



ESF 15 Business / Nonprofit Update

Produced by Emergency Support Function 15 – External Affairs

October 2007

ITEMS OF INTEREST FOR ESF 15

Governor Kaine Issues Statewide Burning Ban and Declares Statewide State of Emergency

Governor Timothy M. Kaine declared a statewide emergency and enacted a ban on open fires beginning Friday, October 19. The statewide burning ban is the result of drought conditions that have created a serious risk of widespread and dangerous forest fires in every region of the Commonwealth. The burn ban will remain in effect until existing weather conditions improve with significant rain or snow. Violation of the law is a Class 3 misdemeanor with a fine of not more than \$500. The declaration does not have a direct impact on hunting season, but will prevent the use of warming or camp fires on all state-owned and privately owned lands in Virginia in addition to the prohibition on open burning.

<http://www.governor.virginia.gov/MediaRelations/NewsReleases/viewRelease.cfm?id=524>

County Burning Ban

In compliance with Governor Tim Kaine's statewide burning ban which went into effect on Friday, Oct. 19, at 12:01 a.m., the Fairfax County Fire Marshal has banned all bonfires, recreational fires and open burning in Fairfax County. Controlled burning permits will be issued and approved on a case by case basis. The burning ban will remain in place until further notice. The Fairfax County Park Authority, in concert with the statewide and countywide fire ban, has banned all open fires in its parks. Prolonged dry weather has increased the potential for dangerous forest fires and the public is being asked to help reduce the risk. The fire ban will remain in place until further notice. The fire ban applies to all [campgrounds](#) and [picnic shelters](#), as well as permanent and portable grills. Park visitors are also asked to refrain from smoking in the parks during this period of heightened fire risk. Failure to comply with the ban is considered a Class 3 misdemeanor, and violators will be prosecuted with a fine of not more than \$500.

http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fr/news/2007archive/2007_106.htm

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/nofires.htm>

Governor Kaine Announces Federal Disaster Designations

On Thursday, Oct. 18, Governor Kaine announced that the Acting U.S. Secretary of Agriculture has designated 78 additional Virginia counties and 34 independent cities as primary natural disaster areas due to reductions in farm production caused by drought and high temperatures that occurred from January 1, 2007, and continuing. Previously, 15 counties had been declared primary natural disaster areas. With these additional designations, all Virginia counties are now covered with the exception of Arlington and York counties, which were not approved as primary natural disaster areas because they were not found to have sustained qualifying crop losses due to the natural disaster, but which have received contiguous disaster status. The independent cities of Alexandria, Falls Church and Poquoson have also received contiguous disaster status; all other independent cities in Virginia have already been designated or named by the Secretary of Agriculture for this same disaster. These disaster designations make farmers eligible for low-interest loans and any supplemental relief that may be provided by Congress.

<http://www.governor.virginia.gov/MediaRelations/NewsReleases/viewRelease.cfm?id=525>

Updated National Strategy for Homeland Security

President George W. Bush has issued an updated National Strategy for Homeland Security, which will serve to guide, organize and unify national homeland security efforts. It builds on the first National Strategy for Homeland Security, issued in July 2002, and complements both the National Security Strategy issued in March 2006 and the National Strategy for Combating Terrorism issued in September 2006. It places greater emphasis on natural and man-made disaster preparedness in addition to its original mandate to protect the nation from terrorist attacks. It incorporates lessons learned from exercises and real-world catastrophes, and articulates how we should ensure our long-term success by strengthening the homeland security foundation we have built. The document sets four goals: to prevent and disrupt terrorist attacks; protect the public, critical assets and resources; respond to and recover from incidents; and strengthen the nation's homeland security foundation. The 53-page strategy is available on the White House Web

site at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/homeland/book>.

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/infocus/homeland/>

Reprinted from the VDEM "EM Update" e-mail newsletter.

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

DHS Awards \$24 Million in Homeland Security Nonprofit Grants

The Homeland Security Department has awarded \$24 million in fiscal year 2007 Urban Areas Security Initiative Nonprofit Security Grants to 308 nonprofit organizations deemed at high risk "of a potential terrorist attack." The grants pay for target hardening and security screening activities.

http://www.dhs.gov/xnews/releases/pr_1191005550909.shtm

DHS Awards \$113 Million in Training Grants

The Homeland Security Department has awarded the fiscal year 2007 grants under the Homeland Security National Training Program and the Competitive Training Grant Program. The former provided \$84 million to design, develop, and deliver training content and support for state and local personnel in emergency management, public health, clinical care, public works, and public safety, as well as the private sector and nonprofit, faith-based, and community organizations. The latter provides \$29.1 million to develop and deliver "innovative training programs" addressing high-priority national homeland security training needs.

