



ESF 15 Business / Nonprofit Update

Produced by Emergency Support Function 15 – External Affairs

September 2012

ITEMS OF INTEREST FOR ESF 15

Emergency Survey Summary

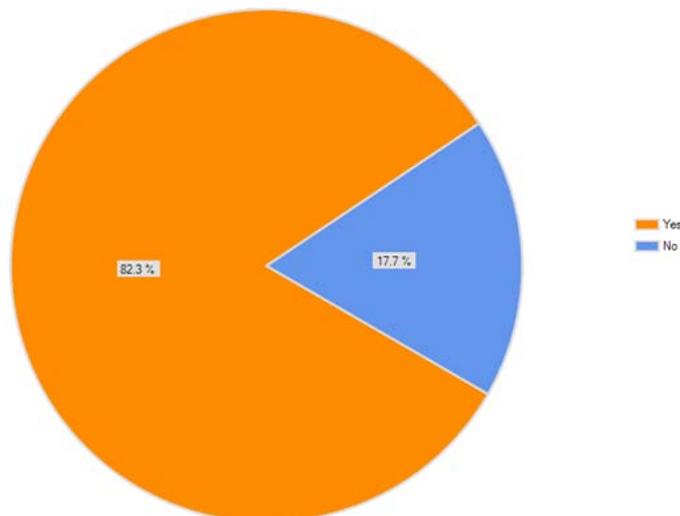
Following the June 29 derecho storm, the Office of Public Affairs and Office of Emergency Management conducted a survey of our public about the following areas:

- Emergency communications.
- Devices and tools people use to access the information.
- Specific questions about the county's derecho response.
- Business preparedness.
- Personal preparedness.

A total of 5,795 respondents completed the survey between Aug. 13 and Sept. 7. Those respondents also generated nearly 17,000 written comments that staff is analyzing for an additional layer of qualitative feedback. Among some of the key findings:

- 78 percent of respondents ranked the county's overall emergency communications efforts as excellent or good.
- 45 percent of respondents prefer a mobile device such as an iPhone to get emergency information, followed by radio at 17.3 percent, TV at 16.8 percent and a desktop computer at 16.1 percent.
- 69 percent of respondents lost power as a result of the storm, with 20 percent in the dark for more than four days. Even without power, though, 37 percent said they continued to access emergency information from the county.
- 82 percent are ready to be self-sufficient for three days.

If an emergency impacts your community, are you prepared to be self-sufficient for at least three days with supplies, medications and other basic needs?



Volunteers Needed for Exercise

VRE, the Virginia Railway Express and the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department are holding a full scale exercise on Saturday, Oct. 27, from 9 a.m. until noon. The basis for the exercise is a train derailment along with a "dirty bomb" in the Springfield area. People with disabilities are needed to portray "survivors" who could give Fire and Rescue real feedback on how they handled the train evacuations. Your participation will give you a unique look into the world of emergency response while at the same time, give first responders an opportunity to learn about residents with disabilities. Refreshments also will be provided. If you would like to participate, contact Bruce McFarlane with the Office of Emergency Management at Bruce.McFarlane@fairfaxcounty.gov. Provide your name and email/contact information no later than Friday, Oct. 5. OEM will contact you with training specifics including event location, meeting times, etc.

Governor McDonnell Launches First Virginia Cyber Challenge

Governor Bob McDonnell will host the first Governor's Cyber Challenge this fall and is inviting Virginia high school students to participate in this initiative. This free competition will challenge students in skills related to the fast-growing industry of cyber security. The Governor invites Virginia's students who have an interest in computers, information technology, and cyber security to compete in the upcoming free competition. The challenge is hosted by the U.S. Cyber Challenge, the SANS Institute and George Mason University. The Challenge consists of two parts.

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The first part is a set of online quizzes and the top 40 scoring students will advance to the second part, which are in person finals held March 2, 2013, at George Mason University. Winners of the competition will receive scholarships in the amounts of \$5,000 for first place, \$3000 for second place, and \$1,500 for third place. More information can be found at <http://www.technology.virginia.gov/CyberChallenge/index.cfm>.

Get Ready to ShakeOut.

October 18, 2012 Register Now at www.shakeout.org/southeast



Great Southeast ShakeOut

With less than a month to go until the first Great Southeast ShakeOut set for Thursday, Oct. 18 at 10:18 a.m., Virginia leads the way in registrations for the multi-state simultaneous earthquake drill. As of mid-September, nearly 390,000 Virginians had signed up to practice “Drop, Cover, and Hold On,” the recommended response to an earthquake. Virginia has joined Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, Maryland and the District of Columbia to help people understand the safe response to an earthquake and to promote participation in the Great Southeast ShakeOut. To date, total registration stands at 560,000. The drill is open to everyone – individuals, families, businesses, organizations, schools and colleges, government agencies can sign up at www.shakeout.org/southeast. Once registered, participants will receive information on how to plan their drill and how to engage communities to become better prepared for earthquakes and disasters.

Researchers Devise More Accurate Method for Predicting Hurricane Activity

Researchers from North Carolina State University have developed a new method for forecasting seasonal hurricane activity that is 15 percent more accurate than previous techniques. “This approach should give policymakers more reliable information than current state-of-the-art methods,” says Dr. Nagiza Samatova, an associate professor of computer science at NC State and co-author of a paper describing the work. “This will hopefully give them more confidence in planning for the hurricane season.” Conventional models used to predict seasonal hurricane activity rely on classical statistical methods using historical data. Hurricane predictions are challenging, in part, because there are an enormous number of variables in play – such as temperature and humidity – which need to be entered for different places and different times. This means there are hundreds of thousands of factors to be considered. The trick is in determining which variables at which times in which places are most significant. This challenge is exacerbated by the fact that we only have approximately 60 years of historical data to plug into the models. But now researchers have developed a “network motif-based model” that evaluates historical data for all of the variables in all of the places at all of the times in order to identify those combinations of factors that are most predictive of seasonal hurricane activity. For example, some combinations of factors may correlate only to low activity, while other may correlate only to high activity.

<http://news.ncsu.edu/releases/wms-samatova-activity2012/>

NENA Outlines Lessons Learned from Derecho Power Outages in Congressional Testimony

Extended outages of 9-1-1 emergency services after the recent “derecho” storm in the National Capital Region revealed serious vulnerabilities in those systems. But an active, dedicated response from telecommunications carriers and local government agencies can help prevent such outages and improve emergency services in the future. That was the message delivered to Congress this week on behalf of America’s 9-1-1 call centers by Trey Forgety, director of Governmental Affairs for the National Emergency Number Association (NENA), in testimony before the House Committee on Homeland Security, Subcommittee on Preparedness, Response and Communications.

