area. Of course, none of those actions allowed the federal government to predict the earthquake that struck Japan on the morning of March 11, or fully anticipate the damages that the resulting tsunami could inflict in Hawaii, the Pacific islands, or the West Coast of the United States.

[http://www.gsnmagazine.com/node/22671?c=disaster\\_preparedness\\_emergency\\_response](http://www.gsnmagazine.com/node/22671?c=disaster_preparedness_emergency_response)

## U.S. Rescue Team Finds Devastation in Northern City of Ofunato

A U.S. search-and-rescue team was picking its way through a demolished neighborhood in this coastal village Tuesday when it found a desperate message scrawled on the wall of a collapsed home. The message said an 88-year-old woman had been on the first floor Friday when tsunamis swept through, tossing vehicles, splintering buildings and carrying away hundreds of victims. The elite USAID search team from Fairfax County, Va., immediately called for rescue dogs and fellow team specialists who were carrying snaking camera gear that could peer into the 2 1/2-foot space beneath the home. In a 40-minute, methodical search, team members found nothing. They could only mark the house with an international symbol showing they had not located the woman, who remains among nearly 200 city residents still missing four days after Japan's largest recorded earthquake. "Time is the enemy," said Joe Knerr, task force leader for Virginia's Fairfax County Search and Rescue. "On the fifth day, survivability [of missing victims] drops significantly. On the seventh day, it becomes remote." Lack of drinking water and the freezing winter weather in northern Japan also are decreasing the chances of finding survivors, Knerr said.

*Photo: A Fairfax County search-and-rescue unit walks into the disaster zone at Ofunato, Japan, as it begins rescue efforts. Photo courtesy of Travis J. Tritten/Stars and Stripes*

<http://www.stripes.com/news/u-s-rescue-teams-find-devastation-in-northern-city-of-ofunato-1.137784>



## Japanese Nuclear Disaster Raises Questions of U.S. Preparedness

U.S. federal agencies must improve response plans in the event of a nuclear disaster, urged private and congressional critics in the wake of emergencies at Japanese nuclear reactors triggered by the 9.0-magnitude earthquake that struck off the country's coast March 11. In the latter half of the George W. Bush administration, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) issued protective action guides (PAGs) that inadequately protect the public in the event of a radiation leak at a nuclear reactor, charged Daniel Hirsch, president of the Committee to Bridge the Gap, a California nuclear policy organization. For example, the guides suggest the federal government would not take action to provide alternative drinking water for affected communities until local drinking water reached unacceptably high levels of contamination, Hirsch asserted. In addition, the guides adopt an approach known as optimization to cleaning up a radioactive environment, Hirsch explained. Under optimization, federal agencies can choose from a number of international cleanup standards after a nuclear disaster rather than establishing a firm level previous to a disaster. With this approach to planning, DHS has been able to recommend a cleanup level that permits a high public radiation exposure, measured in dosage with a unit called rem, Hirsch said.

<http://www.hstoday.us/briefings/today-s-news-analysis/single-article/japanese-nuclear-disaster-raises-questions-of-us-preparedness/d5cf2b61b0c9d3ccd568106d19e5954e.html>

## Lake Anna Reactor Ranked 7th Most At-Risk for Earthquake Damage

The United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission has ranked the earthquake damage risk at all 104 nuclear power plants in this country. The pair operated by Dominion Power, at Lake Anna in eastern Louisa County, come in at 7th most 'at risk' on the list. According to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, North Anna 1 and 2 face an annual 1 in

22,727 chance of the core being damaged by an earthquake and exposing the public to radiation. The national average for U.S. nuclear plants is a 1 in 74,000 chance. The top five most at-risk plants are all on the east coast: Indian Point, north of New York City; the Pilgrim Plant south of Boston, Limerick outside of Philadelphia, the Sequoyah plants near Chattanooga Tennessee and Beaver Valley near Pittsburgh. These five plants are at a higher statistical risk than those along fault lines in California, for example, because they were not designed for and built in presumed strong quake danger areas. Since they were constructed the federal government has revised upwards the quake risks where they are. According to Jim Norvelle with Dominion Power, North Anna was designed to withstand a magnitude 5.9 – 6.1 earthquake.

