



# ESF 15 Business / Nonprofit Update

Produced by Emergency Support Function 15 – External Affairs

September 2011

## ITEMS OF INTEREST FOR ESF 15



### **Emergency Preparedness Month in Fairfax County**

Fairfax County Office of Emergency Management (OEM) Coordinator David McKernan (center with proclamation) with Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova (left) and Lee District Supervisor Jeff McKay (right), along with emergency management staff, volunteers and partners, and the other Fairfax County Board of Supervisor members (standing back row) during the presentation (Sept. 13) of a proclamation by the board recognizing September as Emergency Preparedness Month in Fairfax County. September is also National Preparedness Month. *Photo by Lisa Connors, Fairfax County Office of Public Affairs.*

### **President Declares Disaster for Virginia**

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) announced that federal aid has been made available to the Commonwealth of Virginia to supplement commonwealth and local recovery efforts in the area affected by Hurricane Irene during the period of Aug. 26-28, 2011. Federal funding is available to commonwealth and eligible local governments and certain private nonprofit organizations on a cost-sharing basis for emergency work and the repair or replacement of facilities damaged by Hurricane Irene in the counties of Essex, Isle of Wight, James City, Lancaster, Middlesex, New Kent, Richmond, Southampton, Sussex, Westmoreland and York, and the independent cities of Chesapeake, Emporia, Hampton, Hopewell, Newport News, Norfolk, Poquoson, Portsmouth, Suffolk, Virginia Beach and Williamsburg. Federal funding is also available on a cost-sharing basis for hazard mitigation measures for all counties independent cities in the commonwealth.

<http://www.fema.gov/news/newsrelease.fema?id=57648>

### **Tropical Storm Lee Causes Flooding and EOC Activation**

Fairfax County was hit hard by Tropical Storm Lee Sept. 8-9, experiencing widespread heavy rain and localized flooding – especially in the Huntington community, where residents were forced to evacuate their homes, many in the middle of the night by swift water rescue boats from the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department. Approximately 200 residents in the area were forced from their homes by high waters. Public safety personnel, along with

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Department of Public Works and Environmental Services staff responded to the area and provided immediate assistance. Fire and Rescue established a unified command for the county response to the Huntington community flooding event, supported by county staff from several agencies and partner organizations such as Volunteer Fairfax from the county's Emergency Operations Center (EOC), which was operational for three 12-hour periods. The Office of Emergency Management then assumed command of on-scene incident command from the Fire and Rescue Department on Monday, Sept. 12, coordinating the county's response at the Huntington Community Center until the resource center closed on Sunday, Sept. 18. At the resource center, numerous county agencies were on-site to expedite services to affected county residents, including permits, coordinated services planning (food stamps and human services needs), coordination of power and gas restoration and health information.

### **Send Damage Estimates to Fairfax County**

It is unlikely that the federal government will declare a disaster for Virginia as a result of Tropical Storm Lee.

However, county officials must always be prepared. Please send by email (use this online form:

<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/contact/MailForm.aspx?agId=1019>) an estimate on the amount of UNINSURED damage from this storm. This does not need to be a detailed or exact amount but should be an educated guess. You will need detailed information IF Fairfax County gets a declaration of a disaster.

More details: <http://fairfaxcountyemergency.wordpress.com/2011/09/15/send-damage-estimates-to-fairfax-county/>

### **Review Insurance**

Fairfax County Consumer Affairs recommends that you review your insurance policy to determine if you are eligible for compensation from Tropical Storm Lee, as well as other recent weather related events. Oftentimes residents are confused about what is and what is not covered. Contact your insurance company with questions. If you have a complaint, contact the Virginia State Corporation Commission – Bureau of Insurance at 804-371-9741, TTY 711. For general advice, contact Fairfax County Consumer Affairs at 703-222-8435, TTY 711.

### **Assessment Appeals If Home/Building Damaged by Flooding**

Virginia Code specifies that the assessed value of a building can be adjusted when the building is either “wholly destroyed or reduced in value below \$100” due to “natural decay or other causes.” The code also allows for assessment adjustments “if the value of the building has been impaired by violence to the extent of \$100 or more...” Any such assessment adjustment that may be required will be prorated from the time of the incident until the property is repaired, or the end of the year, whichever is sooner. To file such an appeal and to learn more if your home has been damaged by recent floods, visit the Department of Tax Administration.

[http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dta/realestatetax\\_damageappeal.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dta/realestatetax_damageappeal.htm)

### **Reston North Park and Ride Flood Claims**

If your vehicle was damaged by the flood waters at Reston North Park and Ride on Thursday, Sept. 8, and you wish to file a claim, please submit a letter to the Virginia Department of Transportation at the address below. Your letter should include the date, time and location of the event, your daytime phone or other contact information, photos or other documentation to support your claim, and your signature. The VDOT Northern Virginia district office will process your claim and send it to Richmond for final approval. If you have any further questions, contact VDOT at 1-800-FOR-ROAD (1-800-367-7623). Mail your letter to:

VDOT/FFX Maintenance

4975 Alliance Drive

Fairfax, VA 22030

ATTN: Cynthia Mercer

<http://fairfaxcountyemergency.wordpress.com/2011/09/08/reston-north-park-and-ride-flooded/>



### **Flood-Damaged Appliances, HVAC May Have to Be Replaced**

According to a FEMA news release, deciding whether to repair or replace gas and electrical appliances damaged by dirty floodwaters can be difficult. Deciding to salvage or replace damaged equipment will be influenced by the length

of time in the water, the level of the flooding and the amount of coverage allowed by the insurance and flood-relief programs.

**Some things to consider:**

- Check your warranty, because repairing the equipment or appliance may void the warranty.
- Dirty floodwater can cause parts to corrode, causing break downs.
- If the equipment is more than 10 years old, new equipment/appliances offer better energy efficiency, thus saving money on monthly energy costs.
- Your insurance company may offer you an adjusted replacement cost for your major appliances.
- Corrosion or clogged parts not replaced can cause fire, explosion or electrical shock.
- Cost -- Extensive repairs for parts and labor may cost more than buying new.
- Refrigerators and freezers with wet insulation are not salvageable, but if there were only a few inches of water in the house, refrigerators and freezers are probably fine. Ovens and ranges are usually salvageable. Wet controls should be replaced.
- Have an appliance technician check and replace the pilot flame orifice and any valves on gas ranges that were in contact with floodwaters.

