



ESF 15 Business / Nonprofit Update

Produced by Emergency Support Function 15 – External Affairs

January 2015

ITEMS OF INTEREST FOR ESF 15



Businesses Brace for More, and More Sophisticated, Cyberattacks in 2015

The recent Sony Pictures hack is one more reason for industries to prepare for a series of cyberattacks which will likely occur in 2015. From massive data leaks to distributed denial-of-service (DDoS) attacks, hackers will continue to find vulnerabilities within targeted network systems. “In 2015, attackers will continue to look for new vulnerabilities so that they can ‘hack the planet’,” says one cyber expert.

<http://www.homelandsecuritynewswire.com/dr20141230-businesses-brace-for-more-and-more-sophisticated-cyberattacks-in-2015>

Heating Fire Safety and Carbon Monoxide

Home fires occur more in winter than in any other season. Many of these home fires are caused by space heaters, as well as fireplaces and wood stoves. The U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) advises the following heating and carbon monoxide tips to stay safe this winter season:

Portable Heaters

- Only use portable heaters from a recognized testing laboratory.
- Make sure the heater has an automatic shut-off so if it tips over, it shuts off.
- Keep anything that can burn such as bedding, clothing and curtains at least three feet away from the heater.
- Plug portable heaters directly into outlets. Never plug a portable heater into an extension cord or power strip.
- Turn heaters off when going to bed or leaving the room.

Fireplaces

- Keep a glass or metal screen in front of the fireplace to prevent embers or sparks jumping out.
- Do not burn paper in the fireplace.
- Put the fire out before going to sleep or leaving the home.
- Put ashes in a metal container with a lid, outside, at least three feet from the home.

Wood Stoves

- Have the chimney inspected and cleaned each year by a professional.
- Make sure the wood stove is three feet away from anything that can burn.
- Do not burn paper in the wood stove.
- Put the fire out before going to sleep or leaving the home.

Carbon Monoxide

- When using heaters that require fuel, install a carbon monoxide detector.

Reprinted from FEMA's "External Affairs Bulletin," week of Dec. 29, 2014 edition

New iPhone App for Assisting People with Access and Functional Needs and Disabilities in Emergencies

St. Petersburg College's Center for Public Safety Innovation (CPSI) is excited to announce the launch of an iPhone app through iTunes that provides information and resources on how to assist people with access and functional needs including people with disabilities during emergency or disaster incidents. The Access for All (AFA) Guide is for people serving the community in any capacity and who need to quickly familiarize themselves with how to safely assist people with access and functional needs and disabilities. This app is especially helpful for emergency or first responders, health care workers, non-profit service organizations, and/or non-government organization (NGO)

workers. What does the app do?

- It uses your current location to find nearby service providers such as senior services, a medical supply store, an interpreting agency, or a wheelchair transport service.
- It provides an automated triage checklist for providing assistance in many situations for people with access and functional needs.
- It includes CPSI developed training information on inclusive emergency preparedness and response.
- It provides training videos that illustrate some of the experiences of people with various access and functional needs or disabilities.

This app is also for those who just want to better understand people with disabilities and access and functional needs. The app will provide the following resource and job aid information:

- Essential tips for various Access and Functional Needs (AFN) groups
- Disaster preparedness & response tips for AFN groups
- Resources: Including how to find local contacts for service providers
- Videos of assistive devices used by people with AFN and people with disabilities
- First-aid tips and information

The introductory version of the app is priced at \$4.99. It is available at:

<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/afa-guide/id947877383?ls=1&mt=8>



FEMA Introduces New Data Visualization Tool

As part of the commitment to increasing the transparency and accessibility of data, FEMA introduced a new interactive tool to allow the public to explore currently available FEMA grant data. The tool, available at www.fema.gov/data-visualization, allows the public to see a visual representation of the agency's federal grant data as it relates to fire, preparedness, mitigation and public assistance. The tool also visualizes disaster declarations by state, hazard and county. The tool is in BETA because FEMA is seeking comments on how it can be improved, so comments and suggestions are welcome. FEMA will continue to add data and update the visual based on feedback in the coming months. The OpenFEMA data used in the visualization were derived from the publicly available datasets on www.fema.gov and www.data.gov.



