



ESF 15 Business / Nonprofit Update

Produced by Emergency Support Function 15 – External Affairs

November 2009

ITEMS OF INTEREST FOR ESF 15

Secretary Napolitano Opens New National Cybersecurity and Communications Integration Center

On Oct. 30, Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary Janet Napolitano opened the new National Cybersecurity and Communications Integration Center (NCCIC) — a 24-hour, DHS-led coordinated watch and warning center that will improve national efforts to address threats and incidents affecting the nation's critical information technology and cyber infrastructure. The NCCIC provides an integrated incident response facility to mitigate risks that could disrupt or degrade critical information technology functions and services, while allowing for flexibility in handling traditional voice and more modern data networks. The new unified operations center combines two of DHS' operational organizations: the U.S. Computer Emergency Readiness Team (US-CERT), which leads a public-private partnership to protect and defend the nation's cyber infrastructure; and the National Coordinating Center for Telecommunications (NCC), the operational arm of the National Communications System. In addition, the NCCIC will integrate the efforts of the National Cybersecurity Center (NCSC), which coordinates operations among the six largest federal cyber centers; the DHS Office of Intelligence and Analysis and private sector partners.

http://www.dhs.gov/ynews/releases/pr_1256914923094.shtm

USFA Kicks off Public Fire Safety Campaign on Home Smoke Alarms and Residential Fire Sprinklers

Recently, the United States Fire Administration (USFA) launched an effort to encourage everyone to install and maintain home smoke alarms and, if possible, sprinklers. More than 3,000 people die in home fires each year, and the majority of them have no working smoke alarm. To prevent these deaths, the USFA, is sponsoring the nationwide Install. Inspect. Protect. Campaign, which emphasizes that "Smoke Alarms Save Lives." When both smoke alarms and fire sprinklers are present in a home, the risk of dying in a fire is reduced by 82 percent, when compared to a residence without either. According to the National Fire Protection Association, between 2003 to 2006, almost two-thirds of home fire deaths resulted from fires in homes with either no smoke alarms or no *working* smoke alarms. Materials can be downloaded at www.usfa.dhs.gov/smokealarms (English) or www.usfa.dhs.gov/detectoresdehumo (Spanish). The campaign toolkit disc with all campaign materials is available from the USFA Publications Center at www.usfa.dhs.gov or by calling 800-561-3356.

<http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/media/press/2009releases/102809.shtm>

FEMA Administrator Encourages International Emergency Managers to Engage Public as Part of the Team

FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate delivered the keynote address at the 57th Annual International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM) Conference in early November and encouraged emergency managers to engage the public in disaster preparedness and recovery. "FEMA is only part of our nation's emergency response team," noted Fugate. "This event allows us to focus on how we can better support local emergency managers, who are a key partner on this team and are the front line in the case of an emergency or disaster. Local emergency managers also play a key role in encouraging public preparedness. The public is a critical partner, and the more individuals do now to prepare, the stronger our national emergency response team will be during the next disaster."

<http://www.fema.gov/news/newsrelease.fema?id=49859>

Proposed Improvements to the NHC Public Advisory

Customer feedback suggests that there is a need for a more user-friendly format to the National Hurricane Center (NHC) Public Advisory. Users have expressed difficulty in finding pertinent warning, storm and impact information in the public advisory, especially when there is a significant amount of information to convey. The need for a format that separates certain sections of the advisory is most evident when a tropical storm or hurricane is close to making landfall. NHC proposes changes to the basic format of the public advisory, including changes to the storm information summary, adding section headers, and providing more structure to the watches and warnings section. The

Katrina and Linda examples on the NHC Web page show the storm summary information at the beginning of the product. The example for Dolly places the storm information in its current location near the end of the product while retaining watch/warning information at the beginning. NHC requests your comments about the proposed changes and you may send an e-mail with your feedback to “[nhcwebmaster@noaa.gov?subject=\[Comments about NHC Public Advisory\]](mailto:nhcwebmaster@noaa.gov?subject=[Comments%20about%20NHC%20Public%20Advisory]).” http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/feedback_tcp.shtml