Have an appliance technician electrician check all electrical contacts and connections on the washer and dryer and replace the contacts or controls if wet.

<http://www.fema.gov>

**13 Counties and 4 Independent Cities Added for Public Assistance**

*Assistance is for Governments, not Individuals*

Thirteen additional counties and four independent cities have been designated for federal disaster assistance to help local governments along with select private non-profit facilities recover from Hurricane Irene. **Accomack, Caroline, Charles City, Chesterfield, Dinwiddie, Henrico, King George, King and Queen, King William, Mathews, Northumberland, Prince George and Surry** counties along with the independent cities of **Colonial Heights, Franklin, Petersburg and Richmond** are the latest jurisdictions eligible for help under the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Public Assistance program. Counties previously designated for Public Assistance include **Essex, Isle of Wight, James City, Lancaster, Middlesex, New Kent, Richmond, Southampton, Sussex, Westmoreland, and York** and the independent cities of **Chesapeake, Emporia, Hampton, Hopewell, Newport News, Norfolk, Poquoson, Portsmouth, Suffolk, Virginia Beach, and Williamsburg**.

Public Assistance is a cost-share reimbursement program which includes:

- Debris removal
- Emergency protective measures
- Road systems and bridges
- Water control facilities
- Public buildings and contents
- Public utilities
- Parks and recreation

The Public Assistance program is open to state, local and tribal government agencies and certain private nonprofit organizations. Examples of eligible private nonprofit facilities are electric and water utilities, custodial care and medical organizations, and educational institutions. Typically, the federal share of total eligible costs is 75 percent with state and local agencies paying the remaining 25 percent. The Commonwealth of Virginia has not yet requested federal assistance for individuals or businesses. Joint PDAs in the Commonwealth continue and the information we collect can be used by Governor McDonnell to determine if the extent of the damage to personal property is beyond local and state capabilities.

<http://www.fema.gov/news/event.fema?id=15594>

**“Contagion” – A Movie; CDC 24/7 – a Reality**

“Contagion,” directed by Steven Soderbergh, follows the rapid progress of a lethal airborne virus that kills within days. As the fast-moving epidemic grows, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the worldwide health community race to find a cure and control the panic that spreads faster than the virus itself. Can what happened

in this film really happen? Serious, deadly contagious disease outbreaks can emerge anywhere, at any time -- right here or just a plane ride away. Thankfully, CDC works 24/7 to protect America from health, safety and security threats, both foreign and domestic. CDC leads U.S. national health security, providing groundbreaking research and real-time emergency response that is critical to saving lives and protecting people from health threats, here and around the world – including disease outbreaks like the one in “Contagion.”

<http://www.cdcfoundation.org/content/how-cdc-saves-lives-controlling-real-global-disease-outbreaks>

<http://theclicker.today.com/news/2011/09/07/7647703-matt-damon-talks-contagion-dubs-hairstyle-the-lauer>

Movie Trailer: <http://contagionmovie.warnerbros.com/index.html>

### **Hurricane Irene Hits Virginia**

Hurricane Irene hit Virginia as a Category 1 storm, killing four. Although there were no sustained hurricane-force winds recorded in Virginia, hurricane gusts were recorded inland and not at the coast. At the height of the storm, 2.5 million power outages were reported, making Irene the second-highest number of power outages in Virginia history, second only to Hurricane Isabel in 2003. Many water systems lost power, resulting in boil water notices, with the majority in the east central, Culpeper and southeastern parts of the state. Flooding and downed trees closed more than 226 state-maintained roads statewide. Virginia received a federal declaration for the Public Assistance program, which helps state and local governments to recover costs associated with storm recovery. Eligible localities are the counties of Essex, Isle of Wight, James City, Lancaster, Middlesex, New Kent, Richmond, Southampton, Sussex, Westmoreland and York; and the cities of Chesapeake, Emporia, Hampton, Hopewell, Newport News, Norfolk, Poquoson, Portsmouth, Suffolk, Virginia Beach and Williamsburg. Damage assessments are continuing; additional localities may be added later. Virginia has not received a federal declaration that provides assistance to individuals. Because most of the damage was caused by wind, which is usually covered by homeowner’s insurance, there may be no federal assistance for individuals. Federal assistance for individuals covers damage that is not covered by insurance. Gov. Bob McDonnell has authorized the Virginia Department of Taxation to provide a one-week filing and payment extension to certain individuals and businesses affected by Hurricane Irene. Details are available at <http://www.tax.virginia.gov/>

*Reprinted from the Virginia Department of Emergency Management “EM Update,” Sept. 7, 2011*

### **See Something, Say Something**

National Capital Region transit agencies have joined forces to promote the “If you see something, say something™” campaign, which provides direction on detecting and reporting suspicious behaviors or objects around transit stations and equipment. Our national security is a shared responsibility and we each need to do our part to extend the reach of law enforcement and security personnel. To learn more about the campaign visit [SecureTransit.org](http://SecureTransit.org).

[www.securetransit.org](http://www.securetransit.org)



## **PLANNING / PREPAREDNESS**

### **National Terrorism Advisory System**

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

- “Elevated Threat”: Warns of a credible terrorist threat against the United States.

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

Depending on the nature of the threat, alerts may be sent to law enforcement, distributed to affected areas of the private sector, or issued more broadly to the public through both official and social media channels – including a designated DHS webpage ([www.dhs.gov/alerts](http://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](http://www.dhs.gov/alerts).

