

# ESF 15 Business / Nonprofit Update

Produced by Emergency Support Function 15 – External Affairs

November 2007



## ITEMS OF INTEREST FOR ESF 15

### County Residents Encouraged to Plan for Cold Weather Season

With the beginning of winter and colder weather, Fairfax County encourages residents to take precautions to stay safe. The following are some tips and reminders of how to stay safe during the winter weather season.

- According to the National Weather Service, wind chill is not the actual temperature but rather how the wind and cold feels on exposed skin based on the rate of heat loss. As the wind increases, heat is carried away from the body at a rapid pace, driving down skin temperature and eventually the body's internal temperature. Therefore, the wind makes it feel much colder.
- If you are going to be outside, dress appropriately. Air temperature does not have to be below freezing for someone to experience cold emergencies such as hypothermia and frostbite. Wind speed can create dangerously cold conditions even when temperatures are not that low. Also, dress in layers to adjust to changing conditions and avoid overdressing or overexertion, which can lead to heat illness.
- According to the Virginia Department of Emergency Management, shoveling snow is hard on your body. Research has shown the energy used to shovel snow is similar to playing singles tennis or speed walking at 5 mph. If there is any reason that shoveling snow might be dangerous for you, such as a heart condition, consult your doctor before shoveling.
- Because ice storms and blizzards can knock down power lines, freeze water pipes and prevent you from traveling, county residents should be sure to have a home emergency supply kit
- The Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department recommends that residents use products such as battery-operated or electric candles and flashlights instead of open-flame candles.
- Pets should be kept indoors during winter months. If a pet is outdoors it must be provided with shelter. In severely cold or inclement weather, no pet should be kept outside.

More winter weather tips can be found online at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/news/2007/255.htm>

Further information is available on the county's emergency information page at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency) as well as the Virginia Department of Emergency Management's Web page at [www.vaemergency.com](http://www.vaemergency.com).

### DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report (OSIR)

The Department of Homeland Security is migrating towards 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.

[http://www.dhs.gov/xinfoshare/programs/editorial\\_0542.shtm](http://www.dhs.gov/xinfoshare/programs/editorial_0542.shtm).

### White House Releases HSPD-21

The White House has released Homeland Security Presidential Directive 21, "Public Health and Medical Preparedness." The directive establishes a National Strategy for Public Health and Medical Preparedness, which builds upon principles set forth in "Biodefense for the 21st Century" (April 2004) and will transform the national approach to protecting the health of Americans against all disasters.

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2007/10/20071018-10.html>

### Homeland Security TV

There's a news Web site of interest – Homeland Security TV – part of the National Terror Alert Center. It features videos of interest in the field of Homeland Security.

<http://www.nationalterroralert.com/homeland-security-television/>

## **DHS Publishes List of Notifiable Chemicals**

Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards: Appendix A is a list of chemicals that, if possessed by a facility in a specified quantity, trigger a requirement to complete and submit an online consequence assessment tool called a Top-Screen. To determine the type and quantity of chemicals that will be subject to the preliminary screening process, DHS examined the following three security issues: release; theft and diversion; and sabotage and contamination.

<http://www.continuitycentral.com/news03588.htm>

DHS Fact Sheet: [http://www.dhs.gov/xnews/releases/pr\\_1193971307036.shtm](http://www.dhs.gov/xnews/releases/pr_1193971307036.shtm)

## **Report Phishing**

US-CERT, the United States Computer Emergency Readiness Team, is collecting phishing e-mail messages and Web site locations so that they can help people avoid becoming victims of phishing scams. You can report phishing to US-CERT by sending e-mail to [phishing-report@us-cert.gov](mailto:phishing-report@us-cert.gov). Forward the message, including the headers. You can forward a message without double clicking to open it in a new window. Highlight the e-mail in the message list of your inbox and follow the directions for your particular mail client:

### **In Netscape/Mozilla/Thunderbird Mail**

Select View > Headers > All

Select Message > Forward As > Inline

Address the forwarded message to [phishing-report@us-cert.gov](mailto:phishing-report@us-cert.gov)

### **In Outlook Express**

Forward the message As an attachment.