http://www.dhs.gov/xnews/releases/pr_1191003660041.shtm

American's Preparedness for Disaster or Emergency Improves

The nation's RQ (Readiness Quotient) – a barometer of the public's preparedness for a weather emergency, natural disaster or terrorist attack – inched up nearly a point from 15 months ago, according to a report released today by the American Red Cross and the Council for Excellence in Government. The nation's collective level of preparedness has increased to 4.14 out of a possible 10, compared to 3.31 in June 2006. The survey found that the biggest gains were in the public's level of preparedness awareness, but more work needs to be done to engage people in taking preparedness actions.

http://www.redcross.org/pressrelease/0,1077,0_314_7100,00.html

TSA Announces New Office of Global Strategies

The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) on Oct. 2 announced the creation of the Office of Global Strategies. The mission of this office is to increase security by working proactively with foreign partners and overseas operations affecting the U.S. Examples of international cooperation that the Office of Global Strategies aims to increase and strengthen include common strategies on screening liquids, aerosols and gels, implementing advanced technologies and intelligence sharing.

http://www.tsa.gov/press/releases/2007/press_release_10022007.shtm

Federal Grant Will Improve Tactical Conditions

The Commonwealth has received a \$1 million federal Byrne Grant to upgrade tactical communications capabilities. The Rapid Deployment Solutions Interoperability Project, a public-private partnership between the Commonwealth and Sprint, secured the grant. Sprint will provide Virginia's public safety community a set of voice, video and data equipment, as well as infrastructure and technical support personnel to provide temporary communications during large events or catastrophic loss of communications capabilities. A Satellite-based Cellular site On Light Truck, or SATColt, provides both voice and radio capability through phone lines with satellite backup. It can mobilize within a few hours notice from the Virginia Emergency Operations Center. A Satellite Internet Protocol trailer provides remote local or wide area networks, wireless LANs, Voice over Internet Protocol and video connection between field personnel and personnel at the VEOC. 100 telephone instruments will supplement the Commonwealth's radio cache, currently being developed in Fairfax, Harrisonburg and Chesapeake. The telephones can serve to extend the current cellular/wireless network for any area, or they can act as a private network to ensure coverage when the normal cellular/wireless networks are overwhelmed. In addition, Sprint personnel will operate the truck and trailer wherever it is deployed in Virginia.

Reprinted from the Oct. 10, 2007, VDEM "EM Update" e-mail newsletter.

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

Records Management is a Weak Area in Many U.S. Organizations

Sixty-five percent of US public and private organizations do not have an enterprise-wide records management policy and program, putting them at risk to face the heavy fines and loss of brand equity associated with non-compliance with state and federal regulations, according to a study of nearly 2000 general counsels, CIOs and records management professionals by Iron Mountain. However, 61 percent of organizations surveyed stated that they are committed to records management improvement and are in the process of identifying plans for continuous development. Key findings of Iron Mountain's Compliance Benchmark Study include:

- Records management oversight is unclear: 73 percent of organizations state that oversight responsibilities are "not clearly defined" and steering committees have limited participation from key stakeholders.
- Records retention is solid: 81 percent of all organizations have a retention schedule that serves as the lynchpin for a compliance program and provides a blueprint for all records management activities.
- Record retrieval is usually accurate and quick: although participants differ in their own assessments of the speed at which they can retrieve active records from on-site filing areas and off-site storage facilities, 90 percent rate their ability to do so as effective and accurate.
- Secure destruction practices are inconsistent: only 38 percent of organizations described a consistently applied program for the appropriate disposal of confidential information.

For additional information or to download a copy of the abstract, visit <http://www.ironmountain.com/benchmark> (registration required).

Businesses Divided over Who Poses the Biggest Threat

IT security and control firm Sophos has published the results of research into the types of user that businesses fear is most likely to expose their networks to IT threats. The research shows that 31 percent of companies believe remote or mobile users expose their networks to the greatest threat, compared to 25 percent that consider guests or external contractors the greater danger. In contrast, an additional 44 percent of companies believe "standard" (office-based) employees are actually more likely to expose the network.

<http://www.continuitycentral.com/news03536.htm>

Survey Explores the State of Corporate Disaster Recovery Planning

Symantec Corp. has published the findings of an international study into corporate disaster recovery practices. The "Symantec Disaster Recovery Research 2007" report includes the results of research conducted by independent market research firm Dynamic Markets during June and July 2007. The study polled IT managers in large organizations across the US, 11 European countries, the Middle East and South Africa to gain insight and understanding into some of the more complicated factors associated with disaster recovery.

