



ESF 15 Business / Nonprofit Update

Produced by Emergency Support Function 15 – External Affairs

October 2013

ITEMS OF INTEREST FOR ESF 15

National Cyber Security Awareness Month

October is National Cyber Security Awareness Month and it is an opportunity to engage public and private sector stakeholders – especially the general public – to create a safe, secure, and resilient cyber environment. Everyone has to play a role in cybersecurity. Constantly evolving cyber threats require the engagement of the entire nation — from government and law enforcement to the private sector and most importantly, the public. Cyberspace is woven into the fabric of our daily lives and the world is more interconnected today than ever before. We enjoy the benefits and convenience that cyberspace provides as we shop from home online, bank using our smart phones, and interact with friends from around the world through social networks. The Department of Homeland Security is committed to raising cybersecurity awareness across the nation and to working across all levels of government, the private sector, and internationally to protect against and respond to cyber incidents. This year marks the tenth anniversary of National Cyber Security Awareness Month sponsored by the Department of Homeland Security in cooperation with the National Cyber Security Alliance and the Multi-State Information Sharing and Analysis Center. This 10th anniversary, National Cyber Security Awareness Month looks ahead at the cybersecurity challenges for the next 10 years.

<http://www.dhs.gov/national-cyber-security-awareness-month>



10TH ANNIVERSARY

National Cyber Security
Awareness Month

Fairfax County Government Radio is Live Online

Streaming Live 24/7 to Keep You in Touch with Fairfax County

After the June 2012 Derecho storm, we conducted a community survey about communications. Nearly 6,000 respondents answered questions and generated nearly 18,000 individual comments, which provided us with some great insight for communications during future emergencies.

For example, the second highest ranked way to access emergency information was radio, only behind mobile devices. In the feedback provided, it also was suggested by many respondents that we create our own radio station that we program ourselves, so you don't have to wait for commercial stations to get around to sharing Fairfax County-specific messages. So, as an after action, we have created our own Fairfax County Government radio station, an online Internet station that will be programmed and run by the Office of Public Affairs. You can listen online as well as on your mobile device, meaning that you'll be able to hear Fairfax County Government Radio 24 hours a day, seven days a week, in multiple ways anywhere you may be.

And during emergencies, we will use the station to share important emergency information in an audio format, the same way we currently use other platforms — like the emergency information blog (www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency/blog) as well as our emergency alert system where you can get emergency alerts by both text and email. The station is now live and we hope that you will tune in and listen.

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/radio



Spring/Summer 2013 Sterling Reporter

The Spring/Summer edition of the "Sterling Reporter" newsletter features articles on the National Weather Service (Sterling Office) summer volunteer students, severe weather season and the latest from the Weather Ready Nation pilot project. Check out the newsletter at:

http://www.erh.noaa.gov/lwx/reporter/Spring_Summer_2013.pdf



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 911 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 from the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department, online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fr/educate.



www.CapitalRegionUpdates.gov

Roundup of September's Major Disasters

Impact Forecasting, the catastrophe model development center at Aon Benfield, has published the latest edition of its monthly Global Catastrophe Recap report, which reviews the natural disaster perils that occurred worldwide during September 2013. According to the report, environmental disasters resulted in at least \$15 billion losses in September.

<http://www.continuitycentral.com/news06971.html>

Full Report: http://thoughtleadership.aonbenfield.com/Documents/20131007_if_september_global_recap.pdf

Winter Preparedness Week is Dec. 1-7, 2013

Several record-breaking snowstorms have covered Virginia in recent years and winter is right around the corner again. Winter Preparedness Week is Dec. 1-7 – this is the time to get ready for bad weather by taking a few easy steps.

Get a kit. Imagine that you can't leave your home for three days. You need these basic emergency supplies:

- Three days' food that doesn't need refrigeration or electricity to prepare it.
- Three days' water (a gallon per person per day).
- A battery-powered and/or hand-crank radio with extra batteries.
- After you have these essentials, then add a first aid kit, supply of prescription medications, blankets and warm clothing, supplies for special members of your household, and pet items.

Make a plan. Everyone needs an emergency plan:

- Decide who your out-of-town emergency contact will be.
- Where will you meet up with family members if you can't return home?
- Get a worksheet at www.ReadyVirginia.gov or on the new Ready Virginia app.