Address the forwarded message to [phishing-report@us-cert.gov](mailto:phishing-report@us-cert.gov)

### **In Mulberry**

Select Message > Forward. Select the option Include Headers in quote. Click the Forward button.

Address the forwarded message to [phishing-report@us-cert.gov](mailto:phishing-report@us-cert.gov)

If you are using an alternative to these email clients, please consult your documentation for instructions on how to forward messages with headers.

Other methods of reporting phishing e-mail:

- In Outlook Express, you can create a new message and drag and drop the phishing e-mail into the new message. Address the message to [phishing-report@us-cert.gov](mailto:phishing-report@us-cert.gov) and send it.
- In Outlook Express you can also open the e-mail message\* and select File > Properties > Details. The e-mail headers will appear. You can copy these as you normally copy text and include it in a new message to [phishing-report@us-cert.gov](mailto:phishing-report@us-cert.gov).

If you cannot forward the email message, at a minimum, please send the URL of the phishing Web site.

*\* If the suspicious mail in question includes a file attachment, it is safer to simply highlight the message and forward it. Some configurations, especially in Windows environments, may allow the execution of arbitrary code upon opening and viewing a malicious e-mail message.*

## **GAO Says FEMA Wasted Millions; FEMA Responds**

The Washington Post reported on Nov. 16, that the Federal Emergency Management Agency wasted about \$30 million last year in maintaining trailers for Hurricane Katrina survivors in Mississippi, according to a new government report. In one case cited, FEMA awarded contracts that could have cost as much as \$229,000 to support one family in a single trailer – roughly the price of a five-bedroom home in Jackson, Miss. Further the paper reports, by not awarding work to contractors with the lowest bids, FEMA misspent \$16 million, said the Government Accountability Office, Congress's audit arm. The agency misspent an additional \$15 million on inspections that it could not prove were performed, preventive maintenance for which contractors falsified documents, and emergency repairs on trailers that FEMA did not own, the GAO said. FEMA national spokesman James McIntyre responded to the GAO report saying, "The GAO report does not reveal new issues from the Katrina response. We are aware of and have drawn lessons learned from these issues. This is another look backwards that tries to project the mistakes made in Katrina onto the FEMA of today. We reject that effort. Katrina was a disaster of catastrophic proportions. FEMA has repeatedly acknowledged, including in Congressional testimony, that we made mistakes."

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/11/15/AR2007111502311.html?hpid=topnews>

Full FEMA statement: <http://www.fema.gov/news/newsrelease.fema?id=41709>

### **The Top 10 Risks Facing Businesses in 2008**

A new report by Ernst & Young has highlighted the major strategic risks that global businesses will face next year. It also highlights the five fastest-rising threats that could also have a significant impact over the next three to five years. The top ten risks identified are:

- Regulatory and compliance risk
- Global financial shocks
- Aging consumers and workforce
- The inability to capitalize on emerging markets
- Industry consolidation/transition
- Energy shocks
- Execution of strategic transactions
- Cost inflation
- Radical greening
- Consumer demand shifts

The five “fastest-rising threats” are expected to be:

- War for talent
- Pandemic
- Private equity’s rise
- Inability to innovate
- China setback

The report was produced by Ernst & Young in collaboration with Oxford Analytica, and sought the views of more than 70 analysts from around the world and more than 20 disciplines.

<http://tinyurl.com/22brgv>

### **DHS to Hold IT Science Fair**

According to Government Computer News, the Homeland Security Department is seeking fresh technology ideas that span several areas and explicitly or implicitly incorporate information technology development in each category. DHS’s Science and Technology Directorate has issued a long range, broad agency announcement for proposals of prototypes that could advance and improve homeland security technology. The deadline for white papers and proposals is Dec. 31, 2008. The announcement asked for unclassified proposals, but also said it would accept classified proposals and specifically invited basic science projects in the areas of interoperable devices and systems, predictive and proactive concepts and systems and human operator cognitive performance enhancement.