Survey highlights include:

- While 91 percent of IT organizations carry out full scenario testing of their disaster recovery plans incorporating relevant people, processes and technologies, nearly 50 percent of those tests fail.
- 69 percent of respondents are concerned about suffering damage to their company's brand and reputation, 65 percent fear harm to overall customer loyalty, 65 percent are concerned about the impact to their competitive standing, and 64 percent worry about losing company data in the wake of disasters.
- 48 percent of organizations have had to execute their disaster recovery plans. Additionally, 44 percent of organizations without a disaster recovery plan experienced one problem or disaster, while 26 percent experience two or more, and 11 percent experienced three or more.
- 77 percent of CEOs are still failing to take an active role on disaster planning committees.
- 88 percent of IT professionals polled carried out a probability and impact assessment for at least one threat, however only 40 percent carried these out for all threats, and 12 percent did not carry out a probability and impact assessment for any threat. Configuration change management was the least assessed threat area, and only 42 percent of respondents who felt exposed to this threat actually carried out a probability and impact assessment for it.

<http://www.continuitycentral.com/news03540.htm>

Virginia State Animal Response Teams

VASART is seeking volunteers to create local teams that can respond to the needs of animals during an emergency. VASART can coordinate training and resources in order to develop County Animal Response Teams, or CARTs, in

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every locality throughout the state. VASART is a private-public partnership of organizations, businesses, federal and state government agencies, and volunteers who help animals and their owners to prepare for, respond to and recover from natural and man-made emergencies. For information about the VASART program, visit <http://www.virginiasant.org>. If your locality wants to start a local team, contact VirginiaSART@aol.com.
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<http://www.vaemergency.com/emupdate/index.cfm>

PLANNING / PREPAREDNESS

Northern Virginia Community College Launches Roam Secure Alert Network for Emergency Notification

Roam Secure, Inc. recently announced that Northern Virginia Community College (NOVA) has purchased and deployed the Roam Secure Alert Network (RSAN). College and campus administrators and public safety officials can send targeted alerts via SMS text messages on cell phones and to students, faculty and staff. Students (or their parents) can register for the system, NOVA Alert, at no charge by visiting <https://alert.nvcc.edu> or by texting "NOVA" to 411911. [NOVA](#), the second-largest community college in the country is located in the heart of Northern Virginia's technology corridor just outside Washington, D.C.; with campuses in Alexandria, Annandale, Loudoun, Manassas, Springfield and Woodbridge. With RSAN, the entire student body or those at selected campuses, both on and off campus, can be notified in seconds. The system is capable of reaching any text-enabled device including cell phones, pagers, e-mail, and BlackBerry. RSAN also integrates easily with other communication media that may be deployed such as message boards, sirens, and speakers providing a single interface with maximum reach using a layered approach to mass notification. NOVA purchased RSAN using the Virginia Statewide Alerting Network contract. Northern Virginia Community College is the largest institution of higher education in the Commonwealth of Virginia and the second largest community college in the nation. NOVA enrolls more than 60,000 students at its six campuses in Alexandria, Annandale, Loudoun, Manassas, Springfield and Woodbridge, and through the distance learning program at its Extended Learning Institute.

www.nvcc.edu.

Virginia Launches Spanish Emergency Preparedness Campaign

Virginia's Spanish-speaking communities now have access to essential emergency preparedness information through a new Web site, www.ListoVirginia.gov. The site is a one-stop resource for residents to learn about disaster readiness at home and at work. The site encourages citizens to prepare for emergencies by taking three easy steps: get an emergency supply kit, make an emergency plan and stay informed about the hazards that could impact Virginia. The Listo Virginia educational campaign is a coordinated effort to provide vital preparedness information to Virginia's Latino and Hispanic communities. It will unite state government agencies with private sector and local government partners in a statewide public education effort to prepare Spanish speakers for all hazards, including natural disasters and potential terrorist attacks. Listo Virginia is launching in coordination with Latino/Hispanic Heritage Month, which lasts from Sept. 15 to Oct. 15. It's a prime opportunity for Virginia's Spanish speakers to incorporate emergency preparedness into their lives.

www.ListoVirginia.gov

Locating the Heroes

For thousands of office workers who fled the twin towers on 9/11, the most astonishing sight during the rush to descend was the wave of resolute firefighters making their own way upwards. Eleven firefighters from Rescue 1 went in. None returned. Seven from Engine 33 rushed in. Only the driver survived. "We found eight of them together in a stairway void," said a rescue worker. "They were still holding their tools ..." The number of casualties was astounding. Entire companies were lost. One of the cruelest facts of 9/11 was the inability to locate those brave souls who plunged into harm's way, to warn them when to get out, and to locate those who were trapped when the towers collapsed. One reason was that they neither carried, nor wore, any sort of technology that could tell their command center where they were. As a result, it was a severe challenge to know where rescue personnel were once they were out of sight, enveloped in smoke or fire, and scattered across many floors. This is all about to change.

<http://www.homelandsecurity.org/snapshots/newsletter/2007-09.htm#locator>

Survey Details Top Priorities of Evolving Data Centers

Brocade has published the findings from its fifth annual customer survey. For the fourth consecutive year, the cost and complexity of managing and maintaining storage environments and company data were customers' primary concerns for the upcoming twelve month period. The need for faster server provisioning and server virtualization, redesign considerations for future data center needs, and file data management followed closely behind.

