



ESF 15 Business / Nonprofit Update

Produced by Emergency Support Function 15 – External Affairs

March 2015

ITEMS OF INTEREST FOR ESF 15

U.S. Businesses Failing when it Comes to Winter Weather Preparedness

Many businesses across the U.S. score poorly on being prepared for severe winter weather, according to a new poll of America's workforce, commissioned by FM Global. Nearly one third of full-time American workers (32 percent) assign their employers a grade of C, D or F when it comes to preparedness for a major winter storm, the research finds. Furthermore, more than half of US workers (52 percent) employed full time indicated they are dissatisfied with their employers' preparedness, wanting their company to be better prepared for a winter storm.

<http://www.continuitycentral.com/news07531.html>

Food Safety During Blackouts

Loss of power can jeopardize the safety of the food stored in your home refrigerator or freezer. In the event of a blackout, do you know how to determine if your food is safe to eat? The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) offers tips to minimize the potential loss of food and lower the risk of foodborne illness.

Before a blackout:

- Gather an emergency supply of shelf-stable food, packaged foods, boxed or canned milk, bottle water, and canned goods.
- Have coolers and frozen gel packs on hand to keep refrigerated food cold if the power goes out longer than four hours.
- Keep freezer items close together – this helps the food stay cold longer.
- Bacteria in food grow rapidly at temperatures between 40 and 140 degrees Fahrenheit. The USDA instructs setting your refrigerator at or below 40 degrees Fahrenheit. If the power is out for less than four hours and the refrigerator door is kept closed, your food should be safe.

Following a blackout:

- Discard any perishable food items such as meat, poultry, fish, eggs, and leftovers that have been exposed to temperatures above 40 degrees Fahrenheit for two hours or more.
- Use a food thermometer to test the temperature of food – never taste it! You can't rely on appearance and odor to determine whether food is safe.
- Discard any items in the refrigerator that have come into contact with raw meat, seafood, or poultry juices.
- Power outages can occur anywhere at any time of the year. Make sure you and your family are prepared and know what to do to avoid getting sick.

Reprinted from FEMA's Individual and Community Preparedness e-Brief newsletter, Feb. 26 edition

FEMA Regional Overview: Region 3

FEMA Region 3 serves Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Washington, D.C., Virginia and West Virginia. Located in Philadelphia, Penn., Region III is close to historically rich symbols of early America, such as Independence Hall and the Liberty Bell. Led by Regional Administrator MaryAnn Tierney, Region III's 185 employees provide critical preparedness, mitigation, response and recovery support to the region every day. Region III is in the unique position of working with two of the four Commonwealth states (Penn. and Va.) in the U.S., as well as with the National Capital Region and Washington, D.C.



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

Serving close to 31 million people, Region III is made up of multiple major metropolitan areas as well as thousands of smaller communities. Region III borders the Atlantic Ocean through Delaware, Maryland and Virginia, and Lake Erie in Penn. FEMA Region III most commonly experiences severe storms, but disasters such as flooding, hurricanes, tornadoes, and winter storms have also resulted in declarations. FEMA Region III employees have taken their expertise to other regions and disasters, including Hurricane Sandy, to assist in relief efforts. One of the many unique elements of Region III is its role in the Presidential Inauguration and State of the Union Address. As National Special Security Events (NSSEs) taking place in Washington, D.C., the Regional Office works with other members of the federal family to ensure these events run smoothly. Region III will also perform a pivotal role in the upcoming World Meeting of Families and the first official visit to the U.S. by Pope Francis.

