



ESF 15 Business / Nonprofit Update

Produced by Emergency Support Function 15 – External Affairs

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ITEMS OF INTEREST FOR ESF 15



www.fairfaxcounty.gov/alerts

Recognize Excellence in Resiliency

The application period for the 2014 Rick Rescorla National Award for Resilience is open. The Rick Rescorla National Award for Resilience is the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) first national resilience award for superior leadership and innovation by an organization who exemplifies the qualities and achievements of Rick Rescorla, emphasizing leadership in effective preparation, response and recovery in the face of disasters. DHS will present the 2014 Rescorla Award to honorees in three categories:

- Individuals.
- Not-for-profit organizations.
- For-profit organizations.

Eligible candidates may be nominated for the award during the nomination period which closes on July 17, at 11:59 p.m. (EDT). All nominations must be submitted by email to rescorlaaward@hq.dhs.gov. The nomination form can be found at <http://www.dhs.gov/publication/rescorla-award-nomination-form>. For criteria, eligibility and additional information check out <http://www.dhs.gov/rick-rescorla-national-award-resilience>.

Reprinted from FEMA's "External Affairs Bulletin," May 29 edition

Ready Virginia App Presented to President Obama

The free Ready Virginia mobile application that helps people prepare for emergencies and stay informed during disasters was demonstrated to President Barack Obama recently in preparation for hurricane season, which started on June 1 and lasts through Nov. 30. The annual briefing was held at FEMA headquarters and included three presentations on innovative apps that reach people with critical emergency information. Virginia was the only state invited to present.

<https://governor.virginia.gov/news/newsarticle?articleId=4898>

Learn more about the Ready Virginia app:

www.vaemergency.gov/readyvirginia/additional-resources/mobileapp.



Norovirus is Leading Cause of Disease Outbreaks from Contaminated food in the U.S.

Most norovirus outbreaks from contaminated food occur in food service settings, according to a Vital Signs report by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Infected food workers are frequently the source of these outbreaks, often by touching ready-to-eat foods served in restaurants with their bare hands. The food service industry can help prevent norovirus outbreaks by enforcing food safety practices, such as making sure workers always practice good hand hygiene on the job and stay home when they are sick. Norovirus often gets a lot of attention for outbreaks on cruise ships, but those account for only about 1 percent of all reported norovirus outbreaks. Norovirus is highly contagious and can spread anywhere people gather or food is served, making people sick with vomiting and diarrhea. About 20 million people get sick from norovirus each year; most get infected by having close contact with other infected people or by eating contaminated food. “Norovirus outbreaks from contaminated food in restaurants are far too common.” said CDC Director Tom Frieden, M.D., M.P.H. “All who prepare food, especially the food service industry, can do more to create a work environment that promotes food safety and ensures that workers adhere to food safety laws and regulations that are already in place.” For more information about norovirus, please visit www.cdc.gov/norovirus. Additional information on preventing foodborne diseases is available at www.foodsafety.gov.



www.fairfaxcounty.gov/oem

Flooding Dangers and Flood Insurance

Floods are the most common and costly natural disaster in the United States and flooding can happen far from major bodies of water. As hurricanes and tropical storms move inland, the high winds and storm surge are often accompanied by torrential rains that increase the likelihood of flooding. For example, residents as far inland as West Virginia saw the impacts of Hurricane Sandy two years ago, including flooding. Flood insurance policies should be viewed as protection against a continuing threat – not something to purchase only if flooding appears imminent. In fact, flood insurance policies typically have a 30-day waiting period from the date of purchase before going into effect, and floods can happen at any time of the year. Flood insurance is available nationwide through approximately 85 insurance companies in more than 22,000 communities. Homeowners, renters, condo owners and commercial owners/renters can all purchase flood insurance. Costs vary depending on the level of coverage, the type of coverage and the property’s flood risk. More information about flood risk and flood insurance options is available by visiting www.floodsmart.gov or calling 1-800-427-2419.