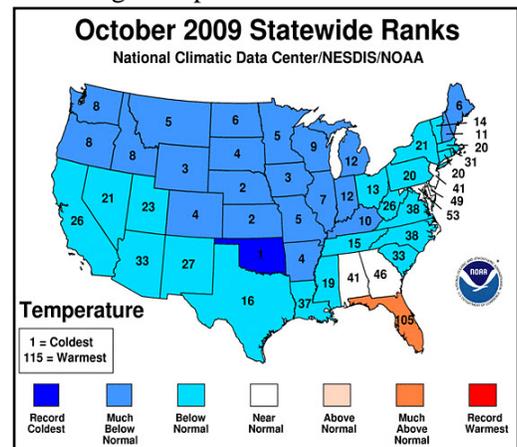
Long-Term Disaster Recovery Working Group

On Sept. 29, President Obama asked HUD Secretary Shaun Donovan and DHS Secretary Janet Napolitano to co-chair the newly-formed Long Term Disaster Recovery Working Group. Composed of the Secretaries and Administrators of some 20 departments and agencies, the working group will provide the President with recommendations on how to improve long-term disaster recovery in partnership with stakeholders at all levels. This high level, strategic initiative, will include a large outreach effort to obtain recommendations to support the work of the Long Term Disaster Recovery Working Group. Specifically, the input informs (1) the development of a report to the President, which will include recommendations for improving long-term disaster recovery and (2) the development of a National Disaster Recovery Framework, which will provide detailed operational guidance to recovery organizations under existing authorities. To provide input and receive regular updates on the work of the Long Term Disaster Recovery Working Group, visit www.disasterrecoveryworkinggroup.gov.

NOAA: U.S. Posts Third Coolest-Highest Precipitation for October on Record

The October 2009 average temperature for the contiguous United States was the third coolest on record for that month according to NOAA’s State of the Climate report issued on Nov. 10. Based on data going back to 1895, the monthly National Climatic Data Center analysis is part of the suite of climate services provided by NOAA. The average October temperature of 50.8 degrees F was 4.0 degrees F below the 20th Century average. Preliminary data also reveals this was the wettest October on record with average precipitation across the contiguous United States reaching 4.15 inches, 2.04 inches above the 1901-2000 average.

http://www.noanews.noaa.gov/stories2009/20091110_octoberstats.html



President Extends WMD Emergency for One Year

President Obama last week extended for one year Executive Order 12938, originally issued in 1994, declaring “a national emergency with respect to the unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States posed by the proliferation of nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons.”

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/notice-president-regarding-national-security>

Secretary Napolitano Meets With Private Sector Critical Infrastructure Leaders, Launches New Web Site

On Tuesday, Nov. 17, Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary Janet Napolitano hosted the first in a series of roundtable meetings with private sector leaders to discuss critical infrastructure security and unveiled a new Web site designed to inform the public about the Department’s critical infrastructure protection, readiness and resiliency efforts—part of her increased effort to heighten awareness about the importance of protecting America’s vital assets, systems and networks over the coming weeks. Two additional sessions are scheduled in the next two weeks focusing on public health, transportation, government facilities, information technology, communications, postal and shipping, national monuments and icons, manufacturing, and agriculture and food, emergency services, and defense industrial base sectors, among others. Secretary Napolitano also unveiled a new Web site – www.dhs.gov/criticalinfrastructure -- designed to provide stakeholders and the public with easily accessible information about their role in safeguarding critical infrastructure and key resources (CIKR). The Web site features a link to the new CIKR Resource Center, which includes information about how to sign up for free Web-based seminars on the tools, trends, issues, and best practices for infrastructure protection and resilience; resources

concerning potential vulnerabilities for chemical facilities; and details about the National Response Framework, which outlines guidance for all response partners to prepare for and provide a unified response to disasters and emergencies. For more information, visit www.dhs.gov/criticalinfrastructure.
http://www.dhs.gov/ynews/releases/pr_1258492512905.shtm

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. Only small amounts of liquids, aerosols and gels are allowed in carry-on baggage. 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: 



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 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/xinfoshare/programs/Copy_of_press_release_0046.shtm
<http://vaemergency.com/>

