



ESF 15 Business / Nonprofit Update

Produced by Emergency Support Function 15 – External Affairs

September 2008

ITEMS OF INTEREST FOR ESF 15

Tropical Storm Hanna Hits Virginia and Fairfax County

Gov. Tim Kaine declared a state of emergency on Thursday, Sept. 4, to prepare for and respond to the effects of



Tropical Storm Hanna, which brought winds of nearly 50 mph and more than 7 inches of rainfall to parts of Virginia on Saturday, Sept. 6. Three people died in storm-related motor vehicle accidents and minor flooding occurred on the Appomattox,



Dan, Meherrin and Roanoke rivers. Dominion Virginia Power reported more than 170,000 customers without power during the

height of the storm as more than 100 people went to local public shelters.

<http://www.vaemergency.com/newsroom/disasters/hanna2008>.



In Fairfax County, the emergency operations center was activated and public safety personnel, along with staff from the Department of Public Works and Environmental Services, were on site in the Huntington community, which had localized flooding, as well as the Royal Lake dam area of the county. The Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) was activated to help states on the Gulf Coast prepare for and respond to Hurricane Gustav. EMAC is a national interstate mutual aid agreement that enables states to share resources during times of disaster. The Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, the Virginia National Guard sent personnel to support operations on the Gulf Coast, and **Fairfax County** and the city

of Roanoke sent Incident Management Teams to Louisiana. Virginia has also sent resources to the affected areas at the request of FEMA, outside of EMAC. The Virginia Department of Health's Office of Emergency Medical Service sent 32 ambulances to the Gulf Coast and two Virginia-based Urban Search and Rescue Teams deployed to the Gulf Coast to support response operations.

Top left and right: Two photos (courtesy of Scotty Boatright with the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department) of the Huntington flooding; above left: A screen shot of the county's Web site showing how public information officers kept the news and information flowing about the situation.

National Preparedness Month

2008 marks the fifth anniversary of National Preparedness Month. Throughout September, national, regional, state and local organizations will distribute educational information, host events and sponsor activities throughout the country to promote emergency preparedness.

www.ready.gov/america/npm08/intro.html

Governor Kaine Announces Actions to Address Gas Supply During Gulf Hurricanes

In an effort to increase the supply of gasoline in the Commonwealth of Virginia following the disruption in the normal flow of petroleum products caused by Hurricanes Gustav and Ike, Governor Timothy M. Kaine waived certain specifications that prescribe volatility standards for gasoline. This action allows immediate distribution of

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gasoline blends that would normally not be allowed until October 1. The Departments of Emergency Management, Transportation and Motor Vehicles have issued waivers to facilitate the uninterrupted transportation of gasoline from suppliers to retailers. In addition, the Department of Environmental Quality requested a waiver from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on the use of reformulated gas that is normally required to control summer ozone levels. Kaine also announced (on Sept. 18) that the State has put together an experienced team of 30 inspectors from the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS) who are working across the Commonwealth to respond as quickly as possible to the more than 2,000 calls about possible gas price gouging received by the VDACS Division of Consumer Protection since Virginians first felt Hurricane Ike's impact. VDACS staff continue to monitor the Consumer Protection Hotline to take calls around the clock to ensure that every complaint about gas prices is evaluated. Anyone who believes they have been the victim of price gouging is encouraged to report such by calling VDACS Consumer Protection Hotline at 1-800-552-9963 or 804-786-2476. <http://www.governor.virginia.gov/MediaRelations/NewsReleases/viewRelease.cfm?id=782>

McConnell PSTOC Ribbon Cutting

Join officials from Fairfax County and the Commonwealth of Virginia as they officially open the McConnell Public Safety and Transportation Operations Center (MPSTOC) with a ribbon-cutting event on Friday, Oct. 10, at 10:30 a.m. Members of the public are invited to attend the ceremony as well as limited building tours immediately following that morning's program.

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

EPA Approves Hurricane-Related Fuel Waiver for Virginia

As the result of the disruption in the supply of fuel caused by Hurricanes Gustav and Ike, EPA is exercising its authority under the Clean Air Act to temporarily waive certain gasoline requirements in Virginia. The waiver was granted by EPA, in coordination with the Department of Energy, at the request Virginia, and will allow greater flexibility for fuel distribution systems in these areas. The Virginia waiver will allow certain areas to use available conventional gasoline instead of reformulated gasoline. The Virginia waiver, will be in effect starting immediately, expires on Sept. 26 and applies to the following towns and counties: Alexandria; Arlington County; Fairfax; Fairfax County; Falls Church; Loudoun County; Manassas; Manassas Park; Prince William County; Stafford County; Charles City County; Chesterfield County; Colonial Heights; Hanover County; Henrico County; Hopewell; Richmond; Chesapeake; Hampton; James City County; Newport News; Norfolk; Poquoson; Portsmouth; Suffolk; Virginia Beach; Williamsburg; and York County. EPA Administrator Stephen L. Johnson determined that extreme and unusual supply circumstances exist, which are likely to result in a shortage of gasoline that is compliant with federal regulations. As required by law, EPA carefully examined all aspects of the fuel supply situation in the requested areas and determined that granting a short-term waiver was consistent with the public interest. EPA granted the waiver in coordination with the Department of Energy. More details on the fuel waiver:

www.epa.gov/compliance/civil/caa/fuelwaivers/

<http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/0/1D489C3AE50C07D8852574C30002AA38>