Reprinted from FEMA's "External Affairs Bulletin," March 2, 2015 edition



Emergency News
by email
Subscribe → www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency/blog

Receive emergency preparedness information and emergency news by email

Don't Forget to Test Your Smoke Alarm

A smoke alarm with a dead or missing battery is the same as having no smoke alarm at all. The United States Fire Administration (USFA) recommends you test your smoke alarms each month, replace the batteries at least once every year, and replace the entire smoke alarm every 10 years. For more information, visit USFA's website, www.usfa.fema.gov/prevention/outreach/smoke_alarms.html



Cover Yourself Against Floods

Floods are our country's number one natural disaster. They occur in all 50 states, at all times of year, and plenty of damage occurs outside of high-risk areas. If your home is flooded, your homeowners insurance policy probably won't pay for repairs. Most policies don't cover floods. The National Flood Insurance Program, administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), works closely with more than 80 private insurance companies (http://www.fema.gov/wyo_company) to offer flood insurance to homeowners, renters and business owners. Learn more with the booklet "FloodSmart, Know Your Risk" (<http://publications.usa.gov/USAPubs.php?PubID=5762>). You can also visit www.FloodSmart.gov, or call 1-888-379-9531.



CapitalRegionUpdates.Gov

News & Info - Around the Region

www.CapitalRegionUpdates.gov

2015 FEMA Individual and Community Preparedness Award Application Period Now Open

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is pleased to announce that the application period for the 2015 Individual and Community Preparedness Awards is open. The awards highlight innovative local practices and achievements by recognizing individuals and organizations that have made outstanding contributions toward making their communities safer, stronger, better prepared, and more resilient.

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

Emergency management is most effective when the whole community is engaged and involved. Faith-based organizations, voluntary agencies, the private sector, tribal organizations, youth, older adults, people with disabilities and others with access and functional needs, and all individual citizens can make a difference in their communities before, during, and after disasters. FEMA will review all entries and select the finalists. A distinguished panel of representatives from the emergency management community will then select winners in each of the following categories:

- Outstanding Citizen Corps Council
- Community Preparedness Heroes
- Awareness to Action
- Technological Innovation
- Outstanding Achievement in Youth Preparedness
- Preparing the Whole Community
- Outstanding Community Emergency Response Team Initiatives
- Outstanding Citizen Corps Partner Program
- Excellence in Volunteer Sustainability

Winners will be announced in the fall of 2015 and will be FEMA's honored guests at a community preparedness roundtable event. The winner of the Preparing the Whole Community category will receive the John D. Solomon Whole Community Preparedness Award. These awards are an opportunity to acknowledge the work an individual or organization has done to build a more resilient nation. More information about the awards is available at www.ready.gov/citizen-corps/citizen-corps-awards. To be considered for this year's awards, all submissions must be received by April 10, at 11:59 P.M. EST and must feature program activities taking place between January 1, 2014, and April 10, 2015. Applications should be submitted to citizencorps@fema.dhs.gov.

Website Lets Loved Ones Know You're Safe and Well

When a major disaster happens, one of the most frightening times is when you don't know if a family member has been affected or not. The American Red Cross offers "Safe and Well," a website where people can register themselves and their families after a disaster to let loved ones know of their status. Individuals can list their name, birthdate, email, phone numbers, address, and best current contact information. You will also have a choice of the message you want family and friends to see, such as "I am safe and well," "Currently at shelter," or "Will email when able." You can also leave a custom message. Much of the identifying information will not be viewable by someone searching for you, but it will be used by the system's search engine. With tornado season here and hurricanes right around the corner, first responders should keep this service in mind to let family members know their status.

Reprinted from [The Infogram](#), volume 15, issue 11; March 12, published by the Emergency Management & Response-Information Sharing & Analysis Center

<https://safeandwell.communityos.org/cms/index.safe.php>

PLANNING / PREPAREDNESS

The 2015 Cyber Risk Report

HP has published the 2015 edition of its annual Cyber Risk Report, which looks at the security threat landscape through 2014 and indicates likely trends for 2015. Authored by HP Security Research, the report examines the data indicating the most prevalent vulnerabilities that leave organizations open to security risks. This year's report reveals that well-known issues and misconfigurations contributed to the most formidable threats in 2014. Highlights and key findings from the report include:

- 44 percent of known breaches came from vulnerabilities that are two-four years old. Attackers continue to leverage well-known techniques to successfully compromise systems and networks. Every one of the top ten vulnerabilities exploited in 2014 took advantage of code written years or even decades ago.