Brocade conducts its annual end-user survey to track the key priorities and concerns of its enterprise customers, and uses the results to improve the company's product and services offerings.

Of the 660 enterprise customers who responded to this year's survey:

- 59 percent noted that reducing cost and complexity remains their top priority
- 43 percent said the need to reduce server provisioning times, and provide server virtualization are top priorities
- 42 percent rated business continuity and disaster recovery as top priorities
- 37 percent indicated plans to re-architect existing SANs for growth or next-generation data center needs;
- 34 percent identified file data management as a top priority (the largest increase in a category from last year's results)

<http://www.brocade.com/customersurvey2007>

Majority of U.S. Small Businesses are Unprepared for Disasters

A national survey of small businesses conducted by the American Red Cross and FedEx Corp. has found that while 94 percent of small business owners believe there is a potential for a disaster to seriously disrupt their business within the next two years, only 43 percent feel prepared for a one week disruption of their business, and 22 percent feel prepared for a one month disruption. Importantly, many businesses do want to become better prepared, with almost a quarter of respondents indicating they are planning on taking steps to prepare their businesses for disaster.

While small businesses have taken some steps to prepare their business and their employees in advance of a disaster, they lag behind on several important indicators. A majority of businesses surveyed have developed employee phone lists for notifications and communication during a disaster (86 percent); ensured the safety of important business files or records (75 percent); and purchased insurance for business disruption or damage (80 percent). But businesses are much less likely to have completed other important steps. Only 41 percent have taken preparedness steps based on the type of disasters common to the business location and only 55 percent have communicated with employees about their roles before and during a disaster. The Red Cross and FedEx are developing preparedness solutions to help small business owners develop an emergency plan and help their employees get prepared.

www.fedex.com/smallbiz

www.redcross.org/

Disaster Planning Guidelines

Capital One features a disaster planning guidelines Web page, which features information and tips on how businesses can better prepare to recover from disaster, which include:

- Developing a continuity plan that addresses post-disaster recovery procedures
- Considering alternative operational locations
- Gathering current contact information for employees, vendors, and customers
- Preparing for emergency cash management to handle cash flow

The Web page also features a disaster planning checklist (<http://tinyurl.com/39rvgb>) and tips for emergencies:

- Keep records where they can easily be moved to safety.
- Prepare a disaster plan for key employees.
- Identify operations that can be suspended temporarily.
- Identify basic tools to sustain operations during a disaster and after.
- Establish a plan to keep in touch with employees.

<http://www.capitalone.com/bank/smallbusiness/disasterplanning/index.php>

Ready.Gov Mentoring Initiative

Designed as a call-to-action for business leaders, the Ready Campaign has created Ready Business Mentoring Initiative. This new initiative is designed to help owners and managers of small and medium-sized businesses prepare for emergencies. Ready Business Mentoring Initiative includes the Ready Business Mentoring Guides which are

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designed to teach business owners and managers about affordable ways to better protect their businesses. In addition, the Ready Campaign collaborated with the Education Disaster Extension Network (EDEN) to create presentation materials to support the Ready Business Mentoring Guides. These materials assist business and community leaders in hosting and delivering business preparedness workshops and training sessions. These sessions and the Ready Business Mentoring Guides outline how businesses can plan to stay in business; talk to employees; and protect assets. <http://www.ready.gov/business/mentor/index.htm>

Ready Virginia Mailing Insert

Local government, volunteer organizations, nonprofits and private businesses can now download a mailing insert to include in their public outreach efforts. The insert, available in PDF format, promotes Ready Virginia and its core messages: get a kit, make a plan and stay informed. There are two versions: one includes information about the upcoming statewide tornado drill, another leaves blank space for an organization to insert its contact information. Download the insert here: <http://www.readyvirginia.gov/press.cfm>.

Reprinted from the VDEM "EM Update" e-mail newsletter.

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

2007 Hurricane Season Forecast Increased

Colorado State University's Dr. William Gray has updated the 2007 extended range forecast of Atlantic hurricane season activity, raising the number of hurricanes from 15 to 17. After the above average activity in August, Dr. Gray predicts that there will be another four named storms, two hurricanes and one intense hurricanes before the season ends Nov. 30. This is the last update to the 2007 hurricane season forecast.

<http://hurricane.atmos.colostate.edu/Forecasts/>

2008 Statewide Tornado Drill

The statewide tornado drill is scheduled for Tuesday, March 18, 2008, at 9:45 a.m. The Code of Virginia requires that all public schools participate in at least one tornado drill per year, and participation in this drill would fulfill that requirement. However, if this drill date or time is not convenient, schools are welcome to choose an alternative date or time. Private schools, businesses and families are also encouraged to participate. Last year, more than 170,000 students, businesses and families participated in the drill.

