



ESF 15 Business / Nonprofit Update

Produced by Emergency Support Function 15 – External Affairs

July 2014

ITEMS OF INTEREST FOR ESF 15

New Online Hurricane Evacuation Tool

If you need help deciding whether to evacuate for a major hurricane, state officials want you to punch your address into a new online tool. It will suggest the best routes out of town. It will also show you, based on the hurricane's strength, a computer simulation of what the storm might look and sound like in your neighborhood. The Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM) has created a new tool, the Hurricane Evacuation Encouragement Demonstrator (HEED), to aid and encourage evacuations. The Hurricane Evacuation Encouragement Demonstrator provides customized evacuation routes and video projections of what your home may look like during the storm.

<https://heed.vmasc.edu.edu/>



Apply to Become a NOAA Weather-Ready Nation Ambassador

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is accepting applications from both the public and private sector to become a Weather-Ready Nation Ambassador, as part of an initiative to unite national preparedness and response to severe weather threats. WRN ambassadors will serve as a point of contact between their organization and NOAA, sharing relevant safety messages from NOAA and National Weather Service knowledge. For more information and to apply, go to

www.nws.noaa.gov/com/weatherreadynation/ambassadors.html.



Are You Prepared?

Hurricane season and other severe weather remind business owners and managers that it is a good time to review and update continuity plans in case of an emergency. It is also extremely important to take the necessary steps to test and exercise those continuity plans to ensure that your products and services remain available to stakeholders. Improve your continuity readiness by taking continuity training classes. Learn to identify and prioritize your essential operating functions; establish a clear line of succession in the absence of leadership, review and update contact information and verify that communications systems are effective and operational. This ensures organizational resiliency and allows your business or nonprofit to provide the essential functions and services needed in day-to-day operations. FEMA's National Continuity Programs has online resources and training courses to help continuity planners improve their programs. Visit <http://www.fema.gov/continuity-operations> for more details.

Save the Date for Great SouthEast ShakeOut

Registration now open for Oct. 16 earthquake drill

Virginian residents can practice "Drop, Cover, and Hold On," the safe response to an earthquake, during the Great SouthEast ShakeOut earthquake drill set for Thursday, Oct. 16, at 10:16 a.m. Registration for the drill is open at www.ReadyVirginia.gov and also at www.shakeout.org/southeast. Those who register will receive information on how to plan their



drill. These websites provide many resources for learning how to be prepared for an earthquake.

“ShakeOut is a great opportunity for all Virginians to quickly practice several steps that are potentially life-saving,” said Jeff Stern, state coordinator for the Virginia Department of Emergency Management. “Most Virginians remember where they were when the 5.8 magnitude Mineral earthquake struck in August 2011. Participating in the Great SouthEast ShakeOut is a terrific training exercise for families, schools, businesses, organizations, government agencies, communities and individuals so that we all are more prepared for the next quake.” During the ShakeOut, people will practice these actions that are recommended when earthquakes occur:

- Drop to the ground where you are.
- Take Cover under a sturdy table or desk if possible, protecting your head and neck.
- Hold On until the shaking stops.

Last year, more than one million Virginians took part in the Great SouthEast ShakeOut, a simultaneous earthquake drill held in the southeastern U.S. to coincide with drills held in other states and several countries, giving the effect of a rolling drill. Coordinating partners for the Great SouthEast ShakeOut include the Central U.S. Earthquake Consortium and Federal Emergency Management Agency. ShakeOut originated in California, where statewide earthquake drills have been held annually since 2008, and has grown to be an international program with nearly 25 million people participating in 2013.

June’s Major Natural Disasters Roundup

Impact Forecasting has published the latest edition of its monthly Global Catastrophe Recap report, which reviews the natural disaster perils that occurred worldwide during June 2014. The report highlights an outbreak of severe thunderstorms affected Western and Central Europe during the first half of the month, causing significant hail damage in parts of Germany, France and Belgium, and killing at least six people in Germany. Meanwhile, the United States endured several rounds of convective weather during June, with tornadoes, hail and damaging winds leading to aggregate economic losses expected to reach the multi-billions of dollars, with insurance losses well exceeding the \$1 billion threshold. The greatest impact was felt during a near-weeklong event that led to significant hail, straight-line wind, and flash flood damage across parts of the Midwest, Plains, Rockies, Southwest, and the Tennessee Valley, killing three people. Softball-sized hail and winds gusting beyond 90 mph (150 km/h) led to economic damages totaling approximately \$850 million, with insured losses in excess of \$550 million. At least five EF-4 tornadoes touched down in the Plains during a 36-hour stretch, four occurring in Northeast Nebraska, devastating the small town of Pilger.

<http://www.continuitycentral.com/news07277.html> | Full report (PDF) is available at

http://thoughtleadership.aonbenfield.com/Documents/20140703_if_june_global_recap.pdf



The banner features a dark blue background with white and yellow text. On the left, 'Emergency News' is written in large white letters, with 'by email' in red on a yellow brushstroke below it. At the bottom left, 'Subscribe' is written in white with a red arrow pointing to the right. On the right side, the text 'Receive emergency preparedness information and emergency news by email' is written in a white, handwritten-style font. At the bottom right, the URL 'www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency/blog' is written in white on a yellow brushstroke.