- Server misconfigurations were the number one vulnerability. Over and above vulnerabilities such as privacy and cookie security issues, server misconfigurations dominated the list of security concerns in 2014, providing adversaries unnecessary access to files that leave an organization susceptible to an attack.
- Additional avenues of attack were introduced via connected devices. In addition to security issues presented via Internet of Things (IoT) devices, 2014 also saw an increase in the level of mobile malware detected. As the computing ecosystem continues to expand, unless enterprises take security into consideration, attackers will continue to find more points of entry.
- The primary causes of commonly exploited software vulnerabilities are defects, bugs, and logic flaws. Most vulnerabilities stem from a relatively small number of common software programming errors. Old and new vulnerabilities in software are swiftly exploited by attackers.

<http://www.continuitycentral.com/news07540.html>

Wireless Emergency Alerts

Have you ever noticed a unique sound and vibration coming from your cellphone?

You may have received a Wireless Emergency Alert (WEA) – a nationwide emergency alert system notifying you of a pending emergency in your area. These messages provide information about extreme weather warnings, local emergencies, AMBER

Alerts™, and Presidential Alerts during a national emergency. WEAs look like a text message and show the type and time of the alert, any action you should take, and the agency issuing the alert. If you receive a WEA, follow any directions advised by the message and seek additional information from local media or authorities. WEAs are sent by authorized government agencies through your mobile carrier. Government partners include local and state public safety agencies, FEMA, the Federal Communications Commission, the Department of Homeland Security, and the National Weather Service. Learn more online at www.fema.gov/wireless-emergency-alerts.



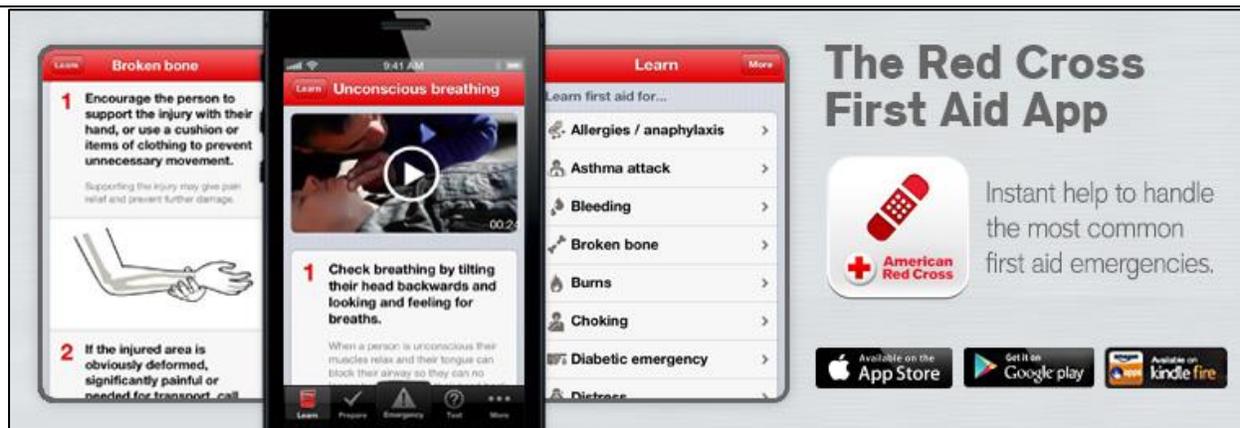
Ready to Go Off Grid

Due to the recent winter storms several communities across the county have experienced dangerous utility outages. Beyond the initial inconvenience, loss of electricity, gas or water can be life threatening. It is critical to know how you and your family can prepare and stay safe in the event of a utility outage. Use FEMA’s free, online activity module, “Going Off Grid: Utility Outages,” (http://emilms.fema.gov/IS909/assets/14_GoingOffGrid.pdf) to reference simple steps to get prepared for an outage. Some utility outage checklist items include:

- Document important phone numbers and vital power company information.
- Locate and label your utility shutoffs.
- Have your disaster kit ready and stocked.