<http://www.nena.org/news/102618/NENA-Outlines-Lessons-Learned-from-Derecho-Power-Outages-in-Congressional-Testimony.htm>

TSA Pre✓™ Begins at Washington Dulles International Airport

The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) today announced the start of TSA Pre✓ operations at Washington Dulles International Airport (IAD). Under TSA Pre✓ U.S. citizens traveling domestically who are select frequent

travelers of American Airlines, Delta Air Lines, United Airlines and/or US Airways or are members of U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Trusted Traveler programs are now eligible to participate and may receive expedited screening benefits. The TSA Pre✓ checkpoint is located in the center of the departures level of the main terminal at IAD. This checkpoint is currently the only airport in the country that has a checkpoint dedicated to TSA Pre✓ passengers.

<http://www.tsa.gov/press/releases/2012/0925b.shtm>

TSA Pre✓ “Pop-Up” Information Center Now Open at Washington Dulles International Airport

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) announced earlier this month the opening of a temporary joint information center, located on the ticketing level of Washington Dulles International Airport (IAD). The temporary location will allow travelers to learn about how to participate in TSA Pre✓ and begin the application process for CBP’s Global Entry Trusted Traveler Program. The information center is scheduled to be in place for 90 days. “Global Entry allows CBP to leverage automated screening processes to focus on those individuals we know less about,” said Kevin McAleenan, CBP acting assistant commissioner for Field Operations. “Partnering with TSA’s Pre✓ initiative allows us to further expand the population of those we consider low-risk.” Global Entry is a CBP Trusted Traveler program that allows expedited clearance for pre-approved, low-risk travelers upon arrival in the United States. Upon arrival in the U.S. from international travel, Global Entry members are able to bypass the traditional CBP inspection lines and use automated kiosks. Travelers scan their passports and fingerprints, answer the customs declaration questions using the kiosk’s touch screen and proceed with a receipt to the exit with the whole process taking about a minute. U.S. citizens enrolled in Global Entry automatically qualify for participation in TSA Pre✓ for domestic travel.

<http://www.tsa.gov/press/releases/2012/0917.shtm>

Driver Training Complex Dedicated

Virginia State Police dedicated its new, state-of-the-art driver training facility, the only one of its kind in the Commonwealth, during a special ribbon-cutting ceremony on Thursday, Sept. 20. The Virginia State Police Driver Training Complex is located just outside the Town of Blackstone in Nottoway County. It is a first of its kind for the Virginia State Police and, due to its size, unique design, and topography, unlike any other public safety driver training course in the state. The complex includes 4.5 miles of interstate, urban and rural highways. From the interstate “cloverleaf” to the Urban Response Course’s railroad tracks and cul-de-sacs, the track features asphalt, concrete and gravel surfaces to provide Virginia State Police personnel with the ultimate driver training environment. In addition, the site includes a 342,000 square foot “precision driving course” and 25,000 square foot “skid pan” to simulate various inclement road conditions.

Photo Gallery: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/vsp-photos>

New Report on Fusion Centers

On the 11th anniversary of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, the Constitution Project, based in Washington, D.C., released a new report on the 77 fusion centers currently operating in the U.S. The report was released in conjunction with a panel discussion on the same day which discussed various aspects and recommendations for fusion centers. The new report highlights how the collection, use and storage of such massive amounts of personal and potentially sensitive information can threaten constitutional rights to privacy, equal protection and freedom of expression and offers recommended policy changes to better safeguard civil liberties.

<http://www.homelandsecurity.org/node/567>

Report: <http://constitutionproject.org/pdf/fusioncenterreport.pdf>

Virginia Department of Health Urges Rabies Vaccination for Pets

Ask anyone whose pet has had a run-in with a rabid animal, and they will tell you how important it is to keep pets’ rabies vaccines up to date. This year during Rabies Awareness Week, Sept. 24-30, the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) and the Virginia Veterinary Medical Association (VVMA) stressed the importance of safeguarding the lives of pets and family members by vaccinating pets against rabies. Last year in Virginia 618 cases of rabies in animals were reported. The total number of rabies cases confirmed so far this year in the Commonwealth is 389. Usually between 500 and 600 animals are diagnosed with rabies in Virginia annually. Rabies is fatal in humans. If your pet

has contact with a wild animal, contact your veterinarian or local health department right away. State law requires all dogs and cats over the age of four months to be vaccinated against rabies. The Virginia Department of Health strongly advises the following steps to protect your pets and family from rabies:

- Vaccinate all cats, dogs and ferrets against rabies and keep them up to date.
- Avoid contact with wild animals or stray cats and dogs.
- Do not feed wild animals or stray cats and dogs.
- Report stray cats and dogs to your local animal control agency.
- Eliminate outdoor food sources around the home.
- Keep pets confined to your property or walk them on a leash.
- Call your local Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries office or a licensed wildlife rehabilitator for guidance about sick or injured wildlife.

For more information, visit the Virginia Department of Health at www.vdh.virginia.gov/Epidemiology/DEE/Rabies/ or the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's website at www.cdc.gov/rabies.

NOAA Launches Weather-Ready Nation Initiative to Enhance Weather Forecasts and Support for D.C. Area

NOAA recently announced service improvements underway at its forecast office in Sterling, Va., which provides weather forecasts and warnings and supports public safety decision-makers in the nation's capital and Baltimore, Md. This is the latest in a series of six pilot projects NOAA launched over the past year as part of its Weather-Ready Nation initiative to improve the country's resilience to extreme weather. The six Weather-Ready Nation projects focus on emergency response, ecological forecasting and enhanced support to officials who make public health and safety decisions when extreme weather sets in. Successful projects may be duplicated in other locations. Three new emergency response specialists at the Baltimore/Washington forecast office will allow the National Weather Service to improve its service to the region in a number of ways. For example, the office will now be able to provide a highly trained and certified meteorologist on the scene during major weather events to give on-demand briefings. Other service enhancements include:

- Cataloging local impacts from weather - going beyond the weather forecast to tell the public how that weather will affect society, giving people and local government more information about what actions they need to take.
- Providing better explanations about differences between the forecast (the most likely outcome) and the range of possibilities beyond three days out to help decision-makers plan for any possible scenario.
- Mapping flood threats to visually show where flood waters will inundate based on tidal and storm surge forecasts - this will help emergency managers keep people and their cars out of areas that are expected to flood.
- Improving the distribution of weather information by keeping up with new communication technologies and social media.
- Working to achieve local weather-readiness where everyone gets a clear, understandable message when a weather disaster is imminent and knows what to do to protect themselves.