Reprinted from a FEMA Private Sector Advisory, May 7

<http://www.community.fema.gov/connect.ti/AmericasPrepareathon/view?objectId=3222032>

DHS Releases Second Quadrennial Homeland Security Review

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) today released its second Quadrennial Homeland Security Review (QHSR), taking an important foundational step toward one of Secretary of Homeland Security Jeh Johnson’s highest priorities: strengthening Departmental unity of effort. “The 2014 QHSR sets priorities for homeland security over the next four years based on risk and charts a path forward to proactively address rapidly evolving threats and hazards,” said Secretary Johnson. The DHS unity of effort initiative is focused on ensuring that the Department invests and operates in a cohesive, unified fashion, and makes decisions that are transparent and collaborative to drive the Secretary’s strategic guidance to results. The 2014 QHSR Report provides that strong strategic guidance and analytic foundation by outlining clear, risk-informed priorities over the next four years that will drive operational planning, analysis of resource and capability options, and sound acquisition decisions. Four years ago, the Department of Homeland Security’s first quadrennial review answered the question, “What is homeland security?,” laying out the vision, five mission areas, and goals and objectives for homeland security. Reflecting deep analysis of the evolving strategic environment and outlining the specific strategic priorities for keeping our Nation secure, this second quadrennial review represents the more focused, collaborative Departmental strategy, planning, and analytic capability that Secretary Johnson has named as a priority for achieving Departmental unity. In addition, the second

review reiterates our commitment to five enduring missions – Prevent Terrorism and Enhance Security, Secure and Manage Our Borders, Enforce and Administer Our Immigration Laws, Safeguard and Secure Cyberspace, and Strengthen National Preparedness and Resilience. The QHSR also recognizes the responsibility the Department shares with hundreds of thousands of men and women across the federal, state, local, tribal, and territorial governments, the private sector and other nongovernmental organizations, and provides a path forward for engaging in public-private partnerships. These are the people who regularly interact with the public, who are responsible for public safety and security, who own and operate the nation’s critical infrastructure and services, who perform research and develop technology, and who keep watch, prepare for and respond to emerging threats and disasters. <http://www.dhs.gov/quadrennial-homeland-security-review-qhsr>

What Goes into a Flood Map

Helping homeowners and communities know their risk of being impacted by disasters stands as one of our top priorities at FEMA. When you know your risk, you can prepare for the worst, take steps to mitigate against hazards and protect yourself, your family and your property. Year to year, flooding is the most costly disaster in America. Flood maps play a vital role in helping us prepare for flooding by informing communities about the local flood risk. Flood maps help communities to incorporate flood risk into their planning. They’re also the basis for flood insurance rates through the National Flood Insurance Program, which FEMA administers at the direction of Congress. By law, you may be required to get flood insurance if you live in the highest risk areas. But flooding can happen anywhere -- about 20 percent of all the flood claims come from areas with lower risk. And you don’t

have to live close to water to be at risk. The process for developing and updating flood maps is a long one – and for good reason. It allows communities and property owners at all steps of the process to incorporate the best available data into each community’s flood maps. Projects typically take from 3-5 years to complete, but sometimes they can take longer. Through the Risk MAP program, flood maps are developed using the best available science, analyzed by some of the leading engineering firms in the field. The mapping standards are published, vetted, have been peer reviewed and are updated continuously to ensure they are aligned with current best practices.

Reprinted from the FEMA Blog

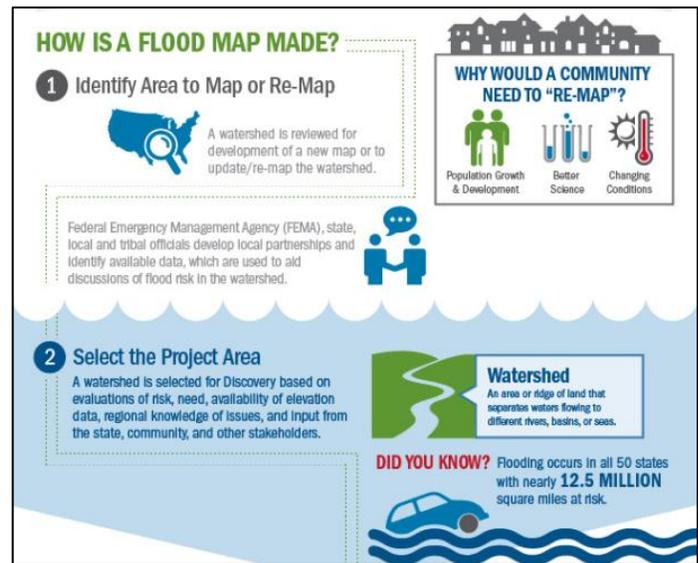
<http://www.fema.gov/blog/2014-02-21/what-goes-flood-map-infographic>