<http://www.nbc29.com/story/14265528/lake-anna-reactor-ranked-7th-most-at-risk-for-earthquake-damage>



### **Small Business Tips to be Ready for Crisis**

The devastating March 11 earthquake and tsunami in Japan should spur small-business owners here in the U.S. to review – or perhaps create – emergency plans. With all the planning, managing and overseeing a business owner is responsible for in smaller firms, emergency plans may take a back seat. But an “emergency” doesn't need to be an earthquake measuring 9.0 on the Richter scale. It could be a weather-related event such as a heavy snowstorm, given this year's rough winter across many parts of the U.S., something like the massive power failure across the eastern seaboard in 2003, a fire or the death or injury of an owner or key employee. The basics are easy: Back up data on separate servers and have a chain list of employee phone numbers. But what if the backup server is in the same office as the disruption or cell phone service isn't working?

<http://www.nuwireinvestor.com/articles/small-business-tips-to-be-ready-for-crisis-57034.aspx>

### **Is D.C. Prepared for a Tsunami?**

The administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Craig Fugate, was woken up early Friday morning [March 11] by a watch officer from FEMA's National Response Coordination Center and given news about the massive earthquake and tsunami off the coast of Japan. From FEMA's perspective, the action checklist here is relatively routine: provide support to the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration's tsunami warning groups, activate the Mount Weather Emergency Operations Center in Virginia, and provide warnings to states and localities over the National Warning System, a 24/7 secure open line to emergency management centers across the country.

<http://nationaljournal.com/whitehouse/is-d-c-prepared-for-a-tsunami--20110311?print=true>

### **Doomsday Bunkers**

A devastating earthquake strikes Japan. A massive tsunami kills thousands. Fears of a nuclear meltdown run rampant. Bloodshed and violence escalate in Libya. And U.S. companies selling doomsday bunkers are seeing sales skyrocket anywhere from 20 percent to 1,000 percent.

[http://money.cnn.com/2011/03/22/real\\_estate/doomsday\\_bunkers/](http://money.cnn.com/2011/03/22/real_estate/doomsday_bunkers/)

### **Rethinking Emergency Evacuation Methods**

The science behind herding thousands, sometimes millions, of people from danger to safety is uncertain at best,” reports the “New York Times.” And the lessons learned from one disaster can both hurt and help with the next. ... emergency authorities have only in recent years begun to realize that evacuations are often regional and even multistate events. Evacuating almost any city in the United States requires significant preparation and resources in surrounding cities. And some events are simply too resource-intensive or too complicated to plan for.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/03/22/health/22prepare.html>

### **Virginia Tech Fined**

The U.S. Department of Education said it will fine Virginia Tech \$55,000 – the maximum amount allowable – for

federal violations in how the university handled what became the nation's worst mass killing four years ago. Tech said it will appeal the fines, arguing that its actions the morning of April 16, 2007, when 33 people died, "were well within the standards and practices in effect at that time." The department affirmed its December decision that found Tech in violation of the Clery Act for not alerting the campus immediately after the first two students were slain in a residence hall at 7:15 a.m. About 2½-hours later senior Seung-Hui Cho killed 30 other students and professors in a classroom building before shooting himself. In letter to Tech President Charles W. Steger, the department said the university was in violation of two provisions of the federal Clery Act for not issuing a timely warning and not following its own published procedures for handling a threat. The letter pointed out that the campus wasn't alerted until 9:26 a.m. in a vaguely worded statement about a shooting on campus. At 8:52 a.m., Blacksburg public schools were already locked down, the letter said.

<http://www2.timesdispatch.com/news/2011/mar/29/tech-fined-55000-failures-alert-2007-shootings-ar-936125/>

### **Nuclear Agency to Hold Meeting on North Anna Plant**

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission has set a meeting to discuss the safety performance of Dominion's North Anna nuclear power plant. The federal agency said the meeting Monday [April 4] will focus on its assessment of the plant's operation over the last year. It will be held at the North Anna Nuclear Information Center in Mineral from 5 to 7 p.m. Officials say the agency found one of the plant's units met all safety objectives. However, the plant's other unit faces additional oversight and inspections due to four unplanned reactor shutdowns over the last year. The agency works to ensure plants are being operated in a way that protects the environment and nearby residents. The plant run by Dominion Virginia Power is about 40 miles northwest of Richmond.