The extreme weather in 2011 – historic, costly and deadly – was the impetus for NOAA to start a national dialog about how to build a Weather-Ready Nation and its effort to improve service to the nation by launching these pilot projects. As part of Weather-Ready Nation, NOAA has made fundamental changes during the past year touching every area of the agency's work, from observing current weather and climate conditions to increasing lead times on severe weather warnings to improving how forecasts and warnings are communicated to the public.

Virginia Meets Emergency Planning Goal for Protecting Residents

As a highlight of National Preparedness Month, Virginia Governor Bob McDonnell announced an important emergency planning milestone. For the first time since 2007, every Virginia county, city and town with an emergency management program has an emergency operations plan adopted by its elected governing board. The purpose of these plans is to protect citizens during disasters and emergencies. In 2007, the Code of Virginia was changed to require local governing bodies to formally adopt emergency operations plans every four years. Previously, no timeline was specified, so many plans had not been revised for several years. When the Code was changed, approximately 20 percent of local plans were not compliant. Some of the reasons for out-of-date plans include staff turnover at the local level and ongoing response to disasters. In 2011, Governor McDonnell challenged local

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governments to make all plans current. To reach the goal, the Virginia Department of Emergency Management provided training, workshops and technical assistance to local emergency planners and leaders.

<http://www.governor.virginia.gov/News/viewRelease.cfm?id=1437>

FEMA Announces 2012 Community Resilience Innovation Challenge

On Sept. 27, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) announced that the application period is open for a new funding opportunity to build local resilience, through a Whole Community approach, in communities across America: the Community Resilience Innovation Challenge. Though National Preparedness Month comes to a close at the end of September, FEMA and its partners know that preparedness must continue in communities year-round. This new monetary opportunity is designed to continue to move community preparedness forward and assist local areas in building and revitalizing community-based partnerships to advance the nation's resilience to disasters. "The best resiliency ideas originate in our states and communities – not from Washington, D.C.," said FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate. "The goal of this program is to empower communities to collaborate and develop innovative ways to effectively respond to disasters." The opportunity is provided through the Rockefeller Foundation and FEMA and will be administered by the Los Angeles Emergency Preparedness Foundation who will act as a third-party intermediary to encourage local communities to engage in creative activities that enhance disaster resilience. Funding levels will range, with a maximum award of \$35,000, and applications are open to most local, state, and tribal agencies and governments; business entities; associations; organizations and groups. Submissions will be accepted through Oct. 26. Additional information on the Challenge program criteria and application process can be found at www.fema.gov and www.ResilienceChallenge.org.



www.CapitalRegionUpdates.gov

PLANNING / PREPAREDNESS

Being Prepared for the New School Year

By Flat Stanley and Flat Stella – from the FEMA Blog

Although we've only been working at FEMA for a few months now, we have learned how important it is to be prepared, no matter where you are. And with the new school year underway, we've been learning some important things to help keep kids and parents safer. Things like:

- Complete an emergency contact card for each child in your family. Put the cards in their backpacks or book bags.
- Find out how often they have students practice what to do in the event of severe weather or a fire.
- Teach your children how and when to call 9-1-1 or your local emergency medical services number for help.
- Ask your child's school for a copy of their emergency plan for you to keep at home or work.



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- Parents should be sure to check with their children’s day care or school about what emergency plans they have. That way both parents and kids know what to expect during and after an emergency

<http://blog.fema.gov/2012/09/being-prepared-for-new-school-year.html>

FEMA Releases Disaster Preparedness Video Series

As part of the ninth annual National Preparedness Month (NPM), the Department of Homeland Security’s Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Ad Council unveiled a new series of public service advertisements (PSAs) as part of their Ready campaign. Created pro bono by advertising agency Leo Burnett, the new PSAs emphasize the message that “you never know when the day before is the day before” by utilizing imagery of infamous natural disasters juxtaposed with comparatively idyllic imagery what it looked like the day before the destruction. The Ready campaign encourages individuals, families and businesses to make preparedness a year round activity in an effort to prepare all Americans in advance of a potential emergency. FEMA recommends taking four simple steps when preparing for the unexpected: (1) Get an emergency supply kit; (2) Make a family emergency plan; (3) Be informed about the types of emergencies that can happen in your area and their appropriate responses; and (4) Get involved by finding opportunities to support community preparedness. YouTube Emergency Preparedness Playlist: <http://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL08F834150F55044D&feature=plcp>



<http://www.multivu.com/mnr/57433-fema-and-ad-council-mark-ninth-national-preparedness-month-with-new-psas>

Workplace Disaster Preparedness Tools and Resources

Looking for other team building exercises for your office? FEMA and its partners offer many tools and resources to strengthen your preparedness, awareness and resilience in the workplace such as:

- IS-909 – Community Preparedness: Implementing Simple Activities for Everyone. This online course helps organizations conduct simple preparedness activities to educate individuals about creating a no-cost or low-cost disaster kit, planning for and practicing an evacuation, staying safe when evacuation is not an option, preparing for power outages and developing a communications plan.

<http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/is909.asp>

Additional resources include:

- FEMA’s Ready.gov website (www.Ready.gov) provides a multi-faceted preparedness program specifically for businesses to mitigate against disruption in operations, as well as to protect their most valuable assets, their employees. It’s a five step program includes details on: Program management, Planning, Implementation, Testing, and Exercises.

Program Improvement

- Prepares My Business is a comprehensive program for disaster planning and preparedness for small businesses. Provides education, planning, testing, and disaster assistance tools to help ensure your business remains open and recovers faster following a disaster. <http://www.preparemybusiness.org/>
- Ready Rating provides businesses with a vulnerability assessment and the tools to develop and implement a preparedness plan. <http://readyrating.org/>
- FEMA’s Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program teaches employees about disaster preparedness for hazards that may impact their area and trains them in basic disaster response skills. <http://www.citizencorps.gov/cert/>

And don’t forget to sign your organization up for the Oct. 18 Great Southeast ShakeOut earthquake drill. Register your organization at <http://www.shakeout.org/southeast/> to participate!

Protecting Your Finances if a Disaster Strikes

If you had only a few moments to evacuate your home and could not return for several days or even weeks, would you have access to cash, banking services and the personal identification you need to conduct your day-to-day financial life? Read “Protecting Your Finances if a Disaster Strikes: Are You Prepared?” to get tips on how to get prepared.