Infographic: http://www.fema.gov/media-library-data/1393958868164-9cb63c646abcf67e69fed796800ad727/FEMA_Infographic_022614-01.jpg

FEMA Could Realize Millions in Savings

A DHS Office of Inspector General report found that FEMA could realize millions of dollars in cost savings by strengthening its policies, procedures, and internal controls over Public Assistance grant funding provided for permanently relocated damaged facilities. Specifically, the audit determined that FEMA’s present policies and procedures do not effectively address how FEMA should use program income to offset permanently relocated facility costs.

http://www.oig.dhs.gov/assets/GrantReports/2014/OIG_14-91-D_May14.pdf





www.CapitalRegionUpdates.gov

Lightning Safety

According to a recent report from NOAA (PDF), June, July and August are the peak months for lightning activity across the U.S. and the peak months for outdoor summer activities. As a result, almost two thirds of lightning deaths occurred to people who had been enjoying outdoor leisure activities; more than 70 percent of these lightning deaths occurred during the summer months with Saturdays and Sundays having slightly more deaths than other days of the week. Before you go out in the rain, know the facts.

- Lightning often strikes the same place repeatedly, especially if it's a tall, pointy, isolated object. The Empire State Building is hit nearly 100 times a year! (The presence of metal makes absolutely no difference on where lightning strikes.)
- Most cars are safe from lightning, but it is the metal roof and metal sides that protect you, not the rubber tires.
- A house is a safe place to be during a thunderstorm as long as you avoid anything that conducts electricity.
- Never seek shelter from lightning under a tree. It is actually the second leading cause of lightning fatalities.
- If someone is struck by lightning, don't be scared to assist him or her immediately. The human body does not store electricity and helping them immediately could be essential to their survival.

An Introduction to... LIGHTNING SAFETY!
www.lightningsafety.noaa.gov
 #lightningsafety

When Thunder Roars, Go Indoors!

What You Need To Know...

1. **NO PLACE** outside is safe when storms are in the area.
2. If you hear thunder, lightning is close enough to strike you.
3. When you hear thunder, *immediately* move to safe place.
4. Stay there until 30 minutes **AFTER** you hear the last sound of thunder.

Lightning is one of the top 3 storm-related killers in the United States!

If you hear thunder, lightning is likely within striking distance. Lightning threats can extend 10 miles from the storm! Even if it means you have to take a break from playing or working outside, play it safe. When Thunder Roars, Go Indoors! Wait 30 minutes after the last sound of thunder before going back outside.

Keep yourself and others safe by being lightning aware. For more information on lightning, visit the NOAA lightning page (<http://www.lightningsafety.noaa.gov/>). For thunderstorm safety tips visit www.ready.gov/thunderstorms-lightning. See the graphic:

<https://www.facebook.com/NWS/photos/a.207878764040.128709.206848514040/10153294999589041/?type=1>

PLANNING / PREPAREDNESS

The Science of Predicting Climate Change and Future Flooding

NOAA's Mathias Collins discusses findings from a study of stream gauge records for the past 100 years. Mathias Collins is a hydrologist with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). He has participated in a number of studies on flooding and climate change, including one that examined stream gauge records for the past 100 years and found a trend toward more frequent floods with a heavier magnitude. "Emergency Management" talked to him about this study and predicting flooding and climate change in the coming decades.

<http://www.emergencymgmt.com/disaster/Science-Predicting-Climate-Change-Flooding.html>

Hospital Preparedness: New Preparedness Video

HealthIT.gov has released a new video and resources Web page. Dr. Karen DeSalvo explains the importance for health care providers to make sure patient information is available in an emergency. Whether it is a tornado, flood, hurricane or power outage, when a disaster strikes it's critical to be prepared. In an emergency, every minute counts. Preparing for an emergency is part of providing patient care and will give both providers and patients' piece of mind.

