



# ESF 15 Business / Nonprofit Update

Produced by Emergency Support Function 15 – External Affairs

October 2012

## ITEMS OF INTEREST FOR ESF 15

### Pass it On: Fairfax Prepares “30 Ways in 30 Days”

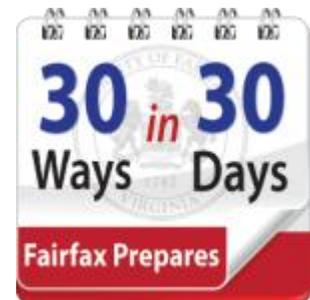
Our “30 Ways in 30 Days” preparedness campaign is over. A recap of all of the tips shared during the past month in the blog are below; please pass it on and share the information. Although September’s National Preparedness Month has ended, our preparedness efforts need to continue to build a stronger, more resilient community. Please ask your employees and others to subscribe to the Fairfax County emergency information blog, the website where we post all the important information during emergency events ([www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency/blog](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency/blog)). Direct people to the “email subscription” box in the right-hand column so they can subscribe to receive an email every time something is posted. Thank you to everyone who has tweeted, emailed, left comments on our Facebook page, and shared these 30 ideas and asks for the last month. Your dedication to preparing your home and family helps **build a stronger, more resilient community**. We hope you have found this series useful. We have one final ask.



**THE ASK:** Share all 30 asks with at least one person (but we recommend many more!). Keep this cycle of information moving throughout our whole community so we take small, easy steps toward more personal preparedness.

### The 30 asks:

1. **Pets:** Buy an extra bag (or cans) of food for your pet the next time you go to the store.
2. **Cash:** Withdraw some extra cash from your bank or ask for cash back at a grocery store.
3. **Infant/Young Children:** Review your infant and young children supplies that are essential to you as a parent or someone who may be taking care of a young child.
4. **Schools:** Review the school preparedness resources so you’re familiar with emergency response plans.
5. **Emergency Survey:** Though now completed, please sign up for at least one of our emergency information tools. (<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency/stayinformed.htm>)
6. **Weather Radios:** Purchase a NOAA Weather Radio.
7. **Power Outages:** Save your power company’s phone number to report outages on paper, phone or other device so you can access it safely.
8. **Batteries:** Pickup an extra package or two of the most commonly used batteries in your home.
9. **Tornado Exercise Review:** Review our series of blog posts from the tornado exercise and ask yourselves the various questions we posed.
10. **See Something, Say Something:** Write down or save to your phone Virginia’s terrorism hotline phone number to report suspicious activities.
11. **Remember:** Take a moment of silence today, in whatever way you choose, to remember Sept. 11, 2001, or victims of other disasters and incidents.
12. **Stay Informed:** Ask a friend to sign up for at least one of our emergency information tools.
13. **Water, Water, Water:** Calculate how much water you need for your household and purchase the appropriate number of gallons.
14. **Multiple Languages:** Share emergency preparedness info in multiple languages.
15. **Get Involved:** Review what the Citizen Corps or other emergency volunteer organizations do so you’re aware of them in case you decide later (or after an incident) that you want to join.
16. **Floods:** Review list of roads that historically flood in Fairfax County and note which ones are near your home or part of your commute.
17. **Special Needs Registry:** If you know someone with special medical needs or of an organization that helps people with social needs, please notify them of our Special Needs Registry.
18. **Make a Plan:** Complete a family and/or business preparedness plan.



19. **Turning off Utilities:** Familiarize yourself with what utilities you have in your home and learn how to turn them off.
20. **Speakers Bureau:** Recommend our Office of Emergency Management to speak with your group.
21. **Calling 9-1-1:** Add a new contact to your phones for the public safety non-emergency number at 703-691-2131.
22. **How Ready Are You?:** Test your Readiness Quotient.
23. **Two Ways Out:** Design two ways out of your home/apartment.
24. **Importance of Neighborhoods:** Talk about emergency preparedness plans with your neighbors.
25. **Medicines:** Purchase extra over-the-counter medicines such as aspirin or children's medications you frequently use.
26. **Earthquakes:** Register for the Great Southeast ShakeOut or review earthquake preparedness tips.
27. **Take Pictures:** Take pictures of all the rooms in your home so you have documentation of what you own.
28. **Car Preparedness:** Find a small bag and place in your car with as many items listed above as possible.
29. **Get Where You Need to Be:** Think about, explore and plan for alternate routes in advance of winter.
30. **Pass It On!:** Keep this list moving through our community. Share these asks and tips with family, friends, neighbors, co-workers and members of your house of worship.

Visit the emergency information blog ([www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency/blog](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency/blog)) for emergency news and preparedness information and more details on each of these asks.