<http://www.vaemergency.com/threats/tornado/index.cfm>

Virginia Tech Emergency Test Misses 700 Subscribers

According to an article in the Roanoke Times, more than 700 subscribers say they did not receive messages during a test on Wednesday, Oct. 10 of Virginia Tech's new emergency alert system. The unannounced test was scheduled for 11 a.m., though computer problems forced Mark Owczarski, Tech's director of news and information, to make three attempts to record the voice message that was sent to cell and office phones across campus: "This is a test of the VT Alerts system. Thank you for your participation." The voice message went out about 11:06 a.m. and started reaching subscribers about a minute later. Most subscribers received the test message within about 30 minutes, according to a tracking system Owczarski monitored through his computer. The 3N National Notification Network, a California mass communications company providing the service, said later Wednesday that messages were sent to all of the more than 18,000 subscribers within 18 minutes.

<http://www.roanoke.com/news/nrv/wb/135327>

MEDIA ARTICLES OF INTEREST

Disaster Response Must Plan for the Unexpected

Emergency preparedness requires training for almost every possible situation, reports Federal Computer Week, reporting on a panel discussion sponsored by the Bethesda, Md., chapter of the Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association International. "But many DHS officials say that even thorough training might not be sufficient.... To prepare for unpredictability, agencies must ensure that employees are trained to handle glitches and unexpected problems ... DHS is developing processes for training workers to respond to rapidly changing events ... a major component of disaster preparedness is coordinating with state and local governments. Although disasters

typically are localized events, the federal response can be stymied by lack of local knowledge and obsolete information technology systems” the article reported.

http://www.fcw.com/print/13_34/policy/150189-1.html

DHS Gets Spammed With its Own Reports

The Department of Homeland Security provides a daily summary of news items for its mailing list subscribers called the Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report, which includes people with security and disaster response roles, vendors and news media. But its mailing list was misconfigured on Wednesday, Oct. 3. Anyone who hit "reply all" reached everyone on the list, triggering some 200 e-mails – and counting. The temptation to reach out was too much and it quickly became a big networking party. (Although as time went on, frustration mounted prompting more and more people to send emails to everyone on the list asking everyone to stop sending emails to everyone on the list.)

<http://www.computerworld.com/blogs/node/6304>

TSA’s 3-1-1 Rule Explained

([New York Times](#)) Under the Transportation Security Administration’s 3-1-1 rule, “passengers are allowed to carry liquids and gels in individual 3-ounce containers, all packed in a transparent quart-size zip-lock bag--one baggie per passenger,” writes New York Times “On the Road” columnist Joe Sharkey. “The formula, [TSA chief Kip] Hawley explained, allows passengers to carry on liquids and gels in reasonable quantities, while relieving screeners of the necessity of determining what is actually in each little container. Exhaustive lab and field tests, he said, showed that restricting liquids and gels this way negates the potential for an evildoer to take enough material on board in a big enough container to create a working bomb.” But suppose “‘I’ve got a bunch of 3-ounce bottles, and my three friends have a bunch of 3-ounce bottles. And once we get past security, we buy a large, overpriced bottle of water, empty it, and voilà!’ said one reader, the ingredients are mixed into the big bottle and a bomb is born.” Not so, said Hawley: with homemade explosives, “‘you have to be very precise in the mixing ... 3-1-1 eliminates the ability to assemble the ingredients in a laboratory’ ... On a plane, mixing up a bomb in a suitable container ‘isn’t like mixing a beverage.’” [[View article](#)] [[View 3-1-1 rule](#)]

HealthVault Web Site

Microsoft launches health records site. On Thursday, Microsoft Corp. launched HealthVault, a Web site for managing personal health and medical information. The site is part library, part filing cabinet and part fax machine for an individual or family’s medical records and notes. While HealthVault itself does not do much more than provide a window into stored information, and a mechanism for sharing it, Microsoft hopes hospitals, doctors’ offices, advocacy groups and insurance companies will build Web applications that patients will want to use.

http://biz.yahoo.com/ap/071004/microsoft_healthvault.html?.v=1

HHS Buys More Anthrax Vaccine for Stockpile

The Department of Health and Human Services is purchasing 18.75 million doses of BioThrax (Anthrax Vaccine Adsorbed, AVA) from Emergent Biodefense Operations of Lansing, MI, at a cost of \$448 million. The acquisition, added to the current stockpile, will allow HHS to maintain a stockpile of at least 10 million doses of anthrax vaccine through 2011.