Video: http://youtu.be/IW7bFy_W1JA

<http://mhanewsnow.typepad.com/prepared/2014/06/new-emergency-preparedness-video.html>



Emergency Management Courses Available to Prepare for Hurricane Season

Emergency managers, volunteers and the general public can take free online courses to help them prepare for the hurricane season that began June 1. Some of the courses can be found on FEMA's Emergency Management Institute (EMI) training site include:

- IS 244.b – Developing and Managing Volunteers. This course will provide strategies for identifying, recruiting, assigning, training, supervising and motivating volunteers; and include discussion of spontaneous volunteers as well as those affiliated with community-based, faith-based, and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs). The goal is to strengthen abilities to prepare for and manage volunteers before, during and after a severe emergency or major disaster.
- IS 324.a – Community Hurricane Preparedness. This computer-based course is to provide those involved in the decision making process for hurricanes with basic information about: how hurricanes form, hazards they pose, how the National Weather Service (NWS) forecasts future hurricane behavior and what tools and guiding principles can help emergency managers prepare their communities.
- IS 288 – The Role of Volunteer Agencies in Emergency Management. This independent study course provides a basic understanding of the history, roles and services of disaster relief voluntary agencies in providing disaster assistance. It is appropriate for both the general public and those involved in emergency management operations.

Learn more from EMI at <http://training.fema.gov/emi/>.

Reprinted from the FEMA External Affairs Bulletin, week of June 2

Hurricane Preparedness: Check Your Disaster Kit

Hurricane Season started June 1st. Remember to check your emergency kit from last season. Make sure that you have everything you need. Replace expired items such as food and medicine. <http://emergency.cdc.gov/preparedness/kit/disasters/>



Photo courtesy of CDC.

<http://emergency.cdc.gov/preparedness/kit/disasters/>.

2014 U.S. State of Cybercrime Survey

PwC U.S. and CSO magazine have released the 2014 U.S. State of Cybercrime Survey, an annual survey of cybercrime trends. This reveals that while the number

of cybercrime incidents and the monetary losses associated with them continue to rise, most U.S. organizations' cybersecurity capabilities do not rival the persistence and technological skills of their cyber adversaries. According to the report, only 38 percent of companies have a methodology to prioritize security investments based on risk and impact to business strategy. The survey is a collaborative effort with PwC, CSO magazine, the CERT Division of the Software Engineering Institute at Carnegie Mellon University and the U.S. Secret Service. The State of Cybercrime Survey finds that the average number of security incidents detected over the past year was 135 per organization. Fourteen percent of respondents reported that monetary losses attributed to cybercrime have increased. The actual costs, however, remain largely unknown as more than two-thirds (67 percent) of those who detected a security incident were not able to estimate the financial costs. Among those that could, the average annual monetary loss was projected to be \$415,000.

<http://www.continuitycentral.com/news07229.html>

Report: http://www.pwc.com/en_US/us/increasing-it-effectiveness/publications/assets/2014-us-state-of-cybercrime.pdf

National Terrorism Advisory System

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

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

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

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 at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/alerts.



MEDIA ARTICLES OF INTEREST

Why Hurricanes with Female Names May be More Deadly

In a first-of-its-kind study, researchers from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign looked at 90 years of hurricane fatality data collected by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and found that powerful hurricanes with female names were more deadly than hurricanes of the same strength with male names. The reason, they say, is tied up with a lingering and subconscious sexism that continues to permeate our society.

<http://www.dailypress.com/news/1a-sci-sn-deadliest-hurricanes-have-female-names-study-20140602,0,4332065.story>



Three Tips for Preparing for Natural Disasters

Hurricane season started June 1, so it's time to evaluate how prepared your business is to cope with natural disasters. Communicating with customers and employees is key to limit the disruption caused by severe weather. Also, make sure employees have a plan to get your business back on track as quickly as possible.

http://www.nola.com/business/baton-rouge/index.ssf/2014/06/small_business_master_class_pr.html

Study Reveals DHS Cyber Initiative Needs to Pick up the Pace

A new study examining the progress of the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Continuous Diagnostics Mitigation (DHS-CDM) program, which standardizes security monitoring across the federal government, indicated that while implementation of CDM has been impressive so far, federal security managers are anxious to pick up the pace. Meritalk, a public-private partnership focused on improving the outcomes of government Information Technology (IT), recently conducted a study, "CDM: Under the Hood," which discovered that the CDM program needs to be implemented faster in order to effectively fortify the cybersecurity of computer systems and networks. "Continuous Diagnostics and Mitigation is starting to become a reality as an Information Systems Continuous Monitoring (ISCM) approach for civilian agencies across government," Meritalk said in a statement. "The Department of Homeland Security is leveraging a Congressional appropriation to purchase critical cyber security products, including tools and sensors that enhance and expand department and agency ISCM capabilities."