*Reprinted from the Fairfax County Emergency Information Blog*

<http://fairfaxcountyemergency.wordpress.com/2012/09/30/pass-it-on-fairfax-prepares-day-30/>

### **Virginia Meets Emergency Planning Goal**

For the first time since 2007, every Virginia county, city and town with an emergency management program has an emergency operations plan adopted by its elected governing board. In 2007, the Code of Virginia was changed to require local governing bodies to formally adopt emergency operations plans every four years. Previously, no timeline was specified, so many plans had not been revised for several years. When the Code was changed, approximately 20 percent of local plans were not compliant. Some of the reasons for out-of-date plans include staff turnover at the local level and ongoing response to disasters. In 2011, Governor Bob McDonnell challenged local governments to make all plans current. "The hard work by local emergency officials and elected leaders in updating these plans underscores Virginia's reputation as a leader in emergency preparedness, response and recovery," said Governor McDonnell.

<http://www.vaemergency.gov/news/news-releases/2012/va-meets-emergency-planning-goal>

### **Fall Fire Season Began Oct. 15; Virginia Observes National Fire Prevention Week**

As temperatures begin to dip and the leaves on the trees begin to change color, it's time once again for the start of fall wildfire season in Virginia. Officials at the Virginia Department of Forestry remind all residents that the threat of wildfire increases each autumn as leaves dry out and fall from trees, grasses turn brown, humidity levels drop and winds increase. "Wildfires are directly linked to weather conditions," said John Miller, director of resource protection at VDOF. "Whether it's someone burning debris or trash, an unattended campfire, or an intentional case of arson, wildfires have a greater chance of causing bodily harm or property damage in the fall and spring months because the conditions are right for fires to burn hotter and spread faster." Because of the increased risk of wildfires, the VDOF joined paid and volunteer fire departments in National Fire Prevention Week, held Oct. 7-13, to ensure you have at least two escape routes both in your home and in your neighborhood. Each year, Virginia experiences more than 1,200 wildfires that burn more than 10,000 acres of land. VDOF employees annually protect hundreds of homes from the ravages of wildfires, but each year there are always some homes that are destroyed by these wildfires. Miller said, "As more than 95 percent of wildfires that occur in Virginia are the result of human activity, taking even the simplest precautions with outdoor fires will significantly reduce the occurrence of wildfires and the threat to you and your neighbors." To learn more about what you can do to reduce the risk of wildfires, visit [www.dof.virginia.gov](http://www.dof.virginia.gov) or [www.firewisevirginia.org](http://www.firewisevirginia.org).

[http://www.dof.virginia.gov/press/nr/2012/10-02\\_FallFireSeason.htm](http://www.dof.virginia.gov/press/nr/2012/10-02_FallFireSeason.htm)

### **Virginia State Agencies are NIMS Compliant**

For the third year in a row, Virginia state agencies have worked together to meet the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's criteria to be compliant with the National Incident Management System. Being compliant with NIMS allows state agencies to receive federal grants and other program support. In addition, agencies must be NIMS compliant to provide emergency management training using these federal funding sources. In order to be compliant, Virginia must certify that all agency personnel who have a role during disasters have received specialized training and state emergency operations plans incorporate NIMS concepts. More than 18,000 state employees have completed NIMS training.



[www.CapitalRegionUpdates.gov](http://www.CapitalRegionUpdates.gov)

## **PLANNING / PREPAREDNESS**

### **How Prepared is Your Cyber Infrastructure?**

October marks the ninth annual National Cyber Security Awareness Month (NCSAM) -- <http://www.dhs.gov/national-cyber-security-awareness-month> -- and is a great time to act in making sure you are prepared online! NCSAM is designed to engage and educate public and private sector partners through events and initiatives with the goal of raising awareness about cyber security and increasing the resiliency of the nation in the event of a cyber incident. The "Stop.Think.Connect." campaign offers great tips for ensuring you're safe when operating online. Unlike physical threats that prompt immediate action – like stop, drop and roll in the event of a fire – cyber threats are often difficult to identify and comprehend. However, they can be just as dangerous. Cyber preparedness can be as simple as setting up the proper controls such as the ones listed below to increase your chances of avoiding cyber risks:

- Only connect to the Internet over secure, password- protected networks.
- Do not respond to online requests for personal information; most organizations – banks, universities, companies, etc. – do not ask for your personal information over the Internet.
- Limit who you are sharing information with by reviewing the privacy settings on your social media accounts.
- Trust your gut; if you think an offer is too good to be true, then it probably is.
- Do not use the same password twice; choose a password that means something to you and you only; change your passwords on a regular basis.

For more information on how to prevent a cyber-attack on your systems check out some helpful guidance from the Ready Campaign at [www.ready.gov/cyber-attack](http://www.ready.gov/cyber-attack).