### Fairfax County’s New Emergency Information Blog

Fairfax County has launched a new emergency information blog ([www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency/blog](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency/blog)) in an effort to publish information more quickly and in user-friendly, shareable ways. The blog will be Fairfax County’s primary way to share emergency information that you may have previously found on a fairfaxcounty.gov Web page. You can subscribe to blog updates by email, RSS or bookmarking the site on your full browser or mobile device. There are also some other ways to stay informed based on tools you may already use:

- [www.facebook.com/fairfaxcounty](http://www.facebook.com/fairfaxcounty)
- [www.twitter.com/fairfaxcounty](http://www.twitter.com/fairfaxcounty)
- Community Emergency Alert Network (CEAN) at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/cean](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/cean)

Fairfax County asks that you help share the information you’re reading on the blog and social media sites with your social networks, family, friends, neighbors, co-workers and others. We recognize the valuable role social media plays in today’s information age and we want you to help us, especially in times of preparedness, response and recovery. Visit the blog at: [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency/blog](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency/blog)

### New Digital Communications Recommendations

Recent weather events such as Hurricane Irene, the earthquake on the East Coast and other natural disasters highlight the need for Americans to prepare for emergencies. The Federal Emergency Management Agency, the American Red Cross, the Ad Council and Google Crisis Response are collaborating to launch a new preparedness web resource, “Get Tech Ready,” on behalf of the Ready campaign. Learn more at: <http://www.ready.gov/america/getakit/tech.html>  
Among the tips to stay connected:

- **Keep your contacts updated across all** of your **channels**, including phone, email and social media. This will make it easy to reach out to the right people quickly to get information and supply updates. Consider creating a group list serve of your top contacts.
- Learn how to **send updates via text** and internet from your mobile phone to your contacts and social channels in case voice communications are not available. Text messages and the internet often have the ability to work in the event of a phone service disruption.
- Keep extra batteries for your phone in a safe place or purchase a **solar-powered or hand crank charger**. These chargers are good emergency tools to keep your laptop and other small electronics working in the event of a power outage.

### Avoid CO Poisoning

Use of gas-powered appliances and charcoal or gas grills following Hurricane Irene can be associated with increased

The image shows a template for a National Terrorism Advisory System (NTAS) Alert poster. At the top left is the Department of Homeland Security seal. The title "Alert" is prominently displayed in the center, with "National Terrorism Advisory System" above it and "www.dhs.gov/alerts" below. On the top right, it says "DATE & TIME ISSUED: XXXX". The poster is divided into several sections:
 

- SUMMARY:** The Secretary of Homeland Security informs the public and relevant government and private sector partners about a potential or actual threat with this alert, indicating whether there is an "imminent" or "elevated" threat.
- DURATION:** An individual threat alert is issued for a specific time period and then automatically expires. It may be extended if new information becomes available or the threat evolves.
- DETAILS:** This section provides more detail about the threat and what the public and sectors need to know. It may include specific information, if available, about the nature and credibility of the threat, including the critical infrastructure sector(s) or location(s) that may be affected. It includes as much information as can be released publicly about actions being taken or planned by authorities to ensure public safety, such as increased protective actions and what the public may expect to see.
- AFFECTED AREAS:** This section includes visual depictions (such as maps or other graphics) showing the affected location(s), sector(s), or other illustrative detail about the threat itself.
- HOW YOU CAN HELP:** This section provides information on ways the public can help authorities (e.g. camera phone pictures taken at the site of an explosion), and reinforces the importance of reporting suspicious activity. It may ask the public or certain sectors to be alert for a particular item, situation, person, activity or developing trend.
- STAY PREPARED:** This section emphasizes the importance of the public planning and preparing for emergencies before they happen, including specific steps individuals, families, and businesses can take to ready themselves and their communities. It provides additional preparedness information that may be relevant based on this threat.
- STAY INFORMED:** This section notifies the public about where to get more information. It encourages citizens to stay informed about updates from local public safety and community leaders. It includes a link to the DHS NTAS website (<http://www.dhs.gov/alerts>) and <http://twitter.com/NTASAlerts>.

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

injuries and deaths due to carbon monoxide. As many Virginians have begun using alternate means to provide electricity and cooking capabilities, the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) is urging the public to take steps to prevent carbon monoxide exposure that can be a silent killer after a storm. Carbon monoxide is an invisible, odorless, tasteless gas and is highly poisonous. Carbon monoxide is a colorless, odorless and tasteless gas. According to the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department, it causes about 300 accidental fatalities in homes each year; thousands more are treated in hospitals for CO poisoning. Carbon monoxide combines with hemoglobin in our blood and robs the blood of the oxygen our body needs. Early symptoms of exposure include headache, fatigue, nausea, and confused thinking (so victims cannot think clearly enough to get assistance). Without treatment, the victim will lose consciousness, and if no help is given will lose their life. Carbon monoxide accidents are preventable. To protect your family:

- Always use portable generators, camp stoves, barbecue and charcoal grills outside and 20 feet away from windows, doors and vents to prevent deadly CO poisoning.
- Have a qualified technician inspect your gas furnace and appliances.
- Never allow your car to run in an enclosed area, especially one 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.

Learn more about carbon monoxide poisoning and how you can prevent it from the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fr/educate/co.htm>. Additional information is available from CDC and the Fairfax County Health Department.

VDH: <http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/news/PressReleases/2011/083111CarbonMonoxide.htm>

### **HP Publishes Second Annual Cost of Cyber Crime Study**

HP has published new research which indicates that cyberattacks increasingly impact businesses and government organizations, resulting in significant financial costs. Conducted by the Ponemon Institute, the Second Annual Cost of Cyber Crime Study revealed that the median annualized cost of cybercrime incurred by a benchmark sample of large organizations was \$5.9 million per year, with a range of \$1.5 million to \$36.5 million each year per organization. This represents an increase of 56 percent from the median cost reported in the inaugural study published in July 2010. The study found that recovery and detection are the most costly internal activities, highlighting a significant cost-reduction opportunity for organizations that are able to automate detection and recovery through enabling security technologies.

<http://www.continuitycentral.com/news05870.html>

### **Six Tips for Disaster Preparation**

IBM has provided a list of tips for disaster preparedness to help those new to business continuity:

- Validate your data backup plan.
- Consider employees and the personal impact of a disaster.
- Develop various ways to communicate with employees, partners.
- Think about the ‘domino effect’ when considering business risk.
- Plan for catastrophic events that could last a while.
- Think broadly.