<http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2007pres/09/pr20070926a.html>

Internet Census Focuses on Computer Security, Infrastructure Issues

For the first time, researchers have conducted an Internet census by mapping the Web’s nearly 3 billion assigned IP addresses, an effort that could provide important clues to how to fight computer viruses, according to the University of Southern California Information Sciences Institute. The researchers hope to discover how Internet worms spread through computers across the globe and to get a clearer understanding of how to expand the Internet’s capacity. The census, which was funded by the Department of Homeland Security and the National Science Foundation, was conducted when the team sent an Internet probe, also known as a "ping," to the 2.8 billion IP addresses currently in use. An IP address is a unique, permanent 10-digit number assigned to nearly every piece of hardware that taps into the Internet. When the probes contact IP addresses, the addresses automatically send a response signal back to the origin of the probe, allowing the researchers to record the results.

<http://abcnews.go.com/Technology/TenWays/story?id=3713460&page=1>

\$100 Billion Security Industry a Booming Market for Job Seekers

Homeland security, corporate security, cyber security, critical infrastructure security, retail and healthcare security – you get the idea. Security management is a vital, global industry – in excess of \$100 billion – according to ASIS International. Since 9/11, the need for security managers in both the public and private sector has continued to rise. Starting salaries in the field are good – \$50,000 to \$70,000, according to Jeffrey Fowler, professor and security management program manager at American Military University. AMU – part of the American Public University System – is an online university that serves 25,000 adult learners worldwide.

<http://money.aol.com/news/articles/a/100-billion-security-industry-a-booming/n20071010052609990004>

Child ID Theft is a Growing Financial Problem

According to the Federal Trade Commission, identity theft reports for victims under 18 years old increased from 6,512 in 2003 to 10,835 in 2006 representing 5 percent of all identity thefts. The report lists teens as particularly vulnerable because of their increased access to the internet. One concern is that the identity theft may go unnoticed until many years later, when the victim becomes an adult and applies for a credit card. Authorities say that often the crime is committed by the children's own parents or relatives, who apply for credit using the child's social security number. These crimes can go unreported because victims who do eventually discover the crimes do not seek legal ramifications against loved ones. The vice president of public education at Experian, one of the three major credit bureaus, advises parents to "monitor their child's online activity; do not ignore the junk mail the child receives; if they sign up their child for a magazine subscription to put it under their name; and do not let children keep their Social Security cards in their wallets." Moreover, if parents suspect their children's identity was stolen, they should check immediately to see if a credit file was created on their child.

<http://www.stltoday.com/stltoday/business/stories.nsf/yourmoney/story/088AB3C9CBEEAF8786257373000E9D6B?OpenDocument>

Typosquatting

A so-called typosquatter, who served pornographic advertisements on domains such as Bobthebiulder.com and teltubbies.com, has been fined again by the Federal Trade Commission (FTC). John Zuccarini has agreed to give up \$164,000 in typosquatting revenue he is alleged to have raked in, according to a FTC statement. Five years ago, a federal court barred Zuccarini from registering domains that are misspellings of legitimate brands, a practice called typosquatting, but he ignored the order, according to a staff attorney with the FTC. After his 2002 settlement, Zuccarini tearfully pled guilty in 2003 to typosquatting and child pornography charges brought by the U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York. However, he resumed the domain name registration scam after being released from prison in late 2005. This time around, however, his hundreds of Web sites were used to advertise legitimate products rather than pornography. Though typosquatting has been illegal in the U.S. for about 10 years, the government has been largely unable to crack down on the practice because typosquatters often operate outside of federal jurisdiction.

http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&articleId=9042944&intsrc=hm_list

Most Fake Bombs Missed by Screeners

According to a Transportation Security Administration (TSA) report obtained by USA Today, airport screeners did not detect fake bombs in over 60 percent of the tests conducted by undercover agents at three major airports. The report mentions a 75 percent rate of failure at Los Angeles International Airport, where 70 tests were performed; 60 percent at Chicago O'Hare International Airport, where the officials ran 75 tests; and a 20 percent rate of failure at San Francisco International Airport, where the screeners underwent 145 tests. Experts expressed their dismay at the failure rates at Los Angeles and Chicago because "screeners' inability to find bombs could encourage terrorists to try to bring them on airplanes," according to a former inspector general for Homeland Security. The TSA spokeswoman announced that the agency conducts undercover tests every day at every U.S. airport. Screeners, who fail to detect the dangerous materials, are required to undergo remedial training, according to the official.

http://www.usatoday.com/travel/news/2007-10-17-airport-security_N.htm

Study IDs Identity Thieves

A study conducted by the Center for Identity Management and Information Protection at Utica College and funded by the Department of Justice revealed that approximately 3 million Americans are victims of identity theft every year.

