



# ESF 15 Business / Nonprofit Update

Produced by Emergency Support Function 15 – External Affairs

November 2014

## ITEMS OF INTEREST FOR ESF 15

### **Bureau of Insurance Cautions Virginia Motorists that Vehicle-Deer Collisions Can Impact Auto Insurance**

November is the peak month for collisions between vehicles and deer. With this in mind, the State Corporation Commission's (SCC) [Bureau of Insurance](#) reminds Virginia motorists to be careful, especially when driving at dawn or dusk and in areas where deer are prevalent. Damages caused to your vehicle as a result of a collision with a deer or other animal typically are covered under the "other-than-collision" (also known as comprehensive) portion of your automobile policy. This covers such things as wind, hail and flood, as well as fire, vandalism, and theft. Keep in mind that if you have a liability-only policy, your policy does not cover your vehicle for any damages it receives in an accident with a deer or other object. One-half or more of all vehicle-deer collisions occur during the months of October, November, and December, according to the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries. Increased development of traditionally rural and wooded areas, the transition from Daylight Saving Time to Standard Time and reduced daylight hours and increased deer activity during their October through December breeding season are among the factors that contribute to the increase in vehicle-deer collisions during the fall. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, there are more than one million car accidents with deer each year that kill as many as 200 Americans, cause more than 10,000 personal injuries, and result in more than \$1 billion in vehicle damage. To reduce your chances of hitting a deer, slow down and use caution when you see one. If it is too late to avoid a collision with a deer, stay in your lane and slow down as much as possible to minimize damage. Should you collide with a deer, notify law enforcement and your insurance company as soon as possible. Once it is safe to do so, take pictures of the accident scene and vehicle damage in the event you file an insurance claim. The Bureau of Insurance can assist Virginians with questions regarding auto and many other types of insurance. For more information, call the Bureau toll-free at 1-877-310-6560 or visit [www.scc.virginia.gov/boi](http://www.scc.virginia.gov/boi). Consumers who are hearing or speech impaired may call the SCC's Telecommunications Device for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (TDD) at 804-371-9206.

### **Home Heating Safety**

With cooler temperatures, people begin heating their homes. No matter if it's a space heater, fireplace or wood stove, it is important to remember heating fire safety. Each year there are more than 53,000 home fires due to heat sources. Space heaters are responsible for one-third of home heating fires and four out of five home heating fire deaths. To keep safe from fire, be sure to follow these fire safety tips:

- Keep anything that can burn a minimum of 3 feet away from heating equipment, such as the furnace, fireplace, wood stove or portable heater.
- Never use an oven for heating.
- Turn portable heaters off when leaving the room or going to bed.
- If a fireplace is used, make sure it has a sturdy screen to prevent sparks from flying into the room.
- For wood burning stoves, install chimney connectors and chimneys following manufacturer's instructions or have a professional do the installation.
- Make sure all fuel-burning heaters are vented to the outside to avoid carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning.
- Install CO alarms to avoid the risk of CO poisoning.



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9AMQ1ASnmNU>

As always, ensure there is a smoke alarm and CO alarm on every level of the home, inside and outside sleeping areas. Test smoke alarms every month. Have a home fire escape plan and test the plan at least twice a year to ensure everyone knows how to escape the home if there is a fire.

