



ESF 15 Business / Nonprofit Update

Produced by Emergency Support Function 15 – External Affairs

November 2011

ITEMS OF INTEREST FOR ESF 15

Review and Comment on the Draft Pre-Disaster Recovery Plan

The Draft Pre-Disaster Recovery Plan (PDF) is now available online. The Fairfax County Office of Emergency Management (OEM) is looking for community/business feedback on the plan. Residents and business leaders are encouraged to submit comments in two ways – either online via a comment collector (http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/offsite/?pg=http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/FFX_PDRP_Draft_Comments) or via a comment form (http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/oem/pdrp/pdrp_comments_form_11-15-11.doc). Email the completed comment form to oempdrp@fairfaxcounty.gov. The **review period is open through Dec. 16**. The plan will be finalized in Mid-January 2012. Signatories on the plan include the county executive, deputy county executives and agency directors with identified lead roles in the plan. The plan will also be presented to the Board of Supervisors for endorsement in 2012.

Draft PDRP: http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/oem/pdrp/draft_predisaster_recovery_plan.pdf
<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/oem/pdrp/>

President Declares Disaster For Virginia for August Earthquake

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency announced earlier this month that federal disaster aid has been made available to the Commonwealth of Virginia and ordered federal aid to supplement commonwealth and local recovery efforts in the area affected by an earthquake during the period of Aug. 23 to Oct. 25, 2011. The President's action makes federal funding available to affected individuals in Louisa County. Assistance can include grants for temporary housing and home repairs, low-cost loans to cover uninsured property losses, and other programs to help individuals and business owners recover from the effects of the disaster. Federal funding is also available on a cost-sharing basis for hazard mitigation measures for all counties and independent cities in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Since the original request was made Sept. 20, officials have found more extensive damage than what was originally reported in more than 1,400 homes. Some damage that was first categorized as minor has become worse as a result of more than 40 aftershocks. The appeal included a letter from Virginia's entire congressional delegation supporting the request.

<http://www.governor.virginia.gov/news/viewRelease.cfm?id=987>

<http://www.fema.gov/news/newsrelease.fema?id=59316>

FEMA Public Assistance Approved for Tropical Storm Lee

The Federal Emergency Management Agency has approved federal disaster assistance to help eight local governments and the state recover from the remnants of Tropical Storm Lee, which caused heavy rain and flooding in Virginia Sept. 8-9. Governor McDonnell requested assistance through the federal Public Assistance program to help Caroline, Essex, Fairfax, King and Queen, King George, Prince William and Westmoreland counties and the city of Alexandria recover costs associated with response and recovery efforts, such as damage to critical infrastructure, debris removal and related emergency services. If sufficient damage information is collected, other localities could be added to the declaration. FEMA also approved the Hazard Mitigation program for use statewide. The Hazard Mitigation program provides funds for projects sponsored by state and local governments that help reduce disaster risks by protecting homes and businesses against future damage.

<http://www.governor.virginia.gov/News/viewRelease.cfm?id=1009>

FEMA Denies Individual Assistance for Tropical Storm Lee

The Federal Emergency Management Agency has denied Governor Bob McDonnell's request for Individual Assistance to help property owners affected by Tropical Storm Lee, which brought heavy rains and flooding to Virginia Sept. 8-9. On Sept. 9, McDonnell declared a state of emergency in response to flooding as a result of

remnants of Tropical Storm Lee. Five storm-related deaths were confirmed by the Virginia Department of Health Office of the Chief Medical Examiner: three in Fairfax County, one in Southampton County and one in Orange County. “We are disappointed that FEMA has again denied assistance to Virginians,” said McDonnell. “Heavy rain and flooding caused severe damage in Fairfax and Prince William Counties and federal assistance is critical in helping people who suffered significant losses and were displaced from their homes.” The Individual Assistance Program would have made funding available to homeowners, renters and businesses in the form of low-interest loans and grants, unemployment assistance, disaster housing assistance and crisis counseling. Damage assessments after Lee found more than 100 homes and business that were destroyed or sustained major damage. Approximately 500 people were displaced from their homes in Prince William County. The Virginia Department of Emergency Management will recommend to the governor on whether to appeal FEMA’s denial or to apply for SBA loans. <http://www.governor.virginia.gov/News/viewRelease.cfm?id=986>