The “Going Off Grid: Utility Outages” activity module is part of FEMA’s “Preparedness Activities for Communities Everywhere” tools, which educate individuals about easy ways to become prepared for all types of hazards. The tools are designed for anyone to use in coordination with local emergency preparedness partners to help better prepare for emergencies.

Reprinted from FEMA’s Individual and Community Preparedness e-Brief newsletter, Feb. 26 edition



First Aid App

The official American Red Cross First Aid app puts expert advice for everyday emergencies in your hand. Available for iPhone and Android devices, the official American Red Cross First Aid app gives you instant access to the information you need to know to handle the most common first aid emergencies. With videos, interactive quizzes and simple step-by-step advice it's never been easier to know first aid.

<http://www.redcross.org/mobile-apps/first-aid-app>

Flooding: Turn Around, Don't Drown

Flooding, one of the most common weather hazards in the U.S., affects both individuals and communities. High water can flood basements and homes in low elevation areas or near a body of water, requiring extended evacuation and damaging property. Flooding can also affect travel, making driving extremely dangerous and roads impassable. Be aware of flood hazards no matter where you live or work, but especially if you are in low-lying areas, near water, behind a levee or downstream from a dam. Even very small streams, gullies, creeks, culverts, dry streambeds or low-lying ground that appear harmless in dry weather can flood.

<http://www.ready.gov/floods>



6 Tips to Prepare for Blackouts

Tips to prepare for blackouts below! But first we ask, how do you prepare for blackouts?

1. Follow energy conservation measures to reduce electricity usage, which can help power companies avoid imposing rolling blackouts.
2. Fill plastic containers with water and place them in the refrigerator and freezer. Leave about an inch of space inside each one to account for expansion. Chilled or frozen water will help keep food cold during a temporary power outage.
3. Be aware that most medication that requires refrigeration can be kept in a closed refrigerator for several hours without a problem. If unsure, check with your physician or pharmacist.
4. Keep your car tank at least half full because gas stations rely on electricity to power their pumps.
5. Know where the manual release lever of your electric garage door opener is located and how to operate it. Garage doors can be heavy, so know that you may need help in lifting it.
6. Keep a key to your house with you if you regularly use the garage as the primary means of entering your home, in case the garage door will not open.

<http://www.community.fema.gov/connect.ti/readynpm/messageshowthread?threadid=51150>

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

The ESF 15 Business / Nonprofit Update is designed to provide information about Emergency Support Function 15 (External Affairs) along with news articles and informational updates relating to Homeland Security and emergency management to ESF 15 partners.

Inclusion of any resource, information or Web link is not an endorsement of the product, service or organization. The ESF 15 Business / Nonprofit Update is produced by Fairfax County's Office of Public Affairs – the lead agency for ESF 15.

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

Alerts for Your Locations

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

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

MEDIA ARTICLES OF INTEREST

Supporters of Islamic State Have at Least 46,000 Twitter Accounts, New Brookings Study Finds

Supporters of the terrorist group, Islamic State of Syria and Iraq, popularly known as ISIS, used at least 46,000 Twitter accounts from September through November last year, although not all the accounts were active at the same time, a new Brookings Institution study estimated. Government officials have been saying that the Islamic State has been one of the most adept terrorist groups in using social media such as Twitter, Facebook and YouTube to spread propaganda and recruit and radicalize individuals. The Washington, D.C.-based think tank said it collected "extremely robust



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

data" on about 50,000 accounts with at least 30,000 of them "accurately described" as belonging to Islamic State supporters and controlled by a human user. The think tank also collected partial data on another 1.9 million accounts and estimated that an additional 16,000 supporters are in that set.