FEMA Announces Public Outreach Efforts and Comment Period Extension for PS-Prep

FEMA recently announced a series of public meetings in November and December that will be held to discuss the DHS Voluntary Private Sector Preparedness Accreditation and Certification Program (PS-Prep). PS-Prep is a partnership between DHS and the private sector that will enable private entities – including businesses, non-profit organizations and universities – to receive emergency preparedness certification from a system DHS created in coordination with the private sector. The purpose of these meetings is to provide the public with an opportunity to engage in dialogue with DHS staff and program managers regarding an October 16, 2009, Federal Register Notice (74 FR 53286) announcing DHS' intent to select three standards for adoption in the PS-Prep program. For more information about PS-Prep, visit www.fema.gov/privatesectorpreparedness,
<http://www.fema.gov/news/newsrelease.fema?id=49867>

New Anthrax Protection Guidance

DHS announced new proposed guidance for protecting the health of emergency responders during an anthrax attack on a major U.S. city. The proposed guidance recommends protective measures such as personal protective equipment and decontamination and hygiene procedures for first responders, public health and medical professionals, skilled support personnel, essential workers in critical infrastructure sectors, certain federal and private sector employees,

and volunteers. The guidance comes in response to a 2008 Homeland Security Council tasking requiring the development of appropriate measures for responders in the immediate post-attack environment of an aerosolized anthrax attack. The guidance is also intended to support ongoing planning and preparation efforts for protecting responders engaged in environmental sampling and remediation, as well as others in responder roles. The guidance is available at <http://www.regulations.gov>.

Reprinted from the Nov. 4 EM Update e-mail newsletter, published by the Virginia Department of Emergency Management.

FEMA Seeks Public Comment on National Flood Insurance Program

FEMA is always striving to improve our programs and as part of that effort, we are currently gathering feedback from National Flood Insurance Program stakeholders to gain input on the challenges related to the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and possible solutions to those challenges. The NFIP is a Federal program that was created by Congress in 1968. The program was designed to ensure that communities across the country have access to affordable flood insurance as well as encourage community floodplain management to reduce future flood damage. FEMA kicked off a 30-day comment period with the launch of a two-day listening session that began on Nov. 5. The purpose of these listening sessions and the public comment period is to allow stakeholders the opportunity to provide valuable input on various issues and programs related to the NFIP, such as flood map modernization updates, reducing repetitive loss properties, and other program topics.

For information and to provide feedback on NFIP: http://www.fema.gov/business/nfip/nfip_listening_session.shtm.
www.floodsmart.gov

FEMA Private Sector Tip

Just a few inches of water can cause tens of thousands of dollars in damage to your home or business. Visit www.floodsmart.gov to see how you can protect your investment.

MEDIA ARTICLES OF INTEREST

HHS Admits Overstating Flu Vaccine Availability

Two top officials at the Department of Health and Human Services acknowledged to a congressional panel early this month that the government had overpromised and made poor judgments on vaccination production against the current H1N1 flu pandemic. The government's initial plan was to have 160 million doses available in October; the actual production at month's end was barely 15 percent of that – 24.8 million doses.

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2009/nov/05/hhs-admits-overstating-flu-vaccine-availability/>

U.S. Opens Cybersecurity Center

The United States has opened a state-of-the-art unified command centre for government cyber security – the National Cybersecurity and Communications Integration Center – in Arlington, Va. reports Computer Weekly. The center is aimed at improving US national efforts to respond to threats and incidents affecting critical information technology and communications infrastructure. It combines the public-private U.S. Computer Emergency Readiness Team and the National Coordinating Center for Telecommunications. It will also integrate the National Cybersecurity Center ... which co-ordinates operations among the six largest federal cyber centers.

<http://www.computerweekly.com/Articles/2009/11/02/238368/us-opens-cyber-security-command-centre.htm>

Cat in Iowa Catches Swine Flu

An unidentified male cat in Iowa is believed to be the first in the nation diagnosed with the H1N1 virus, reports ABC News. The 13-year-old, mixed-breed cat showed the symptoms of lethargy, sneezing and coughing typical to sick cats.... two people in the cat's Iowa home had flu-like symptoms before he became ill.