Low-Interest Loans to Help With Tropical Storm Lee Recovery

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) has made low-interest disaster loans available to individuals, renters and businesses to help them recover from Tropical Storm Lee. Virginia Governor Bob McDonnell requested the SBA disaster declaration for Prince William and Fairfax Counties following last week’s denial by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) of his request for the Individual Assistance Program. SBA loans also are available in the following contiguous localities: the counties of Arlington, Fauquier, Loudoun and Stafford and the cities of Alexandria, Fairfax, Falls Church, Manassas and Manassas Park. Loans up to \$200,000 are available to homeowners to repair or replace damaged or destroyed real estate. Homeowners and renters are eligible for loans up to \$40,000 to repair or replace damaged or destroyed personal property.

<http://governor.virginia.gov/news/viewRelease.cfm?id=1002>

Statewide Tornado Drill Registration Open

Everyone in Virginia can participate in the Statewide Tornado Drill, scheduled for 9:45 a.m. on March 20, 2012. You can register your participation at www.surveymonkey.com/s/TornadoDrillRegistration. If there is widespread bad weather March 20, then the drill will be rescheduled for Wednesday, March 21. The drill is an opportunity for schools, businesses and individuals to practice important tornado safety steps. During the drill, NOAA Weather Radios will sound a tornado warning tone alert to start the drill, and participants will practice quick evacuation to designated safe areas in their buildings. Radio and TV stations also will broadcast the tornado warning sound. Detailed instructions for identifying safe areas, conducting a tornado drill and registering participation in the Statewide Tornado Drill are available at www.vaemergency.gov/readyvirginia/stayinformed/tornadoes.

FEMA Approves Individual Assistance for Louisa County after Appeal

FEMA has approved federal disaster assistance for individuals, renters and business owners in Louisa County who experienced damage as a result of a 5.8-magnitude earthquake that struck Virginia on Aug. 23, and caused more than 40 aftershocks. The governor appealed FEMA’s initial decision to deny federal disaster aid to Louisa County. Since the original request was made Sept. 20, officials have found more extensive damage than what was originally reported in more than 1,400 homes. Some damage that was first categorized as minor has become worse as a result of more than 40 aftershocks. The appeal included a letter from Virginia’s entire congressional delegation supporting the request. Individuals and families in need of earthquake recovery aid can register immediately by calling 1-800-621-FEMA (3362) or 1-800-462-7585 (TTY) Monday - Friday from 7 a.m. - 1 a.m. and Saturday and Sunday from 7 a.m. - 10 p.m. People also can register online at www.DisasterAssistance.gov. Those with smart phones or other mobile devices also can register at m.fema.gov. Business owners can apply to FEMA for low-interest loans from the U.S. Small Business Administration. Those applying should be prepared to provide basic information about themselves (name, Social Security number, address and phone number), insurance coverage and information to help substantiate losses. The governor also requested federal Public Assistance for Louisa County Oct. 21. Public Assistance will help with costs to repair county schools, some of which were substantially damaged. Public Assistance also helps state and local governments recover costs associated with earthquake response, such as damage to critical infrastructure, debris removal and related emergency services. The request is pending.

<http://www.vaemergency.gov/disaster-recovery/mineral-earthquake-recovery>

PLANNING / PREPAREDNESS

National Terrorism Advisory System

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

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

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

National Terrorism Advisory System Alert
DATE & TIME ISSUED: XXXX

SUMMARY
The Secretary of Homeland Security informs the public and relevant government and private sector partners about a potential or actual threat with this alert, indicating whether there is an "imminent" or "elevated" threat.

DURATION
An individual threat alert is issued for a specific time period and then automatically expires. It may be extended if new information becomes available or the threat evolves.

DETAILS
• This section provides more detail about the threat and what the public and sectors need to know.
• It may include specific information, if available, about the nature and credibility of the threat, including the critical infrastructure sector(s) or location(s) that may be affected.
• It includes as much information as can be released publicly about actions being taken or planned by authorities to ensure public safety, such as increased protective actions and what the public may expect to see.

AFFECTED AREAS
• This section includes visual depictions (such as maps or other graphics) showing the affected location(s), sector(s), or other illustrative detail about the threat itself.