World Health Organization Reports 7,905 Ebola Deaths

The World Health Organization says the number of reported Ebola deaths in West Africa has risen to 7,905. The WHO says altogether some 20,206 cases of Ebola virus disease have been reported since the outbreak in December 2013. Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone have been the hardest-hit countries in the epidemic.

<http://www.emsworld.com/news/11796942/world-health-organization-reports-7905-ebola-deaths>

FEMA Seeks Applicants for National Advisory Council

FEMA seeks experienced individuals who are interested in serving on the National Advisory Council (NAC) to apply. All applications must be received by 5 p.m. ET on Monday, Feb. 16. The NAC is a federal advisory committee established to ensure effective and ongoing coordination of federal preparedness, protection, response, recovery, and mitigation for natural disasters, acts of terrorism, and other man-made disasters. The NAC advises the FEMA Administrator on all aspects of emergency management frameworks, strategies, and plans while incorporating the whole community's input through appointed NAC members. FEMA will consider individuals for appointment in the following disciplines:

- Elected State Government Officials (one representative appointment)
- In-Patient Medical Providers (one Special Government Employee appointment)
- Elected Local Government Officials (one representative appointment)
- Emergency Management (one representative appointment)
- Emergency Response Providers (two representative appointments)
- Cyber Security (one Special Government Employee appointment)

Appointments are for three-year terms to end Aug. 15, 2018. The Administrator may also appoint additional candidates to serve as a FEMA administrator selection, which are also for three-year terms. NAC Members serve without compensation from the federal government; however, consistent with the NAC Charter, members may receive travel reimbursement and per diem under applicable federal travel regulations to attend meetings of the NAC. Any individuals affiliated with DHS and/or FEMA through employment or contracts will not be considered for NAC membership. For more information, visit www.fema.gov/national-advisory-council.

Looking Back to 2014, Ahead to 2015 at Natural Disaster Activity

Fewer tornadoes, a mild hurricane season, lower acreage lost to wildfires, overall less flood and other damage – all in all, 2014 was not as bad as it could have been for natural disasters in the U.S. That's according to global property information and analytics firm CoreLogic, which released its annual Natural Hazard Risk Summary and Analysis detailing the most significant natural disasters of 2014 and providing several projections for 2015. The report provides a look at the year's hurricanes, floods, hailstorms, tornadoes, wildfires, sinkholes, earthquakes, tropical cyclones and typhoon events in the U.S. as well as an international snapshot of the hazard events that caused significant damage across the globe.

<http://www.insurancejournal.com/news/national/2014/12/29/351285.htm>



www.CapitalRegionUpdates.gov

Facebook Launches Amber Alerts

Facebook, in partnership with the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, will send AMBER Alerts to the Facebook community to help find missing children. The new initiative will deliver AMBER Alerts to people's news feeds in targeted search areas after a child has been abducted and the National Center has issued an alert. These alerts, which include photographs and other details about the missing child, are shown on mobile and desktop. People can share the alert with friends and link directly to the National Center's missing child poster, which always has the most up-to-date information about the case.