<http://fdic.gov/consumers/consumer/news/cnsum11/Sum11Color.pdf>

Disaster Dozen: 12 Myths of Disaster Preparedness

Hurricane Katrina and other disasters have given us a series of emergency preparedness wake-up calls. Do we pay attention now or continue to hit the snooze button? The biggest obstacles to comprehensive family emergency readiness education are the misconceptions surrounding the true nature of preparedness. So to set the stage for better education, and ultimately better public safety, let's take a look at some of these myths.

1. If something happens all I have to do is call 9-1-1.
2. All I need is a 72-hour kit with a flashlight, first-aid kit, some food and water and a radio.
3. My insurance policy will take care of everything.
4. Good preparedness is too expensive and complicated.
5. We can only form a neighborhood group through FEMA, the Red Cross or local law enforcement.
6. In a weapons of mass destruction (WMD) terrorist attack, we're all dead anyway.
7. Nothing like that could ever happen here.
8. All I have to worry about is my own family.
9. If preparedness were really important it would be taught in school.
10. I can get free preparedness information on the Internet.
11. Full preparedness means I have to get a lot of guns and be a survivalist.
12. If something really bad happens, no one will help.

<http://www.emergencymgmt.com/training/12-Myths-Disaster-Preparedness.html>

Plan, Prepare, and Respond: Disaster Planning for Your Pet

September is Disaster Preparedness Month. Whether it is a hurricane, flood or fire, disasters affect every member of the family, pets included. To help the furred and feathered members of your family weather a disaster safely, here are The Animal Medical Center's suggestions for disaster planning.

<http://blogs.webmd.com/pet-tales/2012/09/plan-prepare-and-respond-disaster-planning-for-your-pet.html>

Red Cross Poll Shows Social Media and Apps Motivate People to Prepare

Americans are becoming increasingly reliant on mobile devices during emergencies to provide information, useful tools and a way to let loved ones know they are safe, according to a new survey conducted by the American Red Cross. **Mobile apps now tie social media as the fourth-most popular way to get information in an emergency**, following TV, radio and online news. The Red Cross survey found that 20 percent of Americans said they have gotten some kind of emergency information from an app, including emergency apps, those sponsored by news outlets and privately developed apps. Other key findings include:

- Emergency social users are also most likely to seek and share information during emergencies. While they look for the hard facts – road closures, damage reports and weather conditions – they share personal information about their safety statuses and how they are feeling.
- Three out of four Americans (76 percent) expect help in less than three hours of posting a request on social media, up from 68 percent last year.
- Forty percent of those surveyed said they would use social tools to tell others they are safe, up from 24 percent last year.

The Red Cross continues to encourage people to call 9-1-1 as the best first action when in need of emergency assistance. The Red Cross has release a series of free apps for both iPhone and Android users, available at

redcross.org/prepare/mobile-apps.

<http://www.redcross.org/news/press-release/More-Americans-Using-Mobile-Apps-in-Emergencies>

HOW AMERICANS USE **SOCIAL TOOLS** IN EMERGENCIES



Emergency Social Users

will take action based on social information



76% will contact friends to see if they are safe



37% will purchase supplies or seek safe shelter.



25% will download an emergency app



Mobile apps and social media are tied as the **4th** most popular source emergency information during a disaster.



1 in 5 Americans have used an app for emergency info.



It's **BEST** to call **9-1-1**



American Red Cross



More than **76%** expect help to arrive within 3 hours of posting need to social site.

H21055 08/12

Survey Provides a Snapshot of U.S. Business Continuity Planning

SolarWinds has released the results of a survey conducted in partnership with Network World which asked respondents about business continuity in their organization. The survey revealed that 76 percent of respondents' organizations have a business continuity plan for their business or IT department. An aspect of most plans includes remote access for employees to ensure business continuity. In addition, 48 percent of respondents have implemented remote management software to ensure that IT problems can be solved regardless of location. Other highlights:

- Almost half (44 percent) of respondents update business continuity plans each year; 57 percent of respondents that reported not having a plan, will create one in the next 12 months;
- Natural disaster business implications: 27 percent have not been able to go into the office because of a disaster and over 30 percent of those respondents missed a week or more of work;
- Data center recovery: When asked how confident their organization was that they could recover their data center in a reasonable amount of time, 30 percent reported they are 'not at all confident';

- Most common disasters: When asked about what disasters have kept them out of the office, 31 percent cited hurricanes while 28 percent cited floods.

The survey was conducted on July 2 through August 24, 2012 via an online survey service, resulting in 185 completed surveys.

<http://www.continuitycentral.com/news06451.html>

Disaster Preparedness: Training

This is the final in a series of articles focusing on how to implement disaster preparedness in your SMB organization. The last step in having a disaster-prepared infrastructure is training all staff and sticking to regularly scheduled drills. While this may sound like a very simple step, planning training and drills is tougher to execute than you might think.

<http://www.pcmag.com/article2/0,2817,2409851,00.asp>

First article: <http://www.pcmag.com/article2/0,2817,2408092,00.asp>

Second article: <http://www.pcmag.com/article2/0,2817,2408801,00.asp>

Third article: <http://www.pcmag.com/article2/0,2817,2409510,00.asp>

Heating Fires in Residential Buildings

Fall began in September, and with it comes cooler temperatures and the resulting seasonal increase in the number of home heating fires. To help Americans understand the nature of the heating fire problem, the U.S. Fire Administration issued a special report: Heating Fires in Residential Buildings (2008-2010).

<http://www.usfa.fema.gov/media/press/2012releases/092012.shtm>

Fewest Numbers of Americans Concerned about Terrorism

Despite the explosion in Islamist extremism throughout the Middle East, North Africa and SE Asia in which masses of extremist Muslims have been calling for “death to America” and American officials in Muslim countries, the day before the 11th anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attack the 2012 Chicago Council Survey of American Public Opinion and U.S. Foreign Policy disturbingly reported that “fewer Americans are concerned about international terrorism as a ‘critical’ threat to the United States than at any point since September 11, 2001.” Other key findings of the 2012 Chicago Council Survey include:

- Just over half (54 percent) support an attack by US ground troops against terrorist training camps and facilities, down from 82 percent in 2002.
- Majorities oppose the UN authorizing a strike on Iran (51 percent opposed), oppose a unilateral US strike on Iran (70 percent opposed), and do not want to get involved in a potential Iran-Israel war (59 percent opposed).
- To deal with the crisis in Syria, majorities of Americans support diplomatic and economic sanctions (63 percent) as well as a no-fly zone in Syria (58 percent).