Join the Volunteer Fairfax Mobilization Leadership Team

When disaster strikes, first responders such as fire fighters, police officers and medical staff are on the job. But what happens when the dust settles and the clean-up begins? Then it becomes the responsibility of dedicated volunteers to clear debris, distribute water and hand out blankets. Community leaders are needed to help coordinate spontaneous volunteers. These leaders comprise the Volunteer Mobilization Leadership Team (VMLT), a group of people who assist in an emergency by organizing and deploying volunteers to agencies through a Volunteer Reception Center in Fairfax County. They also assist affected residents by answering the Fairfax County's emergency hotline. Those interested must attend a one day-training to be eligible to assist during a disaster. The next training is being held on Saturday, October 4, from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., in Reston, VA. For more information and to RSVP, please e-mail Marcelo Ferreira at mferreira@volunteerfairfax.org or call 703-246-3553.

DHS Recognizes Critical Manufacturing Sector As Key New Private Sector Security Partner

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) on Sept. 5 formally recognized the creation of the new Critical Manufacturing Sector Coordinating Council (CMSCC), which includes companies such as automakers, heavy

equipment manufacturers and steel producers. In 2003, Homeland Security Presidential Directive-7 (HSPD-7) established a national policy for identifying and protecting critical infrastructure and key resources. At that time, the directive identified 17 economic, industrial and essential service sectors, but authorized the Secretary of Homeland Security to evaluate the need for new sectors as necessary. Following HSPD-7, the DHS Secretary, with the support of the heads of key departments and agencies, issued the National Infrastructure Protection Plan (NIPP) to provide a framework for accomplishing the mission of protecting critical infrastructure and key resources. The NIPP identified the individual sector coordinating councils (SCCs) as the principal forums for owners and operators of each of the 17 critical infrastructure and key resource sectors to work in partnership with government on a wide range of prevention, protection, and risk reduction activities and issues. Following the publication of the NIPP, DHS recognized 17 self-organized SCCs, one representing each of the 17 sectors. Specific membership varies by sector, reflecting the unique composition of each. The Critical Manufacturing Sector was designated as the 18th sector in April 2008 and is the first sector to be recognized through the exercise of the Secretary's authority. For more information on NIPP sector coordinating councils, visit <http://www.dhs.gov>.

http://www.dhs.gov/xnews/releases/pr_1220637439017.shtm

Fact Sheet: U.S. Department of Homeland Security 9/11 Anniversary Progress and Priorities

From a DHS News Release

“Since 9/11, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has made significant progress in protecting the nation from dangerous people and goods, protecting the nation’s critical infrastructure on which our lives and economy depend, strengthening emergency response and unifying department operations. Seven years without an attack on U.S. soil are a testament to this department’s 216,000 employees – and the nation’s first responders and law enforcement officers – who every day put service before self. Since its creation in the aftermath of the tragic events of 9/11, the department has achieved much to protect and secure the United States.”

http://www.dhs.gov/xnews/releases/pr_1221078411384.shtm

The Progression of the Transportation Security Officer

Starting Sept. 11, transportation security officers at airport checkpoints nationwide began wearing new uniforms and badges. The new uniforms and badges are another step in the ongoing evolution of TSA, an agency that was created in the wake of September 11, 2001 to federalize airport security. Just as the job classification and title changed from “Screener” to “Transportation Security Officer” in October 2005, this new uniform represents the highly skilled and tested nature of TSA’s frontline workforce. The most striking change is the color of the shirt – from white to blue – and a gold metal badge will replace the embroidered patch.

<http://www.tsa.gov/press/happenings/091108.shtm>

<http://www.tsa.gov/press/releases/2008/0911.shtm>

October is National Cyber Security Awareness Month

For the fifth year, the Department of Homeland Security’s National Cyber Security Division (NCSA) is spearheading National Cyber Security Awareness Month, a comprehensive outreach campaign to empower all Americans and businesses to take steps to secure their part of cyberspace. During the month of October, events will take place across the country to raise awareness of the growing need to protect the Nation’s critical infrastructures and key resources from cyber threats and vulnerabilities. The NCSA is partnering with the National Cyber Security Alliance and the Multi-State Information Sharing and Analysis Center, along with other government agencies and the private sector. The month’s activities include press and media events, educational workshops, state cyber exercises, and lectures hosted by public and private partners, proclamations by state governors, and other stakeholder outreach activities.

http://www.dhs.gov/xprevprot/programs/gc_1158611596104.shtm

What Makes Up a Uniform

News & Happenings

The New Uniform

A metal badge replaces the embroidered one to represent the continuing evolution of the officers' roles and responsibilities.