### **VDOT'S Winter Snow Removal Budget**

Ready for winter again this year? The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) is. VDOT has its initial budgets, materials, equipment and staffing in place across the state in preparation for whatever this year's weather brings to keep your roads clear. Last winter proved that weather patterns pay no attention to the calendar, with snow on the ground in various parts of the state from late October into early April. VDOT's estimated snow-removal budget is \$145.5 million for the winter of 2014-2015. The snow-removal budget is part of VDOT's overall FY 2015 maintenance budget of approximately \$1.5 billion. Last winter, VDOT's pre-season snow-removal budget for 2013-2014 was \$157 million, a figure based on the average expenditures from the previous five winters. The agency spent approximately \$350 million by the end of the season. This year, the **Northern Virginia District has 3,600 pieces of equipment and a \$50.5 million snow removal budget.** For the past three years, VDOT has activated an online neighborhood tracking map that monitors the status of plowing in Northern Virginia neighborhoods when it snows two inches or more. You can access the snowplow tracker at [www.vdotplows.org/](http://www.vdotplows.org/). When snow or ice is predicted, VDOT crews pretreat trouble spots on interstates and other high-volume roads with anti-icing chemicals, including salt brine and liquid calcium chloride. As part of a pilot to reduce costs, VDOT's Northern Virginia District will only apply a brine mix in part of Chantilly, in lieu of any road salt, to determine if this is a viable alternative to applying salt after plowing. VDOT's goal is to have all state-maintained roads passable within 48 hours after a winter storm ends. Crews first begin clearing interstates, primary roads and major secondary roads that connect localities, fire stations, employment hubs, military posts, schools, hospitals and other important public facilities. Secondary roads and subdivision streets will be treated if multiday storms hit the commonwealth, but crews will focus efforts on those roads that carry the most traffic. A statewide network of 77 weather sensors in roadways and bridges, plus 16 mobile video data platforms, allows crews to quickly identify when and where road surfaces might be freezing. VDOT maintains all roads in Virginia, except those in incorporated cities and in Arlington and Henrico counties.



A promotional banner for emergency news. It has a dark blue background. On the left, the words "Emergency News" are in large white font, with "by email" in red font on a yellow brushstroke background below it. Below that, the word "Subscribe" is in white font, 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 font on a yellow brushstroke background.

### **Winter Weather Preparedness**

Winter weather will soon be here. Winter weather can cause power outages, loss of heat and communications services to your home or office, sometimes for many days. The greatest threat during winter weather often comes from related causes, such as traffic accidents on icy roads and hypothermia from prolonged exposure to cold. When snow, ice or inclement weather is in the forecast, remember to get where you need to be before the weather gets bad. Learn more about winter weather preparedness online at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency/hazards](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency/hazards). During inclement weather, get the latest updates about county government closings and delays on our emergency information blog, [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency/blog](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency/blog). And you can tune in to Fairfax County Government Radio online at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/radio](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/radio) for the latest weather forecast and conditions from the National Weather Service several times every hour.

### **Survey Finds People Text and Drive Knowing the Danger**

Nearly everyone agrees that texting and driving is dangerous. Most people do it anyway. In a new survey, 98 percent of motorists who own cellphones and text regularly said they were aware of the dangers, yet three-quarters of them

admitted to texting while driving, despite laws against it in some states.

<http://www.wsls.com/story/27279352/survey-finds-people-text-and-drive-knowing-dangers>



[www.CapitalRegionUpdates.gov](http://www.CapitalRegionUpdates.gov)

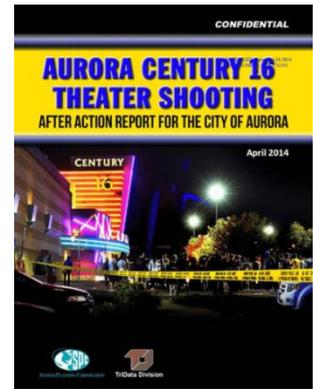
### **Aurora Theater Shooting Report Offers Recommendations to First Responders**

According to an LA Times article, a report, commissioned by the city of Aurora, Colo., makes 80 recommendations to help guide a more comprehensive future response. This report analyzes the Aurora theater shooting in 2012, where 12 people were killed and 70 others were injured. It praises the quick response to the incident (the first police unit got to the theater within two minutes of the first 9-1-1 call), but offers suggestions for improvement. According to the LA Times, the report concludes that first responders failed to make a coordinated effort to transport victims to hospitals. However, according to the report, this “miscommunication” did not lead to any loss of life. The report also suggests emergency officials should create a joint command area in mass-casualty events such as shootings. In the Aurora case, a command area wasn’t set up until hours after the incident, according to the LA Times.