Senate Panel Okays Bill Encouraging Companies to Share Cyber Threat Data with Government

The Senate Select Committee on Intelligence July 8 approved a cybersecurity bill by a 12-3 vote that would encourage companies to voluntarily share information about cyberattacks with the government. “Every week we hear about the theft of personal information from retailers and trade secrets from innovative businesses, as well as ongoing efforts by foreign nations to hack government networks. This bill is an important step toward curbing these dangerous cyber attacks,” said Chairman Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.) in a press release issued jointly with Sen. Saxby Chambliss (R-Ga.), the ranking minority member on the committee. Chambliss said the bill “encourages the private sector and the government to share information voluntarily about these threats, without fear of frivolous lawsuits and without unnecessary bureaucratic obstacles.” However, the Cybersecurity Information Sharing Act of 2014, or CISA,

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has garnered significant opposition from a broad coalition of technology, privacy and civil liberties groups led by the Center for Democracy and Technology.

<http://www.fiercegovernmentit.com/story/senate-panel-oks-bill-encouraging-companies-share-cyber-threat-data-govt/2014-07-08>

FEMA and ARRL Announce Disaster Communication Partnership

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the American Radio Relay League (ARRL) recently announced a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) that increases cooperation between FEMA and ARRL in the area of disaster communication. FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate, KK4INZ and ARRL President Kay Craigie, N3KN, signed the agreement during the ARRL National Centennial Convention at the Connecticut Convention Center in Hartford, Conn. This agreement will allow FEMA and ARRL to work together to provide resources, services and personnel, as available, in order to strengthen capacity in areas of emergency communications, mass care and emergency assistance, disaster preparedness, response and recovery, while also raising public awareness about the use of Amateur Radio as a public safety resource. The agreement outlines the ways in which FEMA and ARRL will cooperate to carry out their respective responsibilities, with respect to disaster mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery operations in the event of a natural or man-made disaster. The agreement sets forth the terms by which FEMA and ARRL will provide resources, services and personnel, as available, in order to strengthen capacity in areas of emergency communications, mass care and emergency assistance, disaster preparedness, response and recovery. Amateur Radio operators have been responding to disasters since the beginning of the Amateur Service in the early 1900s. Through the ARRL-sponsored Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) and other groups, federally licensed Amateur Radio operators have volunteered their time, equipment and expertise to their communities and country for all kinds of public service events and disaster efforts.

<http://www.fema.gov/news-release/2014/07/18/fema-arrrl-announce-disaster-communication-partnership>

9/11 Commission: Terrorism Has Entered New and Dangerous Phase

The members of the 9/11 Commission, led by Chairman Tom Kean and Vice Chairman Lee Hamilton, have released a new report to reflect the altered but dangerous terrorist threat facing the nation. Ten years after the release of the commission's original report, with mounting threats from the resurgence and transformation of al Qaeda, Syria and a rapidly changing cyberspace, the commission's new report calls for a vigorous and proactive counterterrorism effort. "Over the past eight months, in anticipation of the 10th anniversary of The 9/11 Commission Report, the former members of the commission reconvened to reflect on how the world has changed over the past decade, to assess the current terrorist threat to the United States, and to agree on recommendations for improving U.S. national security," said Kean and Hamilton in the report. The report, "Today's Rising Terrorist Threat and the Danger to the United States: Reflections on the Tenth Anniversary of The 9/11 Commission Report," comes from the Bipartisan Policy Center and Annenberg Public Policy Center of the University of Pennsylvania, which reconvened the 9/11 Commissioners to develop their updated recommendations.

<http://www.streetinsider.com/Press+Releases/911+Commission%3A+Terrorism+Has+Entered+New+and+Dangerous+Phase/9678673.html>

<http://bipartisanpolicy.org/library/report/rising-terrorist-threat-9-11-commission>



www.CapitalRegionUpdates.gov

Volunteers Needed for Shelter Exercise

Volunteer actors are needed for a Fairfax County Health Department, Office of Emergency Preparedness, exercise on Tuesday, Aug. 19, from 12:30 to 3 p.m. or 2 to 4:30 p.m., at George Mason University, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. The Health Department needs your help to test their ability to provide emergency shelter to displaced residents during a large disaster. Volunteer actors are needed to simulate the evacuees who would be relocated to the shelter. Individuals under 18 are also welcome to participate, but must register individually, and must be accompanied by their parent/guardian at all times during the exercise. Actors are needed for two shifts, 12:30 to 3 p.m. or 2 to 4:30 p.m. More information and registration details are online at <http://bit.ly/1oe0LOT>. For reasonable ADA accommodations, call 804-382-3868, TTY 711.

PLANNING / PREPAREDNESS

CDC Releases Blast Injury App

If you work in public health, pre-hospital or hospital healthcare, then CDC – the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention – has a new mobile application for you. The CDC Blast Injury App provides clear, concise, up-to-date information to help you respond to a blast or other mass casualty explosive event. This application equips you with the critical decision-making information you need to provide medical care or manage mass casualties, all from your mobile device. The app provides clinical guidance about specific blast injury patterns to help emergency responders and clinicians assess and treat patients. For public health and emergency management professionals, the application includes tools to manage casualties and hospital surge capacity. All individuals can use the application to learn how to protect themselves and be aware of hazards specific to mass casualty explosive events. It also includes a quick reference guide that can be read en route to, or at the scene of an event. This is an official application of the CDC and updates will happen automatically so users will always have the most current content available. Download the CDC Blast Injury mobile application for free from the App Store.