[http://www.gcn.com/online/vol1\\_no1/45405-1.html](http://www.gcn.com/online/vol1_no1/45405-1.html)

[http://www.gcn.com/newspics/DHS\\_BAA08-01\\_Nov07.pdf](http://www.gcn.com/newspics/DHS_BAA08-01_Nov07.pdf)

### **October 2007 is Ninth Warmest on Record for Contiguous United States**

Temperatures in October were the ninth warmest on record for the contiguous U.S., and especially warm in the Northeast, where five states had their warmest October on record. The January-October 2007 U.S. temperature was the seventh warmest since national records began in 1895, according to scientists at NOAA’s National Climatic Data Center in Asheville, N.C. The global surface temperature was sixth warmest on record for October. Precipitation was above average across the U.S., but not enough to quench the drought plaguing many parts of the country. At the end of October, 35 percent of the contiguous U.S. remained in moderate-to-exceptional drought, and unusually dry conditions contributed to destructive wildfires in southern California.

[http://www.noaanews.noaa.gov/stories2007/20071116\\_october.html](http://www.noaanews.noaa.gov/stories2007/20071116_october.html)

### **Holiday Travel**

If you’re traveling for the holidays, the Transportation Security Administration reminds flyers to “SimpliFLY” your overall security experience by:

- Packing an organized carry-on bag using layers – a layer of clothes, then electronics, more clothes, and then other items like toiletries. This will help security officers see what's in your bag.
- Having your boarding pass and ID ready for inspection when you get to the checkpoint.
- Removing your coat and shoes and place them in a bin.

- Placing any oversized electronics (laptops, full-size video game consoles, DVD players and video cameras that use cassettes) in a separate bin. iPods and other smaller electronics can stay in your carry-on bag.
- Following the 3-1-1 rule for liquids which allows passengers to carry on liquids, gels and aerosols that are 3 ounces or less, placed in a 1 quart, zip-top bag with 1 bag per traveler placed in a screening bin. Any size liquid is okay in checked baggage.
- And remember, when in doubt, leave it out. If you're not sure about whether you can bring an item through the checkpoint, put it in your checked bag or leave it at home.

More holiday flying tips are available at <http://www.tsa.gov>.

### **Holiday Safety**

The holidays are often synonymous with shopping – on Main Street, in malls, and online. Unfortunately, not everyone is looking for the best deal, but instead, the easiest opportunity to steal from unsuspecting Americans. Identity theft, robbery and check fraud are increasingly prevalent during the holidays – and seniors are often the targets of such crimes. To safeguard against financial crimes this holiday season, the National Sheriffs' Association offers these timely tips for seniors and those who care for them:

- Don't carry important personal information in your purse or wallet. As the holiday shopping season gets underway, purse snatchers and pickpockets are on the prowl, looking for distracted shoppers from whom they can steal cash and personal information. Be sure your purse or wallet does not include sensitive information like your Social Security number, personal identification numbers (PINs) and passwords. A thief can use these details to order checks or credit cards, apply for loans or otherwise commit fraud using your name.
- Use direct deposit. Your mail – both incoming and outgoing – can be vulnerable, especially during the holidays when criminal activity is heightened. If your Social Security or Supplemental Security Income check or other payments are delivered by mail to an unlocked box, you may be at risk for theft. Direct deposit eliminates the risk of lost or stolen checks, reduces fraud and gives people faster access to their money on payment day. Direct deposit also protects against identity theft. To sign up for direct deposit of your Social Security or SSI payment, call the Go Direct helpline at (800) 333-1795 or sign-up online at <http://www.GoDirect.org>. It's free and takes less than five minutes.
- Know who you're dealing with when you shop online. Many older Americans enjoy the convenience of online holiday shopping. If you're one of them, be certain the business is legitimate. If you have not heard of the company before, it is always a good idea to check with your local Better Business Bureau before making any purchase or providing them with personal financial information.
- Don't let your holiday trash become a thief's treasure. Identity thieves have become experts in picking through your trash. What's worse, during the holidays there may be a delay in garbage pick-up, meaning your trash could be sitting outside, unprotected, for an even longer period of time. Make sure you shred every document headed for the trash that may have personal information, including check stubs, credit card applications, monthly bank statements, receipts, and other documents thieves can use to commit fraud.
- Pay careful attention to your holiday credit card bills and bank statements. Whether or not you are a person who relies heavily on your credit card during the holiday season, make sure you are the only one who gets to make this decision. Carefully check your credit card and bank statements to ensure no one else is using your card and illegally making purchases in your name. If you notice anything suspicious, or if you suddenly stop receiving credit card or bank statements, contact your financial institution immediately.

<http://www.sheriffs.org>

### **Keep Children Safer While Shopping and Traveling During the Holidays**

The National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC) reminds parents not to let their guard down or be distracted while traveling or attending public celebrations during this 2007 holiday season. NCMEC has numerous child safety tips for parents to keep children safer while shopping and traveling. Parents need to talk with children about safety before heading out to a busy shopping mall or boarding a plane, train or bus this holiday season. Crowds are greater this time of year and children may easily become separated from their parents, causing confusion and fear. If it happens, parents need a plan and children should know what to do.

Always:

- Require children to stay with you at all times while shopping.

- Accompany and supervise children in public facilities, including restrooms.
- Have a plan in place in case you become separated, including a pre-designated spot to meet.

Never:

- Dress children in clothing that displays their first or last names, prompting unwelcome attention from people looking for an opportunity to start a conversation with your child.
- Leave children in toy stores or public facilities expecting supervision from store personnel.

Additional safety tips can be found at <http://www.missingkids.com>.

### **Inside the Department of Homeland Security Blog**

The man behind this government blog explains how it started, how it works and where it's going.

<http://tinyurl.com/3e4475>

## PLANNING / PREPAREDNESS

### **Fairfax County CERT Trains Area Boy Scouts**

Members of the Fairfax County Community Emergency Response Team trained Boy Scouts at the George Mason District BSA "Camporee," Oct. 13-14 at the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Academy. The event focused on methods of effective disaster preparedness and mitigation, with a simulated hurricane recovery center that helped scouts earn emergency preparedness merit badges. CERT subject matter experts led scouts through various training and response scenarios and served as command and control staff, moulage technicians and logistical preparation staff. *Reprinted from the VDEM "EM Update" e-mail newsletter.*

<http://www.vaemergency.com/emupdate/index.cfm>

### **School Emergency Preparedness Resources**

U.S. Education Secretary Margaret Spellings, Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff and Commerce Secretary Carlos M. Gutierrez released a set of guidelines to help educators and parents interpret federal privacy laws in an initiative prompted by the mass shooting at Virginia Tech. A press conference for the initiative "Creating a Culture of Preparedness Among Schools" was held at Mt. Vernon High School in Alexandria, Va., with student representatives from the Fairfax County Fire and Emergency Medical Services Science program and the Fairfax County Citizen Corps Council.