HOW YOU CAN HELP
• This section provides information on ways the public can help authorities (e.g. camera phone pictures taken at the site of an explosion), and reinforces the importance of reporting suspicious activity.
• It may ask the public or certain sectors to be alert for a particular item, situation, person, activity or developing trend.

STAY PREPARED
• This section emphasizes the importance of the public planning and preparing for emergencies before they happen, including specific steps individuals, families and businesses can take to ready themselves and their communities.
• It provides additional preparedness information that may be relevant based on this threat.

STAY INFORMED
• This section notifies the public about where to get more information.
• It encourages citizens to stay informed about updates from local public safety and community leaders.
• It includes a link to the DHS NTAS website: <http://www.dhs.gov/alerts> and <http://twitter.com/NTASAlerts>

If You See Something, Say Something™ Report suspicious activity to local law enforcement or call 911.

The National Terrorism Advisory System provides Americans with alert information on homeland security threats. It is distributed by the Department of Homeland Security. More information is available at www.dhs.gov/alerts. To receive mobile updates, visit www.twitter.com/NTASAlerts.
If You See Something, Say Something™ used with permission of the NY Metropolitan Transportation Authority.

Winter Preparedness Week

Dec. 4-10 is Winter Preparedness Week in Virginia. Are you and your family ready for winter? If not, take a few simple steps now to prepare – make a plan, get an emergency kit and stay informed. Put together a disaster kit and store it in a portable container in case of bad winter weather. Your kit should include:

- At least a three-day supply of food and bottled water for each family member.
- Manual can opener.
- Battery-powered radio and flashlights with extra batteries.
- First-aid kit with family members' medications and prescription information.
- Hygiene and personal care items.
- Emergency contact list and phone numbers.
- Copies of important papers including insurance policies and bank account information.
- Emergency money – preferably cash – or credit card.
- Keep a full tank of gas in your vehicle.
- Don't forget additional supplies for infants, older residents, and those with functional needs.
- Pet supplies (if applicable).

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Putting together a disaster preparedness kit only takes a short time. It can mean the difference between having the basic necessities and being uncomfortable, or quite possibly in serious trouble.

Learn more at www.ReadyVirginia.gov, www.fema.gov and www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency.

Prepare in Case of Power Outages this Winter

- Ensure you have a battery-powered or hand-cranked radio to listen for emergency updates and news reports.
- Have flashlights or electric lanterns on hand to provide light; candles may add a spark of adventure during power failures, but they are dangerous fire hazards. Flashlights and electric lanterns require batteries so consider keeping a supply of extra batteries in case of extended outages.
- Remember, your microwaves will not work! Keep a three- to 14-day supply of water and nonperishable foods such as ready-to-eat canned meats, fruits and vegetables, canned juices, milk and soup. Also, have a hand-operated can opener available as well as one gallon of water per person per day.

During a power outage:

- Always operate portable generators outside, away from doors and windows to avoid dangerous carbon monoxide.
- Avoid plugging emergency generators into electric outlets or hooking them directly to your home's electrical system – they can feed electricity back into the power lines, putting you and line workers in danger.
- Keep refrigerator and freezer doors closed as much as possible to prevent food spoilage.
- Let the sun warm rooms during the day and close shades and curtains at night to help keep in the heat.
- When the power comes back on, wait a few minutes before turning on major appliances to help eliminate problems that could occur if there's a sharp increase in demand. If you think electric power has been restored to your area but your home is still without power, call your local power company.

Find more tips at www.ready.gov/winter.

Business Community is Critical Partner in Disaster Response and Recovery

Federal Emergency Management Agency Administrator Craig Fugate recently addressed a group of business leaders and federal, state and local emergency managers to talk about the critical role that the private sector can play in helping communities rebuild their economies and recover more quickly after disasters. During his remarks, delivered at a forum hosted by the Northwest Arkansas Community College, "Fostering Cooperation with Local, State, Regional and Federal Public/Private Sector Initiatives," Fugate explained that the emergency management community, at all levels, must focus on how they can support local businesses, from retailers to restaurants to banks, to reopen as quickly as possible after a disaster, so that disaster survivors can access their services and employers can keep revenue and jobs in that community. "The private sector, from Fortune 500 companies to your local grocery store, is an essential member of the team," said Fugate. "The faster we can help stores and businesses get back on their feet disaster, the more effective the rest of the team can be in focusing our resources on helping disaster survivors in areas that don't yet have access to those goods and services. Growing strong working relationships between emergency managers and the private sector is a good business decision for everyone -- it helps us better serve survivors, rebuild our communities and boost local economies." As Fugate noted, ensuring that schools and other local services can reopen quickly is also critical to keeping jobs in a community after disasters strike.