Stay informed. Before, during and after a winter storm, you should:

- Listen to local media for information and instructions from emergency officials.
- Be aware of winter storm watches and warnings and road conditions.
- Get road condition information 24/7 by calling 511 or checking www.511Virginia.org.
- Download the Ready Virginia app. This helpful emergency planning tool for iPhone and Android mobile devices features:
 - Location-specific weather watches and warnings issued by the National Weather Service.
 - Disaster news from the Virginia Department of Emergency Management.
 - A customizable family emergency plan that can be easily shared.
 - A checklist for gathering emergency supplies.
 - Contact information for local emergency managers.
 - Links to register for local emergency alerts, and more.

It's time to get ready for winter weather now! Get more information at www.ReadyVirginia.gov.

National Crime Prevention Month

Take Steps Toward Protecting Your Home and Personal Property

In 2012, nearly nine million property crimes occurred in the United States alone. The National Crime Prevention Council (NCPC) marks each October as National Crime Prevention Month to remind communities to focus on safe behaviors and educate them on proactive crime prevention.

- **Lock All Doors and Windows:** Lock your doors and windows, including garage doors, with heavy duty locks

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even when you are at home. Secure windows and sliding doors with secondary blocking devices (e.g., a wood block or dowel) for added protection.

- **Crime-Proof Outside Areas:** Use motion sensor lights around the exterior of your home that can be seen from the street. Good lighting makes it harder for criminals to hide under the cover of darkness. Also, maintain landscaping with security in mind - hedges should be trimmed away from windows so owners have a clear view of their property.
- **Enlist a Team of Monitoring Experts:** A professionally installed security system with 24/7 monitoring support can add an extra layer of security to help guard against intruders. Home security systems can immediately alert authorities in the event of a burglary, fire or carbon monoxide leak even when family members are away from home.
- **Get to Know Your Neighbors:** A friendly relationship with your neighbors can be beneficial for your home's security. Neighbors who can pick up mail and park in your driveway to give the appearance of occupancy while you're on vacation may help to deter burglars.
- **Establish an Emergency Plan:** Have important phone numbers listed near the phone and establish a meeting place for family members – one near your home and one outside your neighborhood. If you think you hear someone breaking in, leave safely if you can, then call the police.

“Daily security measures for some don't go much further than locking doors,” said Ann M. Harkins, President and CEO of the National Crime Prevention Council. “Since 1984, we've used National Crime Prevention Month to create a movement where communities work together to encourage safe behaviors, and urge families to take their home safety seriously.” For more information on National Crime Prevention Month and other advice to encourage safe habits, visit NCPC's website at www.ncpc.org.

FEMA Releases NIMS Intelligence/Investigations Function Guidance and Field Operations Guide

The NIMS Intelligence/Investigations Function Guidance and Field Operations Guide provides guidance on utilizing and integrating the Intelligence/Investigations Function while adhering to the concepts and principles of the NIMS doctrine. The document includes information and tools intended for the Incident Command System practitioner that will assist in the decision-making process regarding the placement and implementation of the intelligence/investigations function within the command structure. This document can be used by jurisdictions and agencies for planned events, incidents, and the development of emergency planning efforts. This guidance does not replace emergency operations plans, laws, regulations or ordinances. The NIMS Intelligence/Investigations Function Guidance and Field Operations Guide has involved stakeholder input from 34 agencies across multiple communities of practice to include the three fields most affected by the implementation of the function: law enforcement, medical and the fire service. The Intelligence/Investigations Function has aspects that cross disciplines, including traditional law enforcement, epidemiological investigations, regulatory investigations, and medical examiner/coroner investigations, as well as those conducted by the National Transportation Safety Board or other investigatory agencies. The NIMS Intelligence/Investigations Function Guidance and Field Operations Guide can be found at www.fema.gov/related-guides-annexes-and-documents. This guidance aligns with the NIMS to provide a common and standard understanding about the tools and resources needed to sustain, build and deliver the core capabilities necessary to achieve a secure and resilient nation. For more information on the NIMS and its implementation, visit FEMA's NIMS website: www.fema.gov/national-incident-management-system.

PLANNING / PREPAREDNESS

Meeting Diverse Public Communication Needs

The 2013 Federal Signal Public Safety Survey found that nearly one in three emergency managers across the country (28 percent) identified the public's varied communication preferences as the greatest challenge they face. According to the survey, these challenges include effectively reaching a growing, older population with many special language and other needs. For those with hearing and vision impairments, physical limitations and varying debilities, communication preferences may extend beyond traditional landline phone calls and email, to include text messages

and social media channels.