### **Kitchen Fires No. 1 in New Report**

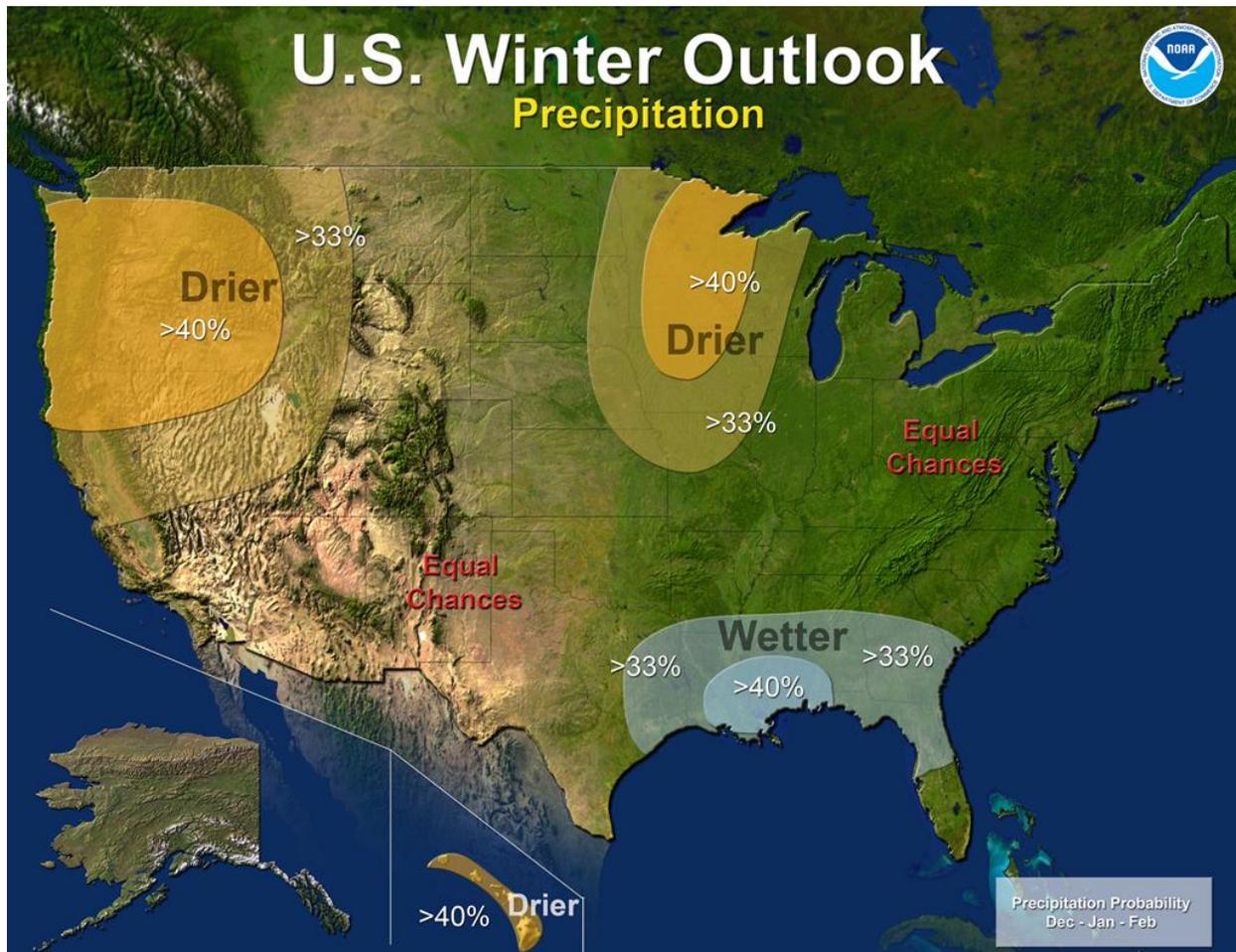
In recognition of Fire Prevention Week (celebrated in October), the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission and the U.S. Fire Administration have released new statistics on fires in American homes and urging consumers to install smoke alarms in their homes and check to make sure all smoke alarms are working properly. It is also vitally

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.

important to develop and practice a family fire escape plan. **The top cause of fires in the home is cooking equipment**, accounting for an estimated 147,400 or 40 percent of residential fires each year between 2008 and 2010. Cooking was also associated with the largest percentage of fire-related injuries, an estimated average 27.4 percent or 3,450, in the home.

<http://www.usfa.fema.gov/media/press/2012releases/100912.shtm>

NBC video: <http://video.msnbc.msn.com/nightly-news/49348704#49348704>



### Elusive El Niño Challenges NOAA's 2012 U.S. Winter Outlook

The western half of the continental U.S. and central and northern Alaska could be in for a warmer-than-average winter, while most of Florida might be colder-than-normal December through February, according to NOAA's annual Winter Outlook announced earlier this month from the agency's new Center for Weather and Climate Prediction in College Park, Md. Forecasters with NOAA's Climate Prediction Center say a wavering El Niño, expected to have developed by now, makes this year's winter outlook less certain than previous years. "This is one of the most challenging outlooks we've produced in recent years because El Niño decided not to show up as expected," said Mike Halpert, deputy director of NOAA's Climate Prediction Center. "In fact, it stalled out last month, leaving neutral conditions in place in the tropical Pacific." In the 2012 U.S. Winter Outlook (December through February) odds favor:

- Warmer-than-average temperatures in much of Texas, northward through the Central and Northern Plains and westward across the Southwest, the Northern Rockies, and eastern Washington, Oregon and California, as well as the northern two-thirds of Alaska.
- Cooler-than-average temperatures in Hawaii and in most of Florida, excluding the panhandle.
- Drier-than-average conditions in Hawaii, the Pacific Northwest and Northern California, including Idaho, western Montana, and portions of Wyoming, Utah and most of Nevada.