DHS School Preparedness: <http://www.dhs.gov/schoolpreparedness>

Remarks by Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff at the Securing the Schools Initiative Event

[http://www.dhs.gov/xnews/speeches/sp\\_1193784484405.shtm](http://www.dhs.gov/xnews/speeches/sp_1193784484405.shtm)

### **New Online COOP Resources**

The Virginia Department of Emergency Management has created guidance for developing a continuity of operations plan. The new resources include COOP planning manuals, worksheets and templates. The manuals offer procedural and operational guidance for preparing and implementing a COOP plan. The worksheets assist in assembling the information necessary to develop the critical elements of a COOP plan and correspond with the seven phases of the COOP planning process. The templates help to complete cohesive documentation for a COOP plan that is specific to the organization's needs. These documents will provide the tools necessary to develop a comprehensive COOP plan that consists of a basic plan and department plan for local governments and larger institutions. The basic plan outlines jurisdiction- or institution-wide considerations, and each department plan captures critical operational data. For smaller institutions, the toolkit offers a comprehensive template. Designed for local governments and for institutions of higher education, the COOP materials should be of valuable to businesses and nonprofits and are available in the COOP Toolkit on the VDEM Web site.

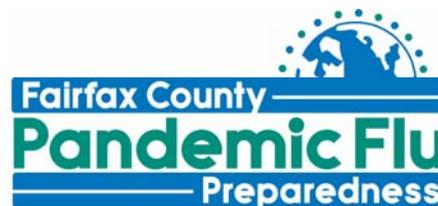
<http://www.vaemergency.com/library/coop/index.cfm>

## PANDEMIC FLU

### Fairfax County Pandemic Flu Preparedness

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

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



### Pandemic Planning for Utilities

A new guide, "The Microbiological Threat to the National Power Grid:

Advanced Pandemic Planning for Utilities Executives" has been published. The document extracts key points and observations from an event which took place on July 11-12, 2007, when executives from seven of the United States' leading power and utility companies came together in New York City to participate in the Executive Roundtable Series: Advanced Pandemic Planning for the Energy Sector.

<http://www.continuitycentral.com/news03591.htm>

## MEDIA ARTICLES OF INTEREST

### National Academies Seek to Balance Information Sharing and Protection

The National Academies is recommending that the government establish a science and security commission to strike a balance between freely exchanging unclassified research with foreigners and controlling information that terrorists might use against the United States reports National Journal's Technology Daily. The commission would be housed within the National Security Council and co-chaired by the national security adviser and the director of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy and would review policies relating to exports, visas, classification categories and other areas that affect scientific discovery.

[http://www.govexec.com/story\\_page.cfm?articleid=38399&dcn=e\\_hsw](http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=38399&dcn=e_hsw)

### FEMA's Fake News Conference

The Associated Press reports that a televised FEMA news conference in late October on the California wildfires was announced on short notice and featured questions for FEMA's deputy administrator, Vice Adm. Harvey Johnson. The AP reports that no genuine journalists attended, although they were given a conference call number they could use to listen in—but not ask questions. A half-dozen questions were asked at the event—by FEMA staff members posing as reporters. AP quoted Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff as saying, "I think it was one of the dumbest and most inappropriate things I've seen since I've been in government."

[http://www.govexec.com/story\\_page.cfm?articleid=38398&sid=60](http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=38398&sid=60)

### 15,000 Want Off the U.S. Terror Watch List

More than 15,000 people have appealed to the government since February to have their names removed from the terrorist watch list that delayed their travel at U.S. airports and border crossings, the Homeland Security Department says, according to USA Today. The complaints have created such a backlog that members of Congress are calling for a speedier appeal system that would help innocent people clear their names so they won't fall under future suspicion.

[http://www.usatoday.com/news/washington/2007-11-06-watchlist\\_N.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/news/washington/2007-11-06-watchlist_N.htm)

### What Is the State of U.S. Disaster-Preparedness?

An interesting article from the New York Times Freakonomics blog... In the last few years, magazine covers and newspaper front pages have often been dominated by disaster coverage: wildfires in California, hurricanes in the Gulf and elsewhere, and of course the Sept. 11 attacks and their myriad repercussions. So we asked five smart people who spend their time thinking about disasters to answer the following question: What's wrong – and what's right – with American disaster preparedness and response?