<http://www.hstoday.us/single-article/emergency-managers-must-meet-diverse-public-communication-needs-address-complacency/f7cc14c5161ac36a1e9ca3d1951b72e7.html>

Registration Opens for 2014 Statewide Tornado Drill

Businesses, organizations, government agencies, colleges and schools, and families and individuals are encouraged to learn about tornado safety by participating in the next Statewide Tornado Drill, set for March 11, 2014. There is no tornado season, and knowing what to do in a moment's notice could save lives. Get more information and register at <http://www.vaemergency.gov/readyvirginia/stayinformed/tornadoes>.



National Weather Service Introduces Owlie Skywarn

Online resources help kids learn about and prepare for severe weather

Who knows where to go when a flash flood hits? Who can tell you how many feet a hurricane storm surge is above normal high tide? Who knows how many times lightning can strike a person or thing? Owlie knows; that's WHO! Owlie Skywarn is a screech owl created by the National Weather Service to help kids learn about and get prepared for severe weather. Owlie is featured in a new online game, Severe Weather Preparedness Adventure!, as a junior data collector for the Weather Center. Those who play the game can earn a Young Meteorologist Certificate. To become a Young Meteorologist, players complete the game with five severe weather challenges: winter storms, lightning, flood, tornado and hurricane. The game and resources for educators, parents and meteorologists are available NWS at www.youngmeteorologist.org. In addition to his game, Owlie Skywarn is on Facebook and Twitter, where he shares weather facts, fun activities and safety messaging when major weather events are forecast. The Young Meteorologists program was developed by NOAA/National Weather Service and the National Education Association. Additional information about how to prepare for severe weather threats in Virginia is available at www.ReadyVirginia.gov.

NPR Stations to Participate in Emergency Alert Project

This month, the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS's) Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) announced a cooperative pilot project with National Public Radio's (NPR's) technology research and development group, NPR Labs, to demonstrate the delivery of the first-ever, real-time emergency alert messages to people who are deaf or hard-of-hearing in five Gulf states. Twenty-five NPR-affiliated public radio stations throughout Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas agreed to participate in the pilot project to transmit emergency alert messages, such as weather alerts, to 475 individuals who are deaf or hard-of-hearing in the stations' listening areas to determine how effectively the messages are being sent and received. The Gulf State region was selected for the demonstration because it is often subjected to extreme weather conditions. Individuals participating in the project will receive alert and warning messages through specially designed receivers capable of displaying the text messages. The public radio stations participating in the pilot will receive emergency alert messages from FEMA's Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS), where the network operations center of the Public Radio Satellite System (PRSS) will uplink the warnings to the participating stations. The stations will then broadcast the emergency alerts to specially designed FM Radio Data System (RDS) radio receivers that alert the participants with a flashing indicator. The receivers can display the alert message through the receiver's display, and the participants can connect a strobe light or bed-shaker alerting device to the receiver, helping ensure alerts are noticed day and night. FEMA, designated by DHS to implement a U.S. public alert and warning system, established the IPAWS system to provide the President with a way to address the American people during a national emergency. FEMA has been working with numerous public and private industry stakeholders to ensure that emergency alerts can be delivered simultaneously through multiple communications pathways. The National Weather Service uses IPAWS to send Wireless Emergency Alerts to participating cell phone carriers, who sends the alerts to cell phones. NPR manages the Public Radio Satellite System (PRSS), which is the distribution network that delivers news, music, and specialized

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programming to public radio stations throughout the United States reaching 27 million listeners each week. The initiative is a joint effort with NPR Labs under a contract with DHS's Science and Technology Directorate and FEMA's National Continuity Programs. NPR Labs' mission is to identify, evaluate and advance the application of innovative technologies in support of the public service mission of NPR and its 900 member stations. NPR Labs was established in 2005 and is located at NPR headquarters in Washington, D.C.

<http://www.fema.gov/news-release/2013/10/22/fema-and-national-public-radio-work-together-increase-emergency-alert>

National Terrorism Advisory System

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

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

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

Community Emergency Alert Network (CEAN)

Get emergency alerts by email, as well as by text or pager. Sign up at 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.

The image shows a template for a National Terrorism Advisory System (NTAS) alert poster. At the top left is the DHS seal and the text "National Terrorism Advisory System Alert". To the right is a placeholder for "DATE & TIME ISSUED: XXXX". Below this are several sections: "SUMMARY" (describing the Secretary's information), "DURATION" (explaining alert expiration), "DETAILS" (bullet points on threat information), "AFFECTED AREAS" (bullet point on visual depictions), "HOW YOU CAN HELP" (bullet points on public actions), "STAY PREPARED" (bullet points on planning and readiness), and "STAY INFORMED" (bullet points on staying updated). At the bottom, there is a call to action: "If You See Something, Say Something™. Report suspicious activity to local law enforcement or call 911." and a small disclaimer about the system's purpose.