<http://www.hstoday.us/industry-news/general/single-article/fewest-numbers-of-americans-concerned-about-terrorism-since-911/f3476a354487886aeab524c109641794.html>

Tips for Building a Budget-Friendly Preparedness Kit

Disasters can come in many forms, and it is important to know what to prepare for. A chemical release will not require all the same resources as a hurricane. Nevertheless, there are basic items that every kit should have. Various websites offer checklists of things you may need in the event of an emergency. These lists are not law, however, and only you can determine the best needs for you and your family. Websites such as Ready.gov and the American Red Cross are great resources to help get you started and provide suggestions for kit contents as well as other items that you may not have previously considered.

<http://www.emergencymgmt.com/disaster/Tips-Building-Budget-Friendly-Preparedness-Kit.html>

National Terrorism Advisory System

The Department of Homeland Security’s (DHS) National Terrorism Advisory System (NTAS) is a robust terrorism advisory system that provides timely information to the public about credible terrorist threats and replaces the former color-coded alert system. Under NTAS, DHS will coordinate with other federal entities to issue detailed alerts to the public when the federal government receives information about a credible terrorist threat. NTAS alerts provide a

concise summary of the potential threat including geographic region, mode of transportation, or critical infrastructure potentially affected by the threat, actions being taken to ensure public safety, as well as recommended steps that individuals, communities, business and governments can take to help prevent, mitigate or respond to a threat. NTAS Alerts will include a clear statement on the nature of the threat, which will be defined in one of two ways:

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

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

MEDIA ARTICLES OF INTEREST

Education Secretary Reinstates Portion of Virginia Tech Fine

U.S. Education Secretary Arne Duncan reinstated half of a fine levied against Virginia Tech, ruling that university officials failed to issue a timely warning on the day of the deadly campus shooting in April 2007.

<http://www.delmarvanow.com/article/20120901/NEWS01/209010337/Ed-secretary-reinstates-half-Va-Tech-fine>

National Preparedness Month: When You Are the First Responder

In a press release issued by the White House on Friday, Aug. 31, President Obama proclaimed that September is National Preparedness Month. During the month, Americans will be inundated with reminders and tips from a number of excellent preparedness campaigns encouraging and reminding community members, families, and businesses of the importance of having a plan and how doing so can save lives.

<http://www.examiner.com/article/national-preparedness-month-when-you-are-the-first-responder>

Woeful Success Rate in Citizen Preparedness Suggests New Approaches are Necessary

Surveys measuring citizen preparedness show how woefully unprepared the populous is for a disaster and how much work community leaders have to do to reach residents and inform them. Surveys consistently indicate that less than 10 percent of the public is considered prepared for a disaster and that percentage is usually closer to 6 percent. John Von Thaden, general manager of alerting and notification systems for Federal Signal, said 23 percent of respondents in a recent survey said they'd need to hear about local property damage before they would be concerned about their own safety. And 15 percent said they would have to incur property damage or see an injured friend or neighbor to feel threatened.

<http://www.emergencymgmt.com/disaster/Woeful-Success-Rate-Citizen-Preparedness.html>

Questions Raised About Cost, Reliability of BioWatch upgrade

One year ago, DHS said a new contract for Biowatch, a system for detecting biological attacks on the United States, would be awarded in May 2012 and would cost an estimated \$3.1 billion during its initial five years of operation; now DHS has decided to postpone the plans due to concerns about cost and reliability

<http://www.homelandsecuritynewswire.com/dr20120910-questions-raised-about-cost-reliability-of-biowatch-upgrade>

Staples Launches Disaster Preparedness Program for Business

The National Safety Council and the office supply chain Staples are teaming up to help raise disaster planning awareness among small businesses. The new Safety Research Center on Staples.com is designed to provide small businesses with guides to help prepare for common safety issues and emergencies, as well as access to an assortment of health and safety-related products. “It’s crucial for small businesses to have everything from a plan in place to the

right safety supplies on hand to ensure the health and well-being of their most valuable resource, their employees,” said Bob Risk, senior strategic safety, health and wellness manager for Staples. A recent survey by Staples revealed that half of small business office workers are either unsure if an emergency plan exists or say their company doesn’t have a plan at all. In addition, the study found that half of office workers participate in emergency drills only once every few years or do not hold them at all. “The federal government issues around 70 disaster declarations annually, which means hundreds of businesses, communities and families face unexpected disruption and significant hardship each year,” said Janet Froetscher, president and CEO of the National Safety Council. “Good preparation includes designing an emergency action plan to make sure you have the proper emergency supplies and safety products on hand.”

<http://smallbusiness.foxbusiness.com/entrepreneurs/2012/09/11/staples-launches-disaster-preparedness-program-for-business/>

Disaster Planning Can Have Big Payoff

You are your own first responder during a disaster such as a hurricane or winter storm. And no one cares more about you than you do. In little more than a year, Virginians have been battered by tornadoes, a powerful earthquake, a hurricane, a tropical storm and a severe derecho windstorm. Those natural disasters demonstrated again that people need to be smart about the risks they face and able to cope on their own for days without electricity, public water supplies, grocery stores and gas stations. Fall hurricane season is upon us and winter storms are around the corner.

<http://www2.timesdispatch.com/business/virginia-news/2012/sep/09/tdmony01-disaster-planning-can-have-big-payoff-ar-2187821/>

11 Years After Terror Attacks, Security Funds Dwindle in Virginia

Eleven years after terrorists proved the United States unprepared for disaster, the flow of federal money for state and local homeland security initiatives is drying up in Virginia. The state is receiving \$13.1 million in homeland security and emergency planning grants this year, about \$16 million less than a year ago and \$37.3 million less than in 2008, just before the worst economic free fall since the Depression

<http://www2.timesdispatch.com/news/news/2012/sep/11/tdmain01-security-funds-dwindle-ar-2194750/>

Disaster Management: Not Just a Government Matter

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce has established an active program to counter the damaging effects of disasters by using a variety of business sector approaches that are being woven together in the federation’s Business Civic Leadership Center.

<http://www.emergencymgmt.com/disaster/Disaster-Management-Not-Just-a-Government-Matter.html>

Commission Leaders Call for Emergency Communications Network

The former heads of the commission that investigated the terror attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, recently highlighted unfinished plans for a nationwide emergency communications system. The attacks revealed the problems posed by a patchwork of emergency radio networks and devices that often do not work with each other.