<http://www.hstoday.us/briefings/daily-news-analysis/single-article/study-reveals-dhs-cyber-initiative-needs-to-pick-up-the-pace/03eb159029dfb50184e0464f2913f887.html>

Mobile App Could Help Crowdsource Solutions Following Disasters

An Android app, code named "uRep," which is under development at Kean University, allows users to report a problem by snapping a picture and geo-tag it using GPS functionality built into their mobile device. In its current form, the app is a prototype focused on power outages, but a paper recently published as part of the IEEE's annual Systems Conference suggests the app could be useful in providing information during an emergency, such as the location of hotels, grocery stores with depleted stock or gas stations that are closed. uRep allows users to report power outages and see the location of other reports. Utility companies can also log in and set priority to reported issues, all while outage reporters track their progress in addressing issues. The paper cites public frustration following Hurricane Sandy. Following the storm, Jersey central Power & Light posted information about progress restoring power to its website but that information was simply a list of cities and their expected restoration percentages. One potential issue with uRep, however, is the app's dependence on utility companies to update their progress. Still, authors of the paper say the potential expansion of this app could prove valuable to first responders and personnel in extreme weather emergencies.

<http://www.fiercemobilegovernment.com/story/mobile-app-could-help-crowdsource-solutions-following-disasters/2014-06-04>

Logging in Securely Without Passwords

Passwords are a common security measure to protect personal information, but they do not always prevent hackers from finding a way into devices. Researchers are working to perfect an easy-to-use, secure login protection that eliminates the need to use a password -- known as zero-interaction authentication.

<http://www.homelandsecuritynewswire.com/dr20140605-logging-in-securely-without-passwords>

Businesses Must “Own” Cybersecurity Threats

Cybersecurity threats are a vital issue for the nation, and like the Defense Department, businesses must own the problem to successfully carry out their missions, DOD’s top cybersecurity expert told a forum of businesspeople. Navy Adm. Michael Rogers, commander of U.S. Cyber Command, director of the National Security Agency, and chief of the Central Security Service, addressed cybersecurity concerns in an interview with Trish Regan of Bloomberg Television at Bloomberg Government’s Cybersecurity Summit. Corporations must successfully deal with cybersecurity threats, because such threats can have direct impacts on business and reputation, Rogers told the business audience. “You have to consider [cybersecurity threats] every bit as foundational as we do in our ability to maneuver forces as a military construct,” he said.

<http://www.homelandsecuritynewswire.com/dr20140605-adm-michael-rogers-businesses-must-own-cybersecurity-threats>

States Balk at Keeping Oil-train Info from Public

U.S. railroads forced to turn over details of their volatile crude oil shipments are asking states to sign agreements not to disclose the information. But some states are refusing, saying Thursday that the information shouldn’t be kept from the public. Federal officials last month ordered railroads to make the disclosures after a string of fiery tank-car accidents in North Dakota, Alabama, Virginia and Quebec.

http://www.timesdispatch.com/news/ap/states-balk-at-keeping-oil-train-info-from-public/article_f237eb6e-ed12-11e3-8d69-0017a43b2370.html

For Preparedness, Hurricane Name Makes a Difference

Bertha, Dolly, Fay and Hanna could be on the way now that the Atlantic hurricane season started Sunday. And recent research suggests it's time to give the Atlantic storms with feminine names a bit more respect. According to a study released recently by University of Illinois researchers, hurricanes with women's names are likely to cause significantly more deaths than those with masculine names -- not because the feminine-named storms are stronger, but because they are perceived as less threatening and so people are less prepared. People in the path of severe storms with a feminine name may take fewer protective measures, leaving them more vulnerable to harm, according to the article published in the “Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.” It was written by Kiju Jung, a doctoral student in marketing at the university, and marketing professor Sharon Shavitt.