<http://www.fema.gov/news/newsrelease.fema?id=59308>

Holiday Travel Tips from TSA

- Travelers should remember the three simple steps to security: have ID's out, coats and shoes off, and laptops and 311 bags out for screening. TSA reminds travelers to follow 3-1-1 for carry-on luggage for non-exempt liquids: 3 ounce bottle or less for all liquids, gels and aerosols; placed in a 1 quart-sized, clear, plastic, zip-top bag to hold all small bottles; 1 bag per passenger placed in screening bin. The limitations on liquids apply only to carry-on bags and larger quantities may be packed in checked baggage.
- TSA also recommends that passengers do not travel with wrapped packages. In order to determine if the contents of a package are a threat, a security officer may need to unwrap and inspect the item. Snow globes of any size are not permitted in carry-on bags because officers cannot accurately determine the volume of liquid. TSA recommends passengers pack these items securely in checked baggage.
- Food items such as pies and cakes are permitted but may require further inspection. If travelers are not sure if

a food item is considered a liquid or gel it is best to pack the item in checked baggage or ship it to a destination in advance.

TSA reminds travelers to be vigilant during the holiday travel season by reporting suspicious activity to local law enforcement. The traveling public plays an important role in security, so “If You See Something, Say Something.” For more travel tips or information on what passengers can and cannot bring through security. Travelers are also encouraged to use the MyTSA mobile app (<http://www.tsa.gov/travelers/mobile/index.shtm>). For more information on these and other helpful tips, visit www.tsa.gov.

FCC Launches the Small Biz Cyber Planner

The FCC is launching the Small Biz Cyber Planner, an online resource to help small businesses create customized cybersecurity plans. This is the result of an unprecedented public-private partnership between government experts and private IT and security companies. The online tool is available at FCC.gov/cyberplanner. According to a survey released in October by Symantec and the National Cyber Security Alliance (NCSA), two-thirds of U.S. small businesses rely on broadband Internet for their day-to-day operations. However, the Symantec survey also found that 85 percent of small businesses think their companies are cyber-secure, but barely half of these businesses actually have a cybersecurity strategy or plan in place and nearly 80 percent say they lack a written Internet security policy. With larger companies increasing their online defenses, small businesses are now the low hanging fruit for cyber criminals and many may have a false sense of security. The Small Biz Cyber Planner will be of particular value for businesses that lack the resources to hire a dedicated staff member to protect themselves from cyber-threats. Even a business with one computer or one credit card terminal can benefit from this important guidance. The tool will walk users through a series of questions to determine what cybersecurity strategies should be included in the planning guide. Then a customized PDF is created that will serve as a cybersecurity strategy template for a small business. This effort is part of an ongoing program to raise awareness about the cybersecurity risks to small businesses and to help these businesses become cyber-secure.

<http://www.fcc.gov/blog/empowering-small-businesses-become-cyber-secure>
Planner: <http://www.fcc.gov/cyberplanner>

Christmas Tree Fire Safety Tips

The Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department offers the following safety tips for holiday trees:

- Keep tree base immersed in water.
- Do not permit smoking near the tree.
- Use only lights that are U.L. approved.
- Use flame retardant decorations and paper.
- Inspect lights for frayed or cracked wiring, broken plugs, and defective sockets.
- Unplug lights at night and when leaving the home.
- Remove the tree soon after the holidays—before the needles dry out.



If you would like a printable copy of the fire department’s “Fire Safety and Your Tree” tag, visit: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fr/download/MultiLanguageTreeTag.pdf>.
<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fr>

Put a Freeze on Winter Fires – Holiday Fire Safety

Decorating homes and businesses is a long-standing tradition around the holiday season. Unfortunately, these same decorations may increase your chances of fire. Based data from the National Fire Protection Association and the U.S. Fire Administration, an estimated 250 home fires involving Christmas trees and another 170 home fires involving holiday lights and other decorative lighting occur each year. Together, these fires resulted 21 deaths and 43 injuries.