MEDIA ARTICLES OF INTEREST

CDC Shutdown: No In-Depth Investigations of Outbreaks

A government shutdown has furloughed approximately 68 percent of staff at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, based on a fiscal year 2014 “Contingency Staffing Plan for Operations in the Absence of Enacted Annual Appropriations” on the Department of Health and Human Services’ website. This means no in-depth investigations to identify and link outbreaks that may be occurring simultaneously in multiple states. While state public health investigators may detect outbreaks on their own territory, CDC spokeswoman Barbara Reynolds notes that the Centers “won’t be doing the cross-state consultation and laboratory work to link outbreaks that might cross state borders,” such as a hepatitis A outbreak earlier this year that sickened 162 people in 10 states. Nor will CDC have staff or funding to fight measles outbreaks or monitor seasonal flu activity, and surveillance for emerging diseases like MERS will be limited.

<http://blogs.wsj.com/washwire/2013/09/30/cdc-shutdown-no-in-depth-investigations-of-outbreaks/>



Isabel was 'Transformational' for Virginia Utilities, Emergency Managers

Hurricane Isabel was a watershed for Richmond-based Dominion Virginia Power and state emergency managers. “It was transformational in every way for all of us,” said Rodney Blevins, Dominion Virginia Power's vice president for distribution operations. In the widespread scope of its impact, the 2003 storm was the worst natural disaster Virginia has ever sustained, said Michael Cline, the state's coordinator of emergency management. Isabel hit Virginia on Sept. 18-19, 2003, and left in its wake more than 2 million electricity customers without power, \$1.6 billion in property damage, 36 storm-related fatalities, and more than 10,400 damaged or destroyed homes and businesses. Simply clearing away the debris took 660,000 dump-truck loads.

<http://www.emergencymgmt.com/disaster/Isabel-Transformational-Virginia-Emergency-Managers.html>

Smartphones as Earthquake Detectors

Collecting accurate, real-time data on earthquakes has always been a problem for seismologists. But a tiny sensor found in smartphones could help fill in the gaps by instantly turning mobile phones into earthquake sensors.

<http://www.theatlantic.com/technology/archive/2013/09/your-iphone-a-cutting-edge-earthquake-detector/280121/>

Fall Considered Second Severe Season

Spring is known for its strong storm system that can create violent twisters. However, it's not the only season known for tornadoes. Autumn is considered the “second” tornado season.

<http://www.wunderground.com/news/fall-second-tornado-season-20131002>

The Plain Math of Disaster Preparedness

James Lee Witt, former Secretary of FEMA, says that a cost-benefit analysis of mitigation efforts following the flooding of the Missouri and Mississippi rivers in 1993 showed the magnitude of the return on the investment made in disaster mitigation. “Every dollar we spent saved five dollars in future losses,” said Witt. “And it saved lives.”

<http://www.theatlanticcities.com/politics/2013/10/plain-math-disaster-preparedness-every-dollar-we-spent-saved-five-dollars-future-losses/7160/>

Cybercrime Costs Skyrocket

Over the past four years, cybercrime costs have climbed by an average of 78 percent, while the time required to recover from a breach has increased 130 percent. Those findings come from the fourth annual Cost of Cyber Crime Study, conducted by Ponemon Institute and sponsored by HP. Ponemon’s researchers studied 234 businesses around

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the world, located in the United States, Australia, France, Germany, Japan and the United Kingdom. In the United States, the annual cybercrime cost seen by the 60 businesses studied ranged from \$1.3 million to more than \$58 million and averaged \$11.6 million per company – an increase of \$2.6 million from 2012. Meanwhile, the average cost of cleaning up after a single successful – and serious – attack was \$1 million.

<http://www.informationweek.com/security/management/cybercrime-costs-skyrocket/240162379>

Dozens of Violations at Virginia Nuclear Plants

The Government Accountability Office report shows that safety violations at nuclear power plants across the country vary dramatically from region to region. It suggests inconsistent enforcement of regulations could be responsible. At the North Anna plant in Mineral, there were 115 lower-level violations during the time period and one higher-level violation. At the Surry plant, there were 92 low-level violations and three high-level violations.