- Drier-than-average conditions in the upper Midwest, including Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa and northern Missouri and eastern parts of North and South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, and western Illinois.
- Wetter-than-average conditions across the Gulf Coast states from the northern half of Florida to eastern Texas.

The **rest of the country falls into the “equal chance” category**, meaning these areas have an equal chance for above-, near-, or below-normal temperatures and/or precipitation. This seasonal outlook does not project where and when snowstorms may hit or provide total seasonal snowfall accumulations. Snow forecasts are dependent upon the strength and track of winter storms, which are generally not predictable more than a week in advance.

[http://www.noanews.noaa.gov/stories2012/20121018\\_winteroutlook.html](http://www.noanews.noaa.gov/stories2012/20121018_winteroutlook.html)

### **Get Where You Need to Be Before the Weather Gets Bad**

Cooler weather has arrived and the first “official” day of winter – Dec. 21 (6:12 a.m.) – will be here before you realize. Whether you enjoy the snow – and wintry weather – or not, we know that snow can occur before the “official” start of winter. And many experts are predicting that this year’s winter will be a bad one. Whenever winter weather arrives, remember this simple message:

#### **Get Where You Need to Be Before the Weather Gets Bad**

In other words, stay off the roads when it snows! Overall, most winter storm deaths result from vehicle or other transportation accidents caused by ice and snow. Residents should **avoid driving when conditions include sleet, freezing rain or drizzle, snow or dense fog.** These are serious conditions that are often underestimated, and they make driving –

and even walking outside – very hazardous. More winter safety tips will be published over the next several weeks on the Fairfax County Emergency Information blog: [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency/blog](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency/blog). Bookmark that page – and subscribe for information by email – to stay better prepared for winter this year.



### **Businesses with Customizable Cybersecurity Plans**

Small businesses are more dependent on the Internet than ever before, but 83 percent don’t have a formal cybersecurity plan to protect against cyber threats. As larger companies improve cyber defenses, American small businesses are becoming more vulnerable targets. According to Symantec, they were subject to hundreds of millions of cyber threats in just the first few months of 2012. A typical cyber-attack that infiltrates a small business can cost, on average, close to \$200,000 – enough to put many of them out of business. This month, the FCC re-launched the Small Biz Cyber Planner 2.0, ([www.fcc.gov/cyberplanner](http://www.fcc.gov/cyberplanner)) an online resource to help small businesses create customized cybersecurity plans. Originally launched in October 2011, it is the result of an unprecedented public-private partnership between government experts and private IT and security companies. The planner features new details about cyber insurance to mitigate interruptions to business and financial loss from cyber-attacks, best practices on spyware, including how to avoid advanced versions of spyware and what immediate steps to take in case of infection, and recommendations to install new software systems that enable remote cleaning and tracking of laptops and mobile devices in the case of theft. The FCC also released an updated one page Cybersecurity Tip Sheet ([http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs\\_public/attachmatch/DOC-306595A1.pdf](http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-306595A1.pdf)), a quick resource that features new tips on creating a mobile device action plan and on payment and credit card 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. The tool walks users through a series of questions to determine what cybersecurity strategies should be included in the planning guide, and generate a customized PDF that will serve as a cybersecurity strategy template.

<http://www.fcc.gov/blog/fcc-releases-small-biz-cyber-planner-20-empower-small-businesses-customizable-cybersecurity-pla>

## Can Carbon Monoxide Be In Your Home?

Carbon Monoxide (CO) is an invisible, odorless, tasteless, toxic gas. It causes about 300 accidental fatalities in homes each year; thousands more are treated in hospitals for CO poisoning. Symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning exposure include: headache, fatigue, nausea, dizziness, and confused thinking (victims do not think clearly enough to get assistance). Without treatment, the victim will lose consciousness and possibly their life. Carbon monoxide is produced by the incomplete combustion of fuels. Common carbon monoxide causes include:

- Faulty gas or oil furnaces and water heaters.
- Using a generator inside or too close to windows.
- Cracked chimney flues.
- Indoor use of charcoal grills.
- Use of a gas oven or range to warm a room.
- Running a car in an enclosed area.
- Closing the fireplace damper before the fire is completely out.

Carbon monoxide accidents are preventable. Actions you should take to protect your family include:

- Have a qualified technician inspect your gas furnace and appliances.
- Never allow your car to run in an enclosed area, especially if it is attached to your house.
- Make sure your fireplace is in good repair and do not close the damper before the fire is out.
- Install CO alarms to give your family a warning if CO is building up in your house.