<http://www.fiercehomelandsecurity.com/story/supporters-islamic-state-have-least-46000-twitter-accounts-new-brookings-st/2015-03-06>

NIST Announces Small Business Funding for Cybersecurity Research

The National Institute of Standards and Technology's Small Business Innovation Research program is offering to fund research projects that address specific challenges in cybersecurity, says a March 11 NIST statement. NIST says the program seeks to fuel technological innovation in the private sector by utilizing small businesses in meeting federal R&D needs, the statement says. NIST also wants to use federal research to kickstart private sector innovation through the program. The program also works to increase participation by socially and economically disadvantaged persons and women-owned small business concerns, who are invited to apply for funding research. The agency is looking specifically for cybersecurity projects to fund including a verifier for multicore C11 or C++11 code, an access control policy tool, analysis and visualization tools for automated email abuse reports and security for home routers. These Phase I awards are intended to determine if the proposed research is feasible, and to gauge how well the awardee performs that research, the statement says. The awards can provide up to \$100,000 over a period of seven months. Awardees that successfully complete their Phase I research projects will be eligible to apply for Phase II funding to develop the technology further, NIST says.

<http://www.fiercegovernmentit.com/story/nist-announces-small-business-funding-cybersecurity-research/2015-03-12>

U.S. Security Officials Share a Sober View of Terrorism Challenge

U.S. counterterrorism analysts have painted a pessimistic picture of the years to come, saying the threats from terrorism will continue to challenge the United States. This attitude contrasts with the feelings most Americans had after the killing of Osama bin Laden in 2011 and the dawn of the Arab Spring, which was initially seen as a first step in a path toward democracy in the Middle East. For U.S. security officials, those optimistic views have evaporated – even as some note that counterterrorism work thrives on pessimism and involves planning for worst-case scenarios.

<http://www.homelandsecuritynewswire.com/dr20150312-u-s-security-officials-share-a-sober-view-of-terrorism-challenge>

Anti-terror Law Approaches Expiration Date

A decade after September 11, 2001, Congress was deeply divided over the sweeping surveillance powers it had granted the government in the immediate aftermath of the attacks. So when it came time to reauthorize the legislation, lawmakers kept the intelligence community on what they imagined was a short leash: a four-year extension. That was in 2011, long before anyone in Congress knew the name Edward J. Snowden.

<http://www.emergencymgmt.com/safety/Anti-Terror-Law-Approaches-Expiration-Date.html>

2014 Had Lowest Number of Disaster Declarations in 14 Years

Despite numerous emergencies making headlines last year and major events impacting communities in Oso, Washington; Napa, California; and Detroit, 2014 was considered a relatively quiet year in terms of federally declared disasters. After years of hearing about how the number of disaster declarations has been rising, 2014 had the lowest number of declared disasters and fire assistance grants in at least 14 years. FEMA reported that 45 major disaster declarations were made by the president in 2014.

<http://www.emergencymgmt.com/disaster/2014-Lowest-Number-of-Disaster-Declarations-14-Years.html>

What's the No. 1 Place You Don't Want to be When the Zombie Outbreak Hits?

If the zombie apocalypse were to strike the United States, there's one place in the country you especially don't want to be. Northeast Pennsylvania. A computer simulation created by a team from Cornell University isn't slamming our ability to evade or kill the undead, though, said Alex Alemi, the physics graduate student who led the project. Rather, the area is in the crosshairs because of its close proximity to so many major Northeast U.S. coastal cities. To create the model, the team started with 7,000 randomly generated outbreak points – e.g., the first sick person – all over the country. Because of the many large population centers just a few hundred miles away, Northeast Pennsylvania was,

when looking at all possibilities, the place in America most likely to be overrun within the first month, Alemi explained.