<http://freakonomics.blogs.nytimes.com/2007/11/09/what-is-the-state-of-us-disaster-preparedness-a-freakonomics-quorum/>

### **Experts Fault U.S. Preparation for Anthrax Attack**

The United States has done too little to prepare for another potential domestic anthrax attack six years after spore-laden mail killed five people, a former CIA director and other experts said earlier this month at a news conference to unveil a report by a security consulting firm warning of U.S. vulnerability to another anthrax attack. The report released by ExecutiveAction, a Washington-based risk management and security consulting company, concluded that the United States faces a high threat of an anthrax attack and remains largely unprepared.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/topNews/idUSN1419886420071114>

### **Baltimore Plans Communication System for Flu Season**

City health officials will monitor the severity of the flu this season by checking with hospitals and physicians, reports the Baltimore Sun. Depending on what they find, they might issue three types of flu alerts. Their plan, drawn up with help from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, focuses on communication with emergency rooms, doctors' offices and medical labs, where cases can be confirmed. Officials said they would keep the public informed with news conferences and surveillance reports posted twice a month on the Health Department's Web site ([www.baltimorehealth.org](http://www.baltimorehealth.org)).

[http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/local/baltimore\\_city/bal-md.flu09nov09,0,4269426.story](http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/local/baltimore_city/bal-md.flu09nov09,0,4269426.story)

## **TRAININGS / EXERCISES / CONFERENCES**

### **Emergency Preparedness & Prevention and Hazmat Spills Conference**

Dec. 2-5; Pittsburgh, Pa.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency annually sponsors the Emergency Preparedness & Prevention and Hazmat Spills Conference for first responders, counter-terrorism professionals, emergency managers, and medical, fire, law enforcement and industry personnel. Co-hosting this year will be the City of Pittsburgh and the 13-county Southwestern Pennsylvania Emergency Response Group. Highlights of this year's conference include a tabletop drill by CSX transportation; advice on whether to fight a chemical fire or evacuate the neighborhood; how to handle pipeline emergencies and radiation risks; safeguarding employees; hazardous materials in the home; and rapid intervention to save the lives of responders trapped in a hazardous atmosphere. The emergency preparedness conference will include dozens of workshops, intensive training for emergency responders, and local field trips, including a visit to Somerset County to see the Flight 93 crash site and Quecreek Mine. More information is available at the conference Web site <http://www.2007conference.org/>, or by calling the conference hotline at 1-800-364-7974.

### **Hospital Management of Chemical, Biological, Radiological/Nuclear, and Explosive Incidents**

Dec. 3-7; Aberdeen, Md.

This course is conducted jointly by the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Chemical Defense, the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases, and the Armed Forces Radiobiology Research Institute. It is designed for hospital-based medical professionals and others who plan, conduct, or have responsibility for hospital management of mass-casualty incidents or terrorism preparedness. Classroom instruction, scenarios, and tabletop exercises equip participants with the skills, knowledge, and information to carry out the full spectrum of healthcare-facility responsibilities required by a chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear, explosive, or mass-casualty events.

[https://ccc.apgea.army.mil/courses/in\\_house/brochureCBRNE.htm](https://ccc.apgea.army.mil/courses/in_house/brochureCBRNE.htm)

### **National Congress on Secure Communities**

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

The second annual congress – co-hosted by the Community Institute for Preparedness, Response and Recovery; the Corporate Crisis Response Officers Association; the National Council on Readiness and Preparedness; and other partners of the ReadyCommunities Partnership—brings together federal, state, and local officials, first responders, members of the media, business leaders, nonprofit organizations, academic experts, and 5-Pilot community leaders who will help develop simple, effective pilot demonstrations that leverage the assets of the private and community sectors to augment the local public-sector preparedness and response plan during the first 72 hours of crisis.

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

### **Hospital Security Preparedness**

Feb. 5-8, 2008; Washington, D.C.