<http://www.emergencymgmt.com/disaster/Hurricane-Name-Makes-a-Difference.html>

Chinese Army Group Hacks U.S. Satellite Partners

U.S. security technology group CrowdStrike has identified another cyber espionage group with links to the Chinese military, which has been systematically attacking US and European government partners in the space and satellite industry, according to the company. According to CrowdStrike, the espionage entity, dubbed Putter Panda, has several connections to Comment Panda, the group previously attributed to the Chinese army’s secretive Unit 61398 – of which the five men indicted by the U.S. government for alleged hacking activities last month belonged.

A 63-page report published by CrowdStrike revealed that Putter Panda operates out of Shanghai, with connections to the People’s Liberation Army (PLA) Third General Staff Department, 12th Bureau Military Unit Cover Designator 61486. The PLA’s Third General Staff Department is generally acknowledged to be China’s premier signals intelligence collection and analysis agency, according to CrowdStrike, while the 12th Bureau Unit 61486 supports China’s space surveillance network.

<http://www.zdnet.com/chinese-army-group-hacks-us-satellite-partners-crowdstrike-7000030353/>

New Tornado Maps Show Latitudes, Longitudes Hit Most Frequently

Meteorologist Tim Brice has developed two new maps that may change the way you look at tornadoes. Brice, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in El Paso, Texas, crunched the number of tornado touchdowns between 1950 and 2013. Then he plotted the Storm Prediction Center's data on two separate maps to show the latitudes and longitudes that have seen the most twisters during that time span. Shortly after posting the two maps on social media, they were rapidly distributed by meteorologists and weather geeks alike because they show a fascinating, fresh take on old statistics.

<http://www.weather.com/safety/tornadoes/tornado-maps-latitude-longitude-20140610>

Twister Danger Greater in Southeast Than Midwest

Oklahoma and Kansas may have the reputation as tornado hot spots, but Florida and the rest of the Southeast are far more vulnerable to killer twisters. Florida leads the country in deaths calculated per mile a tornado races along the ground, followed by Tennessee, North Carolina, Ohio and Alabama, according to an analysis of the past three decades by the federal Southeast Regional Climate Center at the University of North Carolina

<http://www.emsworld.com/news/11522614/twister-danger-greater-in-southeast-than-midwest-report-says>

DHS Spent \$61M on Next Generation BioWatch Technology Before Canceling It

The pursuit of third-generation BioWatch technology cost the Homeland Security Department \$61 million between 2009 and April of this year, when DHS canceled the acquisition. That money was spent on testing and evaluating technologies that DHS hoped would improve BioWatch, a program that aims to detect the presence of biological threats like anthrax in the air. It is active in more than 30 U.S. cities. Chris Cummiskey, the acting undersecretary for management at DHS, reported the \$61 million figure during a House Homeland Security subcommittee hearing June 10. He also said the department returned \$16 million to the Treasury that lawmakers had appropriated for BioWatch Gen-3 this year. The current BioWatch technology stores air samples that must be manually collected every day and taken to local laboratories for testing. It can take up to 36 hours to detect a biological hazard if it's present in the sample. The idea behind Gen-3 was to acquire what officials describe as a "lab in a box," a device that would collect air samples and also autonomously analyze them. Results would be available within six hours, providing a much earlier warning whether a biological attack has taken place.

<http://www.fiercehomelandsecurity.com/story/dhs-spent-61m-next-generation-biowatch-technology-canceling-it/2014-06-15>

FLU

Link Between Vaccinated Hospital Workers and Community Flu Rates

For every 15 healthcare providers who receive the influenza vaccination, one fewer person in the community will contract an influenza-like illness, according to a study using California public health data from 2009-2012. In an abstract that was presented on June 7 at the 41st Annual Conference of the Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology (APIC), a researcher analyzed archival data from the California Department of Public Health to determine the relationship between vaccinating healthcare personnel against influenza and the rate of influenza-like illness in the surrounding community.