<http://www.emergencymgmt.com/disaster/Place-You-Dont-Want-to-be-Zombie-Outbreak-Hits.html>

Studying El Niño, La Niña Helps Predict Frequency of Tornadoes, Hail Storms

Climate scientists can spot El Niño and La Niña conditions developing months ahead of time, and they use this knowledge to make more accurate forecasts of droughts, flooding and even hurricane activity around the world. Now, a new study shows that El Niño and La Niña conditions can also help predict the frequency of tornadoes and hail storms in some of the most susceptible regions of the United States. “We can forecast how active the spring tornado season will be based on the state of El Niño or La Niña in December or even earlier,” said the study’s lead author.

<http://www.homelandsecuritynewswire.com/dr20150317-studying-el-ni-o-la-ni-a-helps-predict-frequency-of-tornadoes-hail-storms>

Frequency of Tornadoes, Hail Linked to El Niño and La Niña

Climate scientists can spot El Niño and La Niña conditions developing months ahead of time, and they use this knowledge to make more accurate forecasts of droughts, flooding and even hurricane activity around the world. Now, a new study shows that El Niño and La Niña conditions can also help predict the frequency of tornadoes and hail storms in some of the most susceptible regions of the United States.

<http://www.earth.columbia.edu/articles/view/3239>

FLU / EBOLA NEWS

Sierra Leone’s Vice President in Ebola Quarantine

Sierra Leone’s vice president has put himself in quarantine following the death from Ebola of one of his security guards. He is the highest ranking African official to be in quarantine in this Ebola outbreak in West Africa, which is fast approaching a death toll of 10,000. The news highlights the rise of new cases in Sierra Leone, which has experienced a setback in curbing the spread of Ebola.

http://www.richmond.com/news/latest-news/ap/article_116687a2-bc26-5c35-9f5a-4f360f526aff.html

Financial Planning for the Next Ebola Threat

Public health and healthcare funding is a priority during a disease outbreak such as Ebola. However, when ongoing funding is unavailable, government agencies must scramble to find ways to support public health response efforts. Three funding opportunities may help address these current gaps and avoid disease-specific funding for response efforts after the threat is realized.

http://www.domesticpreparedness.com/Government/Funding_Strategies/Financial_Planning_for_the_Next_Ebola_Threat/

Body Mounts “Robust” Immune Response in the Face of Ebola

Scientists have long assumed that Ebola’s infamously high mortality rate was due to an ability to knock out the body’s immune system and cause certain white blood cells to self-destruct, among other effects. However, new research published this month in the journal PNAS suggests that the human immune system doesn’t give up that easily when confronted with Ebola virus disease. In tests performed on the four Ebola patients treated at Atlanta’s Emory University Hospital, doctors discovered that each of the patients’ immune systems had mounted a surprisingly strong counterattack.

<http://www.emsworld.com/news/11875161/body-mounts-robust-immune-response-in-the-face-of-ebola>

15,000 Pope County Turkeys Die from Avian Flu; Humans Not at Risk

Nearly 15,000 turkeys in Pope County have died from the same lethal avian flu virus that has been confirmed in birds on the West Coast, the Minnesota Department of Agriculture said earlier this month. State health officials said there

are no confirmed cases in people, nor is food safety threatened. Only workers handling the birds, all from the same commercial flock, are at risk of infection, Minnesota Department of Health Commissioner Ed Ehlinger said. Four workers who had direct contact with the birds are being monitored by MDH for respiratory illnesses. The workers reported that the birds started dying around Feb. 26. Wild waterfowl carrying the virus pass it on to captive birds through fecal matter, said Minnesota Board of Animal Health state veterinarian Bill Hartmann.