<http://www.usfa.fema.gov/citizens/focus/holiday.shtm>

Emergency Preparedness Newsletter



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Read (and subscribe to) the latest Emergency Preparedness newsletter online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/oem/outreach. Among the items in the November issue:

- Fairfax CERT participates in emergency exercise.
- The importance of NOAA weather radios.
- Cybersecurity tips.
- Winter preparedness and winter safety information.
- Flooding safety.

The newsletter is published monthly by the Fairfax County Office of Emergency Management (OEM). Learn more about the newsletter, and OEM, online at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/oem/>.

MEDIA ARTICLES OF INTEREST

A Fast Track to Emergency Preparedness

The Washington region must avoid a repeat of the massive gridlock that occurred last Jan. 26, when a seven-inch snowstorm that began about 3 p.m. resulted in dangerously long commutes — often as long as six to 12 hours — for thousands. The mess had multiple causes: Rain washed away road treatments creating icy conditions, electrical outages took hundreds of traffic signals out of service, regional coordination and communication to the public was lacking, employees were released from work too late and all at once, and too many workers tried to drive home during the storm. The result was gridlocked roads that severely compromised public safety, including stranding many commuters reliant on buses. Metrorail, notably, was unaffected. Although the region is much better prepared for emergencies now than before the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, and performed well during Hurricane Irene, January's gridlock must not happen again, because it could cost lives whether the crisis is caused by a storm, earthquake, chemical spill or terrorist attack. The nightmarish Jan. 26 commute made clear how much more needs to be done to protect the region. As a result, the Washington Metropolitan Council of Governments created a committee to look at ways to improve the region's preparation for and response to emergencies.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/a-fast-track-to-emergency-preparedness/2011/11/02/gIQAfRXOnM_story.html

Homeland Security Reviews Social Media Guidelines

The wave of uprisings across North Africa and the Middle East that have overturned three governments in the past year have prompted the U.S. government to begin developing guidelines for culling intelligence from social media networks. Department of Homeland Security Undersecretary Caryn Wagner said the use of such technology in uprisings that started in December in Tunisia shocked some officials into attention and prompted questions of whether the U.S. needs to do a better job of monitoring domestic social networking activity.

<http://www.charlotteobserver.com/2011/10/31/2739556/homeland-security-reviews-social.html>

Officials Look at Ways to Alert Public in Emergencies

Assessment reports after major weather-related disasters over the past several years have shown a growing complacency when it comes to how people react to severe-weather warnings, said John De Block, warning coordination meteorologist with the National Weather Service office in Birmingham, Ala.

<http://www.usatoday.com/weather/storms/tornadoes/story/2011-10-26/tornado-sirens/51020864/1>

2011 Hurricane Season Costliest, Deadliest in Three Years

This year is the USA's costliest and deadliest for hurricanes since 2008. Two of the 17 storms that formed in the Atlantic — Irene and Lee — caused most of the damage. Hurricane Irene killed 45 people and caused at least \$7 billion in damage, the National Climatic Data Center reports, making Irene the USA's most lethal and financially damaging hurricane since Ike in 2008. Torrential rains from Irene led to catastrophic flooding in the Mid-Atlantic and Northeast.

<http://www.usatoday.com/weather/storms/hurricanes/story/2011-11-06/Hurricane-season-2011-Irene-Lee/51100270/1>

Disaster Preparedness 2011: Modern Challenges for Disaster Management

To deal with modern emergencies, national and municipal emergency management organizations are trending toward implementation of disaster preparedness and response software and other technical solutions with the following capabilities. While technology alone is not the answer, when combined with operational know-how and human expertise, improved preparedness and response performance can save lives, reduce costs and avoid some disasters entirely.

http://www.gsnmagazine.com/node/24909?=&disaster_preparedness_emergency_response

CERT Members Conduct Triage Training

The Manassas Community Emergency Response Team conducted preparedness training Saturday at Mayfield Intermediate School with new equipment purchased through a federal grant. The CERT team met at the local middle school early Saturday morning to set up and take down triage tent kits purchased through a federal Citizen Preparedness Grant from the Virginia Department of Emergency Management.