<http://www.emsworld.com/news/11514627/new-study-shows-link-between-vaccinated-hospital-workers-and-community-flu-rates>

Flu Exit Nearly Final in Northern Hemisphere

Most Northern Hemisphere countries are at or approaching interseasonal flu levels, with North America and eastern Asia still reporting some influenza B circulation, the World Health Organization (WHO) said in its latest global flu update. The countries at interseasonal levels included China, with the percentage of positive flu tests low in both the northern and southern parts of the country. In southern and southeastern Asia, levels dropped, except in Iran, which

reported a slight increase, much of it from the 2009 H1N1 virus, the WHO said. Tropical countries saw little flu activity, except for slight increases in Peru and Bolivia, mostly from H3N2. In the Southern Hemisphere, flu detections increased in Australia and New Zealand, but levels were still low. Paraguay reported higher-than-expected flu activity for this time of year, mainly driven by H3N2 and influenza B. During the first half of May, testing of flu virus samples by global flu labs found slightly more influenza B than influenza A, at 51.5 percent influenza B. Of the subtyped influenza A strains, H3N2 was dominant, at 70.2 percent.

<http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/news-perspective/2014/06/flu-scan-jun-05-2014>

FDA Approves Novartis U.S. Cell-based Flu Vaccine Facility

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved the first U.S. facility that can make cell-culture influenza vaccines, a Novartis plant in Holly Springs, N.C., that has been part of federal government efforts to prepare for a pandemic and to sidestep some limits of egg-based flu vaccine technology. Novartis said in a press release that the approval clears the way for commercial production to begin at the site and for Flucelvax, its seasonal flu vaccine, to be made in the United States for the first time. The vaccine, approved in November 2012, was the first cell-based flu vaccine to receive FDA clearance, and the first doses – made in the company’s German production facility – entered the U.S. market during the 2013-14 flu season. Flucelvax, an inactivated trivalent vaccine approved for use in adults, contains flu viruses grown in mammalian cell cultures. Though cell-culture methods have been used to make other U.S.-licensed vaccines, Flucelvax is the first US flu vaccine to be made with the process. The technology is designed to make production faster and more flexible, because the cells can be banked and there is no need for an egg supply.

<http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/news-perspective/2014/06/fda-oks-novartiss-us-cell-based-flu-vaccine-facility>

Experiments Suggest a 1918-like Flu Virus Could Rise Again

Avian influenza viruses with components similar to those in the 1918 pandemic flu virus still circulate in nature, and genetic engineering experiments suggest it would take only a few mutations to turn them into a human threat, according to a team of scientists led by Yoshiro Kawaoka, DVM, PhD, of the University of Wisconsin. Writing in “Cell Host & Microbe,” Kawaoka and colleagues say their studies have shown “the global prevalence of avian influenza virus genes whose proteins differ by only a few amino acids from the 1918 pandemic influenza virus, suggesting that 1918-like pandemic viruses may emerge in the future.” The genes are found in viruses circulating in wild ducks, according to a University of Wisconsin press release. To assess the risk, the team used reverse genetics to generate a virus with gene segments encoding proteins very similar to those of the 1918 virus. They found that this virus was more pathogenic in mice and ferrets than a natural avian flu virus, causing flu-like symptoms, but not as pathogenic as the 1918 virus.

<http://www.news.wisc.edu/releases/18584>

<http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/news-perspective/2014/06/flu-scan-jun-11-2014>

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

First Responders Communication Interoperability

July 14-16; Washington, D.C.

First Responders Communication Interoperability will take an in depth look at the current and upcoming advances in technology, training, and strategy for all agencies and divisions, both civil and military, involved in disaster and emergency response. There will be hands on training workshops as well as solution oriented discussion on the current national and state level preparedness measures, current capability gaps and necessary procurements for future success.

<http://www.firstrespondersforum.com/default.aspx>

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2014 TacOps East Tactical Training Conference & Expo

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

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; 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

In an emergency, will you know—what to do,
where to go, how to get information?

Visit Capitalert.gov for more information about free emergency alerts from your local governments in the National Capital Region.



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

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- 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/>

FAIRFAX COUNTY 703-817-7771
EMERGENCY
INFORMATION LINE



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Emergency Information: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency

To Unsubscribe:

E-mail publicaffairs@fairfaxcounty.gov with “Remove from ESF 15 Business/Nonprofit Update” in the subject line and you will be immediately removed from the distribution list.

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

Please 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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