<http://www.continuitycentral.com/news05891.html>

### **Need Breakfast During a Natural Disaster?**

Need breakfast during a natural disaster? Look no further than your local Waffle House. During the recent Hurricane Irene, the Waffle House in Weldon, NC, was serving sausage and biscuits the morning after Irene hit this small town, and this was even without power. It just goes to show you what a good Crisis Management Plan can do. Just ask Panos Kouvelis, Ph.D., Emerson Distinguished Professor of Operations and Manufacturing Management and director of the Olin’s Boeing Center for Technology, Information, and Manufacturing. He instructs his students about the way Waffle House handles crisis management, especially natural disasters. As for Waffle House’s supply chain, “They know immediately which stores are going to be affected, and they call their employees to know who can show up and who cannot,” Kouvelis said, according to a recent <http://mises.org> article. Kouvelis went on to say, “They have temporary warehouses where they can store food, and, most importantly, they know they can operate without a full

menu. This is a great example of a company that has learned from the past and developed an excellent emergency plan.”

[http://www.disaster-resource.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=1543](http://www.disaster-resource.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=1543)

### **Free Phone Service to Call for NOAA Weather Radio Broadcasts**

AudioNow has developed a service that allows any mobile or fixed line caller to access the latest NWS forecast. AudioNow uses “HD” voice technology that allows any phone to access the NOAA Weather Radio broadcast without any downloads. The AudioNow service is now available in selected areas to evaluate use for eventual nationwide distribution. The service in this area can be accessed through the numbers identified below. AudioNow's approach is to provide this service at no cost, and eventually roll this out nationally. Here are the phone numbers:

- Washington, DC area – 202-349-0185
- Manassas, Va. area – 703-652-1210
- Baltimore, Md. – 410-500-4450
- Fredericksburg, Va. area -- 540-322-4035

Again, this service is free.

[http://www.erh.noaa.gov/lwx/nwr/nwr\\_phone.php](http://www.erh.noaa.gov/lwx/nwr/nwr_phone.php)

### **Joplin Tornado Offers Important Lessons for Disaster Preparedness**

Earlier this month, NOAA’s National Weather Service released its final assessment report on the May 22 tornado that struck Joplin, Mo. The report identifies best practices and makes recommendations to help save more lives during future violent tornadoes. Most importantly, the assessment emphasizes that people must be prepared to take immediate action when a warning is issued. “The tornado that struck Joplin offers important lessons about disaster preparedness,” said National Weather Service Director, Jack Hayes, Ph.D. “Tragically, despite advance tornado outlooks, watches and warnings, 159 people died and more than 1,000 were injured. At NOAA we will do all we can – working with our partners throughout the weather enterprise and emergency management – to reduce the impact of similar disasters.” Within days of the tragedy, Hayes sent an assessment team to Joplin to examine warning and forecast services provided to the community, warning communications, community preparedness and the public’s response to tornado warnings. The team determined that a number of factors contributed to the high death toll. Through interviews with more than 100 Joplin residents, the team found that societal response to warnings is highly complex and involves a number of factors, such as risk perception, overall credibility of warnings and warning communications. The report includes a number of key recommendations:

- Improve warning communications to convey a sense of urgency for extreme events. This will compel people to take immediate life-saving action;
- Collaborate with partners who communicate weather warnings to develop GPS-based warning communications, including the use of text messaging, smart phone apps, mobile communications technologies, in addition to upgrades to the Emergency Alert System and NOAA Weather Radio;
- Collaborate more throughout the weather enterprise to ensure that weather warning messages sent via television, radio, NOAA Weather Radio, local warning systems such as sirens – are consistent to reduce confusion and stress the seriousness of the threat; and
- Continue to increase community preparedness.

[http://www.noanews.noaa.gov/stories2011/20110920\\_joplin.html](http://www.noanews.noaa.gov/stories2011/20110920_joplin.html)

### **FEMA and FCC Unveil Communications Tip Sheet**

When disaster strikes, you want to be able to communicate by both receiving and distributing information to others. You may need to call 9-1-1 for assistance, locate friends or family, or let loved ones know that you are okay. During disasters, communications networks could be damaged, lose power, or become congested. This fact sheet provides two important sets of tips. The first will help you prepare your home and mobile devices for a disaster. The second may help you communicate more effectively during and immediately after a disaster.

#### **Before a Disaster: How to Prepare Your Home and Mobile Device**

- Maintain a list of emergency phone numbers in your cell phone and in or near your home phone.
- Keep charged batteries and car-phone chargers available for back-up power for your cell phone.
- If you have a traditional landline (non-broadband or VOIP) phone, keep at least one non-cordless phone in

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your home because if it will work even if you lose power.

- Prepare a family contact sheet. This should include at least one out-of-town contact that may be better able to reach family members in an emergency.
- Program "In Case of Emergency" (ICE) contacts into your cell phone so emergency personnel can contact those people for you if you are unable to use your phone. Let your ICE contacts know that they are programmed into your phone and inform them of any medical issues or other special needs you may have.
- If you are evacuated and have call-forwarding on your home phone, forward your home phone number to your cell phone number.
- If you do not have a cell phone, keep a prepaid phone card to use if needed during or after a disaster.
- Have a battery-powered radio or television available (with spare batteries).
- Subscribe to text alert services from local or state governments to receive alerts in the event of a disaster. Parents should sign up for their school district emergency alert system.