This four-day immersion course for hospital protective services and law enforcement uses hands-on training, live drills, and classroom instruction from faculty with extensive security and counterterrorism experience. Its goal is to achieve competency in an all-hazards approach to handling threats to hospital security, from routine situations to mass-casualty incidents and terrorist attacks.

[http://www.web.sitelms.org/view\\_event.php?event\\_id=39](http://www.web.sitelms.org/view_event.php?event_id=39)

### **Business Continuity and Corporate Security 2008 Conference**

Feb. 11-12, 2008, New York City, N.Y.

A wide ranging event covering the latest thinking in the business continuity arena.

<http://www.marcusevansbb.com/BCP2008>

### **Border and Maritime Security Conference**

Feb. 26-27, 2008; Washington, D.C.

The conference will bring together subject matter experts from the government and industry to discuss what's next and the Secure Border Initiative, the Temporary Worker Program, US-VISIT, SBINet, the Container Security Initiative, and the Maritime Transportation Security Act. Attendees can learn how the executive and legislative branches propose to address border and maritime security, what technologies might be available to support the government's efforts, the integration of disparate security systems, the detection of nuclear materials, upcoming legislation, and federal initiatives.

[http://www.homelanddefensejournal.com/hdl/maritime\\_feb08.htm](http://www.homelanddefensejournal.com/hdl/maritime_feb08.htm)



### **National Hospital Emergency Preparedness Conference**

March 3-4, 2008; Washington, D.C.

The ER One Institute's 5th annual conference, "Hospitals on the Frontline: Emergency Preparedness—Today's Questions and Tomorrow's Answers," will provide information on the new Joint Commission standards, the new NIOSH requirements, how the federal funding stream works, the role of the corporate office in the midst of a crisis, and how to handle staff behavioral health support. CME, ANCC Contact hours and ACEH credits are offered. For more information, call Lisa Rizzolo at 202-877-7453.

[http://www.web.sitelms.org/view\\_event.php?event\\_id=42](http://www.web.sitelms.org/view_event.php?event_id=42)

## **LINKS**

### **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/>

### **Disaster Recovery Journal**

Disaster Recovery Journal not only has a free print publication, but its Web site recently underwent a renovation and features a monthly podcast, discussion areas, monthly Webinars and business continuity blogs. The site also features a business continuity glossary, white papers and business continuity sample plans.

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

### **U.S. CERT**

The United States Computer Emergency Readiness Team (US-CERT) is a partnership between the Department of Homeland Security and the public and private sectors. Established in 2003 to protect the nation's Internet

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.

infrastructure, US-CERT coordinates defense against and responses to cyber attacks across the nation. US-CERT is charged with protecting our nation's Internet infrastructure by coordinating defense against and response to cyber attacks. US-CERT is responsible for analyzing and reducing cyber threats and vulnerabilities disseminating cyber threat warning information coordinating incident response activities US-CERT interacts with federal agencies, industry, the research community, state and local governments, and others to disseminate reasoned and actionable cyber security information to the public. US-CERT has a Web page with the latest computer alerts. You can also sign up to receive US-CERT information via RSS feed.

<http://www.us-cert.gov/current/index.html>

### **DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report**

The Department of Homeland Security's Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report is produced each weekday as a summary of open-source published information concerning significant critical infrastructure issues. Each daily report is divided by the critical infrastructure sectors and key assets defined in the National Strategy for the Physical Protection of Critical Infrastructures and Key Assets. It provides valuable information for ESF-15 partners. If you would like to subscribe, contact the DHS Daily Report Team at [dhsdailyadmin@mail.dhs.osis.gov](mailto:dhsdailyadmin@mail.dhs.osis.gov) or by telephone at 703-983-3644, TTY 711.

[www.dhs.gov/xinfo/share/programs/editorial\\_0542.shtm](http://www.dhs.gov/xinfo/share/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)



### **ESF 15 Contact Information**

Merni Fitzgerald, Director  
Fairfax County Office of Public Affairs  
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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).

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.