<http://newsroom.fb.com/news/2015/01/introducing-amber-alerts-on-facebook/>

FEMA Encourages Young People to Join Youth Preparedness Council

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is seeking applicants for its Youth Preparedness Council. The Council supports FEMA's commitment to involving youth in preparedness-related activities and provides an opportunity for young people to offer their perspectives, feedback and insights on how to help make America more resilient. FEMA's Youth Preparedness Council was formed in 2012 to bring together youth leaders from across the country who are interested and engaged in advocating youth preparedness. Council members are selected based on their dedication to public service, their efforts in making a difference in their communities, and their potential to expand their impact as national advocates for youth preparedness. As advocates for preparedness, Council members will complete a self-selected youth preparedness project and have the opportunity to share their opinions, ideas, solutions and questions about youth disaster preparedness with FEMA leadership and national organizations working on preparedness initiatives. Members also have the opportunity to brief FEMA officials on strategies, initiatives and projects throughout their one-year term. To be eligible for consideration, applicants must submit a completed application form (link to be provided once available) and two letters of recommendation. Completed applications and all supporting materials must be received no later than March 2, 2015, 11:59 p.m. EST. New Youth Preparedness Council members will be announced in May 2015. For more information about completing and submitting the application, please visit: www.ready.gov/youth-preparedness-council.

Home Fire Safety

The U.S. Fire Administration says people are at greater risk for home fires during the winter months. Now that the season is here, use the American Red Cross's printable worksheet and begin planning. In addition:

- Make sure all members of the household know how to get out of every room in the house;
- Pick a place outside where everyone can meet and be sure everyone knows where it is;
- Practice waking up to smoke alarms, low crawling and meeting outside;
- Practice your home fire drill until everyone in the house can do it in less than two minutes; and
- Make sure everyone knows how to call 911.

Worksheet: <http://rdcrss.org/10H5yEg>



PLANNING / PREPAREDNESS

Back to Basics Build a Kit

Resolve to be Ready in 2015

With the start of the new year, it doesn't hurt to get back to basics and review some of the essential items that you should have in your house and as a part of your preparedness plan. One of the most important pieces you should maintain is a basic emergency supply kit. Your kit could include the following recommended items:

- One gallon of water per person per day for at least three days, for drinking and sanitation.
- Food, at least a three-day supply of non-perishable food.
- Battery-powered or hand crank radio and a NOAA Weather Radio with tone alert and extra batteries for both.

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- Flashlight and extra batteries.
- First-aid kit.
- Whistle to signal for help.
- Dust mask to help filter contaminated air and plastic sheeting and duct tape to shelter-in-place.
- Moist towelettes, garbage bags and plastic ties for personal sanitation.
- Wrench or pliers to turn off utilities.
- Manual can opener for food.
- Local maps.
- Cellphone with chargers, inverter or solar charger.

Visit www.Ready.gov or www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency/prepare/make-a-kit.htm for more information about how to build your basic emergency supply kit. Also, be sure to share what is in your supply kit and how it has helped you!



<http://www.nfpa.org/~media/Files/Safety%20information/For%20consumers/Holidays/Put%20a%20freeze%20on%20winter%20fires/Winter%20Freeze%20infographic.pdf>

Blacked Out

Snowy weather may be visually appealing, but a severe winter storm can knock out power to your home. Because the length of an outage can vary from a few hours to several days, you should plan to get by without utilities for at least three days. With winter in full swing, preparation is necessary to stay safe!

Here are some tips to prepare your family for a black out:

- Build an emergency supply kit.
- Make a family communications plan.
- Keep your car's gas tank at least half full at all times.
- Know where the manual release lever of your garage door is located and how to operate it.

During a black out, it is important to remember to:

- Use only flashlights or emergency lighting. Never use candles due to the risk of fires.
- Keep one light on so that you know when power returns.
- Conserve your cell phone battery and only use it for life threatening situations.
- Put on layers of warm clothing.
- Do not use your oven as a heating source.



Being prepared is imperative and could make the difference between a minor inconvenience and a major emergency.

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To learn more about how to manage a power outage this winter, visit America's PrepareAthon "[How to Prepared for a Winter Storm](#)" (PDF).

Reprinted from FEMA's "Individual and Community Preparedness e-Brief," Jan. 14 edition

Cyber Security Awareness: Play Offense, Not Defense

At any moment, your organization could be seriously compromised by the actions of a single employee — working in the office, on the road, or from home. While billions of dollars are spent each year on security hardware and software, most data breaches are based on the weak link in the security chain: people. Despite lip service paid to the importance of information security, major breaches are still occurring in organizations large and small.