#### During and After a Disaster: How to Reach Friends, Loved Ones & Emergency Services

- If you have a life-threatening emergency, call 9-1-1. Remember that you cannot currently text 9-1-1. If you are not experiencing an emergency, do not call 9-1-1. If your area offers 3-1-1 service or another information system, call that number for non-emergencies.
- For non-emergency communications, use text messaging, email, or social media instead of making voice calls on your cell phone to avoid tying up voice networks. Data-based services like texts and emails are less likely to experience network congestion. You can also use social media to post your status to let family and friends know you are okay. In addition to Facebook and Twitter, you can use resources such as the American Red Cross's Safe and Well program ([www.redcross.org/safeandwell](http://www.redcross.org/safeandwell)).
- Keep all phone calls brief. If you need to use a phone, try to convey only vital information to emergency personnel and/or family.
- If you are unsuccessful in completing a call using your cell phone, wait ten seconds before redialing to help reduce network congestion.
- Conserve your cell phone battery by reducing the brightness of your screen, placing your phone in airplane mode, and closing apps you are not using that draw power, unless you need to use the phone.
- If you lose power, you can charge your cell phone in your car. Just be sure your car is in a well-ventilated place (remove it from the garage) and do not go to your car until any danger has passed. You can also listen to your car radio for important news alerts.
- Tune into broadcast television and radio for important news alerts. If applicable, be sure that you know how to activate the closed captioning or video description on your television.
- If you do not have a hands-free device in your car, stop driving or pull over to the side of the road before making a call. Do not text on a cell phone, talk, or "tweet" without a hands free device while driving.
- Immediately following a disaster, resist using your mobile device to watch streaming videos, download music or videos, or play video games, all of which can add to network congestion. Limiting use of these services can help potentially life-saving emergency calls get through to 9-1-1.
- Check [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov) regularly to find other helpful tips for preparing for disasters and other emergencies.

<http://www.fema.gov/news/newsrelease.fema?id=58180>

#### **How a Business Emergency Plan Paid Off in Tornado-Struck Joplin, Mo.**

Being prepared for a disaster -- natural or otherwise -- isn't just smart, it's good business. On a Sunday afternoon in May, Meagan Snider and a co-worker at Freddy's Frozen Custard & Steamburgers were cleaning the oil out of the fryer when the hail started to fall. The wind began to blow so hard that it rattled the satellite dish on the roof. The reception on the TV in the restaurant blurred, but people watched on. The staffers even joked about the reception while intermittently running outside to see who could find the biggest piece of hail. But when the reception fizzled completely, she realized that this storm was different. The guests in the store's dining room turned to their smart phones to check the Internet. One of the customers said it was a tornado. Snider's boyfriend called and confirmed that a tornado was indeed on its way -- and that he could see it. He lived five minutes from the store. Quickly, she rounded up the roughly 15 customers in the Freddy's and eight employees -- asking everyone to take cover in the bathrooms, which were the only rooms in the building without windows. A family who had been turned away from

another local business also took shelter in the restrooms. They heard the loud cracks of falling trees, crunching cars and howling winds. After an excruciating three-and-a-half minute wait, the noise had passed and Snider peered out of the bathroom to survey the conditions.

<http://www.entrepreneur.com/article/220432>



# Hey Kids!

Good news! If you're 12 and under make sure to tighten your laces because you can keep your shoes on during security.



- TSA Officer Smith



Parents, scan the code to learn more.

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## MEDIA ARTICLES OF INTEREST

### **10 Years After 9/11: Americans Feel Less Safe than 2001**

Despite the increased security implemented in the 10 years since the 9/11 terrorist attacks and the elimination of much of the leadership of al-Qaeda, a new survey says most Americans feel less safe than they did 10 years ago. Young adults most fearful

<http://www.homeland1.com/domestic-international-terrorism/articles/1116938-10-years-after-9-11-Americans-feel-less-safe-than-2001/>

### **New Risk Index Helps Identify Vulnerability**

A new disaster risk index launched by the UN University Institute for Environment and Human Security in Bonn could help donors and aid organizations better understand why some countries are more at risk of calamity than others, and shape their responses when disaster strikes. The World Risk Index (WRI) (<http://www.ehs.unu.edu/article/read/worldriskreport-2011>) explained Jörn Birkmann, scientific head of the WRI project at the UN institute, is unique in defining risk as the interaction between a natural hazard and the vulnerability of a particular community. It helps plan not only short-term responses but also long-term interventions. WRI takes into account social, political, economic and ecological factors to determine the capacity of an affected community to respond. It looks at four main components, which in turn take into account at least 28 variables.

1. Exposure to a natural hazard (sudden as well as slow-onset natural disasters like droughts).
2. Susceptibility, which is understood as the likelihood of society and ecosystems to be damaged should a natural hazard occur. Existing economic, infrastructure, nutrition and housing conditions are taken into account.
3. The capacity to cope, which looks at the state of governance, disaster preparedness and early warning systems, medical services, and social and material security levels.

<http://www.irinnews.org/report.aspx?reportid=93658>

### **States Still Not Prepared to Protect Children During Disasters**

A decade years after the September 11th, 2001 terrorist attacks, most states have failed to plan to protect children in the event of a major disaster, concluded a new study by Save the Children. The report of the study, “Ten Years After 9/11: America Is Unprepared to Protect Children,” said the attacks “forever altered the way American families define safety and security in their lives. Yet a decade and a series of devastating hurricanes, wildfires and tornadoes later, two-thirds of the country remains without basic preparedness and safety standards for children in schools and child care during disaster.”

<http://www.hstoday.us/industry-news/general/single-article/states-still-not-prepared-to-protect-children-during-disaster-study-finds/83336ee0b6b5a4f6e9647f154531dcde.html>

### **Top Cops Say U.S. Counterterrorism Effort Is Lacking**

Top cops in the nation’s biggest cities feel there are still significant gaps in the intelligence and analysis they receive about terrorism ... reports ABC News. A survey—“Counterterrorism Intelligence: Law Enforcement Perspectives”—of intelligence commanders from America’s 56 biggest cities conducted by the Homeland Security Policy Institute found [that] the police chiefs believe the nation’s intelligence enterprise is less robust than it could be, and that 62 percent of the chiefs felt this lack left them ‘unable to develop a complete understanding of their local threat

<http://abcnews.go.com/Blotter/report-nations-top-cops-us-counterterrorism-effort-lacking/story?id=14460286>

View Report: <http://www.gwumc.edu/hspi/policy/HSPI%20Research%20Brief%20-%20Counterterrorism%20Intelligence.pdf>

### **Natural Disasters Stretch NGO Relief Teams to the Limit**

The recent spate of natural disaster has stretched the nation’s third largest NGO disaster relief program to the limit. In the last several months, the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) has sent more than 3,300 volunteers to five natural disasters across the United States including tornadoes that hit Tennessee and Hurricane Irene on the East Coast. In addition, more teams will be dispatched in the coming weeks when flooding in New Jersey subsides enough for volunteers to enter. Last year, relief teams provided 275,311 meals for disaster victims, completed 362 chainsaw jobs and worked a total of 34,771 volunteer days. In contrast, this year alone volunteers have already prepared 856,040

meals, done 4,368 chain saw jobs and worked 42,016 volunteer days.