<http://hamptonroads.com/2011/03/nuclear-agency-hold-meeting-north-anna-plant>

## FLU

### **Fairfax County Flu Preparedness**

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

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

### **U.S. Flu Season Still Going Strong**

The nation's flu activity remains, according to an article published March 4, with the number of pediatric deaths more than doubling from the previous week and most states still reporting widespread cases, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) said today. Children are among the groups that flu is hitting the hardest. The CDC received reports of 14 pediatric flu deaths, 8 more than the previous week, raising the season's total to 55. Hospitalization rates in children younger than 4 are higher than those for all other age-groups except those older than 65. Four of the pediatric flu deaths were linked to influenza B, four to 2009 H1N1, two to H3N2, and four to untyped viruses. However, the percentage of deaths attributed to flu and pneumonia overall continued a slow decline, falling from 8.3 percent to 8.0 percent last week, putting it at the epidemic threshold, the CDC said. The agency added that this flu indicator has been at or above baseline for 5 consecutive weeks. The proportion of doctor's visits for flulike illness dropped from 4.9 percent to 4.0 percent last week, which is still well above the national baseline of 2.5 percent. The share of respiratory specimens testing positive for flu fell slightly from 31.3 percent the previous week to 27.9 percent. Forty-four states reported widespread flu activity. Regional activity was reported by Alabama, Florida, Hawaii, Mississippi and Utah. Oregon and Washington, D.C., reported local activity. All flu subtypes continued to circulate widely. Influenza A accounted for 74 percent of positive samples and influenza B for 26 percent. Among influenza A isolates, 32.4 percent were H3N2, 23.1 percent were 2009 H1N1, and 44.5 percent were untyped. The CDC noted the predominant virus has varied by week, by region and states in the same region.

<http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/cidrap/content/influenza/general/news/mar0411fluview-br.html>

### **HHS Awards Contracts to Develop New Flu Vaccine Technology**

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) awarded two contracts recently to help make vaccine available more quickly for seasonal flu outbreaks and pandemics. The contracts for advanced development of new

types of vaccine and new ways to make flu vaccine known as next-generation recombinant influenza vaccine total \$215 million. HHS awarded one contract to Novavax, Inc., of Rockville, Md., for \$97 million over the first three years, which can be extended for an additional two years, for a total contract value of \$179.1 million. HHS awarded a separate contract to VaxInnate, Inc. of Cranbury, N.J., for \$117.9 million over the first three years, which can be extended for two additional years, for a total contract value of \$196.6 million. Under its contract, Novavax is to develop new technology to produce vaccines using insect cells to express influenza proteins and create virus-like particles that stimulate a strong immune response in humans. VaxInnate is developing a recombinant influenza vaccine technology based on combining influenza and bacteria proteins to stimulate strong immune response to protect against the flu. Through these contracts, both companies will conduct clinical safety and efficacy studies and optimize and validate their manufacturing processes, which are needed to obtain licensing from FDA in order to use the new technologies in manufacturing flu vaccine in the United States.

<http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2011pres/02/20110228a.html>

### **Study Finds H1N1 and H9N2 Offspring Can be More Lethal**

Chinese researchers who tested reassortants that combined the 2009 H1N1 virus with H9N2, a subtype that commonly circulates in birds, found that several were more pathogenic than the parent viruses, which they said could pose a pandemic threat. Their experiments also found that of 127 reassortants between the two viruses, as many as 57.5 percent had a high ability to replicate, similar to the two parent viruses, which suggests that the two viruses have a high genetic compatibility. The findings appeared in the "Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences." The report was edited by Dr Peter Palese, a well-known virologist at Mount Sinai School of Medicine in New York City. Though H9N2 is a low-pathogenic virus, it has also been found in pigs, which infectious disease experts have said could be a "mixing vessel" for animal and human flu viruses, producing novel flu viruses with pandemic potential. Human infections with H9N2 have been reported, and the World Health Organization (WHO) includes the virus alongside H5N1 in its annual recommendations for pandemic flu vaccine candidate viruses.