So, how do you make sure that your company's information is protected? The first line of defense is employee awareness – the critical "humanware" component of your data security armor. NSI's SECURITYsense awareness program gives employees the tools and information they need to make security second nature. Find out how this valuable resource can help protect your hard-earned reputation and ensure that your employees are part of the solution and not part of the problem. Visit www.nsi.org/securitysense/what-is-securitysense.shtml for more information.

Reprinted from the National Security Institute NewsWatch email newsletter dated Jan. 14

Emergency Alerts (Fairfax Alerts) – In the Know, On the Go

Get emergency alerts by email, as well as by text or pager. Sign up at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/alerts.

You Choose the Type of Alerts

- Pick the types of weather alerts you wish to receive, along with traffic and public safety alerts.
- Create a "do not disturb" timeframe when you don't want to receive weather alerts.
- Learn about county government non-emergency notices such as taxes and elections.



Alerts for Many Different Devices

- Choose up to 10 delivery methods like home phone, cell phone, email, text messaging and more.
- Manage your Fairfax Alerts profile from your phone by downloading the iPhone or Android app.
- Mobile app allows for two-way conversations with emergency managers and does not use text messaging service.

Alerts for Your Locations

- Customize your Fairfax Alerts with up to five addresses, i.e., school, work and home.
- Get geo-targeted weather alerts based on the addresses you define.
- Weather advisories for you, your family, home, business, school, child care and more.

If we can't reach you, we can't alert you. Sign up for free emergency alerts today at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/alerts.

Alerting: Acting on Lessons Learned

A bogus Emergency Alert System Emergency Action Notice in late October of last year is only one of a number of issues that have confronted EAS stakeholders since the enhanced public warning journey began in 1997. Exactly how this bogus alert happened is still being investigated, but what occurred is only one symptom of many remaining structural and operational emergency public warning problems in the EAS.

<http://www.radioworld.com/article/alerting-act-on-the-lessons-learned/273911>

Basic Fire Facts and Fire Safety Tips

By educating people about basic fire facts, the United States Fire Administration (USFA) is working to reduce fire deaths.

- **There is little time.** In less than 30 seconds, a small flame can get completely out of control and turn into a major fire. In minutes, a house can be engulfed in flames. If woken up to a fire, there won't be time to grab belongings; fire spreads too quickly and the smoke is too thick. There is only time to get out.

- **Heat is more threatening than flames.** A fire's heat alone can kill. Room temperatures in a fire can be 100 degrees at floor level and rise to 600 degrees at eye level. If this super-hot air is breathed in, it will scorch the lungs. It also has the ability to melt clothes. In five minutes a room can get so hot that everything in it catches on fire at once. This is called flashover.
- **Fire is pitch black.** Fire starts bright, but quickly produces black smoke. If woken up to a fire a person may be blinded, disoriented and unable to find his or her way around the home he or she has lived in for years.
- **Smoke and toxic gases kill more people than flames do.** Fire uses up the oxygen needed to breathe and produces smoke and poisonous gases. Breathing even small amounts of smoke and toxic gases can make people drowsy, disoriented and short of breath. The odorless, colorless fumes can lull people into a deep sleep before the flames reach the door, and people may not wake up in time to escape.



For more information about fire safety, visit USFA's website at www.usfa.fema.gov.

Video: Stay Warm and Safe from ReadyVirginia.gov



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1AmF-cBtXpo>

MEDIA ARTICLES OF INTEREST

U.N. Disaster Chief Warns of More Natural Catastrophes to Come

As communities across Asia marked the 10th anniversary of the December 26, 2004, Indian Ocean Tsunami, which killed more than 227,000 people and generated \$14 billion in international aid pledges, the United Nations' top disaster official warned that every country should be prepared to cope with the increasing number of catastrophic disasters occurring worldwide. Events like Hurricane Katrina, the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake and recent heavy flooding in Central Europe highlight the fact that such calamities are not restricted to less developed nations. Between 1970 and 2012, nearly two million died in 8,835 natural disasters.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2014/12/24/world/un-disaster-chief-warns-of-more-natural-catastrophes-to-come.html>