Carbon Monoxide alarms can be purchased at many local hardware stores. Ensure the alarm that you purchase has an Underwriters Laboratory (UL) label. Carbon Monoxide alarms should be located on every floor and mounted according to the manufacturer's instructions. If the alarm goes off, everyone should get out of the house at once and call 9-1-1 from a neighbor's house. Do not ventilate your house by opening doors and windows. When first responders arrive, they will obtain CO readings in different areas of your home to determine the source of the leak. If you have questions about your gas furnaces or appliance, contact your gas company. If your CO alarm gives a warning signal, get out of the house and call 9-1-1. Learn more life safety information from the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department: [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fr](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fr)

## 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](http://www.dhs.gov/alerts)), Facebook and via Twitter @NTASAlerts. Alerts may be extended if new information becomes available or as a specific threat evolves. For more information, visit [www.dhs.gov/alerts](http://www.dhs.gov/alerts).

## Community Emergency Alert Network (CEAN)

Get emergency alerts by email, as well as by text or pager. Sign up at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/cean](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/cean). Businesses can also register up to five people in their organizations – such as security officers – who can receive alerts and then share that information with their workforce.



## FLU

### Fairfax County Pandemic Flu Preparedness

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

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



### Flu Risks for Cancer Patients and Survivors

October is National Breast Cancer Awareness Month, and it's important for cancer patients, survivors, and their families to arm themselves with flu-fighting knowledge. While having cancer does not put you at an increased risk for getting the flu, it does put you at an increased risk of complications if you get the flu.

The best protection is to get the flu vaccine. Cancer patients and survivors should get the flu shot, not the nasal spray.

<http://www.flu.gov/prevention-vaccination/vaccination/index.html>



## MEDIA ARTICLES OF INTEREST

### Washington Confirms Chinese Hack Attack on White House Computer

White House sources partly confirmed an alarming report that U.S. government computers – reportedly including systems used by the military for nuclear commands – were breached by Chinese hackers. “This was a spear phishing attack against an unclassified network,” a White House official told FoxNews.com. “These types of attacks are not infrequent and we have mitigation measures in place.” A law enforcement official who works with members of the White House Military Office confirmed the Chinese attack to FoxNews.com on Monday [Oct. 1], but it remains unclear what information, if any, was taken or left behind.

<http://www.foxnews.com/tech/2012/10/01/washington-confirms-chinese-hack-attack-on-white-house-computer/>

### Researcher Aims to Take Guesswork out of Utilities' Storm Preparations

Seth Guikema, a Johns Hopkins professor trained in risk assessment and management, is developing a model that can translate weather forecast data and US Census records into an estimate of power outages. He previously built such a model for a Gulf Coast utility and now is crafting one that can be applied anywhere, ahead of any type of storm.

[http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/weather/weather-blog/bs-hs-power-outage-research-20121001\\_0.1117524.story](http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/weather/weather-blog/bs-hs-power-outage-research-20121001_0.1117524.story)

### Hurricanes Have Names – Now Blizzards Will Too

Several decades after hurricanes first got formal names, some blizzards in the USA this winter will get their own names, too. The Weather Channel will assign the monikers, “the first time a national organization in North America will proactively name winter storms,” the network reports.

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/weather/nation/2012/10/02/snowstorm-blizzard-names-weather-channel/1606531/>

### **10 Years After The D.C. Sniper Attacks**

Ten years ago [Oct. 2 2002], John Allen Muhammad and Lee Boyd Malvo launched a killing spree that terrorized the Washington, D.C. metro region for three weeks, killing 10 and wounding three. The so-called DC Sniper Case sent federal, state and local law enforcement scrambling to deal with a silent, stealthy and deadly enemy. Quickly, reports began to flood into call centers with tips and “eye-witness” sightings of the vehicle purportedly used by the killers. These tips, particularly reports involving a white box truck or mini-van, along with the very real sense of danger felt by the local population, periodically sent the region into a state of gridlock. In the end, those eyewitness accounts proved inaccurate. With the help of a truck driver who simply “saw something and said something,” Muhammad and Malvo would be apprehended while sleeping in a 1990 blue Chevy Caprice. But the lessons of the D.C. Sniper case were just beginning to emerge.

<http://www.hstoday.us/single-article/10-years-after-the-dc-sniper-attacks-some-lessons-learned/edaa3350ae039c0bd9803556562f54da.html>

### **Fusion Centers**

According to a two-year examination by Senate investigators, an initiative aimed at improving intelligence sharing has done little to make the country more secure, despite as much as \$1.4 billion in federal spending. The bipartisan report portrays the fusion center system as ineffective and criticizes the Department of Homeland Security for poor supervision. In a response, the Department of Homeland Security condemned the report and defended the fusion centers, saying the Senate investigators relied on out-of-date data.

<http://big.assets.huffingtonpost.com/10-2-12FUSIONCENTERS.pdf>

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/investigations/dhs-fusion-centers-portrayed-as-pools-of-ineptitude-and-civil-liberties-intrusions/2012/10/02/10014440-0cb1-11e2-bd1a-b868e65d57eb\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/investigations/dhs-fusion-centers-portrayed-as-pools-of-ineptitude-and-civil-liberties-intrusions/2012/10/02/10014440-0cb1-11e2-bd1a-b868e65d57eb_story.html)

### **Experiment Crowd Sources Public in Emergency Response Decision-Making**

Under direction of a federally funded research and development center supporting both the Department of Defense and DHS, an experiment currently underway in Virginia is simulating the deployment of the chemical, biological, nuclear, and radiological specialists from the National Guard to mitigate the damage from a dirty bomb attack on a college campus in Northern Virginia.