<http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/cidrap/content/influenza/avianflu/news/mar0211reassort.html>

### **Effectiveness of Wastewater Treatment May be Damaged During a Severe Flu Pandemic**

Existing plans for antiviral and antibiotic use during a severe influenza pandemic could reduce wastewater treatment efficiency prior to discharge into receiving rivers, resulting in water quality deterioration at drinking water abstraction points. These conclusions were published early this month in a new paper in the journal "[Environmental Health Perspectives](#)," which reports on a study designed to assess the ecotoxicologic risks of a pandemic influenza medical response. The research was carried out by a team from the Centre for Ecology & Hydrology (UK), the Institute for Scientific Interchange (Italy), Utrecht University (Netherlands), the University of Sheffield (UK) and Indiana University (U.S.). The global public health community closely monitored the unfolding of the 2009 H1N1 influenza pandemic to best mitigate its impact on society. However, little attention was given to the impact that the medical response might have on the environment.

[http://www.eurekalert.org/pub\\_releases/2011-03/cfe-eow022811.php](http://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2011-03/cfe-eow022811.php)

### **33,000 Chickens Culled After 13th Case of Bird Flu in Miyazaki**

Around 33,000 broiler chickens were culled Sunday [March 6] at a poultry farm in the town of Kadogawa, Miyazaki Prefecture (Japan), after the 13th case of bird flu in the prefecture was confirmed the previous day, prefectural officials said. Sunday's cull brought the total number of chickens slaughtered at poultry farms in the prefecture to around 990,000 since the first case of infection was confirmed in the city of Miyazaki on Jan. 22. In total, 22 cases of avian influenza infection have been confirmed at poultry farms across Japan.

<http://www.japantoday.com/category/national/view/33000-chickens-culled-after-13th-case-of-bird-flu-in-miyazaki>

### **Bangladesh: 6,500 Chickens Culled in Noakhali**

Around 6,500 chickens have been culled in Companiganj Upazila after being detected of H5N1 virus, commonly known as bird flu. The extermination was carried out on Saturday night [March 5] at Shikha Agro Complex of Manikpur village under Sirajpur union at the presence of livestock officers. Upazila livestock officer Abul Kalam told bdnews24.com that they were confirmed of the infection following the analysis of the tissue at the district laboratory and the regional diseases investigation laboratory in Feni. Upazila executive officer Mohammad Amzad

Hossain was present during the culling on Saturday night, he added. The farm owner Bahar Uddin Mahmud said that a chicken had died on March 1, and four more died the next day. Some 600 chickens, which is almost a tenth of the farm's poultry stock had died by Saturday, he added.

<http://bdnews24.com/details.php?id=189090&cid=13>

### **A Single Base-Pair Change in 2009 H1N1 Hemagglutinin Increases Human Receptor Affinity**

The 2009 H1N1 influenza A virus continues to circulate among the human population as the predominant H1N1 subtype. Epidemiological studies and airborne transmission studies using the ferret model have shown that the transmission efficiency of 2009 H1N1 viruses is lower than that of previous seasonal strains and the 1918 pandemic H1N1 strain.

<http://www.plosone.org/article/info:doi/10.1371/journal.pone.0017616>

### **WHO Confirms 2 H5N1 Deaths in Indonesia**

The Ministry of Health of Indonesia has announced two new but unrelated confirmed cases of human infection with avian influenza A (H5N1) virus. The first case is a 2 year old male from Depok City, West Java Province. He developed symptoms on Feb. 3, was admitted to a private clinic on Feb. 5 and referred to a hospital on Feb. 6. He died on Feb. 6. Prior to his illness, sick and dead poultry were reported in his neighborhood. The second case is a 31 year old female from Bekasi City, West Java Province. She developed symptoms on Feb. 23, was admitted to a private clinic on Feb. 25 and referred to a hospital on Feb. 28, where she received oseltamivir treatment. She died on March 1. Initial investigations indicate the case visited a traditional market where live poultry were sold. Laboratory tests have confirmed infection with the H5N1 avian influenza virus. Of the 174 cases confirmed to date in Indonesia, 144 have been fatal.