[http://www.disaster-resource.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=2436](http://www.disaster-resource.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=2436)

LA Times article: <http://www.latimes.com/nation/nationnow/la-na-nn-theater-shooting-report-20141008-story.html>

Full report: <http://documents.latimes.com/aurora-theater-shooting-report/>



### **SCC Warns Investors Against Ebola-related Schemes**

Following the outbreak of Ebola in western Africa and its appearance in North America, the State Corporation Commission (SCC) cautions investors to beware of investment schemes related to the disease. “Experience has shown that fraudsters often follow the headlines in an attempt to capitalize on fear and uncertainty and reap financial gain,” said Ron Thomas, director of the SCC’s Division of Securities and Retail Franchising. “We urge Virginians to be wary of any unsolicited Ebola-related investment opportunities, especially those received through the Internet. Err on the side of caution and investigate before you invest,” he said. An analysis of Internet domain names by state and Canadian securities regulators found nearly 1,200 domains with “Ebola” in their name have been registered with top-level domains, such as .com, .net and .org since April 2014. About 1,000 of those registrations have occurred since July, as awareness of the crisis spread. Of these sites, 184 were identified by the North American Securities Administrators Association’s (NASAA) Internet Fraud Investigations project group as suspicious. NASAA, of which the SCC’s Securities Division is a member, is an international organization devoted to investor protection. Whether an investment is pitched via email, social media, crowdfunding websites, or telemarketers, Thomas reminds investors to use common sense. “Pie in the sky promises of quick wealth with little or no risk generally are red flags signaling potential fraud,” he said. The SCC’s Securities Division urges Virginia investors to do the following:

- Beware of cold callers, high-pressure sales tactics, and unrealistic claims. If an investment opportunity sounds too good to be true, it probably is.
- Contact the SCC’s Securities Division to make sure that both the seller and the investment are properly licensed and registered in Virginia. If they are not, don’t invest.
- Request written information about any investment and carefully review it or ask your financial adviser to evaluate it.

To find out whether an individual and his or her company are licensed to sell securities in Virginia and whether they have a history of disciplinary action, contact the SCC's Division of Securities and Retail Franchising toll-free in Virginia at 1-800-552-7945 or e-mail the division at [SRF\\_Registration@scc.virginia.gov](mailto:SRF_Registration@scc.virginia.gov). For more information, visit the Securities Division's website at [www.scc.virginia.gov/srf](http://www.scc.virginia.gov/srf) or the NASAA website at [www.nasaa.org](http://www.nasaa.org).

### Crime Prevention Program Recognized

Whether they are hosting self-defense seminars, helping Scouts earn honor badges, or packing food boxes for the hungry, local Crime Prevention Officers are making a difference in our community. The Criminal Justice Services Board of the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services has, once again, approved and re-certified Fairfax County as a Crime Prevention Community, one of very few in the Commonwealth. The Certified Crime Prevention Community Program was created in 1998 by a directive from the Governor's Commission for Community Safety. It was designed to promote community safety and to recognize policies and practices used by safe, low-crime communities. Fairfax County sends a strong message that crime will not be tolerated and that officials make all reasonable efforts to eliminate it. Core elements that are closely evaluated and analyzed by the Criminal Justice Services Board are participation in a Crime Prevention Coalition, Crime Prevention



*A certified crime prevention community.*

Specialists, Neighborhood Watch, Community Policing, Safety Literature, Security Assessments Capability, Functional Crime Analysis, School Safety Audits, Business Outreach, Victim/Witness Program, Delinquency Prevention Programs, Accreditation and other optional elements that show outstanding community/police engagement. Learn more the Certified Crime Prevention Community at [www.dcjs.virginia.gov/cple/documents/crimepreventioncommunityreport2010.pdf](http://www.dcjs.virginia.gov/cple/documents/crimepreventioncommunityreport2010.pdf).

### Contingency Fund for Virginia Ebola Response

Governor Terry McAuliffe announced earlier this month that he has created a contingency fund of up to \$2 million to help address specific public health and safety risks associated with the exposure to or threat of exposure to Ebola. "There have been no confirmed cases of Ebola in Virginia, but my administration continues to prepare so that we can respond quickly to this public health threat if it reaches our state," McAuliffe said. The governor is using the authority given to him in the Appropriation Act to grant supplemental funding for state agencies where a delay in action will produce a threat to life, safety, health or property. (Section 4-3.01 a.2.c. of Chapter 2 of the 2014 Special Session 1).