<https://itunes.apple.com/au/app/cdc-blast-injury/id890434999>



Summer Brings Change

Now that summer is here and the kids are out of school, it's a great time to update your family communication plan. When disaster strikes, the first thing on your to-do list will be connecting with your family. Keeping your family safe is always the number one priority. Schools may be changing, or daycare may become a factor during the summer. A possible change in job location or possibly even moving means that updating your family communication plan is a must. In the event of a disaster, make sure you've updated information like:

- Out-of-town contacts.
- Neighborhood contacts and meeting place.
- Work and school information, including evacuation sites.
- Personal information, including important medical information.

Make sure that the information for your out-of-state safe point is still accurate. If you have moved, or your out-of-state point contact has moved, this information may need updating. In a disaster situation, he/she can communicate to others that you and your family are safe. Add this person to your cell phone contacts as "ICE" (in case of emergency). Once you have updated your communication plan, go over it again with your family. Even if it hasn't

changed, it never hurts to practice and be even more prepared for a disaster.

http://www.fema.gov/media-library-data/0e3ef555f66e22ab832e284f826c2e9e/FEMA_plan_parent_508_071513.pdf

Reprinted from FEMA's "Individual and Community Preparedness e-Brief," July 2 edition

Researchers Say Chinese Attackers Targeting U.S. Think Tanks

The Chinese cyber attack group Deep Panda late last month compromised "several" national security think tanks with multiple, simultaneous, and sophisticated attacks designed to collect information about foreign policy decisions, according to researchers at security firm CrowdStrike. Deep Panda, a group that has been attacking targets in the high-tech, financial services, and government arenas since 2009, was found to be cracking think tank systems to collect data on national security policy related to southeast Asia and the Middle East -- two areas where international disputes heightened in June. CrowdStrike officials declined to name the think tanks or the exact details of the data that was compromised, but the attackers breached email, directories and files, they said. Deep Panda had been collecting information primarily on U.S. policy in Southeast Asia, but suddenly shifted direction and began collecting data about Iraq and Middle East policy, according to a blog posted on the CrowdStrike site.

<http://www.darkreading.com/chinese-attackers-targeting-us-think-tanks-researchers-say/d/d-id/1279178>

The Faulty "Mental Models" That Lead to Poor Disaster Preparation

As Hurricanes Isaac and Sandy were bearing down on the South and East Coasts of the United States, respectively, in the summer and fall of 2012, Wharton marketing professor Robert Meyer and his research team took to the phone lines to survey people in the storms' crosshairs about what they perceived the greatest threats to be, and how they were preparing to face them. Through this and several other studies, Meyer – who is also co-director of the Wharton Risk Management and Decision Processes Center — and his colleagues find that most people fail to adequately understand the threats they face as a result of natural and other disasters, and often those poor "mental models" lead to insufficient preparation. The findings are outlined in "The Dynamics of Hurricane Risk Perception: Real Time Evidence from the 2012 Atlantic Hurricane Season," by Meyer, Jay Baker of Florida State University, Kenneth Broad of the University of Miami and Ben Orlove of Columbia University, which will appear in the Bulletin of the American Meteorological Association; "Dynamic Simulation as an Approach to Understanding Hurricane Risk Response: Insights from the Stormview Lab," by Meyer, Broad, Orlove and Nada Petrovic of Columbia, which appeared in Risk Analysis, and Meyer's article, "Why We Fail to Learn from Disasters," which appeared in the book, The Irrational Economist: Overcoming Irrational Decisions in a Dangerous World. In an interview with Knowledge@Wharton, Meyer discusses these findings and offers several suggestions for changing the way both authorities and private citizens think about, and react to, such hazards.

<http://knowledge.wharton.upenn.edu/article/wind-rain-worse/>

Busting Hurricane Myths in a Flash

How do you know when it's time to evacuate? According to the Federal Alliance for Safe Homes (FLASH), more than 84 percent of Americans base their evacuation decisions on the category of the hurricane. The reality is that most evacuation circumstances are based on flood and storm surge risk, not wind speed! At this year's National Hurricane Conference, FLASH launched #bustamyth; an initiative intended to realign America's views regarding when to evacuate in a tropical storm or hurricane and to dispel other hurricane myths such as:

- 54 percent of Americans think taping windows protects from hurricane damage, when in fact it is a waste of time and money and may prove to be dangerous. Permanent wind shutters provide the best protection against flying debris and wind.
- 84 percent of Americans believe they need to evacuate based on wind speed, but in fact the greatest threat to life in a hurricane is flood and storm surge risk. Because hurricanes can be detected ahead of time, take heed of authorized evacuation warnings. Head for higher ground or evacuate to somewhere outside of the projected danger zone of the hurricane.
- 69 percent of Americans believe that it costs more than \$10,000 to strengthen their homes, when it can be done effectively for



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little more than \$1,000. Measures to protect against potential flooding and wind damage include reinforcing windows and roofs, waterproofing basements and elevating critical utilities.