<http://www.wric.com/story/23699869/report-dozens-of-violations-at-va-nuclear-plants>

First Responders Still in Grip of Marathon's Horror

Six months after the [Boston] Marathon bombings, the terror of that long, frantic afternoon on Boylston Street still haunts many of those who treated the wounded. Loud noises, sirens, screams and less obvious sparks continue to reel them back into the darkness of that day, when many of them treaded through pools of blood, and feared they, too, were about to be maimed or killed. Hundreds of officers, firefighters, paramedics and medical volunteers who helped the wounded received counseling immediately after the Marathon, but for most, the therapy lasted for a short period, often amounting to a brief conversation with a department therapist or in a group session. Public health officials and trauma therapists warn that first responders who took part in the rescue of the more than 260 people hit by the shrapnel or otherwise injured should remain vigilant about symptoms such as heightened anxiety, inability to relax, increased irritability, and feeling detached – small fissures that, over time, could widen into deep, psychological cracks. First responders are especially vulnerable to post-traumatic stress disorder, mental health specialists say, because they often work in professions that value stoicism and they can be chided or castigated for revealing signs of distress.

<http://www.bostonglobe.com/metro/2013/10/14/coping-with-aftermath-marathon-bombings-some-first-responders-struggle/P4u35gXwcFLNZcYd3eLnzH/story.html>

Baltimore Port Deemed Secure by Coast Guard

The port of Baltimore's public marine terminals have earned a positive security assessment from the Coast Guard for the sixth year in a row. Representatives from the European Commission also gave the Baltimore port positive marks during a review of the United States' enforcement of the International Ship and Port Facility Security Code.

<http://www.baltimoresun.com/business/bs-bz-port-security-20131024,0,4830165.story>

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>

China Confirms New H7N9 Case in Zhejiang Province

China has reported its second case of H7N9 avian flu in a week, according to a story from Xinhua, China's state news agency. The Zhejiang Provincial Center for Disease Control and Prevention has confirmed the virus in a 67-year-old Zhejiang man. Last week a 35-year-old man from the same province was confirmed to have the disease. The new case-patient, a farmer from the city of Jiaying, developed symptoms on Oct 16 and is now hospitalized in serious condition, the story said. His case raises the global H7N9 case count to 137, of which 45 have been fatal.

<http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/news-perspective/2013/10/chinese-man-hospitalized-severe-h7n9-flu>

BARDA Awards \$15 Million for Flu Vaccine Capacity Building

To build influenza vaccine manufacturing capacity in developing countries and prepare for the next influenza pandemic, the Department of Health and Human Services' Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR) recently announced grants totaling \$15 million to two international organizations and two US universities. The World Health Organization (WHO) will receive the lion's share of the funds—\$10.5 million—to support its Global Action Plan for Influenza Vaccines (GAP), the ASPR said in a news release. GAP enhances flu vaccine production in low-resource nations. The money will support production of H7N9 pre-pandemic vaccine candidates and subsequent clinical trials. BARDA has provided about \$50 million to GAP in the last 7 years. In addition, PATH, an international non-governmental health group, will receive \$4.25 million to provide technical support to flu vaccine manufacturers and help with advanced clinical development of vaccines. Finally, Utah State University and North Carolina State University will receive \$125,000 each to conduct training programs for vaccine makers.

<http://www.phe.gov/Preparedness/news/Pages/pandemic-response-131023.aspx>

OIE, FAO Extend Pact to Share Animal Flu Data with WHO

Two global animal health organizations have extended for another 5 years an agreement to share animal influenza data with the World Health Organization (WHO) for use in formulating human flu vaccines. The World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) and the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) announced the extension yesterday. The two agencies manage OFFLU, a global network of experts on animal flu, one of whose aims is to share data with the WHO for use in choosing the flu strains for human vaccines. The OIE said the agreement has been extended to last through 2018.

<http://www.oie.int/for-the-media/press-releases/detail/article/offlu-and-who-extend-their-collaboration-for-pandemic-preparedness/>

Study: H3N2 Infection, But Not Vaccine, Disrupts H3N2v Spread

Neither the seasonal trivalent (three-strain) influenza vaccine (TIV) nor a monovalent H3N2 vaccine substantially reduced shedding of variant H3N2 (H3N2v) virus in ferrets, but previous infection with a seasonal H3N2 virus did, according to a study in the Journal of Virology. Researchers from the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) vaccinated 18 ferrets, which are considered good models for flu in humans, with TIV. They also immunized 6 ferrets with one of two monovalent H3N2 vaccines and 3 with an H3N2v monovalent vaccine. All of the monovalent-vaccinated ferrets and half of the TIV ferrets were then challenged with an H3N2v virus, while the other half of the TIV group was challenged with a seasonal H3N2 strain. The authors conclude, “The data demonstrate in ferrets that the efficiency of A(H3N2)v transmission is disrupted by pre-existing immunity induced by seasonal H3N2 virus infection.”