The name tag now displays the officer's last name and rank. This allows passengers to more easily identify officers.

A high-quality tie is used and required with a long-sleeved uniform shirt. This tie also attaches to the shirt to ensure officer safety.

A wider belt is used to ensure a better fit with the uniform pants.



PLANNING / PREPAREDNESS

Current Threat Level – Elevated

- The United States government’s national threat level is Elevated, or Yellow.
- The U.S. threat level is High, or Orange, for all domestic and international flights. Only small amounts of liquids, aerosols and gels are allowed in carry-on baggage. See the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) Web site (<http://www.tsa.gov>) for up-to-date information on items permitted and prohibited on airlines.
- Virginia Threat Level: 



Under an elevated threat level, businesses should:

- Continue all precautions from lower Threat Conditions.
- Announce Threat Condition ELEVATED to employees.
- Review vulnerability and threat assessments and revise as needed.
- Identify and monitor governmental information sharing sources for warnings and alerts.
- Update and test call down list for emergency response teams and key employees.
- Review and coordinate and update mutual aid agreements with other critical facilities and government agencies.
- Establish and monitor active and passive security measures.
- Review employee training on security precautions (bomb threat procedures, reporting suspicious packages, activities and people).
- Conduct communications checks to ensure radio contact can be established.

At this time there is no credible information warning of an imminent, specific threat to the homeland. All Americans should continue to be vigilant, take notice of their surroundings, and report suspicious items or activities to local authorities immediately. Everyone should establish an emergency preparedness kit and an emergency plan for themselves and their family, and stay informed about what to do during an emergency.

http://www.dhs.gov/xinfo/share/programs/Copy_of_press_release_0046.shtm

<http://vaemergency.com/>

U.S. Small Businesses are Unprepared for Power Outages

If the power goes out, will America’s small businesses be prepared? Not really, according to the results of a recent survey commissioned by Emerson Network Power. The survey results include:

- 79 percent of the small-business decision-makers surveyed experienced at least one power outage in 2007.
- 67 percent of respondents anticipate experiencing outages again in the next 12 months.
- Of the small businesses that experienced outages in 2007, 42 percent had to close their businesses during the longest outages.

While small-business decision-makers ranked power outages above fire, government regulation, weather damage, theft, and employee turnover as threats to their businesses, only 39 percent of those surveyed have back-up power systems, leaving 61 percent vulnerable to the negative business impacts of outages. Emerson Network Power released the findings of the survey in conjunction with the fifth anniversary of the Great Blackout of 2003, which began on August 14, 2003.

<http://www.emerson.com/smallbusiness>

Study Shows Most Americans Unprepared for Disasters and Evacuations

The National Center for Disaster Preparedness a branch of the Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health recently released a white paper entitled “The 2008 American Preparedness Project: Why Parents May Not Heed Evacuation Orders & What Emergency Planners, Families and Schools Need to Know” that shows many Americans are ill-prepared to handle a disaster and most do not have adequate supplies, a family emergency plan or basic necessities. Key findings in the report:

- Fewer than half of U.S. residents, 45 percent are completely or mostly prepared with the things they will need for a safe evacuation.

- Only about the same proportion, 44 percent, have all or some of the basic elements of a disaster preparedness plan.
- Nearly half of parents, 45 percent, do not know the location to which their child would be evacuated as part of their school's disaster plan.
- Fewer than one-third of parents, 31 percent, would evacuate from their home or place of employment and reunite with their children later.
- 63 percent would disregard an evacuation order and go directly to their child's school in an attempt to collect their children.

http://www.ncdp.mailman.columbia.edu/files/white_paper_9_08.pdf

GAO Report Says FEMA Should Consider Voluntary Organizations in Catastrophic Events

The General Accounting Office recommends that FEMA update and document the Red Cross's role in a catastrophic event, take steps to incorporate voluntary organizations' capabilities in its assessments, and clarify funding guidance for certain disaster preparedness grants. In commenting on the draft report, FEMA agreed with two recommendations, but disagreed with the recommendation to better incorporate voluntary organizations in assessments. GAO continues to believe such efforts are important for preparedness.