For more facts on how to prepare for a hurricane, check out the America's PrepareAthon "How to Prepare for a Hurricane" guide (PDF):

http://www.fema.gov/media-library-data/1398716905199-978330d25fe676b0284e9f81b7f7b8b1/AmericasPrepareAthon_HowToPrepareGuides_Hurricane_v15_508.pdf

Reprinted from FEMA's "Individual and Community Preparedness e-Brief," July 9 edition

Hurricane myths: <http://www.flash.org/hurricane-season/pdf/NHC-Harris-Poll.pdf>

Changing the Game

Businesses have a vital role to play in disaster preparedness, response, and recovery. In a world of ever-changing threats, emergency management communities nationwide strive to find new and innovative solutions for increasingly complex problem areas. To cope with this reality, agencies such as the Virginia Department of Emergency Management have worked to integrate into their disaster response and recovery frameworks private-sector partners who can assist in sustaining or restoring essential services.

U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation

<http://www.uschamberfoundation.org/best-practice/changing-game-how-business-innovations-reduce-impact-disasters>

Download: "Changing the Game: How Business Innovations Reduce the Impact of Disasters" (page 23)

http://www.uschamberfoundation.org/sites/default/files/Changing%20the%20Game%202014_0.pdf

The Stark Realities of Today's Cyber Security Landscape

A recent report from IBM titled "2014 Cyber Security Intelligence Index" provides an up-to-date, high-level overview of the major threats facing organizations today and the trends being seen in the evolution of the threat landscape. With data gathered through the monitoring of clients' technology platforms worldwide and analysis of the security intelligence gleaned, it describes the types of attacks being seen and their impact on organizations. The report describes the threat landscape as dominated by well-funded and businesslike adversaries using extremely sophisticated, targeted attacks. However, organizations are still falling foul of negligent employees who continue to put businesses at risk, and security investments made in the past are not up to the task of protecting against the new classes of attack

<http://securityintelligence.com/the-stark-realities-of-todays-cyber-security-landscape>

Report: 31 Percent of IT Security Teams Don't Speak to Company Execs

Nearly a third of IT security teams never speak with their company's executives about cyber security and of those who did, 23 percent spoke to them only once per year, according to a new Ponemon Institute report. This lack of communication and security awareness can greatly increase companies' risk of experiencing some kind of attack, according to Jeff Debrosse, director of security research at Websense, which sponsored the "Roadblocks, Refresh, & Raising the Human Security IQ" report. The report, which surveyed more than 160,000 IT security professionals in 15 countries to determine the challenges they face in dealing with cyber security threats, also found that 47 percent of respondents felt frequently disappointed with the level of protection their security solution offers, and that 52 percent of companies do not provide cyber security education to their employees.

<http://www.scmagazine.com/report-31-percent-of-it-security-teams-dont-speak-to-company-execs/article/361263>

Crowd Sourcing Application

The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) has launched a new crowd sourcing, citizen science application called "iCoast – Did the Coast Change?" that asks volunteers to identify changes to the coast by comparing and tagging aerial photographs taken before and after storms.

http://www.usgs.gov/blogs/features/usgs_top_story/usgs-icoast-did-the-coast-change/

<http://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDHSFEMA/bulletins/c45b37>

County Official Testifies Before U.S. Senate Subcommittee on Building Economically Resilient Communities

On July 22, Bath County, Va. Supervisor Claire A. Collins testified before the U.S. Senate Committee on Banking,

Housing and Urban Affairs Subcommittee on Housing, Transportation, and Community Development on “Building Economically Resilient Communities: Local and Regional Approaches.” Supervisor Collins’ testimony focused on how counties, especially rural counties, have bolstered their ability to thrive amid ever-shifting physical, social and economic conditions and what more can be done at the federal level to support local economies. Collins discussed the distinctive role of counties in economic resiliency, as stewards of their local communities and as integral parts of our nation’s intergovernmental system. She stated that Bath County, located in Virginia’s Alleghany Mountains and with a population of 4,600, is focused on improving transportation systems, developing infrastructure, providing affordable housing opportunities and building and sustaining a skilled workforce that can help her community be globally competitive. She noted that the county uses its convening powers to engage businesses as part of the Shenandoah Valley Partnership (SVP), which includes six neighboring counties. Through this regional partnership, the public and private sector work together to promote new investment, strengthen existing business and guide labor force development to ensure a healthy economic future for the region.

Reprinted from the NACo on the Hill e-Newsletter, July 24 edition

Transcript of the testimony:

<http://www.naco.org/legislation/Documents/HonCollinsTestimonyResilientCommunities.pdf>

Hurricane Preparedness

Our ability to predict and track hurricanes and major storms has grown in recent years. But our understanding of how people in our communities will react to warnings and what their needs might be has great room for improvement, according to an analysis by Joshua Behr and Rafael Diaz, research professors at the Virginia Modeling, Analysis and Simulation Center at Old Dominion University. Through news media images, the public has a deep awareness of the fragile nature of our built environment and infrastructure, the authors point out. But in their view a realistic understanding of vulnerability must also consider the resources, social ties and special needs of households and neighborhoods. They urge “a radical shift in emergency planning thinking” to take into account post-storm community vulnerabilities such as disrupted medical care and loss of pay.