DHS Releases the Wrong FOIA-requested Documents Exposing Infrastructure Vulnerabilities

On 3 July 2014, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) responding to a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request on Operation Aurora, a malware attack on Google, instead released more than 800 pages of documents related to the Aurora Project, a 2007 research effort led by Idaho National Laboratory to show the cyber vulnerabilities of U.S. power and water systems, including electrical generators and water pumps. The research project found that once these infrastructure systems are infiltrated, a cyberattack can remotely control key circuit breakers, thereby throwing a machine's rotating parts out of synchronization and causing parts of the system to break down.

<http://www.homelandsecuritynewswire.com/dr20150107-dhs-releases-the-wrong-foiarequested-documents-exposing-infrastructure-vulnerabilities>

Most States Not Prepared for Infectious Diseases

Are Americans getting smug about controlling infectious diseases? Some researchers seem to think so. Though the U.S. has taken significant strides during the last decade in its ability to harness infections, the lack of preparation for Ebola this year should serve as a major wake-up call, experts say. "Ebola raised attention to serious gaps in our ability to manage disease outbreaks and contain their spread," Jeffrey Levi, executive director of the Trust For America's Health, said in a call with reporters. "It was alarming that many of the most basic infectious disease-control policies failed when tested."

<http://www.usnews.com/news/blogs/data-mine/2014/12/18/most-states-not-prepared-for-infectious-diseases>

Hospitals Fall Short on Infection Goals

U.S. hospitals made significant strides in the past several years in reducing the number of infections acquired within their facilities but fell short of the Obama administration's targets, according to a new federal report. The number of central-line bloodstream infections in hospitals dropped by 46 percent between 2008 and 2013, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's annual "National and State Healthcare-Associated Infections Progress Report" (<http://www.cdc.gov/HAI/pdfs/progress-report/hai-progress-report.pdf>) released earlier this month. The report is a summary of data obtained through the CDC's National Healthcare Safety Network, which tracks healthcare-associated infections throughout the country. The purpose is to offer a snapshot on how the nation and each state are doing in reducing six types of infection that hospitals are required to report the CDC.

<http://www.modernhealthcare.com/article/20150114/NEWS/301149940>

U.S. Government Probes Medical Devices for Possible Cyber Flaws

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security is investigating about two dozen cases of suspected cybersecurity flaws in medical devices and hospital equipment that officials fear could be exploited by hackers, a senior official at the

agency told Reuters. The products under review by the agency's Industrial Control Systems Cyber Emergency Response Team, or ICS-CERT, include an infusion pump from Hospira Inc. and implantable heart devices from Medtronic Inc. and St Jude Medical Inc., according to other people familiar with the cases, who asked not to be identified because the probes are confidential.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/10/22/us-cybersecurity-medicaldevices-insight-idUSKCN0IB0DQ20141022>

FLU / EBOLA

Tamiflu Shortage

Tamiflu is the prescription drug millions of Americans turn to when they're suffering from the flu; some even use Tamiflu to guard against getting the virus in the first place. The company that produces Tamiflu indicated spot shortages may occur in local areas and the D.C. metropolitan region appears to be one of those areas.

<http://www.wjla.com/articles/2014/12/d-c-area-sees-tamiflu-shortage-110122.html>

Flu Recommendations with CDC Director Tom Frieden

If you think the flu season is especially bad, the director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says you're right. He tells NPR's Rachel Martin why taking antivirals are a good idea.