[http://www.who.int/csr/don/2011\\_03\\_14/en/index.html](http://www.who.int/csr/don/2011_03_14/en/index.html)

### **World Not Prepared for Devastating Pandemic, Infectious Disease Outbreak**

The report of the World Health Organization's Review Committee on the functioning of the International Health Regulations and on the H1N1 pandemic influenza, concluded that "WHO performed well in many ways during the pandemic" and "confronted systemic difficulties," the world nevertheless "is ill-prepared to respond to a severe influenza pandemic or to any similarly global, sustained and threatening public health emergency."

<http://www.hstoday.us/industry-news/general/single-article/world-not-prepared-for-devastating-pandemic-infectious-disease-outbreak/aae6cd61d5079b930811b2cf873971b3.html>

### **Bird Flu Costs Million Jobs in Bangladesh Poultry Sector**

Over one million people have been rendered jobless in recent months as avian influenza, commonly known as bird flu, broke out in local poultry farms. Bangladesh Poultry Farm Protection National Council—a platform of the country's poultry farmers—feared that the sector would face a big blow in coming days if the government does not handle the problem cautiously. General Secretary of the council Khandoker Mohammad Mohsin said the poultry farmers in June last year supplied 25 million eggs and 1.70 million kilograms of meat to local market. He complained that government steps were not enough to contain bird flu. Prices of chicken feeds are also high, Mohsin observed.

[http://www.thefinancialexpress-bd.com/more.php?news\\_id=130431&date=2011-03-25](http://www.thefinancialexpress-bd.com/more.php?news_id=130431&date=2011-03-25)

### **Wild Birds May Play a Role in the Spread of Bird Flu, New Research Suggests**

Wild migratory birds may indeed play a role in the spread of bird flu, also known as highly pathogenic avian influenza H5N1. A study by the U.S. Geological Survey, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization and the Chinese Academy of Sciences used satellites, outbreak data and genetics to uncover an unknown link in Tibet among wild birds, poultry and the movement of the often-deadly virus. Researchers attached GPS satellite transmitters to 29 bar-headed geese – a wild species that migrates across most of Asia and that died in the thousands in the 2005 bird flu outbreak in Qinghai Lake, China. GPS data showed that wild geese tagged at Qinghai Lake spend their winters in a region outside of Lhasa, the capitol of Tibet, near farms where H5N1 outbreaks have occurred in domestic geese and chickens.

<http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/220187.php>

**HHS Launches New Consumer-Focused Immunization Website – [www.vaccines.gov](http://www.vaccines.gov)**

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has unveiled an innovative new website to help parents and other consumers learn about the most effective way to protect themselves and their children from infectious diseases and learn about immunization. Vaccines.gov brings together the best in federal resources on vaccine and immunizations to provide consumers with easy-to-understand health information specifically for their needs.

<http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2011pres/03/20110330a.html>

**TRAININGS / EXERCISES / CONFERENCES****National Capital Region Homeland Security Events**

[http://www.mwcog.org/committee/committee/events\\_homeland.asp?COMMITTEE\\_ID=134](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](http://www.redcrossnca.org/Online/disaster_registration.php)

**Impact 2011**

April 4-6; Westfields Marriott Hotel, Chantilly, Va.

The National Security Institute's 26th Annual IMPACT Security Conference, "Protecting Secrets: Confronting a New World of Risk," an essential for government and contractor security directors and managers responsible for protecting classified and sensitive information assets from a growing array of threats posed by espionage, terrorism, computer crime and information warfare.

<http://www.nsi.org/impact-2010.html>

**Cloud Computing Forum and Workshop**

April 7-8; Gaithersburg, Md.

The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) will host the Cloud Computing Forum and Workshop III. Featured speakers include U.S. Chief Information Officer Vivek Kundra, Google's Chief Internet Evangelist Vint Cerf and NIST Director Patrick Gallagher.

<http://www.nist.gov/itl/cloud/cloudworkshopiii.cfm>

**National Training and Exercise Conference**

April 12-14; Emmitsburg, Md.

This conference will review current and proposed training and exercise programs within the Federal Emergency Management Agency that apply to its state and tribal partners, providing examples of best practices.

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

**The Women in Public Safety Communications Leadership Conference**

April 13-14; Orlando, Fla.

Delve into the daily demands and long-term career issues confronting women in leadership positions in the public safety communications industry. Take control of your career – discuss concerns, experiences and successful solutions and tactics with women just like you. Following last year's highly praised inaugural event, the 2011 Conference program covers everything from office communication and social media to career development and maintaining a work-life balance while excelling in this demanding field.