<http://www.coopercenter.org/publications/VANsltr0214>

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, cellphone, 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.



MEDIA ARTICLES OF INTEREST

Should States Take the Lead on Implementing Alert Systems?

As technology becomes cheaper, more sophisticated and easier to use, states have more options available to improve their public warning capabilities and integration with FEMA's Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS). Some states are choosing to implement statewide systems while others are giving localities the lead and providing statewide oversight and support. Iowa is one state that is pushing for a statewide alert system. The state previously left the deployment of alert systems to each county. But based on the results of a survey it conducted — which found that just 53 of the state's 99 counties had a public alert system and that those counties were spending about \$600,000 a year on those systems — the state decided to investigate other approaches. In January 2013, the Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Department (HSEMD) issued an RFI to investigate the feasibility of developing a statewide alert system.

<http://www.emergencymgmt.com/safety/Should-States-Lead-Implementing-Alert-Systems.html>



Heat Drives Away More People Than Natural Disasters: The Impacts of a Warming World

What's better at driving people away – hurricanes or heat? It turns out that while dramatic storms may temporarily shift a population, heat is the real driving force. Scientists have found that global warming may lead to more permanent population shifts in the future. The researchers decided to focus on Indonesia for their study. This multi-island tropical nation is vulnerable to both climate change and larger events such as earthquakes and landslides. This means that the nation is the perfect case study in order to determine what factors play a role in population migration. More specifically, the researchers found that people start to rethink their location with each degree that the average annual temperature rises above 77 degrees Fahrenheit. In fact, the chances that a family will leave an area for good in a given year rise with each degree. From 80.6 to 82 degree Fahrenheit, chances jump to 1.4 percent.

<http://www.scienceworldreport.com/articles/15765/20140701/heat-drives-away-more-people-natural-disasters-impacts-warming-world.htm>

The Global Killer App: Why We Need to Stop Ignoring SMS

These days, most of the tech community is enamored by snazzy new Internet-based, over-the-top (OTT) messaging applications, seeking the next “killer app” of messaging. But many of these apps focus on messaging as a form of entertainment or play. Like Snapchat, which was launched to make messaging ephemeral and fun, most of these apps require users to have smartphones and high-speed connections to download and use the apps. While these newfangled messaging applications appeal to markets in the US and developed nations, there are a smaller number of application developers thinking more globally – particularly those who are looking at innovative ways to use messaging to positively impact society. Instead of developing new messaging applications, they're pushing the limits on an existing messaging technology. Many of those more globally-oriented organizations see the killer global messaging app as one that's been staring at us all for years: SMS (Simple Messaging Service). SMS group chats give people without Internet connectivity the opportunity to chat with friends, relatives, and peers. SMS is also often used as the preferred communications means to organize 1-on-1 meetings, group gatherings, or even democratic revolutions because of its universal reach. While much of the media talks about the latest and greatest OTT messaging apps hitting the app store, SMS continues to forge ahead forward as an invaluable communications tool that's both powerful and ubiquitous. Many like to speculate on the next killer app, but let's innovate with what we know already has the greatest reach and potential.

<http://bailsf.org/2014/07/01/the-global-killer-app/>

* *Be sure to sign up for text alerts from Fairfax Alerts: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/alerts. You can also receive emergency messages by email as well.*

State Urged to Prepare for Rising Seas, Flooding

Governor Terry McAuliffe was urged earlier this month to ready state agencies for the potentially devastating impact of climate change and its effects, such as rising seas and flooding streets, along Virginia's coastline. At a meeting of the Secure Commonwealth Panel in Richmond, James Redick, director of emergency management for the City of Norfolk, cited a 2013 report by the Virginia Institute of Marine Science on recurring flooding in all of coastal Virginia, predicting effects on the economy, critical infrastructure and national security.

http://www.timesdispatch.com/news/state-regional/emergency-responders-urge-state-to-prepare-for-rising-seas-flooding/article_b75a3d3c-06c4-11e4-9345-001a4bcf6878.html

Wildfire Risk Assessment Website Now Available for Public Use

Officials with the Virginia Department of Forestry are unveiling a new web tool that will help homeowners and communities determine their wildfire risk – and take measures to mitigate potential hazards. The Southern Wildfire Risk Assessment Portal, or SouthWRAP, enables users in Virginia and 12 other southern states to identify wildfire threats based on landscape characteristics, historical fire occurrence, weather conditions and terrain.

<http://www.newsplex.com/home/headlines/Wildfire-Risk-Assessment-Website-Now-Available-for-Public-Use-266432531.html>

It's Hurricane Season. Too Bad the Fed's Aircraft Fleet for Tracking Them is Kind of a Mess

We hear a lot from the National Weather Service that early warning is the best protection from hurricanes. It's unfortunate, then, that its own agency can't quite figure out how to keep the aging aircraft that track hurricanes up and running. The National Weather Service is a part of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, which uses aircraft to (among other things) gather information on surface wind speed and direction for calibrating satellite data instruments, conduct hurricane research, and even support the Air Force in hurricane reconnaissance when needed – flying directly into the center of a hurricane to determine the location of the eye of a storm and measure wind speed in real time. So what's the problem? As reported by the Government Accountability Office, they're overburdened. And they're old.

http://www.bizjournals.com/washington/blog/fedbiz_daily/2014/07/it-s-hurricane-season-too-bad-the-fed-s-aircraft.html

New Earthquake Map May Raise Your Risk

A new federal earthquake map dials up the shaking hazard just a bit for about one-third of the United States and lowers it for one-tenth of the nation. The U.S. Geological Survey recently updated its national seismic hazard maps for the first time since 2008, taking into account research from the devastating 2011 earthquake and tsunami off the Japanese coast and the surprise 2011 Virginia temblor.