Read the complete GAO report at: <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d08823.pdf>

40 Million People on the Atlantic Seaboard Were in Tropical Storm Hanna's Path

Based on the projected path of Tropical Storm Hanna, the U.S. Census Bureau had calculated that some 40.4 million people in 192 counties along the Eastern Seaboard of the United States could feel the effects of the storm. Based on the predicted landfall in Charleston County, S.C., the Census Bureau's 2006 American Community Survey showed that the median housing value for Charleston County was \$229,800. Additionally, 9.2 percent of the 137,000 occupied homes were without access to a vehicle. About 82 percent of the occupied homes were built before 1990. The 2007 median household income was about \$47,900, and about 15 percent of the population lived in poverty. As the 2008 hurricane season progresses, the Census Bureau will continue to post information on its Hurricane Data and Emergency Preparedness Web page.

<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/emergencies/index.html>

EPA Blog Asks "How Have You Prepared for an Emergency?"

In conjunction with National Preparedness Month, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) used their blog to touch on emergency preparedness, asking for responses to a question of the week – "How have you prepared for an emergency?"

<http://tinyurl.com/62k4o9>

When, Not If: Preparing Your Business for Disasters

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) urge businesses to plan now for future disasters. When the next flood or other disaster strikes, getting your company back to business quickly may depend on emergency planning done today. Business owners should include these additional factors in their disaster planning:

- Carefully assess the risks (e.g., flood, fire, tornado, etc.) for each specific business location and plan accordingly.
- Identify operations critical to your company's survival and recovery.
- Determine which staff members, materials, procedures and equipment are necessary to keep the business operating and establish procedures for succession of management.
- Plan what you will do if your building, plant or store is not accessible.
- Your employees and co-workers are your business's most valuable assets and should be included at all levels in planning for and responding to a disaster.
- Maintain two-way communications with employees before, during and after a disaster; promote family and individual preparedness and support employee health after a disaster.
- Establish a means of contacting employees who have been displaced from their homes by the disaster. Also, be sure employees have an alternate method of contacting the business if it is forced from its normal location.

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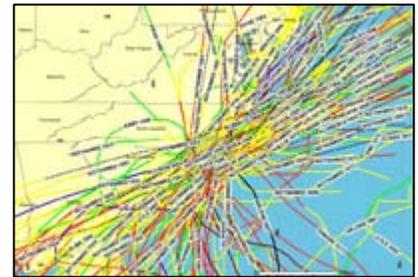
- Make an evacuation plan should a disaster require employees, customers and visitors to leave the workplace quickly.
- For situations where it is best to stay where you are, such as during a tornado or a chemical incident, plan for sheltering in place.
- Maintain a list of telephone and fax numbers of employees, customers, vendors, bankers, attorneys, insurance agents, professional recovery services, equipment rentals and emergency agencies.
- Prepare for extended utility interruptions during and after a disaster. Speak with service providers about potential alternatives and identify back-up options such as portable generators to power the vital aspects of your business in an emergency.

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA), Office of Disaster Assistance, recommends businesses have an annual insurance “check-up” to assure coverage meets the specific risks at the business site, to be sure both the building and its contents are covered, and to protect against business interruptions. The SBA reminds business owners that most hazard insurance policies do not cover flood losses and that a separate policy through the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) may be required. The SBA also stresses the importance of preserving vital business records, financial data, accounting records, personnel information, marketing strategies, insurance records, inventory information, etc. Computerized records should be backed up daily and the backups, along with other vital records, should be stored off-site at least 500 miles away. For more information on business preparedness and to order free sample emergency plans, business preparedness checklists and more, call 1-800-BE-READY (237-3239). You can download disaster preparedness information at <http://www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance> or at <http://www.ready.gov/business>.
<http://www.fema.gov/news/newsrelease.fema?id=45693>

NOAA Historical Hurricane Tracks Web Site Helps Users Prepare for Big Storms

As the U.S. coastal population continues to grow, so do the hazards when big storms approach. Now, an online tool, Historical Hurricane Tracks, helps users get a quick picture of coastal areas with the greatest frequency of hurricanes and tropical storms — and that historical “snapshot” can help community members and local emergency managers develop better plans for storm preparation and recovery. NOAA’s Historical Hurricane Tracks includes data on storm strikes through 2007.

<http://maps.csc.noaa.gov/hurricanes/>



Historical hurricane tracks for Wilmington, N.C. (photo credit: NOAA)

AHRQ Releases Tool Estimating Resources Needed for Emergency Response

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) has released a Hospital Surge Model estimating the hospital resources needed to treat casualties arising from biological (anthrax, smallpox, pandemic flu), chemical (chlorine, sulfur mustard, or sarin), nuclear (1 KT or 10 KT explosion), or radiological (dispersion device or point source) attacks. The Hospital Surge Model provides essential resource information for emergency planning strategies. It estimates the number of casualties arriving at the hospital, by arrival condition (e.g., mild or severe symptoms) and day; the number of casualties in the hospital, by unit (ED, ICU, or floor) and day; the cumulative number of dead or discharged casualties, by day; and the required hospital resources (personnel, equipment, and supplies) to treat casualties, by unit and day.