The study, which analyzed cases between 2000 and 2006, also found that “42.5 percent of offenders were between the ages of 25 and 34, another 18 percent were between the ages of 18 and 24, two-thirds of the identity thieves were male, and nearly a quarter of the offenders were born outside the United States.” Moreover, “80 percent of the cases involved an offender working solo or with a single partner,” the report found. It seemed that most of the methods used by fraudsters did not involve the internet. A large percentage said they only stole “fragments of personal identifying information, as opposed to stealing entire documents, such as bank cards or driver’s licenses.” The study also found that “insider” employees were the offenders in just one-third of the cases. Employees who stole identity information often worked in the retail industry, the report found.

http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20071022/ap_on_re_us/identity_theft_study;_ylt=AmOIs50Fmlrhf28iRm0xx5as0NUE

FTC Works to Quash Call List Urban Legend

The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) faces a dilemma as it once again attempts to kill a wireless urban legend that just won’t die. “The Federal Trade Commission reiterated that despite the claims made in e-mails circulating on the Internet, consumers should not be concerned that their cellular phone numbers will be released to telemarketers in the near future, and that it is not necessary to register cellular phone numbers on the national Do Not Call Registry to be protected from most telemarketing calls to cellular phones,” the agency stated. While the Do Not Call list accepts registrations of landline and wireless numbers alike, the Federal Communications Commission has a permanent ban on telemarketers using automated dialers to call cellular phone numbers. There are 145 million wireline and wireless numbers in the registry. The FTC has repeatedly posted “The Truth about Cell Phones and the Do Not Call Registry” advisory several times since the program was crafted by the Federal Communications Commission and FTC in 2003. The agencies attribute rumors about telemarketers getting their hands on mobile-phone numbers and other falsehoods associated with the Do Not Call registry to an industry effort aborted several years ago to launch a wireless 411 directory. The FTC does not presently highlight the fact that under current law consumers must re-register with the Do Not Call Registry. The reason is the agency does not know whether legislation to make the registry permanent will be approved by Congress this year. In the meantime, an FTC spokesman said a major campaign to remind consumers to re-register will be rolled out in early 2008 if lawmakers fail to get legislation approved.

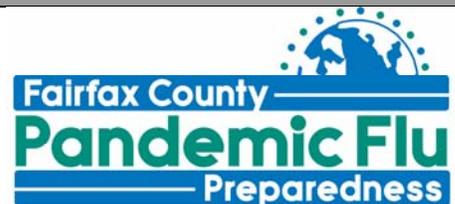
<http://www.rcrnews.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20071020/SUB/71019016/1005>

PANDEMIC 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/>



Quick Test for Bird Flu

Scientists in Singapore say they have created a hand-held device that can detect the deadly H5N1 bird flu virus within 30 minutes, reports the British Broadcasting Corporation. The BBC reports that they are able to isolate, purify and amplify the viral DNA from throat swab samples and then identify it. The hope is that the kit could help contain any outbreak much easier, as other available tests take at least several hours to produce results.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/asia-pacific/7009750.stm>

New Report Highlights “Pandemic Fatigue”

A new report issued by Marsh and The Albright Group warns that the catastrophic impacts of a long-lasting pandemic are not only likely to happen, but overdue. The study also states the impact of a pandemic is likely to exceed what most corporate and governmental leaders have imagined, or are prepared for. “Corporate Pandemic Preparedness: Current Challenges to and Best Practices for Building a More Resilient Enterprise” has two primary focuses: social and economic. The social impact looks at the health and well-being of citizens, families, employees, customers and business partners. The economic impact includes a deeper understanding of the potential for disruption of operations and supply chains, as well as diminishing or fluxing demand for products and services.

<http://www.continuitycentral.com/news03501.htm>

Opportunities Exist to Clarify Federal Leadership Roles and Improve Pandemic Planning

A new short GAO testimony document has been published which considers:

- Federal leadership roles and responsibilities for preparing for and responding to a pandemic,
- The GAO's assessment of the current U.S. National Strategy for Pandemic Influenza and National Strategy for Pandemic Influenza Implementation Plan
- Opportunities to increase clarity of federal leadership roles and responsibilities and to improve pandemic planning.

The testimony is available online at: <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d071257t.pdf>

Bird Flu Mutating, Affects People More Easily

The H5N1 bird flu virus has mutated to infect people more easily, although it still has not transformed into a pandemic strain, that according to researchers from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. The mutation, circulating most commonly in birds in Africa and Europe, allows the virus to live and thrive in the human nose, throat, and upper respiratory tract, which are much cooler than avian body temperatures. The normal temperature of the human nose and throat is 91.4 degrees Fahrenheit and the normal human body temperature is 96.6 degrees Fahrenheit. Birds on the other hand usually have a body temperature of 106 degrees Fahrenheit. The lead researcher said more mutations are needed for H5N1 to become a pandemic, but he is uncertain how many more.