<http://www.nextgov.com/cio-briefing/2012/09/commission-leaders-call-emergency-communications-network/58026/>

Planning Critical to Response

When the next major emergency system hits post, the proper plan can help Fort Belvoir community members survive, stay informed and recover. There is no better time for community members to start designing or reviewing emergency preparedness plans than during National Preparedness Month, according to the Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security.

<http://www2.belvoireagle.com/news/2012/sep/13/prior-planning-critical-response-ar-2202522/>

U.S. Schools not Ready for Next Pandemic

Many U.S. schools are not prepared for bioterrorism attacks, outbreaks of emerging, infectious diseases, or pandemics, despite the recent 2009 H1N1 influenza pandemic which resulted in more than 18,000 deaths worldwide, Saint Louis University researchers say.

<http://www.homelandsecuritynewswire.com/dr20120919-u-s-schools-not-ready-for-next-pandemic>

U.S. Plans Trial Distribution of Anthrax Vaccine in Early 2013

The United States could move forward early next year with a planned trial initiative to offer anthrax vaccine to select nonmilitary emergency personnel. The plan would give participating state and local emergency personnel the option of accepting a course of anthrax vaccination doses from the U.S. Strategic National Stockpile of medical countermeasures.

<http://www.govexec.com/defense/2012/09/us-plans-trial-distribution-anthrax-vaccine-early-2013/58165>

Questions Raised about Cost, Reliability of BioWatch Upgrade

One year ago, DHS said a new contract for Biowatch, a system for detecting biological attacks on the United States, would be awarded in May 2012, and would cost an estimated \$3.1 billion during its initial five years of operation. Now DHS has decided to postpone the plans due to concerns about cost and reliability. The "Los Angeles Times" reports that a 3-sentence posting released to a government Web site said the department was shifting the time frame for soliciting final proposals to late in the year. The posting provided no further explanation.

<http://www.homelandsecuritynewswire.com/dr20120910-questions-raised-about-cost-reliability-of-biowatch-upgrade>

Information and Preparedness

Sometimes simply knowing the location of a flooded road or the estimated arrival time of a major storm is the difference between life and death during a natural disaster. In honor of National Preparedness Month, the Fort Belvoir garrison urges the community to learn how to become informed and thus better prepared to respond to emergencies.

<http://www2.belvoireagle.com/news/2012/sep/20/information-key-emergency-response-ar-2220298/>

Weather Service Launches Pilot Project

The National Weather Service office responsible for Baltimore, Washington and the surrounding areas is changing how it presents its forecasts. The office in Sterling, VA., is launching a pilot program called Weather-Ready Nation. The weather service wants its forecasts to be more useful to emergency managers and the public. Changes include plans to present forecasts with best- and worst-case scenarios for impending storms, and give better warnings about potential storm surges.

<http://www2.timesdispatch.com/news/2012/sep/22/weather-service-launches-pilot-project-va-ar-2225911/>

Wireless Emergency Alerts

With the popularity of Apple's mobile devices, significantly more people in the country will be able to receive alerts through FEMA's Commercial Mobile Alert System, also known as Wireless Emergency Alerts. Alerts are sent to targeted geographic areas. Residents don't have to sign up. And, there's no charge. Alerts will be used for "imminent threats", AMBER Alerts, and emergency messages from the President. Per the law that established the CMAS program, mobile users can opt out of "imminent threats" and AMBER Alerts, but not out of emergency messages from a President.

<http://www.emergencymgmt.com/emergency-blogs/alerts>

FLU

West Nile Virus Outbreak Sets National Record, Kills 87

West Nile virus infections reached record numbers as the summer drew to a close, with cases involving the more deadly form of the disease the most common, according to updated Center for Disease Control numbers in early September. As of September 4, the CDC said 48 states have reported West Nile virus infections in people, birds, or mosquitoes, with only Alaska and Hawaii not reporting any cases. A total of 1,993 cases of West Nile virus disease in people, including 87 deaths, have been reported, up from 66 deaths reported to the agency only a month and a half ago, said the agency. Of those fatal cases, 1,069, or 54 percent were classified as neuroinvasive disease (such as

meningitis or encephalitis) and 924, or 46 percent, were classified as non-neuroinvasive disease. The neuroinvasive classification is the more dangerous form of the disease. The 1,993 cases reported so far in 2012 is the highest number of West Nile virus disease cases reported through the first week in September since West Nile virus was first detected in the United States in 1999, said the CDC.

http://www.gsnmagazine.com/node/27173?c=cbrne_detection

West Nile Virus Summer 2012

Summertime is mosquito season, so it also is West Nile Virus (WNV) season. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports that nationwide WNV is spreading faster than it has in years past, partly due to a mild winter and several spring rains that allowed the mosquito population to build early. **As of Sept. 11**, WNV disease has been reported in nine (9) Virginians: four in the northwest region, two in the northern region, two in the central region, and one in the southwest region. There has been one death in an older adult residing in the northwest region. These numbers are not unusual in Virginia: there were 9 reports of WNV disease in humans last year; for 2006 to 2010, WNV disease was reported in 1 to 5 persons annually. There was one death in 2011 and one death in 2010; from 2006 to 2009, there were no deaths. The easiest and best way to avoid WNV is to prevent mosquito bites.

- When you are outdoors, use insect repellent containing an EPA-registered active ingredient. Follow the directions on the package.
- Many mosquitoes are most active at dusk and dawn. Be sure to use insect repellent and wear long sleeves and pants at these times or consider staying indoors during these hours.
- Make sure you have good screens on your windows and doors to keep mosquitoes out.
- Eliminate mosquito breeding areas by addressing areas in your yard where rainwater collects. Turn over or empty bird baths, flower pots, buckets, or barrels. Clean roof gutters and downspout screens. Remove old tires from your yard. Eliminate standing water on flat roofs, boats or tarps. Keep children's wading pools empty and on their sides when not in use.

For more information on West Nile Virus or other arboviral illnesses, visit the Virginia Department of Health's West Nile Virus webpage (<http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/epidemiology/DEE/Vectorborne/WestNile/index.htm>) or visit CDC's website at <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/index.htm>.

Protect Yourself this Flu Season

The risk of infection and spread of influenza viruses between people, including H3N2v, can be reduced by taking a combination of actions. CDC recommends you:

- Take everyday preventive actions, including:
- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. (Throw the tissue in the trash after you use it.)
- Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after you cough or sneeze. If soap and water are not available, an alcohol-based hand rub may be used.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth. Germs spread that way.
- Try to avoid close contact with sick people.
- If you are sick, stay home from work or school until your illness is over.