<http://www.emsworld.com/news/11579685/new-earthquake-map-may-raise-your-risk>

Cybercrime: Still Only a Tiny Percentage of GDP, But it's Growing

The annual cost of cybercrime is either staggering, or a mere blip on the world's economic bottom line, depending on how you look at it. It is notoriously difficult to quantify, since a majority of cybercrime incidents go unreported, some companies don't even realize they have been compromised and many are not able to put a dollar value on intellectual property (IP) that they still have, but is now also in the hands of a competitor, a thief or another nation state. But most estimates put global losses in the hundreds of billions of dollars. One report released last month, by the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) titled "Net Losses: Estimating the Global Cost of Cybercrime," puts it between \$375 billion and \$575 billion. That, on the high end, would make it more than the U.S. defense budget. It would be more than the entire economies of many countries. And the report's authors say while it is possible they have overestimated that cost, they believe it is far more likely they have underestimated it.

<http://www.csoonline.com/article/2456080/data-protection/cybercrime-still-only-a-tiny-percentage-of-gdp-but-it-s-growing.html>

U.S. Government Conducts Largest Cyber-defense Exercise to Protect Critical Infrastructure

The U.S. government has just wrapped up one of the largest cyber exercises to date, involving more than 500

participants from the military, law enforcement, civilian agencies, academia and the commercial sector. Cyber Guard 14-1, which concluded on July 17, was a two-week event testing how the services and federal agencies coordinated with each other at the strategic and tactical levels to protect, prevent, mitigate and recover from a cyber attack on U.S. national cyber infrastructure. U. S. Cyber Command, or Cybercom, was the lead organization for the event, which was hosted at the FBI's National Academy in Quantico, Va. Envisioned as a "holistic, whole-of-nation effort" Cyber Guard also brought in observers from academia, private industry and state utilities. According to Defense Department officials, it was the largest exercise of its kind, bringing in more than 550 participants – double the number of the 2013 event. Besides Cybercom, elements of the National Guard, reserves and the National Security Agency supported the Homeland Security Department and FBI responses to simulated foreign-based attacks on critical national infrastructure.

<http://www.fierceregovernmentit.com/story/us-government-conducts-largest-cyber-defense-exercise-protect-critical-infr/2014-07-21>

State's Preparedness Rated Successful

A demanding test of how well authorities in Virginia could handle an attack on the North Anna nuclear power station was rated as successful, federal officials said recently. "It was a very challenging exercise," said Mark Speck, a senior emergency preparedness inspector with the federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission. "Your health and safety would have been well-protected." Federal, state, local and utility officials conducted the full-scale, hostile-action exercise at Dominion Virginia Power's North Anna Power Station in Louisa County.

http://www.dailyprogress.com/news/test-of-state-s-preparedness-for-security-emergency-at-north/article_3e5c63e4-096f-11e4-8b36-0017a43b2370.html

Health-Care Providers May Need to Step Up Emergency Preparedness

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) are reviewing feedback from a comment period on proposed new preparedness requirements intended to help hospitals and 16 other types of healthcare facilities mitigate the effects of natural and man-made disasters. In pursuing the new guidelines, CMS says that the preparedness requirements established by states and accrediting organizations are not standardized and do not always ensure adequate readiness. CMS says the average hospital would spend \$8,000 a year to comply with the new standards, but the American Hospital Association argues that the agency has underestimated the cost and burden of the changes.

<http://www.emergencymgmt.com/health/Health-Care-Providers-Emergency-Preparedness.html>

FLU

Circulating Avian Influenza Viruses Closely Related to the 1918 Virus Have Pandemic Potential

A recent article by Watanabe et al. in the Cell Host & Microbe journal describes an attempt to assess the risk of emergence of pandemic influenza viruses closely related to the 1918 influenza virus. Reverse genetics methods were used to generate an avian influenza virus closely related to the 1918 influenza virus, based on sequence information reported from various avian influenza viruses. Further experiments were done to demonstrate what mutations are required for this virus to become easily transmissible between mammals. Effectiveness of the current influenza vaccine and the antiviral drug oseltamivir against the 1918-like influenza virus was also assessed. The study demonstrated the continued circulation of such avian influenza viruses that possess 1918 virus-like proteins and viruses that may acquire 1918 virus-like properties. This would suggest that a potential exists for a 1918-like pandemic virus to emerge from the avian virus gene pool.

http://ecdc.europa.eu/en/activities/sciadvicelayouts/forms/Review_DisForm.aspx

Four Countries to Benefit from Pandemic Influenza Preparedness (PIP) Framework

Armenia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan will be the first countries in the WHO (World Health Organization) European Region to benefit from the PIP Framework, a unique partnership between industry, civil

society and governments to improve pandemic preparedness and access to antiviral medicines and vaccines. Member States are responsible for sharing with WHO influenza viruses with pandemic potential through their national influenza centers, and industry's responsibilities include making annual donations to the partnership contribution mechanism.