<http://www.hstoday.us/industry-news/general/single-article/experiment-crowdsources-public-in-emergency-response-decision-making/9e632d951b75fa299ac746a4ce2d55df.html>

*\* Personnel from Fairfax County’s Office of Emergency Management and Office of Public Affairs participated in the week-long exercise.*

### **DHS Counterterrorism Centers Produce “a Bunch of Crap,” Senate Finds**

They’re supposed to be “one of the centerpieces of our counterterrorism strategy,” according to Janet Napolitano, the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security. In practice, not so much. The Senate’s bipartisan Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations found no evidence that DHS’ 70-plus fusion centers — places where state, local and federal law enforcement analyze and share information – uncovered a single terrorist threat between April 1, 2009 and April 30, 2010. Terrorism is thankfully rare within the United States. But during that time, the FBI discovered would-be New York subway attacker Najibullah Zazi; U.S. Army Major Nidal Malik Hasan killed 13 people at Fort Hood; Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab tried to blow up a Detroit-bound airplane; and, in early May 2010, Faisal Shahzad attempted to detonate an SUV in Times Square. DHS has praised the fusion centers’ work in helping on the Zazi and Shahzad cases. The Senate found fusion centers played little, if any, role in either case.

<http://www.wired.com/dangerroom/2012/10/fusion-centers/>

### **Washington National Guard Keeps an Eye on Cyberattacks**

The Washington National Guard is working on a project that will protect state and local governments as well as utilities and businesses in the state from cyberattacks. Many of the men and women in the squadron split their time with other companies like Microsoft and Amazon, giving the Guard a distinct advantage.

<http://www.homelandsecuritynewswire.com/dr20121010-washington-national-guard-keeps-an-eye-on-cyberattacks>

### **West Nile Surge Keeps Exterminator Busy**

Four years ago, the mosquitoes around Virginia resident Stephanie Sample's house and neighborhood were voracious. "They would get into the car and before you could shut the car doors," Sample says. "We would be driving and getting bitten by mosquitoes." So she hired the Mosquito Squad to spray her yard. Damien Sanchez, who owns the pest control company, says the chemical spray not only kills mosquitoes, but has a long-term repellent effect as well. Since he started his company five years ago, Sanchez says the demand for his services has increased considerably, especially this year. Aided by a mild winter and rainy spring, West Nile disease has been confirmed in 48 U.S. states. "Sales-wise, we've increased sales 10 times," Sanchez says. That doesn't surprise mosquito expert Jorge Arias, a supervisor at the Fairfax County Health Department in Virginia.

<http://www.voanews.com/content/west-nile-surge-keeps-exterminator-busy/1526768.html>

### **New App Helps Maryland Students Reach School Police**

Students in Anne Arundel County, Md., can now use a new smartphone app to anonymously report at-risk behavior or ask questions of their school resource officers. The app, called AACOPD Speak Out, was developed by Cpl. William Davis, the school resource officer at Old Mill High School in Millersville. He said the app gives students a way to get in touch with police through a medium that they're accustomed to using.

<http://www.wbaltv.com/news/maryland/education/New-app-helps-Md-students-reach-school-police/-/9379316/16991722/-/yjdpvjz/-/index.html>

### **9-1-1 "Butt-dials" Becoming Epidemic**

Emergency dispatchers at 911 call centers are used to hearing from people in their most desperate hour. But dispatchers say that they are increasingly hearing the sounds of silence – and they say that the increasingly cozy relationship between many people's posteriors and their smart phones may be to blame.

<http://wtkr.com/2012/10/15/911-butt-dials-becoming-epidemic/>

### **Small Businesses Flirting with Cybersecurity Disaster, Survey Finds**

U.S. small businesses are hiding behind the belief they have done enough to secure themselves against hackers and malware when in reality many are vulnerable to attacks that could doom their businesses, according to a recent survey. The survey, sponsored by the National Cyber Security Alliance (NCSA) and Symantec, found that 77 percent of 1,015 small businesses think they are safe from cyber attacks. The survey defines small business as a company with less than 250 employees. The reality, however, is that 83 percent of those companies do not have a cybersecurity plan in place even though they are relying more and more on technology such as cloud services and social media to conduct business. The survey, conducted in September, is out now as part of National Cyber Security Awareness Month.

<http://www.zdnet.com/on-cybersecurity-small-businesses-flirting-with-disaster-survey-finds-7000005891/>

### **North Anna Reactor Back Online Following Shutdown**

A nuclear reactor at Dominion Virginia Power's North Anna power plant is operating at full power again [Oct. 22]. The utility shut down Unit 2 on Oct. 7 after the operators discovered a seal on a reactor coolant pump was degrading.