<http://www.npr.org/2015/01/04/374910810/cdc-recommends-antiviral-drugs-for-at-risk-patients>

Cautious Doctors Use Telemedicine to Diagnose Flu

Some doctors in Tennessee are asking patients with flu-like symptoms not to come into their offices to avoid spreading the virus to other patients in their waiting room. Instead, these doctors are evaluating patients over the phone or on computers as part of something called "telemedicine." "If you're really feeling crummy and you have the symptoms of influenza, your chances of having influenza are very, very high -- over 90 percent," Dr. William Schaffner, chair of preventive medicine at Vanderbilt University Medical Center in Nashville, Tennessee. "Doctors are saying I don't need to do a test because sometimes the test is negative even if you have influenza."

<http://abcnews.go.com/Health/cautious-doctors-telemedicine-diagnose-flu/story?id=27950338>

As Flu Becomes More Widespread, CDC Pushes Antiviral Meds

In the midst of a worrisome flu season, health officials are pushing doctors to prescribe antiviral medicines more often. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on Friday sent a new alert to doctors, advising prompt use of Tamiflu and other antivirals for hospitalized flu patients and those at higher risk for complications like pneumonia.

<http://news.yahoo.com/flu-becomes-more-widespread-cdc-pushes-antiviral-meds-180457535.html>

Seasonal Viruses Can Mimic Flu Symptoms

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is warning parents that children are especially at risk for the flu but also for other seasonal viruses that can mimic the flu's symptoms. Already, the flu has taken the lives of more than 20 children this year. Doctors said there is no reason to panic and that they just want parents to be aware and prepared.

<http://www.wbaltv.com/health/cdc-to-parents-seasonal-viruses-can-mimic-flu-symptoms/30704588>

Where Could Ebola Strike Next? Scientists Hunt Virus In Asia

Ebola Zaire is the deadliest of the five Ebola species, and it has caused the most outbreaks. The antibodies in the bat's blood meant the animals had once been infected with Ebola Zaire or something related to it. Scientists think bats likely triggered the entire Ebola epidemic in West Africa. So now the big question is: Where else in the world is Ebola hiding out in bats? Where could the next big outbreak occur?

<http://www.npr.org/blogs/goatsandsoda/2015/01/02/371994171/where-could-ebola-strike-next-scientists-virus-hunt-in-asia>

Seasonal Flu

Each flu season, nearly 111 million workdays are lost due to the flu. That equals approximately \$7 billion per year in sick days and lost productivity. Through education and planning, you can help protect your employees from the seasonal flu.

<http://www.flu.gov/planning-preparedness/business/index.html>

FDA Approves Ebola Test

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved pharmaceutical company Roche's fast-acting Ebola test for emergency use. It can take almost a full day to get results from Ebola tests on the market, but Roche's new LightMix Ebola Zaire rRT-PCR Test provides results in just over three hours. Reuters reported in late December that the test had been used temporarily by some labs in the U.S. and other countries to identify the strain of Ebola spreading in West Africa.

<http://time.com/3648349/fda-approves-roches-ebola-test/>

Clinical Trial Starts at Ebola Center

A clinical drug trial is now under way at a major health center in Liberia's capital to determine if a medication already used to treat other viruses could help those suffering from Ebola. The drug called brincidofovir is being tested in patients at the ELWA 3 center operated by Doctors Without Borders, the group said. Ebola, which has no licensed treatment or cure, has killed more than 8,000 people in West Africa over the past year.

<http://www.emsworld.com/news/11798686/clinical-trial-for-anti-viral-drug-starts-at-ebola-center>

Ebola Vaccine Prompts Immune Response

An experimental vaccine to prevent Ebola virus disease was well-tolerated and produced immune system responses in all 20 healthy adults who received it. Based on these results, researchers are planning further studies to assess the safety and effectiveness of the vaccine. The Ebola virus spreads through direct contact with body fluids from an infected person. The 2014 Ebola outbreak in West Africa is the largest Ebola outbreak in history. As of early December, more than 17,000 cases and 6,000 deaths have been reported. There are no approved drugs, but early care can improve survival. Beginning in 2003, NIH developed and supported human testing of three experimental Ebola vaccines. The vaccine assessed in the new study was developed by scientists at NIH and at the pharmaceutical company GlaxoSmithKline based on knowledge gained from the earlier research.