<http://www.euro.who.int/en/health-topics/communicable-diseases/influenza/news/news/2014/07/four-countries-to-benefit-from-pandemic-influenza-preparedness-pip-framework>

Swine and Human H3N2v Samples from 2012 Closely Match

Genetic comparisons between variant H3N2 (H3N2v) influenza viruses collected from swine at Ohio fairs in 2012 and those collected from case-patients from a large outbreak that year showed an almost 100 percent match, according to a study in "Emerging Infectious Diseases." Researchers swabbed at least 20 pigs at 40 different Ohio agricultural fairs. They isolated H3N2v from 159 (19 percent) of 834 pigs sampled. The infected pigs were from 10 fairs, 7 of which were associated with human H3N2v cases that year. The 30 fairs that had not H3N2v in swine did not report any human cases in 2012. They found that the overall nucleotide identity of 27 swine isolates was greater than 99.5 percent, and the match between human and swine isolates at five of the seven fairs linked to human cases was greater than 99.9 percent. Isolates at the other two fairs were 99.74 percent and 99.87 percent identical. The authors say their results indicated that one strain was widely circulating among exhibition swine in Ohio in 2012, and that swine viruses were infecting people rather than the other way around.

http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/eid/article/20/9/13-1082_article

<http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/news-perspective/2014/07/flu-scan-jul-23-2014>

Report: GSK Flu Vaccine Plant Inspection Finds 10 Issues Requiring Action

A recent Health Canada inspection of the country's only flu vaccine production plant identified 10 issues that need to be addressed, a report from the regulatory agency reveals. The summary report of the June inspection said none of the problems found poses a critical risk to public health, but seven fall into the major observation category, meaning they are signs production is not consistently hitting required standards. The regulatory agency posted the summary report from the inspection of the GSK-owned plant on its website Tuesday evening after the end of the business day. The production facility at Ste. Foy, Que., was issued a warning letter last month by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, which raised concerns about bacterial contamination problems in the plant.

<https://ca.news.yahoo.com/gsk-flu-vaccine-plant-inspection-finds-10-issues-002334021.html>

CDC Says it "May Never Know" How Bird Flu Mishap Occurred

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) "may never know" how a fairly harmless form of bird flu was cross-contaminated with a dangerous bird flu strain before it was sent to a laboratory outside of the CDC, an agency spokesman said earlier this month. That's because most of the materials used in the experiment to culture the virus were discarded shortly after they were used by the scientists performing the work, which occurred in March, CDC spokesman Tom Skinner told Reuters. The CDC disclosed the bird flu incident as part of an internal investigation into the agency's mishandling of live anthrax in June, potentially exposing dozens of its own lab workers to the pathogen. While no humans fell ill as a result of the bird flu breach, CDC Director Dr. Thomas Frieden has called it "the most distressing" in a series of safety breaches at the agency because of the public risk posed by the virus. Researchers at a high-security CDC influenza lab learned of their mistake in May. The contaminated bird flu samples had been sent to poultry researchers at the U.S. Department of Agriculture, who noticed their chickens all died. It took another six weeks before the incident was reported to top brass at the CDC in early July, triggering an outside inspection of CDC labs.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/07/21/us-usa-anthrax-birdflu-cdc-idUSKBN0FQ23N20140721>

Study: Antivirals Underused, Antibiotics Overused in Flu Patients

Despite years of recommendations from health authorities, far too few influenza patients at risk for severe illness are getting antiviral treatment, and too many may be receiving needless antibiotics, according to a new study led by the Centers for Disease Prevention and Control and Prevention (CDC). During the 2012-13 flu season, the researchers found that among about 1,000 patients who had an acute respiratory illness (ARI) and were at risk for flu complications because of their age or other conditions, only 19 percent were prescribed an antiviral such as

oseltamivir (Tamiflu) or zanamivir (Relenza). They also found that only 16 percent of about 1,800 confirmed flu patients received antiviral treatment, while 30 percent of them received one of three common antibiotics. Their study was published online recently in "Clinical Infectious Diseases." The CDC recommends using antiviral (neuraminidase inhibitor) treatment in ARI patients who are at risk for flu complications, including those who are younger than 2 years or at least 65 years or have a chronic medical condition, even before test results are available. Treatment should start within 2 days after illness onset if possible, but later treatment can still help, the agency has said.

<http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/news-perspective/2014/07/study-antivirals-underused-antibiotics-overused-flu-patients>

H7N9 Found After Poultry Markets Reopened in China in 2013

As many as 22 percent of poultry samples tested positive for H7N9 avian flu in live-poultry markets in a Chinese city after the markets reopened in the summer of 2013 following their closure over H7N9 cases, according to a study yesterday in the International Journal of Infectious Diseases. Investigators tested 113 poultry samples taken from 13 markets in Huzhou City in August and September after the markets were reopened on Aug 2 and 3. The samples comprised 92 poultry feces samples, 20 swab samples from culling benches, and 1 sewage sample. Overall, 17 (15 percent) of the samples tested positive for H7N9 by polymerase chain reaction. Four of the markets had positive samples, with prevalence ranging from 4 percent to 22 percent. Phylogenetic analyses of the viruses showed that the market strains belonged to the same genotype as those detected in humans in the area. Four people in Huzhou contracted H7N9 avian flu from October 2013 to Jan 20, 2014, the authors noted. The authors conclude, "We must strengthen routine surveillance of live poultry markets to effectively prevent a large-scale outbreak of the H7N9 virus."