<https://governor.virginia.gov/newsroom/newsarticle?articleId=7214>



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## PLANNING / PREPAREDNESS

### **Epidemics Do Not Require Long-distance Travel by Virus Carriers to Spread**

The current Ebola outbreak shows how quickly diseases can spread with global jet travel. Yet knowing how to predict the spread of these epidemics is still uncertain, because the complicated models used are not fully understood. Using a very simple model of disease spread, UC Berkeley biophysicist Oskar Hallatschek proved that one common assumption is actually wrong. Most models have taken for granted that if disease vectors, such as humans, have any chance of “jumping” outside the initial outbreak area -- by plane or train, for example – the outbreak quickly metastasizes into an epidemic. Hallatschek and colleagues found instead that if the chance of long-distance dispersal is low enough, the disease spreads quite slowly, like a wave rippling out from the initial outbreak. This type of spread was common centuries ago when humans rarely traveled. The Black Death spread through fourteenth-century Europe as a wave, for example.

<http://www.homelandsecuritynewswire.com/dr20141105-epidemics-do-not-require-longdistance-travel-by-virus-carriers-to-spread>

### **Put a Freeze on Winter Fires**

The United States Fire Administration (USFA) and the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) are once again teaming up to promote winter fire safety through their joint campaign, “Put a Freeze on Winter Fires.” The goal of the campaign is to educate the public on increased fire risks during the winter months. December, January and February are the leading months for home fires. Many of these fires are caused by cooking, heating and holiday decorations such as lights, Christmas trees and candles. “Put a Freeze on Winter Fires” is a four month campaign that began on Monday, Nov. 17. USFA and NFPA will post fire safety information each week on topics such as cooking safety, holiday decorations safety, heating safety, and generator safety to name a few. For tip sheets, videos and other information on how to prevent cooking, heating and other types of fires, visit [www.usfa.fema.gov/winter](http://www.usfa.fema.gov/winter).

### **Working in Cold Weather Safety Tips**

Outside temperatures this winter will be frigid; sometimes even dipping below the freezing mark. Many people work outside and should follow these simple safety tips to avoid weather-related illness or injury.

- Avoid exhaustion or fatigue; energy is needed to keep muscles warm.
- Use the buddy system — work in pairs when possible so that one worker can recognize possible danger signs.
- Wear clothing in layers that can be adjusted for changing conditions.
- Drink warm, sweet beverages (sugar water, sports-type drinks); avoid drinks with caffeine (coffee, tea, sodas or hot chocolate).

If you have questions or concerns, talk to your employer. These safety tips are provided by the Fairfax County Risk Management Division.



### **Learning from Disaster: Five Scenarios to Make You Think**

Anthrax, botulism, pandemic influenza, smallpox, nuclear attack – some of the world’s biggest disasters. So how should they be handled? Lawrence Wein, the Jeffrey S. Skoll Professor of Management Science at Stanford Graduate School of Business, has studied these issues over the last 10 years. According to a Stanford article, Wein applied complex mathematical equations to these disaster scenarios, calculating the odds of survival in each case. He has “presented his work at the White House and helped influence U.S. policy,” according to Stanford.

[http://www.disaster-resource.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=2444](http://www.disaster-resource.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=2444)

## November is Critical Infrastructure Security and Resilience Month

Safeguarding both the physical and cyber aspects of critical infrastructure is a national priority that requires private-partnership at all levels of government and industry. Managing risks to critical infrastructure involves preparing for all hazards – including natural and manmade incidents and events – reinforcing the resilience of our assets and networks, and staying ever-vigilant and informed. Whether it's an individual or family thinking about how they need to prepare for a disruption of critical infrastructure, or business and industry that need to take steps to ensure the services they provide are resilient to disruptions, November is a time to ensure we are robust as possible. We all need to play a role in keeping infrastructure strong, secure and resilient. We can do our part at home, at work and in our community by being familiar with emergency plans, preparing for disruptions, incorporating basic cyber safety practices and making sure that if we see something, we say something by reporting suspicious activities to local law enforcement.