<http://www.hsdl.org/hslog/?q=node/4386>

<http://hospitalsurgemodel.ahrq.gov/>

Preparing for Disaster: Have a Plan and Make a Kit

Are you and your family ready for the next big storm? Thousands of Texans had to evacuate from the Gulf Coast ahead of Hurricane Gustav, and many more hunkered down in place. More storms are on the horizon, and at least one of them could be headed this way. Remember: The official hurricane season runs from June 1 through Nov. 30. That means we have almost three more months of possible severe weather. Taking a few simple precautions could make a huge difference in how you and your loved ones make it through a disaster. There are two critical things to do to

prepare: Have a Plan and Make a Kit. Based on advice from the National Hurricane Center and the Federal Emergency Management Agency, here are two important lists:

Have a Plan

- When local officials call for an evacuation, get out without delay: Don't wait – evacuate!
- Your family may not be together when disaster strikes, so it is important to plan in advance: how you will contact one another; how you will get back together; and what you will do in different situations.
- Make sure you and your family members have the name and phone number of a friend or relative outside your city or state -- so anyone who becomes separated from the group can telephone to let others know their situation.
- Be sure every member of your family knows the phone number and has a cell phone, coins or a prepaid phone card to call the emergency contact.
- Discuss your evacuation plans with your family, friends and relatives, and remind everyone of the plan as the storm moves in.
- Make a checklist of what you need to do and review it before you leave.
- If you plan to stay in a hotel or motel, make reservations and confirm your reservations before you leave.
- Learn evacuation routes from your area. Some traffic congestion is inevitable so expect delays and longer drive-times than usual.
- Learn the places to stay between your home and your destination – in case you have to stop before you reach your goal.
- Make plans for what you are going to do with pets and livestock.

Make a Kit

- Plan for your supplies to last three to seven days, and put them in easy-to-carry containers. And make sure your vehicle has a full gas tank.
- Your supplies should include:
 - Water – one gallon daily per person.
 - Food – packaged or canned food / juices; foods for infants or the elderly; snack foods; non-electric can opener, cooking tools / fuel, paper plates / plastic utensils.
 - Cash, including small bills.
 - Clothing, including rain gear and sturdy shoes.
 - First-aid kit, including medications, eyeglasses, and hearing aids.
 - Fully charged telephones with chargers and extra batteries.
 - Phone numbers of family and friends.
 - Personal hygiene items, including toilet paper, cleanup supplies, personal hygiene products, and special items for babies, the elderly and pets.
 - Copies of important documents, including photo IDs, driver license, proof of residence, account numbers, information you may need to process insurance claims – placed in a waterproof container
 - Battery-operated radio and flashlight, with extra batteries.
 - Road maps, a list of places between your town and your destination where you can stop if the highways are clogged.
 - Blankets, pillows, sleeping bags and extra clothing.
 - Supplies for pets, including food, leashes and carry cases.

Top 10 Network Security Threats to Small and Medium Sized Businesses

Unlike large enterprise organizations, small-to-medium sized businesses (SMBs) face multiple security threats with often limited resources to protect assets, data and customer information. New research from WatchGuard Technologies' has identifies the ten leading security threats to small businesses.

<http://www.continuitycentral.com/news04139.html>

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

Survey Finds Holes in US Disaster Preparedness

In a disaster such as an earthquake or terrorist attack, nearly two-thirds of U.S. parents would disregard orders to evacuate and would rush to pick up their kids from school, according to a new survey. The survey found that 63

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percent of parents would ignore orders to evacuate and instead attempt to reunite with their children, possibly hindering rescue efforts by adding to traffic congestion. The authors of the study, released Thursday on the seventh anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks, said that despite years of government efforts to enhance disaster preparedness, schools need to do more to plan for disasters and parents need to be made aware of the plans. The report was commissioned by the National Center for Disaster Preparedness at Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health and the Children's Health Fund.

http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5i6IPHHS-60qW_IML1GzjRZW7roMwD93530700

DHS' Ready Kids Campaign Joins Sesame Workshop In Launching New Guide For Parents Of Young Children On Emergency Preparedness

Today the Department of Homeland Security's Ready Kids Campaign announced with Sesame Workshop a new tool on emergency preparedness for parents of young children called "Let's Get Ready!" This guide aims to get families planning together for emergencies through simple activities and games that focus on talking to young children about the people, places and things that will keep the family safe during an emergency. Specifically, the guide offers tips from Sesame Street's Grover and Rosita on how families can prepare their children for an emergency in age-appropriate ways such as:



- Everyone, including young children, can play a role in planning.
- Creating an emergency kit and plan that the entire family practices and shares is important.
- Helping children learn personal information such as a phone number, their full names and the full names of their parents or caregivers, is helpful in case of any emergency.