[http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/V/VA\\_NORTH\\_ANNA\\_REACTOR\\_VAOL-?SITE=VACUL&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT](http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/V/VA_NORTH_ANNA_REACTOR_VAOL-?SITE=VACUL&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT)

### **Derecho-related Outages put 9-1-1 System Under Scrutiny**

Starting as a thunderstorm cell in Iowa on the morning of June 29, this summer's derecho – straight-line winds often reaching hurricane force – evolved into one of the most destructive weather events in the United States, particularly as it traversed an 800-mile path from Illinois to the mid-Atlantic states, including Virginia. With winds reaching speeds of 92 miles per hour, the devastation was severe. In addition to the 22 fatalities and numerous injuries attributed to the storm, about 3 million people lost electric power, and the physical damage was so great that several governors declared states of emergency, with President Barack Obama declaring some locales federal disaster areas. Adding to the frustration inherent with such significant losses was the fact that many people could not call 9-1-1 to notify public-safety agencies that they were in dire need of help. Overall, millions of people were unable to communicate with a 9-1-1 call-taker – for days, in some cases – because of outages in carrier networks and/or public-

safety answering points (PSAPs), according to the FCC.

<http://urgentcomm.com/psap/derecho-related-outages-put-911-system-under-scrutiny>

### **For Years, Warnings That It Could Happen Here**

For nearly a decade, scientists have told city and state officials that New York faces certain peril: rising sea levels, more frequent flooding and extreme weather patterns. The alarm bells grew louder after Tropical Storm Irene last year, when the city shut down its subway system and water rushed into the Rockaways and Lower Manhattan.

On Tuesday, as New Yorkers woke up to submerged neighborhoods and water-soaked electrical equipment, officials took their first tentative steps toward considering major infrastructure changes that could protect the city's fragile shores and eight million residents from repeated disastrous damage.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2012/10/31/nyregion/for-years-warnings-that-storm-damage-could-ravage-new-york.html>

## TRAININGS / EXERCISES / CONFERENCES

### **National Healthcare Coalition Preparedness Conference**

Nov. 27-28; Alexandria, Va.

Conference will address community healthcare capabilities, grants requirements and the challenges communities have experienced.

\*NOTE: the conference has reached the maximum capacity of 300 registrants. Organizers will accept wait list registrants on a first-come, first-available basis.

<http://www.event.com/events/the-2012-national-healthcare-coalition-preparedness-conference-building-capabilities-through-partner/event-summary-22f6938f709b44869e152e47ea245509.aspx>

### **Protective Measures Course**

Nov. 28-29; Virginia Beach, Va.

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Office for Bombing Prevention, and the Virginia Office of Veterans Affairs & Homeland Security are offering the Protective Measures Course are offering this free two day course, Nov. 28-29, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Virginia Beach Fire & EMS Training Center's Auditorium, 927 South Birdneck Road, Virginia Beach, Va. This course is designed to provide executive and employee level personnel in the public/private sector with the knowledge to identify the appropriate protective measures for their unique sector. There course is comprised of five modules; Module 1 – Office for Bombing Prevention and Course Introduction and Overview; Module 2 – Threat Analysis; Module 3 – Terrorist Planning; Module 4 – Facility Vulnerability Analysis; and Module 5 – Protective Measures. To register, send your name, telephone number, company name and address, position/title, and email address to the Virginia Office or Veterans Affairs and Homeland Security at [dhstraining@governor.virginia.gov](mailto:dhstraining@governor.virginia.gov). Questions about the course should be directed to Mark Milicich, DHS Protective Security Advisor Norfolk, at [mark.milicich@hq.dhs.gov](mailto:mark.milicich@hq.dhs.gov) or 757-262-6600.

### **International Disaster Conference and Expo**

Jan. 8-10, 2013; New Orleans, La.

Conference brings together public and private sector professionals for discussions on policy, lessons learned, best practices, and forward thinking.

<http://www.internationaldisasterconference.com/index.html>

### **6th Annual Biometrics for National Security and Law Enforcement Summit**

Jan. 30-Feb. 1, 2013; Pentagon City, Va.

As technology continues to advance and national security remains at the forefront of discussion, it comes as no surprise that biometrics is a hot topic. The ability for scientists to determine ways to accurately identify people based upon physical and behavioral characteristics has been achieved; however, improvements in equipment, interoperability and database accuracy are essential. Biometrics is key to our nation's intelligence and security efforts in the fight against terrorism. Establishing an individual's identity with certainty provides our military personnel an

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.

immediate edge and aids our national security capabilities. By participating in this conference, you will have the exceptional opportunity to take part in continued discussions where debate, dialogue, and networking are encouraged. By the end of the Biometrics for National Security and Law Enforcement Training Summit, delegates will understand the future of biometrics, new guidelines and standards of biometrics, and the progress towards interoperability.

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

### **12th World Congress on Stress, Trauma and Coping**

Feb. 19-24, 2013; Baltimore, Md.

World Congress participants will identify the tools needed to solve current problems and explore the future direction of the crisis intervention field. The 12th World Congress on Stress, Trauma and Coping is the premier forum for multidisciplinary exchange of ideas and information among those who provide crisis and disaster mental health services.