<http://www.homelandsecuritynewswire.com/natural-disasters-stretch-ngo-relief-teams-limit>

### **Study Seeks Insight into Success of New Charities Following Disasters**

An increasing number of groups are being founded by people seeking to provide assistance to disaster survivors, according to a Binghamton University researcher. IRS records show that 258 organizations applied for expedited tax exempt status following the 9/11 attacks, and 400 applications for tax exemption were filed by organizations to help survivors of the 2005 hurricane season on the Gulf Coast. The research is intended to give local government officials and nonprofit organizers insight into why people establish charities in the wake of disasters. Officials hope the information will help improve the new organizations' chances for success and improve responses to disasters.

<http://www.emergencygmt.com/disaster/Study-New-Charities-Following-Disasters.html>

### **Localities Encourage Residents to Be Prepared for Emergencies**

Representatives from Fairfax County, Loudoun County, Herndon and the Commonwealth of Virginia [recently] spoke to residents about the importance of emergency preparedness. Local emergency preparedness officials want area residents to remember that being prepared for an emergency doesn't just mean hurricanes, storms and piles of snow. Preparedness also means being ready for small emergencies, such as an unexpected power outage, a gas leak or even a traffic accident that forces a longer commute. During an emergency preparedness seminar hosted by the Herndon Police Department on Sept. 14, Jeff Fletcher, the deputy coordinator for the Loudoun County Office of Emergency Preparedness said emergencies can be very personal events. Roy Shrouf of Fairfax County's Office of Emergency Management ... said people call 9-1-1 for everything from a gas leak to a cat in a tree. He said things like winter storms can be debilitating for a resident who loses power, and residents should be prepared for the things that are most likely to happen, such as loss of power.

<http://leesburg.patch.com/articles/localities-encourage-residents-to-be-prepared-for-emergencies>

### **Dominion Says Seismic Vibrations Tripped Reactors**

Seismic vibrations from a magnitude-5.8 earthquake shut down both reactors at the North Anna nuclear-power plant on Aug. 23, Dominion Virginia Power has concluded, not an off-site electrical power loss. Dominion officials informed the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission that the reactors tripped because seismic vibrations caused internal power levels to drop and control rods to automatically interrupt the nuclear fission process, shutting the units down, just after the quake struck at 1:51 p.m. approximately 11 miles away. The "negative flux rate," as the power drop is called, preceded the loss of electricity from an off-site transformer by a second and occurred just before plant operators could manually shut down the reactors. Dominion said the reactors tripped because of the vibrations and sensors within the reactors picking up the flux.

<http://www2.timesdispatch.com/news/2011/sep/28/tdmain01-dominion-says-seismic-vibrations-tripped--ar-1341916/>

## FLU

### **Fairfax County Pandemic Flu Preparedness**

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

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency/pandemicflu/>

### **Novel Flu Virus Linked to Pennsylvania County Fair**

The Pennsylvania departments of Health and Agriculture earlier this month announced three cases of a novel influenza A virus had been identified and are now linked to an agricultural fair in southwestern Pennsylvania. All three are children who reported attending the Washington County Agricultural Fair the week of Aug. 13-20. The cases in Pennsylvania are similar to previous, rare human infections with swine-origin H3N2 viruses, but are unique in that they contain a genetic component of the H1N1 virus. A continuing investigation, which is being jointly undertaken by the departments of Health and Agriculture, as well as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), has not yet uncovered how the illness was transmitted to the three individuals. However, no additional human

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infections with this virus have been identified to date. Anyone who attended the Washington County Fair and has flu-like symptoms are encouraged to contact their local health care provider or call 1-877-PA-HEALTH.

<http://crofsblogs.typepad.com/h5n1/2011/09/us-novel-flu-virus-linked-to-pennsylvania-county-fair.html>

### **Fighting Pandemic H1N1 in the Family**

To examine intrahousehold secondary transmission of pandemic (H1N1) 2009 virus in households in Victoria, Australia, we conducted a retrospective cross-sectional study in late 2009. We randomly selected case-patients reported during May–June 2009 and their household contacts. Information collected included household characteristics, use of prevention and control measures, and signs and symptoms. Secondary cases were defined as influenza-like illness in household contacts within the specified period. Secondary transmission was identified for 18 of 122 susceptible household contacts. To identify independent predictors of secondary transmission, we developed a model. Risk factors were concurrent quarantine with the household index case-patient, and a protective factor was antiviral prophylaxis. These findings show that timely provision of antiviral prophylaxis to household contacts, particularly when household members are concurrently quarantined during implementation of pandemic management strategies, delays or contains community transmission of pandemic (H1N1) 2009 virus.

[http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/eid/article/17/9/10-1948\\_article.htm](http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/eid/article/17/9/10-1948_article.htm)

### **Malaysia Worries About H5N1**

Bird samples collected by the Veterinary Services Department confirm there is no abnormal Influenza A (H5N1) infection but people should still practice a high level of hygiene. “We urge people to wash their hands regularly with water and soap and sanitizer, especially after coughing and sneezing,” said Health director-general Datuk Dr. Hasan Abdul Rahman. He said the monitoring of 507 public and private health facilities throughout the country showed there was no human Influenza A (H5N1), a disease that could spread from birds to humans.