<http://www.mprnews.org/story/2015/03/05/avian-influenza>

Officials Hopeful that Avian Flu Virus will be Contained

Veterinarians and state health officials are keeping a close watch for any new outbreaks of a deadly avian flu virus that struck a Pope County turkey farm in late February. They're hopeful, however, that the virus can be contained to the one barn where it was detected. Officials have been working to establish a zone of control around the farm that was affected. Surveillance for any additional signs of infection also will be launched as part of an all-out effort to limit the spread of the virus, Cardona said early this month. The virus was most likely introduced into the Pope County turkey flock by one or more infected wild birds. The first turkeys became sick during the last week in February. Within days, nearly 15,000 were dead.

<http://www.duluthnewtribune.com/news/3695401-officials-hopeful-avian-flu-virus-will-be-contained>

H7N9 Bird Flu has the Makings of a Pandemic Virus, Scientists Warn

Scientists in China have identified an influenza virus that they say has the potential to spread around the world, sickening and killing people whose immune systems have never faced a threat like it. The H7N9 flu emerged in humans in eastern China in February 2013, sickening 133 people and killing about a third of them before winding down in May. It seemed that the outbreak was over, but it reemerged in October 2013 and has been spreading steadily since. According to the World Health Organization, 571 people have had laboratory-confirmed H7N9 infections and 212 people have died. All but three cases were in China, Hong Kong and Taiwan. The others involved a Chinese traveler to Malaysia and two Canadians who had visited China. The virus developed in birds before spreading to humans. Like the H5N1 bird flu and the H1N1 swine flu, it contains a combination of genes that are new to people.

<http://www.latimes.com/science/sciencenow/la-sci-sn-h7n9-bird-flu-china-spread-pandemic-20150311-story.html>

Flu Activity Wanes in Virginia

Flu is waning in Virginia following 11 weeks of widespread activity. The latest state figures show the level of flu activity declined from widespread to regional in the last week of February. Virginia Department of Health epidemiologist Andrea Alvarez tells The Virginian-Pilot that flu activity could increase again. But generally, she says flu activity decreases after it drops out of peak range. The state has averaged 10 weeks of widespread flu activity during the past five seasons. Five flu-related child deaths have occurred in Virginia during this season.

<http://wavy.com/2015/03/09/flu-activity-wanes-in-virginia-no-longer-widespread/>

Pandemic Planning Survey

Rx Response has been approached by researchers at the University of Chicago who are seeking information on private and public sector planning for future pandemic outbreaks. Rx Response, in partnership with researchers of the University of Chicago, is conducting a survey of current guidance of the planning, preparedness and perceived threat of a virulent influenza pandemic, and organizations current pandemic planning. Rx Response is a 501(c)3 charitable organization created to help ensure that during disasters patients can access the medicines they need.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BNS57LW>

Bird Flu Mutating in China, Threatens Pandemic

The H7N9 bird flu virus is being passed around from flock to flock of chickens and ducks, is mutating, and is now a bigger threat than ever to humanity, researchers reported earlier this month. The virus, which was first reported in people just two years ago, has settled into southeastern China, Guan Yi of the University of Hong Kong and colleagues reported. Unless drastic measures are taken to eradicate it, the virus will continue to mutate, they warn in a report published in the journal Nature. "H7N9 viruses have spread from eastern to southern China and become persistent in chickens," they wrote. It's also swapping genes with other types of flu viruses, giving rise to new strains.

Any one of them could start a pandemic in time, they said.

<http://www.nbcnews.com/health/cold-flu/h7n9-bird-flu-mutating-china-threatens-pandemic-n321721>

New Bird Flu Strain has Poultry Farmers Scrambling

Avian influenza is common in wild migratory waterfowl but doesn't usually harm them. But the H5N2 strain is deadly when it spreads to commercial poultry. It can wipe out a flock of tens of thousands of birds in a few days, as it did at a farm last month in Minnesota, the nation's top turkey-producing state. The same strain soon turned up on two farms in Missouri and one in Arkansas.