<http://www.icsif.org/world-congress/12th-world-congress>

### **Critical Infrastructure Symposium**

April 15-16, 2013; West Point, N.Y.

Symposium promotes the exchange of ideas and experiences among students, educators, practitioners and government officials developing critical infrastructure.

<http://www.tisp.org/index.cfm>

### **SPIE Defense Security + Sensing**

April 29-May 3, 2013; Baltimore, Md.

Meeting for scientists, researchers and engineers from industry, military, government agencies and academia throughout the world.

<http://spie.org/x6766.xml>

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

June 6-June 9, 2013; Baltimore, Md.

The Hazmat Conference is recognized as a high quality, in-depth conference with cutting-edge educational programs designed for professionals at all levels of experience. For nearly 30 years the Hazmat Conference has offered informative sessions and unique hands-on training designed to tackle the most pressing issues facing hazmat professionals.

<http://www.iafc.org/micrositeHazConf/homeHazConf.cfm?ItemNumber=6165&navItemNumber=6150>

### **IS-450.NC - Emergency Preparedness for Federal Employees in the National Capital Region**

The goal of this independent study course is to provide practical steps you can take to prepare for emergencies that could threaten your home, workplace, and community. This course is intended specifically for Federal employees living and working in the National Capital Region. The first lesson focuses on the importance of personal emergency preparedness and its relationship to your professional responsibilities as a Federal employee. The second lesson introduces the four steps to personal emergency preparedness: Be Informed, Make a Plan, Build a Kit, and Get Involved. The last lesson reinforces the concepts learned in the previous lessons by applying the four steps of emergency preparedness to a given scenario.

<http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/is450nc.asp>

### **National Capital Region Homeland Security Events**

[http://www.mwcog.org/committee/committee/events\\_homeland.asp?COMMITTEE\\_ID=134](http://www.mwcog.org/committee/committee/events_homeland.asp?COMMITTEE_ID=134)

### **Virginia Emergency Management Courses**

<http://www.vaemergency.com>

### **FEMA Independent Study Courses**

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

## American Red Cross Disaster Services Training

[http://www.redcrossnca.org/Online/disaster\\_registration.php](http://www.redcrossnca.org/Online/disaster_registration.php)

## LINKS

### Fairfax County Web Resources

- Fairfax County Emergency Information Blog - [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency/blog](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency/blog)
- Fairfax County Emergency Information Web page - [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency/)
- Fairfax County CERT - <http://fairfaxcountycert.blogspot.com/>
- Fairfax County Citizen Corps Web Page - [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/oem/citizencorps/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/oem/citizencorps/)
- Fairfax County Citizen Corps Blog - <http://citizencorps.blogspot.com/>

### Additional Web Resources

- Capital Region Updates - [www.CapitalRegionUpdates.gov](http://www.CapitalRegionUpdates.gov)
- Virginia Citizen Corps - [www.vaemergency.com/citcorps/index.cfm](http://www.vaemergency.com/citcorps/index.cfm)

### DHS Science & Technology Directorate Newsletter

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Science & Technology Directorate has a free newsletter, "S&T Snapshots," featuring stories about current research projects and opportunities with laboratories, universities, government agencies, and the private sector. The newsletter is produced monthly by the DHS Science and Technology Directorate in partnership with the Homeland Security Institute, a Studies and Analysis Federally Funded Research and Development Center.

<http://www.homelandsecurity.org/snapshots/>

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

The Department of Homeland Security provides a Web-based "Daily OSIR," which is posted on the DHS public Web site. Accessing the report via the Web enables readers to retrieve the current Daily Report as well as 10 days of archived DHS Daily Reports. Once you arrive at the Web page you will find the most recent Daily OSIR at the top of the page, under the title "Current Report." This report is posted each morning, except for weekends and holidays. Simply click on the title "DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report." This will launch the current days report in PDF format. You can submit content comments or make suggestions by contacting the DHS Daily Report Team by telephone at 202-312-3421 or by e-mail at [NICCCReports@dhs.gov](mailto:NICCCReports@dhs.gov). You can access the Daily OSIR at:

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

### Fairfax County Government Emergency Information Line

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

### Emergency Management Magazine

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

### FEMA Private Sector

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

**FAIRFAX COUNTY 703-817-7771**  
**EMERGENCY**  
**INFORMATION LINE**

### **ESF 15 Contact Information**

Merni Fitzgerald, Director  
Fairfax County Office of Public Affairs  
12000 Government Center Parkway, Suite 551 ♦ Fairfax, Va. 22035-0065  
Tel: 703-324-3187 ♦ Direct: 703-324-3189  
E-mail: [Merni.Fitzgerald@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:Merni.Fitzgerald@fairfaxcounty.gov)  
Web site: [www.fairfaxcounty.gov](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov)  
Emergency Information: [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency)

#### **To Unsubscribe:**

E-mail [publicaffairs@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto: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](mailto:jim.person@fairfaxcounty.gov) and ask to be subscribed to the ESF 15 Business/Nonprofit Update.

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