<http://thestar.com.my/news/story.asp?file=/2011/9/7/nation/9437446&sec=nation>

### **H5N1 Bird Flu Mutant Strain Spreading in Asia and Elsewhere**

The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization says there are signs that a mutant strain of bird flu “is making inroads in Asia and other parts of the world” and “describes ... risks to human health as ‘unpredictable,’” reports Medical News Today.

<http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/233492.php>

### **Indonesia Ready to Produce H5N1 Vaccine for Humans**

The deputy of Indonesian Coordinating People’s Welfare Ministry, Emil Agustiono, has said that the country is ready to produce H5N1 vaccine for humans. “Airlangga University in Surabaya has prepared the master seed. This master seed then will be produced to be a vaccine by Bio Farma,” Agustiono informed. Related to the master seed, Prof. CA Nidom of Avian Influenza Research Center of Airlangga University said that the research had been started in 2005 in cooperation with molecular biologists from Japan. He continued, around 170 variants of avian influenza virus have been found in Indonesia. All variants were then classified into three different types: infecting animal, infecting human and infecting both animal and human. “By following the WHO’s recommendations, finally we found the variant which fulfills the aspect of immunology and its compatibility with field virus as master seed for vaccine,” he said.

<http://www.worldpoultry.net/news/indonesia-ready-to-produce-ai-vaccine-for-humans-9374.html>

### **H5 Bird Flu Outbreak In West Bengal, India**

An H5 bird flu (avian flu) outbreak in West Bengal, eastern India has triggered the culling of poultry and eggs, authorities have informed. Infected birds have been reported in the Nadia district of West Bengal, according to India's Ministry of Agriculture. A mutant bird flu strain is spreading in other parts of Asia. West Bengal health and agricultural authorities say they have increased surveillance. Poultry will be culled within a 3 kilometer radius of the infected area, and surveillance has been stepped up to a 10 kilometer radius, the Ministry of Agriculture informed. In 2006, when the first cases of bird flu appeared in India, millions of ducks and chickens were killed. Occasionally, avian flu resurfaces.

<http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/234709.php>

### **Spanish Flu Virus Spread in U.S. Months Before Major Outbreak**

The virus responsible for the worst flu pandemic in known history was circulating in the United States for several months before it was recognized, new research published this month shows. It has been believed for years that infections in the spring of 1918 in the U.S. were a so-called “herald wave” of the Spanish flu pandemic, which eventually killed upwards of 50 million people worldwide. But because the pandemic occurred before viruses could be isolated — before viruses were even known to exist — there hasn’t been actual proof that the early cases seen in American military camps and elsewhere were caused by the same virus that wreaked such havoc on the world starting in the fall of that year. This new study, published in the journal “Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences” (<http://www.pnas.org/content/early/2011/09/12/1111179108.abstract?sid=74dec193-e7b1-4188-a7a6-353b529b2abd>), provides that evidence. Painstaking work on preserved lung tissue samples from 68 soldiers who died of influenza in 1918 reveals that the Spanish flu virus was circulating at least as early as May, said Dr. Jeffery Taubenberger, the scientist who led the work.

<http://www.guelphmercury.com/news/world/article/596950--spanish-flu-virus-spread-in-u-s-months-before-major-outbreak-study-finds>

### **Flu Shots = Fewer Emergency Visits for Young Kids, Study Finds**

As provinces and territories get ready to roll out their annual flu-shot programs, new research reinforces the idea that vaccinating little kids could significantly reduce hospital visits during flu season. The study compared emergency-department visits to children’s hospitals in Boston and Montreal before and after the United States adopted a policy of recommending flu shots for kids aged two to five years old. Emergency-room visits for flu-like illness – as a percentage of total emergency-room visits for kids of this age group – had tracked pretty closely at the two hospitals in the years before the policy shift. But after the change went into effect in the 2006-07 flu season, researchers found a 34-per-cent decline in the rate of emergency visits for flu symptoms at Children’s Hospital Boston when compared to the rate at Montreal Children’s Hospital. “It’s pretty substantial,” lead author Anne Hoen said of the effect found by the study, published in the “Canadian Medical Association Journal.”

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/life/health/new-health/health-news/flu-shots-fewer-emergency-visits-for-young-kids-study-finds/article2173063/>

### **Upper Airway Infections the Source of Narcolepsy, not H1N1 Vaccinations**

Contrary to reports that narcolepsy resulted following H1N1 vaccinations in northern Europe and other areas, the onset of narcolepsy was highly correlated with seasonal and annual patterns of upper airway infections. Self-reported data on the month and year of narcolepsy onset between September 1998 and February 2011 indicate that onset is most frequent in April and least frequent in November in China. Only eight out 142 narcolepsy patients reported having been vaccinated and 85 percent reported symptoms of upper airway infection, “Internal Medicine News” reports. The findings show that the onset of narcolepsy in China is strongly seasonal and suggest that it is not related to H1N1 vaccination. While the occurrence of narcolepsy onset was over threefold greater than expected following the 2009-2010 H1N1 pandemic, 96 percent of new narcolepsy patients in 2010 did not report being vaccinated. This is in contrast with reports of narcolepsy in Canada, France, the United States and Finland following H1N1 vaccination with an adjuvanted vaccine, which caused alarm.

<http://vaccinewsdaily.com/news/271636-upper-airway-infections-the-source-of-narcolepsy-not-h1n1-vaccinations>

## **TRAININGS / EXERCISES / CONFERENCES**

### **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)



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

## **Integrating Resilient Commercial Facilities Into Our Communities**

Oct. 4; Arlington, Va.

This forum is presented by the Infrastructure Security Partnership to provide a voice to the government and building industry with direction that enhances the resiliency of the built environment at the community and regional levels.

<http://tisp.org/index.cfm?cdid=12262&pid=10231>

## **National Workshop on 9-1-1 Overload**

Oct. 4-5; Washington, D.C.

The 9-1-1 Industry Alliance is hosting this workshop to address the problem of 9-1-1 systems increasingly experiencing overload during routine emergencies, major weather events, natural disasters, mass shootings and other incidents. People calling 9-1-1 for help are experiencing busy signals, unanswered calls, or long hold times, and public expectations are not matching the realities of 9-1-1 in these situations.