<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/21141012/>

Report Says Bird Flu Plans Failing Children

According to a report from the American Academy of Pediatrics and the Trust for America's Health released on this month, U.S. plans for a flu pandemic fail to take into account children, who will likely be among the biggest spreaders of the disease and its most vulnerable victims. Governments have been planning for a pandemic for at least two years, but experts complain the U.S. federal plan (available at <http://www.pandemicflu.gov>) lacks needed details. Federal and state governments have not stockpiled nearly enough flu-fighting drugs, no one has laid out a coherent plan for what to do with tens of millions of school children if schools and day-care centers are closed, and no federal policies have addressed the issue of parents who would have to choose between losing pay or caring for their children, the experts said.

http://news.yahoo.com/s/nm/20071017/us_nm/birdflu_children_usa_dc;_ylt=ArTM3zBaxY9h7ePULk72Q6wWIr0F

TRAININGS / EXERCISES / CONFERENCES

COG – Homeland Security and Public Safety

The Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments Web site provides a page about Homeland Security and Public Safety in the National Capital Region (NCR) – <http://www.ncrhomelandsecurity.org/>. The section also features a NCR Homeland Security Events Calendar listing meetings and training opportunities.

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

Mid-Atlantic All Hazards Forum

Nov. 7-8; Baltimore, Md.

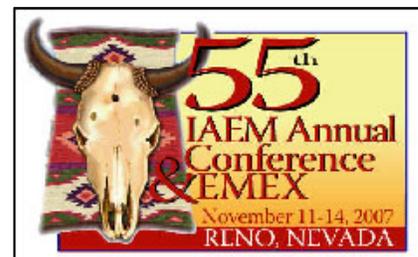
The Mid-Atlantic All Hazards Forum is a public-private partnership of Mid-Atlantic states and private corporations. It is sponsored by the All Hazards Consortium, a new 501c3 organization formed by the Mid-Atlantic states. This grass roots, first-of-its-kind initiative is a new regional model designed to improve regional preparedness in the broad areas of homeland security and emergency management by facilitating dialogue among state government leadership and increasing interaction between all of AHF's stakeholders.

<http://www.allhazardsforum.com/confprog.html>

Emergency Management and Homeland Security Expo

Nov. 11-14, Reno, Nevada

The Emergency Management and Homeland Security Expo of the International Association of Emergency Managers provides a forum for



current trends and topics, along with the latest tools and technology in emergency management and homeland security. Sessions encourage stakeholders at all levels of government, the private sector, public health, and related professions to exchange ideas on collaborating to protect lives and property from disaster.

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

2007 Preparing for Pandemic Influenza Training Conference

Nov. 13-14; Arlington, Va.

Medical and public health leaders will stress the importance of national, state, and local preparedness to respond to a pandemic so as to ensure the health and safety of our people. The conference will address three crucial areas: How real is the pandemic threat today, and how should you prepare to respond? How can an influenza impact your community or business, and what measures should you take to ensure business continuity? What is the best approach to properly communicate an outbreak to your staff, community, other agencies, organizations, and private institutions?

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

U.S. Customs and Border Protection Trade Symposium 2007

Nov. 14-15; Washington, D.C.

This year's symposium will focus on trade priorities and policies to help ensure compliance, enhance security, and promote continued CBP-trade partnerships. This collaboration enables CBP to incorporate feedback from the private sector into key initiatives, lessening the impact of new programs and ensuring that CBP and the trade advance toward a common goal. The symposium will cover topics such as cargo security, trade issues, the Automated Commercial Environment—International Trade Data System, post-incident business resumption, and global issues.

http://www.customs.treas.gov/xp/cgov/import/communications_to_trade/trade_symp_info.xml



Water Facility Security Conference

Nov. 27-28; Arlington, Va.

This conference will discuss pre- and post-disaster emergency preparedness and response. It will cover water protection methodologies and techniques, including ways to identify and mitigate problems. Industry experts will discuss how to respond and recover and how to best communicate to customers or staff.

<http://www.homelanddefensejournal.com/hdl/water-security-jan08.htm>

Virginia Emergency Management Conference 2008

March 11-14, 2008; Hampton Roads, Va.

Room reservations are available for attendees of the 2008 VEMC "It Can Happen Here," March 11-14 at the Hampton Roads Convention Center. Tentative workshops include:

- Crisis Management for Schools – new guidelines and how they impact school systems
- Water System Disruptions and Rural/Agricultural Drought Issues (tabletop exercise)
- Minnesota Bridge Collapse Debris Management – Best Practices

The tentative keynote speaker is Max Mayfield, current chairman of the World Meteorological Organization's Regional Association-IV and former director of the National Hurricane Center.

Hotel information is available at <http://www.vemaweb.org>.

LINKS

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 or by telephone at

703-983-3644, TTY 711.

www.dhs.gov/xinfoshare/programs/editorial_0542.shtm

Fairfax County Government Emergency Information Web Page

The county's emergency information page has been redesigned and features easier navigation and a cleaner look, hopefully making it easier for residents to find emergency related information.

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency/

Fairfax County Government Emergency Information Line

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/opa/infoline.htm



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To Unsubscribe:

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

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

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

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

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.