This announcement comes during National Preparedness Month, sponsored by the Ready Campaign. This nationwide effort aims to empower and engage Americans to have an emergency supply kit; make an emergency plan; and be informed about the risks in their area and the appropriate responses. During National Preparedness Month, the Ready Campaign is featuring guest bloggers on their personal preparedness stories. To mark the launch of this new joint effort with Sesame Workshop, Meryl Chertoff writes on the valuable lessons for our children. To see this entry, visit www.ready.gov/ and click on NPM Blog. Launched in February 2006 in partnership with the Ad Council, Ready Kids is a tool to help parents and teachers educate children about emergencies and how they can help their families prepare. Ready Kids includes a family-friendly Web site (www.ready.gov/kids) and in-school materials developed by Scholastic Inc. There is also a Spanish language version of Ready Kids called Listo Niños (www.listo.gov/ninos/). For more information on "Let's Get Ready!" visit www.ready.gov/sesame/. For information in Spanish visit www.listo.gov/sesame. Individuals can also call 1-800-BE-READY or 1-888-SE-LISTO for more emergency preparedness information.

http://www.dhs.gov/xnews/releases/pr_1221689242032.shtm

Crisis Plan Prompts Quick Response from L.A. Governor's Office

The Los Angeles Office of Emergency Services credits its crisis plan for a successful response to a fatal commuter train crash. The recent Metrolink train wreck in Southern California—the worst U.S. rail crash in 15 years—was an exercise in emergency deployment, after a commuter train crashed into a freight train, killing 25 passengers and injuring nearly 140. As the news broke late Sept. 12, there were already multiple deaths confirmed, and many people who survived were trapped inside twisted train cars. State agencies from Metrolink to the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Office mobilized, and Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's Office of Emergency Services grappled with its top question: Is it terrorism?



<http://tinyurl.com/4vnrtm>

MEDIA ARTICLES OF INTEREST

MySpace Links Users to Hurricane Emergency Alerts

In what is heralded as the seeds of an Internet-age emergency broadcast system, MySpace has teamed with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to spread news on hurricanes through users of the online social network. As Hurricane Gustav blasted the U.S. Gulf Coast, DHS officials telephoned MySpace executives to “fast-track” a project to build a disaster alert system that capitalizes on the hot Internet social networking trend. A software application that automatically feeds hurricane information from federal disaster agencies to MySpace users was then launched. MySpace users can download a small application, or “widget,” that links profile pages to federal information including finding dislocated Gustav victims; help in storm-slammed areas and online tracking of coming storms. The application meshes naturally with social networking pages on which people share pictures, videos, stories and news quickly online with loved ones, according to MySpace.

<http://tinyurl.com/5z9gnq>

Organizations Not Prepared For Crisis, Study Says

A new study by the Center for Catastrophe Preparedness and Response and New York University and the Public Entity Risk Institute has found that many businesses and organizations lack programs that could help them deal with crisis situations. According to an article in the *Philanthropy Journal*, Paul Light, the principal investigator of the project, said, “crises ahead are increasing both in complexity and frequency. Yet, levels of crises readiness among organizations remain low and poorly understood.” The study lists several recommendations for improving crisis readiness, including:

- Giving crisis readiness the same organizational priority as fundraising, marketing and sales.
- Making crisis management a separate part of the organizational budget.
- Giving crisis managers the power to make and enforce decisions.

The study also says Congress should amend the Stafford Act, the primary law governing disaster response, to increase support and speed up the application process.

<https://www.riskinstitute.org/peri/images/file/POCR-finalreport.pdf>

FEMA Wasted Millions on No-Bid Contracts, Says DHS Inspector General

The Federal Emergency Management Agency “wasted millions of dollars on four no-bid contracts it handed out for Hurricane Katrina work,” reports the Associated Press. “... A report by the Homeland Security Department’s” Inspector General “examined temporary housing contracts awarded without competition to Shaw Group Inc., Bechtel Group Inc., CH2M Hill Companies Ltd. and Fluor Corp.... It found that FEMA wasted at least \$45.9 million on the four contracts that together were initially worth \$400 million. FEMA subsequently raised the total amounts for the four contracts twice, both times without competition, to \$2 billion and then \$3 billion.”

http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=40929&sid=60

Is Terrorism Insurance Underpriced?