<http://www.dhs.gov/critical-infrastructure-security-resilience-month>



### Holiday Tips

USA.gov has assembled 10 holiday tips to help us enjoy the approaching holidays safely and economically. Among the tips:

- **Buy Safe Toys:** If you plan to buy toys for the kids in your life, choose age-appropriate toys and look for labels with safety advice. For young children, avoid toys with small parts, sharp edges, and electric toys that can heat up. Always purchase safety gear in addition to sports-related gifts or ride-on toys, such as bicycles or skateboards.
- **Be Safe and Save Money with LED Lights:** Electricity bills can grow during the holidays if you decorate with strings of lights. Consider switching to LED (light-emitting diode) holiday lights to save energy and money. In addition to the energy and cost savings, LED lights are much cooler than incandescent bulbs, reducing the risk of fires.
- **Reduce Holiday Waste:** The holiday season includes many opportunities to reduce waste, recycle, and reuse items. Did you know that about 40 percent of all battery sales occur during the holiday season? Consider buying rechargeable batteries (and a charger) for electronic gifts to help reduce the amount of harmful materials thrown away.
- **Keep Food Safe:** Holiday buffets are convenient ways to entertain a crowd, but leaving food out for long periods of time can invite bacteria that cause foodborne illness. To keep your holiday foods safe, cook them thoroughly; use shallow containers; never leave them sitting out for more than two hours; and keep them at the appropriate temperature.



### Recipe for Fire-Safe Cooking



- Keep an eye on what you fry
- Stand by your pan
- Turn pot handles toward the back of the stove
- Wear short sleeves or roll sleeves up
- Keep a pan lid or cookie sheet nearby to cover the pan if it catches on fire

Cooking is the main cause of home fire and fire injuries. By practicing these fire-safe tips, you can prevent cooking fires and keep your family safe.

For more information and resources, visit:  
[www.usfa.fema.gov/FPW](http://www.usfa.fema.gov/FPW)



[www.usfa.fema.gov/downloads/pdf/publications/kitchen\\_fires\\_recipe\\_card.pdf](http://www.usfa.fema.gov/downloads/pdf/publications/kitchen_fires_recipe_card.pdf)

Learn more and get all 10 tips from [USA.gov](http://USA.gov) and search for “holiday tips.”

# PUT A THERMOMETER ON FREEZE WINTER FIRES

Home fires occur more in winter than in any other season. As you stay cozy and warm this winter season, **be fire smart!**

**Half of all home heating fires** occur in the months of



Keep portable generators outside, away from windows, and **as far away as possible from your house.**

**Install and test** carbon monoxide alarms at least **once a month.**



Have a qualified professional clean and inspect your chimney and vents **every year.**

Heating equipment **1** in every **6** is involved in **1** reported home fire and **1** in every **5** home fire deaths.



Store cooled ashes in a tightly covered metal container, and keep it outside at least **10** feet from your home and any nearby buildings.



Keep anything that can burn at least

**3** feet from any heat source like fireplaces, wood stoves, radiators, or space heaters.



Plug only **1** heat-producing appliance (such as a space heater) into an electrical outlet at a time.



For more information on how to prevent winter fires, visit [www.usfa.fema.gov/winter/](http://www.usfa.fema.gov/winter/) and [www.nfpa.org/winter/](http://www.nfpa.org/winter/)



## 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. 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](http://www.dhs.gov/alerts)), Facebook and via Twitter @NTASAlerts. 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](http://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](http://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](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/alerts).



## MEDIA ARTICLES OF INTEREST

### Ebola Efforts Tax Strapped Public Health Agencies

Dwindling resources may make it difficult for health departments across the country to carry out intensive airport screenings, patient monitoring, and other preparations for a potential Ebola outbreak in the U.S. So far, the states hardest hit by the Ebola response effort have been those with airports designated by the CDC for screening of incoming passengers from West Africa: Illinois, Maryland, New Jersey, New York and Virginia.