<http://911calloverload.com/>

## **16th Annual Virginia Occupational Safety and Health Conference**

Oct. 4-7; Portsmouth, Va.

The Virginia Department of Labor and Industry is hosting the Virginia Occupational Safety and Health Conference, Oct. 4-7 in Portsmouth, to help educate employers and employees in developing safe and healthy work environments and to provide affordable safety and health training opportunities to employers, employees and safety and health professionals.

[http://www.doli.virginia.gov/vosh\\_conference/vosh\\_conference.html](http://www.doli.virginia.gov/vosh_conference/vosh_conference.html)

## **Emergency Medicine Today and Disaster Medical Preparedness Conferences**

Oct. 5-6; Greensboro, N.C.

These conferences are sponsored by the North Carolina Office of Emergency Medical Services. Emergency Medicine Today, on Oct. 5, features presentations from outstanding faculty from across North Carolina and the United States, with continuing education credit for topics of general interest and current advancements in the fields of pre-hospital emergency care, emergency and trauma medicine, and public health. Disaster Medical Preparedness, on Oct. 6, provides an opportunity for professionals from agencies and associations to discuss how disaster impacts all those in the health care community.

<http://www.ncdhhs.gov/dhsr/ems/conferences.html>

## **Modsim World Conference and Expo**

Oct. 11-14; Virginia Beach, Va.

This is a multidisciplinary international conference for the exchange of modeling and simulation knowledge, research, and technology across industry, government, and academia. One of the tracks is "Defense, Homeland Security & First Responders."

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



### **2011 Virginia Hazardous Materials Conference and Expo**

Oct. 17-21; Hampton, Va.

The Virginia Association of Hazardous Materials Response Specialists and VDEM are sponsoring the 27th annual Virginia Hazardous Materials Conference and Expo, Oct. 17-21: “Confronting New Challenges: Are We Ready,” at the Convention Center and Embassy Suites Hotel in Hampton. The Virginia Hazardous Materials Conference and Expo features over 60 educational workshops and an exhibition area featuring the latest products and technology for the hazardous materials industry.

<http://www.vaemergency.gov/news/conferences/2011-virginia-hazmat-conf>



### **Maritime Regional Resilience and Whole Community**

Nov. 3; Norfolk, Va.

This forum presented by the Infrastructure Security Partnership will bring together leaders from several port regions to discuss strategies, priorities, and collaboration efforts to ensure maritime regional resilience.

<http://tisp.org/index.cfm?cdid=12264&pid=10231>

### **Terror on Trial**

Nov. 3-5; Washington, D.C.

The theme of this conference sponsored by the Association for the Study of the Middle East and Africa is “Out of the Past, Into the Future: Reflections on the Middle East and Africa.” It will feature a keynote address by Barham Salih, Prime Minister of the Kurdistan Region, along with presentations by top policymakers and scholars, roundtable discussions on “Turkey as a Democratic Ally Under the AKP [Party for Justice and Progress]” and “The Saddam Tapes, 1978-2001: The Inner Workings of a Tyrant’s Regime,” and panel discussions of the latest academic research in Middle Eastern and African studies and related disciplines.

[http://www.asmeascholars.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=1417&Itemid=108](http://www.asmeascholars.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=1417&Itemid=108)

### **Emergency Medical Services Symposium**

Nov. 9-13; Norfolk, Va.

This symposium sponsored by the Virginia Department of Health offers seminars, courses with continuing education credits, an exhibit hall, and a career fair.

<http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/OEMS/Symposium/index.htm>

### **MAST Americas 2011**

Nov. 14-16; Washington, D.C.

The conference and expo unite the major global shareholders in maritime security and defense to discuss and debate maritime capabilities and concepts, evaluate future and state-of-the-art enabling technologies, and develop international partnerships.

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



### **International Workshop on Innovation, Diversity and Sustainable Development in Areas of Social Vulnerability**

Nov. 17-18; Boston, Mass.

This workshop organized by the Center for Rebuilding Sustainable Communities After Disasters will discuss strategies for the empowerment of residents in the areas of social vulnerability and the implementation of public policies with a sustainable basis in such areas.

<http://www.rebuilding.umb.edu/idsd.php>

### **Homeland Security for Networked Industries**

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

This conference brings together senior leaders from industry and government to discuss current challenges, share best practices, and make recommendations for securing the nation’s critical infrastructure. This year’s conference will focus on the nation’s ability to optimize investment in security, both for industry and government, which are

threatened by challenging economic times. It will also focus on reliability—particularly the smart grid, communications infrastructure during crises, and the nation’s financial services industry. The event will culminate in formal recommendations to the federal government for optimizing government industry resources for the greater benefit of national security.

<http://hsnievents.com/>

### **2011 Law Enforcement – Homeland Security**

Dec. 7-8; Chantilly, Va.

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



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

### **2012 Virginia Emergency Management Symposium**

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

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

[http://www.vemaweb.org/apps/public/news/newsView.cfm?News\\_ID=125](http://www.vemaweb.org/apps/public/news/newsView.cfm?News_ID=125)

## **LINKS**

### **Fairfax County Blogs and Web Resources**

- Fairfax County CERT - <http://fairfaxcountycert.blogspot.com/>
- Fairfax County Citizen Corps Web Page - [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/oem/citizencorps/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/oem/citizencorps/)
- Fairfax County Citizen Corps Blog - <http://citizencorps.blogspot.com/>
- Virginia Citizen Corps - <http://www.vaemergency.com/citcorps/index.cfm>

### **DHS Science & Technology Directorate Newsletter**

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

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

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

The Department of Homeland Security provides a Web-based “Daily OSIR,” which is posted on the DHS public Web site. Accessing the report via the Web enables readers to retrieve the current Daily Report as well as 10 days of

archived DHS Daily Reports. Once you arrive at the Web page you will find the most recent Daily OSIR at the top of the page, under the title "Current Report." This report is posted each morning, except for weekends and holidays. 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 [NICCRports@dhs.gov](mailto:NICCRports@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 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/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency/)

#### **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**

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Emergency Information: [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency)

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

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

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