Find more information from CDC at www.cdc.gov/flu/ or the Fairfax County Health Department at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/flu. Watch a Health Department video on flu at http://youtu.be/3csY_uy6St8.

Fairfax County Health Department Encourages Getting a Flu Vaccine

Flu season is fast approaching. The Fairfax County Health Department encourages everyone – aged 6 months and older – to get a flu vaccine as soon as possible. Vaccine is now available at Health Department clinics, your doctor's office and pharmacies and grocery stores throughout our community. An annual flu vaccine is the best way to protect against the flu. The Health Department says that when enough people get vaccinated, we can achieve what's

called “community immunity,” which stop the spread of flu and to protect vulnerable people in our community. In addition to getting a flu vaccine, you can help stop spreading the germs that cause flu by washing your hands often, covering your coughs and sneezes, and staying home from work or school when sick. Learn more about flu prevention, community immunity, and find a vaccination center near you by visiting www.fairfaxcounty.gov/flu.

H1N2 Variant Virus Detected in Minnesota

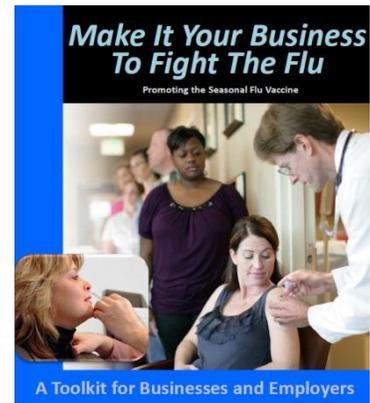
On Sept. 7, the Minnesota Department of Health has reported detection of three infections with an influenza A H1N2 variant (“H1N2v”) virus with the pandemic M gene from the 2009 H1N1 virus. These cases were reportedly associated with prolonged contact with pigs at a fair. H1N2 viruses normally circulate in pigs, not people, but rare human infections with this virus have been detected in the past. This virus is different from the H3N2v virus that, as of today, is reported to have caused 296 human infections across 10 U.S. states since July 2012. These additional human infections underscore the fact that swine influenza viruses can spread to people after close contact with infected pigs, and support the importance of ongoing surveillance for both human and swine influenza viruses. According to the state of Minnesota, each of the 3 people infected with the H1N2v virus had exhibited pig(s) or spent prolonged time with pig(s) at the Minnesota State Fair.

Minnesota Department of Health news release: <http://www.health.state.mn.us/news/pressrel/2012/h1n2083112.html>
<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/spotlights/h1n2v-cases-mn.htm>

Seasonal Flu Information for Businesses and Employers

The single best way to prevent seasonal flu is to get a yearly flu vaccine, but good health habits and antiviral medications are other measures that can help protect against the flu. To help businesses, employers and their employees learn about these strategies for preventing flu, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) provides the a flue toolkit, flyers, posters and other materials to post and distribute in the workplace.

<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/business/>



CDC Reports More Cases, Hospitalizations and Nation’s First H3N2v-Associated Death

On Aug. 31, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reported 12 additional cases of H3N2 variant virus (H3N2v) infection, as well as the first H3N2v-associated death, which was reported by the state of Ohio. The death occurred in an older adult with multiple underlying health conditions who reportedly had direct exposure to pigs in a fair setting. While limited person-to-person spread of this virus has been detected and likely continues to occur sporadically, no sustained community transmission has been found. CDC is monitoring this situation and working with states to respond to these evolving outbreaks. The agency continues to urge people at high risk from serious flu complications to stay away from pigs and pig arenas at fairs this summer.

<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/spotlights/h3n2v-more-cases.htm>

CDC H3N2 Web Page: <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/swineflu/h3n2v-outbreak.htm>

FDA Approves Vaccines for the 2012-2013 Influenza Season

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration announced today that it has approved the 2012-2013 influenza (flu) vaccine formulation for all six manufacturers licensed to produce and distribute the vaccines in the United States. Each year experts from the FDA, the World Health Organization, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and other public health experts study influenza virus samples and global disease patterns to identify virus strains likely to cause the most illness during the upcoming flu season. Based on that information and the recommendations of the FDA’s Vaccines and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee, the strains selected for inclusion in the 2012-2013 flu vaccines are:

- A/California/7/2009 (H1N1)-like virus
- A/Victoria/361/2011 (H3N2)-like virus
- B/Wisconsin/1/2010-like virus.

While the H1N1 virus is the same as what was included in the 2011-2012 influenza vaccines, this year’s influenza H3N2 and B viruses differ from those in the 2011-2012 influenza vaccines. Vaccination remains the cornerstone of

preventing influenza, a contagious respiratory disease caused by different influenza viruses infecting the nose, throat and lungs. This year's seasonal vaccines will provide protection against the three influenza virus strains that global surveillance indicates are likely to be the most common strains circulating during the upcoming season.

<http://www.fda.gov/NewsEvents/Newsroom/PressAnnouncements/ucm315365.htm>

Protect Yourself and Your Family from the Current West Nile Virus Outbreak

As of Sept. 4, 87 deaths caused by West Nile Virus had been reported in the United States. There have been 1,993 cases of West Nile Virus in people, with 70 percent of those cases occurring in six states: Texas, South Dakota, Mississippi, Oklahoma, Louisiana, and Michigan. Forty-eight states have reported West Nile virus infections in people, birds, or mosquitoes. West Nile Virus is a potentially dangerous illness that is primarily spread by bites from infected mosquitoes. The mosquitoes themselves become infected when they feed on infected birds. About one in 150 people infected with the virus will develop severe illness that could cause permanent neurological effects or death. About 20 percent of people can have symptoms for up to several weeks. Eighty percent of infected people show no symptoms at all. People over the age of 50 are more likely to develop serious symptoms. The easiest and best way to avoid West Nile Virus is to prevent mosquito bites.

- When you are outdoors, use insect repellent containing an EPA-registered active ingredient. Follow the directions on the package.
- Many mosquitoes are most active at dusk and dawn. Be sure to use insect repellent and wear long sleeves and pants at these times or consider staying indoors during these hours.
- Make sure you have good screens on your windows and doors to keep mosquitoes out.
- Get rid of mosquito breeding sites by emptying standing water from flower pots, buckets and barrels. Change the water in pet dishes and replace the water in bird baths weekly. Drill holes in tire swings so water drains out. Keep children's wading pools empty and on their sides when they aren't being used.