Erwann Michel-Kerjan of the Wharton School of Business, in an interview with Council on Foreign Relations, notes that four-tenths “of major U.S. businesses remain entirely uninsured for the possibility of a terrorist attack, despite the devastating threat an attack could pose for their operations. He also argues that government insurance subsidies, combined with the lack of an attack for seven years, have led to a situation in which terror insurance in the United States may now be underpriced.”

http://www.cfr.org/publication/17109/us_terror_insurance_underpriced.html

Report Says SMS Is Not Ideal for Emergency Communications

A U.S. trade group, 3G Americas, has published a research report focusing on restrictions on the use of SMS as an emergency alert service. The use of text messaging or SMS has become ubiquitous and commonplace for recreational and business purposes. According to CTIA-The Wireless Association, text messaging has set new records in the United States, with 75 billion messages reported in the month of June 2008 alone — about 2.5 billion messages a day. Accordingly, SMS messaging is now viewed by many as a reliable method of communication when all other

means appear unavailable, and some third party companies are offering emergency notification services based on SMS. The research conducted for the paper indicates that there are serious limitations in third party Emergency Alert Systems (EAS). In particular, because of the general architecture of CDMA, TDMA and GSM cellular networks, such systems will not be able to deliver a high volume of emergency messages in a short period of time. Through discussion, modeling and simulation, the report says that current systems not only cannot widely disseminate such messages quickly, but also that the additional traffic created by third party EAS solutions may disrupt other traffic such as voice communications, including that of emergency responders or the public to 9-1-1 services. The paper notes several reasons why EAS over SMS in current cellular systems is simply not feasible or recommended such as:

- Cellular networks are not designed to delivery emergency-scale traffic loads
- Cellular networks are not the Internet
- Targeting users in a specific location is extremely difficult
- There is no way to authenticate the source of messages, making fraudulent alerts easy to send
- SMS is not a real-time service
- Message delivery order is not always predictable

<http://www.itnewsafrika.com/?p=1199>

Report Calls SBInet Progress Into Question

Technology is being poorly managed, schedules have slipped and capabilities are not clear in the Homeland Security Department's SBInet border surveillance system being built along the border of the United States and Mexico, according to a Government Accountability Office report released in late September. The report details how SBInet continues to be "in a state of flux" with regard to what capabilities are to be delivered, and when. The system is to use advanced technology to secure border areas. The story appeared in Washington Technology.

http://www.washingtontechnology.com/online/1_1/33563-1.html

Virginia Tech Releases Notes From Massacre

The 59 pages of "newly released notes taken by Virginia Tech officials during the April 16, 2007, campus killings show how school leaders scrambled, sometimes amid confusing circumstances, to handle the emerging reality of a massacre," reports the Times-Dispatch. "... What emerges most clearly from the notes is that police advised the policy group that it should not lock down the campus following the dormitory shootings, even though investigators had not arrested a shooter and weren't even sure if the attacker remained on campus, or if there was more than one assailant."

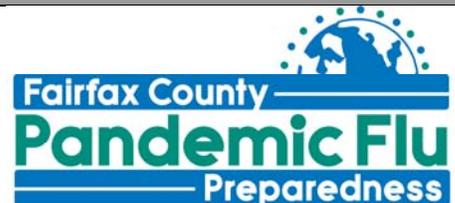
<http://www.inrich.com/cva/ric/news.apx.-content-articles-RTD-2008-09-25-0153.html>

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/>



Singapore Involves the Public in Pandemic Planning Exercise

The Singapore financial industry's latest pandemic influenza exercise, codenamed "Exercise Raffles II" will involve the public for the first time. On Friday, Sept. 5, participating institutions will conduct a practical drill at selected branches and customer counters in the Central Business District. Temperature screening stations will be set up at participating outlets. Counter staff will also be wearing face masks. The public will be advised not to be alarmed and will be encouraged to take part in the exercise.

<http://www.continuitycentral.com/news04125.html>

Congressional Budget Office Looks at U.S. Pandemic Vaccine Policy

The manufacturers of currently approved influenza vaccines made in the United States cannot produce vaccines of sufficient effectiveness, in sufficient quantities, or in the time required to meet public health needs in the event of an

influenza pandemic reports the Congressional Budget Office. "... in the short term, adjuvants [to boost vaccine effectiveness] offer the best hope for achieving [the Health and Human Services Department's] goal of inoculating 300 million people within six months of the onset of an influenza pandemic."

<http://www.cbo.gov/ftpdocs/95xx/doc9573/09-15-PandemicFlu.pdf>

CDC Funds New Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Projects

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has awarded \$24 million to fund 55 projects in 29 state and local public health departments. A total of 184 funding applications were submitted by state and local health departments in a competitive application process. Eligible applicants for the awards were limited to the 62 state, local and territorial public health departments that currently receive federal funding through CDC's Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) Cooperative Agreement. The 29 award recipients have one year to complete the projects, which will begin on Sept. 30, 2008. The \$24 million for the new projects are part of \$600 million in PHEP supplemental funding appropriated by Congress to accelerate state and local influenza pandemic planning efforts. The focus of the funding, which was distributed in three phases beginning in 2006, was on practical, community-based procedures that could prevent or delay the spread of an influenza pandemic.