<http://manassas.patch.com/articles/cert-members-conduct-training#photo-8359596>

First Nationwide Emergency Alert System Test Hits a Few Glitches

Problems were reported across the country during the first-ever nationwide test of the Emergency Alert System [Nov. 9], designed to allow the President to address the American people during a national emergency. Some television and radio stations did not air the planned 30-second test at all. Some that aired it stayed with the signal longer than others. There were anecdotal reports of TV stations failing to air the message in Washington, Atlanta, New York, Southern California and other locations. The message did not air on a cable channel being monitored in a Capitol Hill office, and in the Capitol's Radio and TV gallery. Instead of hearing the alert tone as the emergency alert title card was being displayed, some DirectTV subscribers were treated to Lady Gaga's "Paparazzi." Additionally, some channels like MTV never ran the test, while various local stations across the country were several minutes late.

<http://www.dailypress.com/news/national/sns-1109-emergency-alert-system-fail,0,7250773.story>

<http://www.homelandsecuritynewswire.com/glitches-nationwide-emergency-alert-test>

http://www.nextgov.com/nextgov/ng_20111111_5950.php

http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=49324&dcn=e_hsw

FEMA Makes Progress with Tests of Emergency Alerts

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is planning a second nationwide test of the Emergency Alert System (EAS) to warn Americans of a major catastrophe via television and radio while also moving ahead with new technologies to send alerts via cell phones and other media, officials told a House panel Thursday [Nov. 17]. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has been analyzing data from the first nationwide EAS test, held Nov. 9, to set the stage for a second nationwide test, Damon Penn, FEMA assistant administrator of National Continuity Programs told the Homeland Security emergency preparedness subcommittee. FEMA considers the first test a success because it mostly worked and informed the majority of Americans of a test of the system to broadcast information in a widespread disaster, Penn said. U.S. authorities literally dusted off equipment that had not been used in 50 years to conduct the test. The EAS nationwide test pointed the way to problems that FEMA should correct, although broadcasters will not file reports until up to 45 days after the test and FEMA and the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) will require another 60 days after that to finalize their lessons learned. All 63 primary stations were able to receive the nationwide message and propagate it to U.S. viewers and listeners. Sixty of those rebroadcast the test to secondary receiving stations. In many states, 90 percent of broadcasters were able to transit the nationwide EAS test.

<http://www.hstoday.us/single-article/fema-makes-progress-with-tests-of-emergency-alerts/c47ed16dfcdb14988184984d93c28667.html>

Virginia to Receive Federal Funding for Storm Damaged Roads

Virginia is getting federal help to pay for repairing roads and bridges damaged by Hurricane Irene and Tropical

Storm Lee. U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood said that Virginia will receive more than \$2.1 million from the Federal Highway Administration's emergency relief program, including more than \$1.4 million to reimburse Virginia for repairing Irene-related damage and \$746,441 for repairing damage caused by Lee.

<http://www.wset.com/story/16136217/va-gets-21m-for-storm-damaged-roads-bridges>

FLU

Fairfax County Pandemic Flu Preparedness

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

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

CDC Confirms 6th and 7th Cases of Swine-Origin Influenza A H3N2 Virus with 2009 H1N1 M Gene

CDC has confirmed two additional cases of human infection with a swine-origin influenza A (H3N2) virus that carries the M gene from the 2009 H1N1 virus. The cases were reported by Maine and Indiana. There is no evidence at this time of an epidemiological link between these two patients or any person to person transmission associated with either of these cases. Both patients reported exposure to pigs prior to their illness. Human infections with swine influenza viruses are rare, but do occur. In most cases, these infections are associated with exposure to infected pigs. Both of the most recent patients confirmed with swine-origin influenza A (H3N2) infection had been in close contact with live pigs during the week prior to their illness onset. Both patients have recovered from their illness.

http://www.cdc.gov/media/haveyouheard/stories/H3N2_virus2.html

Researchers Say Flu Hits 90 Million Young Kids a Year

An international group of researchers estimates that seasonal flu worldwide causes 90 million acute lower respiratory infections a year in young children, with 1 million of the cases severe enough to require hospitalization. Their work, a systematic meta-analysis of 43 studies and the first global estimate of the seasonal flu burden in this population, focused on children younger than 5. It also linked flu to 28,000 to 111,500 deaths in that age-group across the world each year. The researchers published their findings earlier this month in an early online edition of "The Lancet." Last year the same group estimated that respiratory syncytial virus was the most common pathogen responsible for lower respiratory infections in kids.