<http://abcnews.go.com/Health/SwineFluNews/iowa-cat-catches-swine-flu/story?id=8999295>

Recalculating the Tally in Swine Flu Deaths

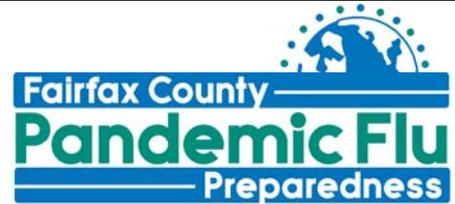
About 4,000 Americans — rather than about 1,200 — have died of swine flu since the disease emerged in April, according to new figures being calculated by epidemiologists for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. http://www.nytimes.com/2009/11/11/health/11flu.html?_r=2&scp=3&sq=swine%20flu&st=cse

FLU

Fairfax County Pandemic Flu Preparedness

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

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



Doing Business During a Pandemic: HR Guide and Toolkit

The University of Minnesota's Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy (CIDRAP), in collaboration with the Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM), and with contractual financial support from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), has released a new toolkit, "Doing Business During an Influenza Pandemic: Human Resource Policies, Protocols, Templates, Tools, & Tips." The toolkit, designed for organizations of all sizes, is intended to:

- Help human resource (HR) professionals new to pandemic planning come up to speed quickly on high-priority HR issues related to operating during an influenza pandemic
- Provide concrete ways that organizations can implement federal guidance
- Offer new ideas that can be used to improve existing plans
- Serve as a reference for benchmarking.

The guide is available online at <http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/cidrap/files/33/cidrap-shrm-hr-pandemic-toolkit.pdf>.

Reprinted from the CDC Foundation "Flu Update" e-mail dated Nov. 12, 2009.

H1N1 Planning Checklist for HR Professionals

http://www.shrm.org/hrdisciplines/safetysecurity/articles/Documents/H1N1%20Checklist%203_FINAL.pdf

Quick Reference for Businesses and Employers 2009-2010 Influenza Season Planning and Response

<http://flu.gov/professional/business/quickreference.html>

Frequently Asked Questions: Flu and the Workplace

<http://answers.flu.gov/categories/284>

Flu.gov Webcast

Dr. Gloria Addo-Ayensu, Fairfax County Health Director, was featured this month on a Flu.gov Webcast about the H1N1 flu vaccine and how local health departments are handling distribution of the vaccine and mass vaccination clinics.

The Webcast can be viewed at

<http://www.youtube.com/user/USGOVHHS#p/u/9/wMBV5I4zv>

[Is](#). More information about Fairfax County's H1N1 flu efforts, vaccination clinics, etc. can be found at

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



Flu Prevention Tips on the Fields and Courts

There are a number of common sense precautions being taught at homes and schools across America to help prevent the spread of the flu, including frequent hand washing, sneezing into the elbow, and getting a vaccination when it becomes available. If your kids are playing on sports teams this fall, here are a few more tips from the White House

blog to help them stay healthy.

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2009/10/30/flu-prevention-tips-fields-and-courts>

Sign up for the CDC H1N1 Flu Mobile Texting Pilot

Become a part of the H1N1 Flu Mobile Texting Pilot and have important CDC information about H1N1 flu and other topics delivered directly to your mobile phone. To subscribe to the pilot, text HEALTH to 87000. Subscribers can expect to receive about three health messages a week during the three-month pilot. Standard text messaging rates will apply.

<http://www.cdc.gov/mobile/>

Updated Guidance on Antivirals

Employers who have already stockpiled antiviral drugs in anticipation of a severe pandemic should maintain their stockpiles in accordance with state pharmacy regulations and federal laws and regulations. Currently the level of severity of the 2009 H1N1 pandemic does not warrant the use of antivirals for pre-exposure (“outbreak”) prevention in any setting. Current CDC guidance recommends using antivirals only for rapid treatment of ill persons and for post-exposure prevention for those who are at higher risk for complications or for exposed healthcare personnel, public health workers or first responders. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has urged organizations with stockpiled antiviral drugs (Tamiflu and Relenza) that are at or nearing their expiration date to consider keeping supplies while the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) evaluates options, including those that may allow for their use if needed during the 2009 H1N1 flu outbreak.