<http://wipsc.apcointl.org/>

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## Trade Symposium

April 13-14; Washington, D.C.

The theme for this Customs and Border Protection Trade Symposium is “Working Together to Strengthen Economic Competitiveness.”

[http://cbp.gov/xp/cgov/trade/trade\\_outreach/symp\\_trade.xml](http://cbp.gov/xp/cgov/trade/trade_outreach/symp_trade.xml)



**STUDENT CAPSTONE  
CONFERENCE**

**MODELING,  
SIMULATION,  
& VISUALIZATION**

## Student Capstone Conference

April 14; Suffolk, Va.

The conference provides a forum for students to share their research in modeling, simulation, and gaming. One of the six conference tracks is “Homeland Security/Military.”

<http://www.vmasc.odu.edu/conferences/capstone2011.htm>

## National Hurricane Conference

April 18-22; Atlanta, Ga.

This conference aims to improve hurricane preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation in order to save lives and property in the United States and the tropical islands of the Caribbean and Pacific. It is a national forum for federal, state, and local officials to exchange ideas and recommend new policies to improve emergency management. It emphasizes lessons learned from hurricane strikes, state-of-the-art programs, new ideas being tested or considered, new or ongoing assistance programs, and the ABC’s of hurricane preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation.

<http://www.hurricanemeeting.com/index.asp>

## Maritime & Transportation Security Expo

May 4-5; Baltimore, Md.

Meet with shippers, carriers, ports, U.S. Coast Guard, U.S Customs and Border Protection, U.S. Navy, U.S. Department of Transportation, MARAD, The Railroad Administration, FAA, TSA, as well as procurement officials from Canada, Europe and Asia.

<http://maritimesecurityexpo.com/>

## Emergency Management All Hazards Stakeholders Summit 2011

May 10; JW Marriott, Washington, D.C.

As a Tier 1 UASI area, the Capitol Region must be at the forefront of emergency preparedness, ready to respond to the natural and man-made disasters that could strike without warning. From snowstorms to terrorist attacks, the Capital can set



the bar for optimum regional collaboration and response that may be replicated throughout the country. Join your peers across all areas of homeland security and emergency preparedness to share best practices, explore solutions, and build contacts critical to the unique disaster preparedness and emergency management challenges of the region.

<http://www.emergencymgmt.com/events/Washington-DC-All-HazardsAll-Stakeholders-Summit-2011.html>

## Conference on Safeguarding Health Information Security

May 10-11; Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center, Washington, D.C.

The National Institute of Standards and Technology is co-hosting a conference to explore the current health information technology security landscape and the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act Security Rule. The conference on “Safeguarding Health Information: Building Assurance through HIPAA Security” is hosted in conjunction with the Department of Health and Human Services Office for Civil Rights.

[http://www.nist.gov/itl/csd/20110315\\_health.cfm](http://www.nist.gov/itl/csd/20110315_health.cfm)

## International Crisis & Risk Communication Conference

May 10-11; Orlando, Fla.

A wide range of thought leaders from the corporate, government and academic fields will gather May 10-11, at the

International Crisis & Risk Communication Conference to engage in a dialogue addressing the communication challenges that professionals experience today and will experience in the future.

<http://app.streamsend.com/private/vyhh/mbD/SjVGC4p/browse/13486195>

### **International Hazardous Materials Response Teams Conference**

May 18-21; Baltimore, Md.

This conference, sponsored by the International Association of Fire Chiefs, will feature an exhibition as well as educational presentations such as “Developing a Hazmat Team/Hazmat Response Support Network,” “Put the Fire Back in Your Hazmat Training,” and “Rail 101.”

<http://s36.a2zinc.net/clients/IAFC/hazmat11/public/MainHall.aspx?ID=1788&sortMenu=101000>

### **MEMA 2011 Conference**

May 31-June 3; Clarion Fontainebleau Hotel and Resort, Ocean City, Md.

The Maryland Emergency Management Association and the Maryland Emergency Management Agency present the 25th Anniversary Celebration of the Maryland Emergency Management Association and the 2011 Conference, May 31-June 3. Updates on training topics and registration will be coming to [www.mdema.org](http://www.mdema.org).