<http://www.wral.com/new-bird-flu-strain-has-poultry-farmers-scrambling/14514310/>

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>



1 Which of the following does NOT cause a flood?

- a. Tropical storms and hurricanes
- b. Spring thaw and melting snow
- c. New construction
- d. None – they can all cause floods

2. True or False? 1 foot of water is enough to make most cars float.

3. True or False? 6 inches of moving water can sweep you off your feet.

ANSWERS
(1) D.
(2) True!
(3) True. Stay away from moving water!

TRAININGS / EXERCISES / CONFERENCES

2015 Preparedness Summit

April 14-17; Atlanta, Ga.

The 2015 Preparedness Summit theme is "Global Health Security: Preparing a Nation for Emerging Threats." This is the premier national conference in the field of public health and healthcare preparedness and is one of the only cross-disciplinary learning opportunities to address issues such as global health security.

<http://preparednesssummit.org/>

Countering Insider Threats

April 14-15; Sterling, Va.

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

This unique course offers step-by-step methods for understanding and mitigating insider threats such as theft, espionage, sabotage, hacking, infiltration, and whistle-blowers. It is suitable for anyone tasked with preventing any kind of threat that comes from within an organization.

<http://chameleonassociates.com/countering-insider-threat-dulles-va/>

SPIE Defense + Security 2015

April 20-25; Baltimore, Md.

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

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

30th Annual National Security Conference

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

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

NCT CBRNe USA 2015

April 29-May 1; College Park, Md.

NCT CBRNe USA 2015 topics of discussion include an American perspective on the requirements of international chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and high-yield explosive (CBRNE) defense, including the military environment, threat mitigation and reduction, decontamination, security, detection, monitoring, surveillance, mass diagnosis, forensics, preparedness and protection.

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

ICISF 13TH World Congress on Stress, Trauma & Coping

May 11-May 16; Baltimore, Md.

Experience a whole new World Congress with more opportunities to “Engage, Learn, Share.” This theme does not just summarize the 13th World Congress on Stress, Trauma, and Coping mission and purpose. It also strives to create an environment where solutions evolve in order to address the ongoing challenges facing crisis interventionists.

<http://icisf13thworldcongress.org/>

Richmond Forum on Cybersecurity

May 22; Richmond, Va.

The program will cover issues like what does a cyberthreat look like and how agencies can use the tools and technologies at their disposal while still protecting the rights of citizens.

<https://www.richmondforum.org/bio-alexander-mueller.aspx>

International Hazardous Materials Response Teams Conference & Expo 2015

May 29-June 1; Baltimore, Md.

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

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

Biodefense World Summit

June 22-26, 2015; Bethesda, Md.

This international meeting brings together Biodetection Technologies: Biothreat and Pathogen Detection, Biodetection Technologies: Point-of-Care for Biodefense, and Biosurveillance Integration: Integrated Management of Threats to Public Health & Safety to present the latest research within the pathogen detection, point-of-care and integrated threat response communities.

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

APCO 2015 Conference & Expo

Aug. 16-19; Washington, D.C.

The Association of Public-safety Communications Officials (APCO) annual conference will bring together leading public safety communications professionals from all across the United States. This year's theme is "Explore, Inspire, Achieve."

<http://www.apco2015.org/>

National Capital Region Homeland Security Events

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

Virginia Emergency Management Courses

<http://www.vaemergency.com>

FEMA Independent Study Courses

<http://www.training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/>

American Red Cross Disaster Services Training

http://www.redcrossnca.org/Online/disaster_registration.php

"EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS" NEWSLETTER **Check It Out!**

Published monthly by the Office of Emergency Management

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

LINKS

Fairfax County Web Resources

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

Additional Web Resources

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

DHS Science & Technology Directorate Newsletter

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

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

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report (OSIR)

The Department of Homeland Security provides a Web-based "Daily OSIR," which is posted on the DHS public

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

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

E-mail: [Tony Castrilli](mailto:Tony.Castrilli@fairfaxcounty.gov)

Web site: www.fairfaxcounty.gov

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.



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