<http://newsinhealth.nih.gov/issue/Jan2015/Capsule1>

Ebola Scare Highlights the Uncertain Costs of a Pandemic

With the arrival of Ebola in the U.S. came public fear, widespread misinformation, and the ever-present danger of contamination and contagion. While the cases have been isolated, the threat of the virus required state and local leaders to assume unprecedented leadership and extreme diplomacy in dealing with the public, the medical community, and even medical suppliers and contractors, who balked at handling blood samples, soiled linens, and hospital waste out of fear of the virus.

<http://www.emergencymgmt.com/health/Ebola-Scare-Highlights-Uncertain-Costs-Pandemic.html>

Could the Ebola Epidemic End this Year?

Although the Ebola epidemic is still raging in west Africa, US and European buzz about the disease spiked briefly and then all but disappeared, according to Google search data published in Vox's in-depth report. Liberia's situation is the most promising, compared to the other two countries involved, writes Julia



SMOKE ALARMS

Fire is Everyone's Fight™

PUT SMOKE ALARMS IN YOUR HOME TO KEEP YOUR FAMILY SAFE

Smoke goes up. Put smoke alarms on the ceiling or high on the wall.

For more information, visit www.usfa.fema.gov/FireisEveryonesFight

Belluz at Vox. Experts say that Guinea has “no discernible upward or downward trend” of cases, Sierra Leone is “the most challenging front,” and Liberia is the country closest to having the outbreak under control.

<http://blogs.plos.org/publichealth/2015/01/14/ebola-epidemic-end-year/>

Fairfax County Pandemic Flu Preparedness

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

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

TRAININGS / EXERCISES / CONFERENCES

USDA ARS 3rd International Biosafety & Biocontainment Symposium

Feb. 2-5, 2015; Baltimore, Md.

This symposium will provide sessions covering a variety of topics with a focus on One Health. The symposium will include pre-symposium courses and 2.5 days of scientific presentations. There also will be exhibits showcasing the latest agricultural biosafety and biocontainment products and services.

<http://arssymposium.absa.org/>

ASM Biodefense 2015

Feb. 9-11, 2015; Washington, D.C.

The American Society for Microbiology (ASM) Biodefense and Emerging Diseases Research Meeting serves as a platform to help researchers and decision makers discuss solutions to prevent and contain dangerous infectious diseases and bioterrorism threats. The 2015 meeting will feature hot topic “On the Ground with Ebola Virus: Africa to North America.”

<http://www.asmbiodefense.org/>

International Disaster Conference & Expo (IDCE) 2015

Feb. 10-12, 2015; New Orleans, La.

IDCE unites international emergency management, homeland security, and disaster industry professionals from the public and private sectors for discussions on policy and practices shaping disaster preparedness, response and recovery, loss mitigation, business continuity, and more. The Expo features companies offering the latest equipment and technology from around the world.

<http://internationaldisasterconference.com/>

Virginia Fire and Rescue Conference

Feb 19-22; Virginia Beach, Va.

The conference will be held Feb. 19-22, at the Virginia Beach Convention Center.

<http://vfca.us/meetinginfo.php>

EMS Today 2015

Feb. 25-28, 2015; Baltimore, Md.

EMS Today, now in its 34th year, is a unique and stimulating experience for emergency medical services (EMS) personnel worldwide. This event offers four full days of workshops, sessions, competitions, networking and more.

http://www.emstoday.com/index.html#showcase_3

3rd Annual Joint Civil & DoD CBRN Symposium

March 16-17, 2015; Alexandria, Va.

The 3rd Annual Joint Civil & DoD CBRN Symposium is designed as an educational and training town hall forum, where thought leaders and key policy-makers across military and civilian organizations can come together for actionable discussions and debate, focusing on advancing CBRN response, defense and technology readiness for joint

CBRN defense and the changing budget landscape.

<http://jointcbrn.dsigroup.org/>

2015 Virginia Emergency Management Symposium

March 18-20, 2015; Hampton Roads, Va.