<http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/cidrap/content/influenza/general/news/nov1111pedsflu.html>

Demak, Central Java – Thousands of Quails Die of Bird Flu

Livestock Service in Demak culled over 3,000 quails belong to a farmer in Sedu village, Demak. The quails had died suddenly and following rapid test showed positive bird flu H5N1. The culling was conducted by burning the birds to prevent disease spreading. There are 3 quail farmers in Sedu village, Demak, and over 10,000 quails population, which susceptible to infection.

<http://birdflucorner.wordpress.com/2011/11/12/demak-central-java-thousands-of-quails-die-of-bird-flu/>

Avian Influenza – Situation in Indonesia

The Ministry of Health of Indonesia has announced one new confirmed case of human infection with avian influenza A (H5N1) virus. The case is a 29-year old female, mother of the 2 cases earlier reported from Bangli district, Bali Province. She developed symptoms on Oct. 10 and died on Oct. 17. An epidemiological investigation conducted by the Ministry of Health and local health officers indicated that she lived in an area with poultry, and household and neighborhood poultry had died prior to her children's illness. Laboratory tests have confirmed infection with avian influenza A (H5N1) virus. Of the 182 cases confirmed to date in Indonesia, 150 have been fatal.

http://www.who.int/csr/don/2011_11_15/en/index.html

Bird Flu Virus Found in Poultry Markets in South China

The bird flu virus, also known as H5N1, seems to exist widely in the poultry markets, particularly in South China,

posing a tough challenge for the nation's epidemic intervention work, senior experts warned. Worse, a mutant strain of the virus called H5N1-2.3.2.1 was found spreading among live poultry, which the vaccine now in use cannot fully protect against, Guo Fusheng, technical adviser in animal health of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nation, told "China Daily" earlier this month, citing information and statistics from China's Ministry of Agriculture. Yu Kangzhen, the national chief veterinary officer of the Ministry of Agriculture, said previously that it would be hard to avert regional bird flu cases during autumn and winter but "the chance of large-scale outbreaks is quite slim."

<http://english.cntv.cn/20111117/104135.shtml>

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



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

Homeland Security for Networked Industries

Dec. 5-6; Washington, D.C.

This conference brings together senior leaders from industry and government to discuss current challenges, share best practices, and make recommendations for securing the nation's critical infrastructure. This year's conference will focus on the nation's ability to optimize investment in security, both for industry and government, which are threatened by challenging economic times. It will also focus on reliability—particularly the smart grid, communications infrastructure during crises, and the nation's financial services industry. The event will culminate in formal recommendations to the federal government for optimizing government industry resources for the greater benefit of national security.

<http://hsnievents.com/>

2011 Law Enforcement – Homeland Security

Dec. 7-8; Chantilly, Va.

The National Reconnaissance Office and the Interagency Council for Applied Homeland Security Technology present this conference and exposition. The theme is "Vigilance Through Integrated Intelligence, Technology, and Collaboration." It will promote information and intelligence integration opportunities; enhance mutual awareness of intelligence, law enforcement, and homeland security community needs and capabilities; identify collaborative initiatives between the national law enforcement, homeland security, and intelligence communities; determine rapid engineering solutions to support national security; and showcase existing and innovative national security technologies. Topics to be covered include emerging national security threats for the 21st



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century, border security, innovative technologies to support the law enforcement and homeland security communities, strategic partnership for information sharing and integrated intelligence, and national security initiatives.

<http://www.ncsi.com/lehs11/index.html>

Chemical Biological Executive Roundtable Breakfast

Dec. 8; Arlington, Va.

This event hosted, by the National Defense Industrial Association, will feature Gerald Parker, deputy assistant to the Secretary of Defense for Chemical and Biological Defense.

<http://www.ndia.org/meetings/230A/Pages/default.aspx>

Countering Transnational Threats Special Meeting

Dec. 12-14; Tysons Corner, Va.

This special meeting of the Military Operations Research Society is to develop a community of practice surrounding operations research methods for transnational high-value issues including threats from terrorism, narcotics, proliferation, organized crime, state instability, and infectious diseases, particularly focused on customers and methods outside the traditional defense scope.

<http://www.mors.org/events/counteringtransnationalthreats.aspx>



Association of American Law Schools Annual Meeting

Jan. 4-8, 2012; Washington, D.C.