<http://jvi.asm.org/content/early/2013/09/26/JVI.02434-13.short>



TRAININGS / EXERCISES / CONFERENCES

34th Annual Virginia EMS Symposium

Nov. 6-10; Norfolk, Va.

The Virginia Office of EMS invites you to take a look at the 34th Annual Virginia EMS Symposium Pre-Conference Guide. This year's symposium will feature over 250 courses at the Norfolk Waterside, Marriott. General registration opens Aug. 1.

http://www.vdh.state.va.us/OEMS/Files_Page/symposium/Pre-ConferenceGuide2013.pdf

Cyber Security For Defense, Intelligence & Homeland Security

Nov 7-8; Arlington, Va.

Over 25 leading experts will lead event. Attendees will examine the latest government and DoD opportunities, strategies and missions; evolving solutions to current and emerging threats; cutting-edge multi-level security technologies for securing big data and best practices for intelligence sharing and maximizing cyber protection capabilities.

<http://www.govevents.com/details/10760/cyber-security-for-defense-intelligence-and-homeland-security?nl=37ce0310d19ddaf2264b6e1c1dd162c0>

Cybersecurity Framework Workshop

Nov. 14-15; Raleigh, NC

The fifth Cybersecurity Framework Workshop will be hosted by North Carolina State University. At this workshop, the National Institute of Standards and Technology will continue discussions on the implementation and future governance of the Cybersecurity Framework. Executive Order 13636, Improving Critical Infrastructure Cybersecurity, has directed NIST to work with stakeholders to develop a voluntary framework for reducing cyber risks to critical infrastructure.

<http://www.nist.gov/itl/csd/5th-cybersecurity-framework-workshop-november-14-15-2013.cfm>

NFPA's Backyards & Beyond Wildland Fire Education Conference

Nov. 14-16; Salt Lake City, UT

The 5th Backyards & Beyond Wildland Fire Education Conference offers the opportunity to share your knowledge, build relationships, explore key issues and learn about important wildfire mitigation tools and resources to help you and your community prepare for and adapt to living with wildfire. This event brings together a diverse audience of leading wildfire experts, Firewise community representatives, community planners, civic leaders, homeowners and residents, insurance professionals, landscape architects and others, and offers attendees a chance to network with like-minded professionals and share best-practices that they can take back to their communities and workplaces.

<http://www.nfpa.org/training/backyards-and-beyond>

Society for Risk Analysis Annual Meeting

Dec. 8-11; Baltimore, Md.

Conference sessions will identify ways that risk analysis can assist private and public policy makers to improve decisions in a world of complex and uncertain governance challenges. Special emphasis will be placed on the role of risk analysis as a tool for policy making and risk-benefit balancing.

<http://sra.org/events/sra-2013-annual-meeting>

Global Summit on Borders

May 13-14, 2014; Washington, D.C.

Conference focuses on international trade, travel and homeland security. Topics include critical issues in trade facilitation, supply chain security, customs enforcement, safe and efficient immigration, and border and maritime security.

<http://www.global-borders.com/>

Cybersecurity Overview for Public Safety Administrators

The DHS Science and Technology Directorate's First Responders Group recently announced the Capacity Building Webinar Series. Initiated in November 2012, the series offers training in new information sharing technologies and tools. The webinars strive to help participants manage information and develop tools, processes, and technology applications that can be used during an emergency. The series also aims to foster innovation and collaboration amongst first responders participating in the training

<http://www.firstresponder.gov/FRBlog/Post.aspx?ID=147>

National Capital Region Homeland Security Events

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

Virginia Emergency Management Courses

<http://www.vaemergency.com>

FEMA Independent Study Courses

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

American Red Cross Disaster Services Training

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

LINKS

Fairfax County Web Resources

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

Additional Web Resources

- Capital Region Updates - www.CapitalRegionUpdates.gov
- Virginia Citizen Corps - 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. You can access the Daily OSIR at:

http://www.dhs.gov/files/programs/editorial_0542.shtm.

Fairfax County Government Emergency Information Line

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/opa/infoline.htm

Emergency Management Magazine

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

FEMA Private Sector

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

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To Unsubscribe:

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.

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.