<http://emergency.cdc.gov/cotper/coopagreement/07/funding-schedule-pan-flu.asp>

TRAININGS / EXERCISES / CONFERENCES



Making the World Safer From Disasters: The U.S. Role

October 2; Washington, D.C.

The Disasters Roundtable of the National Research Council–National Academies is organizing this public workshop, which will feature presentations by experts from the hazards research, policy, and practitioner communities.

<http://dels.nas.edu/dr/f23.shtml>

Seventh ANSI-HSSP Plenary to Focus on Private Sector Preparedness

Oct. 2; U.S. Chamber of Commerce, Washington, D.C.

The American National Standards Institute Homeland Security Standards Panel (ANSI-HSSP) will host its seventh plenary session that will address Public Law 110-53, the Implementing the 9/11 Commission Recommendations Act of 2007, specifically Title IX on Private Sector Preparedness. The program will feature leaders from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security involved in the roll-out of the voluntary certification program for organizational preparedness and business continuity, as well as key private sector stakeholders linked to the standards involved, the accreditation/certification program, and the business case rationale.

http://www.ansi.org/meetings_events/events/hssp08.aspx?menuid=8

2008 EPA Emergency Preparedness & Prevention and Hazmat Spills Conference

Oct. 26-29; Richmond, Va.

The destructive 2008 hurricane season has underscored once again the importance of emergency preparedness and prevention. To prepare for unforeseen disasters, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency every fall sponsors the nation's foremost conference for first responders, counter-terrorism professionals, emergency managers and planners, as well as medical, law enforcement and industry personnel. This year's event, scheduled at the Richmond Convention Center, and will be hosted by the City of Richmond, Virginia Department of Emergency Management, Virginia Association of Hazardous Materials Response Specialists, and Chesterfield, Hanover and Henrico counties. The conference will feature speakers on relevant topics, workshops, intensive training, and local field trips, including visits to Civil War battlefields, the Virginia Fusion Center and EOC, and the DuPont plant where the latest specialty chemicals and protective clothing are made. More information is available at the conference Web site

<http://www.2008conference.org/>, or by calling the conference hotline at 1-800-364-7974.

Risk and Crisis Communication in the 21st Century—Are We Ready?

Nov. 3; Washington, D.C.

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.

This forum will examine changes and progress in risk and crisis communications, looming opportunities and threats to watch for, and practical applications for policy and practice. Through expert perspectives and small group interaction it will present insights, analysis and forecasts and address top trends and best practices.

<http://www.homelanddefensejournal.com/hdl/Crisis-Communication-21st-Century.html>

How to Deal With New WMD Scenarios

Nov. 13-14; Arlington, Va.

Featuring lessons learned from an actual event involving weapons of mass destruction, the workshop will detail crisis response, site management, decontamination and remediation, and site release so that attendees can include this information in their disaster response plans and exercises.

<http://www.homelanddefensejournal.com/hdl/Deal-With-New-WMD-Scenarios.html>

7th International Bird Flu Summit

Nov. 13-14; Las Vegas, Nev.

Attendees will draw on firsthand best practices to create the solid business continuity plans that their companies and organizations need in order to prepare for, respond to, and survive a pandemic.

<http://www.new-fields.com/birdflu7/>

Emergency Preparedness for Facilities

Nov. 17-18; Arlington, Va.

This workshop offers basic preparedness training for corporate headquarters, public, commercial, educational, health care, manufacturing, banking, hospitality, airport, and other business sectors, providing strategic knowledge and tactical resources to prepare for, and recover from, an emergency or disaster.

http://www.homelanddefensejournal.com/hdl/Emergency-Preparedness_Nov08.html

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 Blogs and Web Resources

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

DHS Science & Technology Directorate Newsletter

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

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

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DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report (OSIR)

The Department of Homeland Security provides a Web-based “Daily OSIR,” which is posted on the DHS public Web site. Accessing the report via the Web enables readers to retrieve the current Daily Report as well as 10 days of archived DHS Daily Reports. Once you arrive at the Web page you will find the most recent Daily OSIR at the top of the page, under the title “Current Report.” This report is posted each morning, except for weekends and holidays. Simply click on the title “DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report.” This will launch the current days report in PDF format. You can continue to submit content comments or make suggestions by contacting the DHS Daily Report Team by telephone at 202-312-5389 or by e-mail at NICCCReports@dhs.gov. You can access the Daily OSIR at: http://www.dhs.gov/xinfoshare/programs/editorial_0542.shtm.

Fairfax County Government Emergency Information Web Page

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

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency/

Fairfax County Government Emergency Information Line

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/opa/infoline.htm



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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.

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