<http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/news-perspective/2014/07/news-scan-jul-15-2014>

[http://www.ijidonline.com/article/S1201-9712\(14\)00057-5/abstract](http://www.ijidonline.com/article/S1201-9712(14)00057-5/abstract)

UK Study Finds Low H3N2 Vaccine Protection in 2012-13

An analysis of flu vaccine effectiveness (VE) during the 2012-13 season in the United Kingdom found moderate protection against influenza B, good protection against the 2009 H1N1 virus, but very poor protection against H3N2. A research team from several European countries used a test-negative study design and surveillance data from five primary care sentinel sites, including swabbing results from 4,649 people. They published their findings in "Eurosurveillance." The UK flu season was long that year, marked by early outbreaks of influenza B, followed by H3N2 activity that lasted late into the season.

<http://eur01.safelinks.embark.com/ViewArticle.aspx?ArticleId=20851>

<http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/news-perspective/2014/07/flu-scan-jul-10-2014>

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

2014 TacOps East Tactical Training Conference & Expo

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

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The TacOps East Tactical Training Conference and Exposition will bring together officers, trainers, vendors, and departments from across the country; providing attendees with interesting and innovative law enforcement training.
<http://www.tacopseast.com/>

ASIS International 60th Annual Seminar & Exhibits (ASIS 2014)

Sept. 29-Oct. 2; Atlanta, GA

"Succeed Today by Seeing Tomorrow," is the theme for the 2014 ASIS seminar and expo. ASIS has been at the forefront of security industry's advancement by supplying the ultimate venue for the exchange of visionary technologies, ideas, and solutions - all designed to enrich professionals practicing across the physical and logical spectrums.

<https://securityexpo.asisonline.org/Pages/default.aspx>

121st Annual International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) Conference

Oct. 25-28; Orlando, Fla.

IACP 2014 is the best opportunity to learn, network, and problem solve at a one-of-a-kind event dedicated specifically to law enforcement professionals. Featuring renowned keynote speakers, forums, technical workshops, and the largest exhibit hall of products and services in the law enforcement community.

<http://www.theiacpconference.org/iacp2014/public/enter.aspx>

2014 Emergency Preparedness & Hazmat Response Conference

October 26-30; Valley Forge, Penn.

The Emergency Preparedness & Hazmat Response Conference is the nation's premier all-hazards conference for emergency management, public safety and industry with quality education, training and networking. The conference offers a wide variety of trainings, workshops, tours, and an exhibit hall with the latest technology & solutions.

<http://www.emergencypreparednessconference.org/index.html>

2014 Water Infrastructure Conference

Oct. 26-29; Atlanta, GA

It's time to confront America's water infrastructure challenges. This conference will address essential water infrastructure planning and reinvestment strategies that utilities need to incorporate now. Critical infrastructure protection through comprehensive emergency preparedness efforts and enhanced security measures will also be covered.

<http://www.awwa.org/conferences-education/conferences/water-infrastructure-conference.aspx>

2014 International Facility Security Officer (iFSO) Conference

Oct. 27-31; Houston, TX

The iFSO conference will provide port facility professionals from around the country and world to share their expertise as well as current and future trends. Attendees will hear from senior Coast Guard personnel and other key partners that will deliver cutting-edge insight on regulation changes with a spotlight on exemplary facilities that are leading the way.

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

CBRNe Convergence 2014

Oct. 28-30; Long Island, NY

The 7th Annual CBRNe Convergence Congress & Exhibition is the most important annual meeting for the global CBRNE community. Growing together, staying distinct. Creating flexible CBRNE response teams for the All Hazard threat.

<http://www.cbrneworld.com/convergence2014>

2014 IEEE Conference on Communications & Network Security

October 29-31; San Francisco, Calif.

The goal of the IEEE Conference on Communications and Network Security (CNS) is to provide an outstanding

forum for cyber security researchers, practitioners, policy makers, and users to exchange ideas, techniques and tools, raise awareness, and share experience related to all practical and theoretical aspects of communications and network security.

<http://cns2014.ieee-cns.org/>

IAEM 62nd Annual Conference & EMEX 2014

Nov. 14-19; San Antonio, TX

The International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM) Annual Conference provides a forum to discuss current trends and topics, share information about the latest tools and technology in emergency management and homeland security, and advance the work of IAEM. This year's theme is "Navigating the New Normal."

<http://www.iaem.com/page.cfm?p=events/annual-conference>

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

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

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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/>



ESF 15 Contact Information

[Tony Castrilli](#), Director

Fairfax County Office of Public Affairs

12000 Government Center Parkway, Suite 551 ♦ Fairfax, Va. 22035-0065

Tel: 703-324-3187 ♦ Direct: 703-324-3189

Web site: www.fairfaxcounty.gov

Emergency Information: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency

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

Please 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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