Join emergency managers, emergency responders, law enforcement officers, public safety officials and hospital and college/university representatives to attend this year's symposium titled "Partnerships: Share the Load." The symposium and exhibition hall are sponsored by Virginia Emergency Management Association and the Virginia Department of Emergency Management.

<http://www.vemaweb.org/content/symposium/>

2015 Preparedness, Emergency Response and Recovery Consortium and Exposition (PERRC)

March 23-26, 2015; Orlando, Fla.

It is the mission of this consortium to bring together healthcare, medical, public health and volunteer emergency management personnel involved in disaster recovery and response efforts representing the governmental, public and private sectors to discuss shared practices in preparedness, mitigation, response and recovery. This forum will provide a hands-on, adult learning environment promoting the sharing of ideas and discussion of best practices.

<http://www.perrc.org/>

SPIE Defense + Security 2015

April 20-25, 2015; Baltimore, Md.

SPIE Defense + Security has, for more than 20 years, featured conferences and courses on infrared systems, lidar and radar, laser technology, image processing, data analysis, intelligence, surveillance, reconnaissance systems (ISR), display technologies, unmanned systems and robots, CBRNE, cyber sensing and security, biometric technology, law enforcement, energy harvesting, and more.

<http://spie.org/defense-security.xml>

30th Annual National Security Conference

April 27-29, 2015; Westfields Marriott in Chantilly, Va.

https://www.nsi.org/form_ImpactSurvey.html

International Hazardous Materials Response Teams Conference & Expo 2015

May 29-June 1, 2015; Baltimore, Md.

The International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) Hazmat Conference provides the latest classroom, hands-on, and fieldtrip-based training covering all aspects of hazmat - highlighting topics such as transportation, safety, weapons of mass destruction, protective gear and equipment, terrorism, mass decontamination, bioterrorism, and much more.

<http://www.iafc.org/hazmat>

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

"EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS" NEWSLETTER

Check It Out!

Published monthly by the Office of Emergency Management

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/oem/outreach/newsletter.htm

LINKS

Fairfax County Web Resources

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

Additional Web Resources

- Capital Region Updates - www.CapitalRegionUpdates.gov
- Virginia Citizen Corps - www.vaemergency.com/citcorps/index.cfm

DHS Science & Technology Directorate Newsletter

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

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

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report (OSIR)

The Department of Homeland Security provides a Web-based "Daily OSIR," which is posted on the DHS public Web site. Accessing the report via the Web enables readers to retrieve the current Daily Report as well as 10 days of archived DHS Daily Reports. Once you arrive at the Web page you will find the most recent Daily OSIR at the top of the page, under the title "Current Report." This report is posted each morning, except for weekends and holidays. Simply click on the title "DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report." This will launch the current days report in PDF format. You can submit content comments or make suggestions by contacting the DHS Daily Report Team by telephone at 202-312-3421 or by e-mail at NICCCReports@dhs.gov. You can access the Daily OSIR at: http://www.dhs.gov/files/programs/editorial_0542.shtm.

Fairfax County Government Emergency Information Line

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/opa/infoline.htm

Emergency Management Magazine

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

FEMA Private Sector

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

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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 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, contact Tony Castrilli, Director of the Fairfax County Office of Public Affairs, at 703-324-3187, TTY 711, or by e-mail at anthony.castrilli@fairfaxcounty.gov.

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[Community Emergency Response Team]

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Making sure neighbors and family members are safe and well following disasters.

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FEMA CERT
COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fr/cert/cert.htm

The ESF 15 Business / Nonprofit Update is designed to provide information about Emergency Support Function 15 (External Affairs) along with news articles and informational updates relating to Homeland Security and emergency management to ESF 15 partners. Inclusion of any resource, information or Web link is not an endorsement of the product, service or organization. The ESF 15 Business / Nonprofit Update is produced by Fairfax County's Office of Public Affairs – the lead agency for ESF 15.