### **Hazmat Transportation (Road/Rail) Training**

June 6-7; Piscataway, N.J.

Emergency responder awareness basic training in anhydrous ammonia, ethanol, hydrogen fluoride, and cryogenics (oxygen, nitrogen, argon, helium, and hydrogen), including properties, release type and responses, and railcar and cargo tank anatomy.

<http://www.transcaer.com/events.aspx>

### **14th Annual Emergency Management Higher Education Conference**

June 6-9; Emergency Management Institute, National Emergency Training Center, Emmitsburg, Md.

The Emergency Management Institute (EMI) is hosting the 14th Annual Emergency Management Higher Education Conference primarily for representatives of colleges and universities which (1) have an existing hazard, disaster, emergency management program in place, or (2) are attempting to develop and implement a hazard, disaster, emergency management program on their campus (e.g., a degree, certificate, minor, or concentration). The conference will be held on the grounds of the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s National Emergency Training Center (NETC) in Emmitsburg, Maryland – about 75 miles northwest of Washington, D.C. The primary goal is to provide a forum for collegiate faculty, administrators and students to network with each other and with representatives of emergency management professional organizations which are also invited to the conference.

<http://training.fema.gov/emiweb/edu/educonference11.asp>

### **IAEM-USA 2011 Mid-Year Meeting**

June 9-11; Emmitsburg, Md.

This meeting of the International Association of Emergency Managers is for members, emergency management professionals, congressional staffers, and federal officials with a role in homeland security and emergency management.

<http://www.iaem.com/events/MIDYEAR/INTRO.htm>

### **10th Workshop on Economics of Information Security**

June 14-15; George Mason University, Arlington, Va.

The Center for Infrastructure Protection and Homeland Security (CIP/HS) at the George Mason School of Law will be hosting the 10th Workshop on Economics of Information Security (WEIS 2011). CIP/HS will be co-hosting this event with the Interdisciplinary Center for Economic Science at George Mason University. This two-day workshop will take place at George Mason University’s Arlington Campus on Tuesday, June 14, and Wednesday, June 15.

<http://weis2011.econinfosec.org/index.html>

### **CounterACT Network Research Symposium**

June 21-23; Washington, D.C.

This symposium on countermeasures against chemical threats facilitates information sharing and collaboration among investigators within the CounterACT Network and allows National Institutes of Health staff an opportunity to review the progress of each award. All CounterACT investigators will summarize scientific accomplishments and milestones attained in the current project year.

[http://www.ninds.nih.gov/research/counterterrorism/Upcoming\\_Events.htm](http://www.ninds.nih.gov/research/counterterrorism/Upcoming_Events.htm)



### **Biodetection Technologies 2011**

June 23-24; Washington, D.C.

This conference will explore the latest research and development and commercialization efforts in biodefense technologies.

[http://www.knowledgefoundation.com/viewevents.php?event\\_id=259&act=evt](http://www.knowledgefoundation.com/viewevents.php?event_id=259&act=evt)

### **Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials - International 2011 Conference**

August 7-12; Philadelphia, Pa.

“Powerful Connections.” Don’t miss this opportunity to make powerful connections with executives, dispatchers, and technicians involved in all aspects of public safety communications – from law enforcement to PSAPs to government agencies. The APCO Annual Conference is a great place to learn new skills, explore new products and services, and connect with people who will enhance your career.

<http://www.apco2011.org/>

## **LINKS**

### **Fairfax County Blogs and Web Resources**

- Fairfax County CERT - <http://fairfaxcountycert.blogspot.com/>
- Fairfax County Citizen Corps Web Page - [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/oem/citizencorps/](http://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 [NICCRports@dhs.gov](mailto:NICCRports@dhs.gov). You can access the Daily OSIR at:

[http://www.dhs.gov/files/programs/editorial\\_0542.shtm](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/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency/)

### **Fairfax County Government Emergency Information Line**

[www.fairfaxcounty.gov/opa/infoline.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/opa/infoline.htm)

### **Emergency Management Magazine**

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

### **FEMA Private Sector**

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



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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](mailto: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](mailto:merni.fitzgerald@fairfaxcounty.gov).

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