<http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/antivirals/>

Reprinted from the CDC Foundation “Flu Update” e-mail dated Nov. 12, 2009.

TRAININGS / EXERCISES / CONFERENCES

National Capital Region Homeland Security Events

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

Virginia Emergency Management Courses

<http://www.vaemergency.com>

FEMA Independent Study Courses

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

American Red Cross Disaster Services Training

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

2010 Virginia Emergency Management Symposium

The 2010 Virginia Emergency Management Symposium, formerly the Virginia Emergency Management Conference, is scheduled for March 31-April 2, 2010, at the Hampton Roads Convention Center in Hampton, Va. The theme will be “Heads Up: Eye-Opening Experiences and Changes in Emergency Management.” The symposium will include traditional breakout workshops coupled with new training opportunities. Tentative sessions include Intro to HAZUS, WebEOC overviews, Legislative Info 101, and Legal Concerns for Emergency Managers. Visit

<http://www.vemaweb.org> for additional information; registration will open soon.

CBRN Defense

Feb. 8-10; Washington, D.C.

Next year’s chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear defense conference will deliver an overview of the requirements, technologies, and programs necessary for mission managers and commanders to counter these threats.

http://www.cbrnevent.com/redForms.aspx?id=230498&pdf_form=1

Homeland Defense and Security Education Summit

Feb. 24-25; Washington, D.C.

“Homeland Security in Transition” will focus on validating homeland security and defense education and will discuss the issues most pertinent relevant to security professionals, the return on investment in homeland security and defense education, and current and relevant research. <http://www.chds.us/?special/info&pgm=2010Summit>

Biothreat Agent Workshop

March 15-16; Charlotte, N.C.

The theme of the third annual workshop is “Pathogens to Policy.” Experts from academia, government, and industry will interact and share their ideas and the latest developments, providing a forum where researchers, responders, vendors, and students can discuss advances in the fight against bioterrorism.

<http://www.cleanearthtech.com/news.htm>

GovSec & U.S. Law

March 23-24; Washington, D.C.

This conference provides products, strategies, tactics, education, and networking for the professionals whose mission is to secure our nation and their communities. At its core is the convergence of information technology and physical security so that attendees will be better prepared to anticipate, prepare for, prevent, and respond to domestic and international terrorism, accidental and natural disasters, and attacks on critical infrastructure.

<http://www.govsecinfo.com/Home.aspx>

Save the date: Emergency Management Procurement Conference

VDEM’s Procurement Office will host an Emergency Management Procurement Conference on May 2-4, 2010, to raise awareness about being better prepared to procure goods and services during emergencies. The conference will begin with an overview and tour of the Virginia Emergency Operations Center and continue with presentations and demonstrations that address Virginia Department of Minority Business Enterprises Small, Woman- and Minority-owned certification, legal issues, Small Purchase Charge Cards, prequalified contracts, ethics and more. Attendees will be able to network with state and local emergency procurement personnel from all over Virginia and to see a vendor trade show. Additional details and registration will be available soon.

LINKS

Fairfax County Blogs and Web Resources

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

DHS 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 continue to submit content comments or make suggestions by contacting the DHS Daily Report Team by telephone at 202-312-5389 or by e-mail at NICCRports@dhs.gov. You can access the Daily OSIR at: http://www.dhs.gov/xinfoshare/programs/editorial_0542.shtm.

Fairfax County Government Emergency Information Web Page

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

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency/

Fairfax County Government Emergency Information Line

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/opa/infoline.htm

Emergency Management Magazine

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

FEMA Private Sector

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



ESF 15 Contact Information

Merni Fitzgerald, Director
Fairfax County Office of Public Affairs
12000 Government Center Parkway, Suite 551 ♦ Fairfax, Va. 22035-0065

Tel: 703-324-3187 ♦ Direct: 703-324-3189

E-mail: Merni.Fitzgerald@fairfaxcounty.gov

Web site: www.fairfaxcounty.gov

Emergency Information: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency

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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 iim.person@fairfaxcounty.gov and ask to be subscribed to the ESF 15 Business/Nonprofit Update.

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

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

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