Learn more about the West Nile Virus outbreak from the Centers for Disease Control.

<http://blog.usa.gov/post/31000517628/protect-yourself-and-your-family-from-the-current-west>

Swine Flu Strains Could Mutate and Infect Humans, Study Says

Researchers find a flu strain from pigs that spread among ferrets and easily killed them, suggesting that people are vulnerable to it. They advise global vigilance. Nobody knows where the next pandemic flu will come from. Now, scientists have evidence that influenza strains common in commercial pig herds can mutate in a way that would allow them to infect humans and spread easily among them. The study, published Monday in Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, found that a flu strain isolated from pigs was able to spread among ferrets and killed them with ease. Ferrets are commonly used in flu studies because they have human-like responses to flu. Although this particular virus doesn't pose a threat to human health because it is similar to the H1N1 swine flu that has been circulating in people since 2009, the study findings underscore the need for watchfulness, said study coauthor Richard Webby, a virologist at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis, Tenn.

<http://www.latimes.com/health/h1n1/la-sci-swine-flu-20120911,0,3783704.story>

CDC Study Suggests Many H3N2v Cases May be Missed

An investigation of one of the first swine-origin H3N2 influenza cases detected in the United States in 2011 suggests that for each confirmed case, there may be many more that go undetected. The investigation, triggered by a case related to a Pennsylvania fair in August 2011, revealed 3 confirmed cases, 4 probable cases, and 82 suspected cases of variant H3N2 (H3N2v), all of them in people who had attended the fair, according to a report published yesterday in Emerging Infectious Diseases. The virus could not be confirmed in most cases because most of those with suspected infections had recovered before the investigation, the report says. But among six children under age 4, an age-group in which retrospective serologic testing for novel flu viruses is more useful than for older groups, four tested positive for antibodies to the virus.

<http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/cidrap/content/influenza/swineflu/news/sep2112swine.html>

Fairfax County Flu Preparedness

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

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

TRAININGS / EXERCISES / CONFERENCES

OEC to Co-Sponsor Strategic Resourcing of Emergency Calling and Communications Forum

Oct. 11; Washington, D.C.

Join your industry and public sector colleagues from 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. for an informative half-day session on strategic resourcing of emergency calling and communications. The Industry Council for Emergency Response Technologies (iCERT), in partnership with Deltek/GovWin and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Office of Emergency Communications (OEC), will convene an interactive forum where attendees will learn firsthand from officials with the Federal Communications Commission, Commonwealth of Virginia Interoperability and iCERT member companies key points related to effective resourcing for critical public safety communications programs. The no cost forum will convene over a networking breakfast and conclude after two key issues panels with a luncheon session. In person participation is limited to 50 attendees. Remote participation by Webinar will be available as well.

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Office of Emergency Communications (OEC):

<http://www.dhs.gov/about-office-emergency-communications>

Second Annual Cyber Security Finance Forum 2012

Oct. 15-16; Washington, D.C.

Growing cyber threats challenging industry and the global economy will be the focus of this conference. The 2nd Cyber Security Finance Forum ("CSFF") is an exclusive senior executive event that brings together industry leaders, advisers, investors and government officials to discuss how to win more business. In a single day, CSFF offers a unique combination of expert panels, individual company presentations and networking breaks that focus on the opportunities, challenges and issues that need to be understood to succeed in the cyber security sector.

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

WADEM Pan American Regional Conference

Oct. 15-17, 2012; Leesburg, Va.

The 4th WADEM Pan American Conference will bring together individuals interested in disaster and emergency medicine/management to discuss developments and to build consensus on important related issues in the field. The conference will be comprised of consensus-building workshops, debates, keynote addresses, as well as invited and free papers. There will be a focus on risk reduction, improving preparedness, and assessing responses worldwide from pre-hospital care systems through post-event evaluations.

http://www.wadem.org/4thpan_american.html

IAEM-USA 60th Annual Conference & EMEX 2012

Oct. 16-Nov. 1; Orlando, Fla.

"Resiliency: Building a Better Tomorrow." Conference provides a forum for current trends and topics, information about the latest tools and technology in emergency management and homeland security, and advances IAEM committee work. Sessions encourage stakeholders at all levels of government, the private sector, public health and related professions to exchange ideas on collaborating to protect lives and property from disaster. If you are an emergency manager, homeland security official, first response coordinator, private industry risk manager or contingency planner, you will not want to miss the IAEM 60th Annual Conference & EMEX 2012 in Orlando, Fla.

<http://www.iaem.com/events/annual/intro.htm>

SARMA's 6th Annual Conference

Oct. 30-Nov. 1; Founders Hall, George Mason University - Arlington Campus

The Security Analysis and Risk Management Association's (SARMA) Annual Conference is the primary outreach event for the security analysis and risk management community, and is expected to attract approximately 300 participants this year. Held in partnership with the George Mason University School of Law's Center for Infrastructure Protection (CIP), the conference is an exceptional forum for collaboration, information sharing and networking, with a wide array of practitioners from federal, state and local governments, private industry, and

academia in attendance. This year's theme is "Professionalizing Security Risk Management."

<http://sarma.org/news/homepageboxes/6thannualconferenc/>

5th Annual CBRNe Convergence

Oct. 30-Nov. 2; Norfolk, Va.

Provides opportunities to hear from civil and military organizations about how their recent attacks, exercises and research are improving their defense.

<http://www.cbrneworld.com/convergence2012>

National Healthcare Coalition Preparedness Conference

Nov. 27-28; Alexandria, Va.

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

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

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

International Disaster Conference and Expo

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

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

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

12th World Congress on Stress, Trauma and Coping

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

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

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



12TH WORLD CONGRESS
ON STRESS, TRAUMA & COPING

Navigating the Next Era of
Crisis & Disaster Response

February 19 – 24, 2013
The Hilton Baltimore Hotel • Baltimore, MD

Critical Infrastructure Symposium

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

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

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

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

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

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

National Capital Region Homeland Security Events

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

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 Emergency Information Blog – <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency/blog>
- Fairfax County Emergency Web Page – <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency>
- Fairfax County CERT - <http://fairfaxcountycert.blogspot.com/>
- Fairfax County Citizen Corps Web Page – <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 NICCCReports@dhs.gov. You can access the Daily OSIR at:

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

Fairfax County Government Emergency Information Line

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/opa/infoline.htm

Emergency Management Magazine

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

FEMA Private Sector

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

FAIRFAX COUNTY 703-817-7771
EMERGENCY
INFORMATION LINE

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Emergency Information: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency

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.