One topic on the program is "War, Terrorism, and the Federal Courts Ten Years After 9/11." The panel will focus on the unique issues that federal courts have confronted during (and relating to) the conflict against al-Qaeda and related terrorist groups, and how that body of jurisprudence has—and may yet—affect the role of the federal courts more generally going forward.

https://memberaccess.aals.org/eweb/DynamicPage.aspx?webcode=2012Aamwhy&Reg_evt_key=d4a06b1f-994e-4ffe-b5ea-548f57898594&RegPath=EventRegFees

Integrated Justice Information Systems Institute 2012 Winter Industry Briefing

Jan. 18-20; Washington, D.C.

This briefing presents an authoritative update on the justice, public safety, and homeland security information-sharing and information technology market, focusing on information sharing and national initiatives that impact our nation's safety and security. It offers breakout sessions for technical staff and executives, as well as extensive networking opportunities with industry and government attendees.

http://www.ijis.org/newsroom/briefing_2012_winter.html



Disaster LockUps

Jan. 23, Chesapeake, Va. | February 1, Richmond Airport, Va.

These classes sponsored by the Virginia Association of Museums assist participants in creating disaster plans for their institutions. After a short instructional webinar, attendees will be "locked in" for a full day's workshop on creating a disaster plan based on templates designed for an institution of their size. They will also learn crucial disaster prevention and basic preparation steps, as well as best practices in collections risk analysis and management.

<http://www.vamuseums.org/VirginiaCollectionsInitiative/DisasterLockups/tabid/222/Default.aspx>

Combating Terrorism Technical Support Office Advance Planning Briefing for Industry

Jan. 24; Washington, D.C.

This program office operates under the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Special Operations and Low-Intensity Conflict. The briefing, organized by the National Defense Industrial Association, forecasts the requirements anticipated for funding in fiscal year 2013, and advertised using a broad agency announcement.

<http://www.ndia.org/meetings/2090/Pages/default.aspx>

Infrastructure Risk/Vulnerability Assessment Taking CARVER to the Next Level

April 9-11 and June 25-27, Arlington, Va.

This course, using criticality, accessibility, recuperability, vulnerability, effect, and recognizability (CARVER)—an all-hazards assessment tool—emphasizes kinetic threats from small arms (active shooter) and improvised explosive devices; students will learn to identify threats and vulnerabilities of all sorts and apply risk management processes for incident planning. The course is designed for facility security, law enforcement, and emergency management professionals charged with planning for and implementing protective measures for personnel, facilities, and infrastructure. Students will conduct an actual on-scene preliminary security vulnerability assessment and develop and deliver a briefing of their findings.

<http://www.governmenttraininginc.com/CARVER-Vulnerability-Assessment-120609.asp>

2012 Virginia Emergency Management Symposium

March 28-30, 2012; Hilton Richmond Hotel & Spa/Short Pump, 12042 West Broad Street, Richmond, Va.

The 2012 Virginia Emergency Management Symposium, sponsored by the Virginia Emergency Management Association and Virginia Department of Emergency Management, will be held in Richmond. The 2012 theme is “Don’t Fail the Mission” and is designed for anyone whose professional commitment causes them to seek a greater understanding of emergencies, both natural and man-made.

http://www.vemaweb.org/apps/public/news/newsView.cfm?News_ID=125

2012 Chemical Sector Security Summit

July 31-Aug. 2, 2012; Baltimore, Md.

The National Protection & Programs Directorate’s Office of Infrastructure Protection and the Chemical Sector Coordinating Council are co-sponsoring the 2012 Chemical Sector Security Summit in Baltimore, Md. The sixth annual Summit will provide a forum for representatives from the chemical community to exchange information and network with other security professionals, share best practices, learn more about chemical security regulations, and gain insight into the roles of state, local and federal agencies and departments involved in chemical security.

http://www.dhs.gov/files/programs/gc_1176736485793.shtm

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/
- 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.

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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 NICCCReports@dhs.gov. You can access the Daily OSIR at: http://www.dhs.gov/files/programs/editorial_0542.shtm.

Fairfax County Government Emergency Information Web Page

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

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency/

Fairfax County Government Emergency Information Line

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/opa/infoline.htm

Emergency Management Magazine

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

FEMA Private Sector

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



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To Unsubscribe:

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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 and ask to be subscribed to the ESF 15 Business/Nonprofit Update.

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

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