<http://www.emergencymgmt.com/health/Ebola-Efforts-Tax-Strapped-Public-Health-Agencies.html>



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### **Harnessing Artificial Intelligence to Search for New Ebola Treatments**

The University of Toronto, Chematria, and IBM are combining forces in a quest to find new treatments for the Ebola virus. Using a virtual research technology invented by Chematria, a startup housed at U of T's Impact Center, the team will use software that learns and thinks like a human chemist to search for new medicines. Running on Canada's most powerful supercomputer, the effort will simulate and analyze the effectiveness of millions of hypothetical drugs in just a matter of weeks.

<http://www.homelandsecuritynewswire.com/dr20141106-harnessing-artificial-intelligence-to-search-for-new-ebola-treatments>

### **Cost to Treat Ebola**

It cost more than \$1 million to treat two patients sent to the University of Nebraska's Medical Center, that according to the hospital's chancellor. And it's still not clear who will pay the bill and how. Emory University Hospital incurred similar costs in treating the four patients it took care of. It's the first on-the-record estimate of what its cost to treat Ebola patients in the United States. So far, 10 people have been treated on U.S. soil – most recently, Sierra Leonean Dr. Martin Salia, who died earlier this month in Nebraska. "At UNMC, it has cost around \$1.16 million to treat the two patients directed to us by the federal government. Treatment costs vary based on the severity of the patient when they arrive, but the cost is well beyond the normal costs incurred for an intensive care patient," the school's chancellor, Dr. Jeffrey Gold, said in prepared testimony for a hearing of the House Energy and Commerce Committee's oversight subcommittee. It cost about \$30,000 a day to treat a single Ebola patient, Gold said.

<http://www.nbcnews.com/storyline/ebola-virus-outbreak/cost-treat-ebola-1-million-two-patients-n250986>

### **DHS Seeks Recommendations on Biometric Data Storage, Analysis**

The Homeland Security Department is turning to industry to get information about advanced technologies and systems that can help improve the storage, matching capabilities and analysis of biometric data. The department's Office of Biometric Identity Management, or OBIM, issued a request for information on Nov. 7 seeking feedback on advanced systems, including customizable commercial-off-the-shelf products, by Dec. 5. The DHS office supports national security and public safety operations, including multiple federal agencies, by providing information on whether individuals pose a risk to the United States or if they meet requirements for a specific government benefit or credential. OBIM operates and maintains the Automated Biometric Identification System, which contains more than 170 million biometric identities, as of September. The system handles about 290,000 transactions daily. It also operates the Biometric Support Center, which provides expert fingerprint verification when such prints can't be verified using the automated matching system. This means that highly trained fingerprint examiners perform comparisons round-the-clock to verify prints. The RFI requests information for a number of advanced functions.

<http://www.fiercehomelandsecurity.com/story/dhs-seeks-recommendations-biometric-data-storage-analysis/2014-11-13>

### **New Emergency App for Kids**

There's usually nothing playful about emergency preparedness, but chances are kids will get a kick out of a new American Red Cross emergency preparedness app that combines knowledge and fun. The free "Monster Guard" app, geared toward children ages 7 to 11, is a game that teaches how to prevent emergencies, such as home fires, and what to do if severe or natural disasters occur. Set in the Monster Guard Academy, the young app user is a recruit who trains to prepare for disasters and practices what to do if one happens. According to the Red Cross, the game is best played on a tablet, but it also works well on other mobile devices. The app can be downloaded through the user's mobile app store. Go to [redcross.org/monsterguard](http://redcross.org/monsterguard) or text 'MONSTER' to 90999 for a direct link to download the app.

[http://www.cleveland.com/metro/index.ssf/2014/11/new\\_american\\_red\\_cross\\_app\\_for.html](http://www.cleveland.com/metro/index.ssf/2014/11/new_american_red_cross_app_for.html)

### **First Responder Network Authority**

States are mandated to participate in the network that will be proposed by the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet), there is an opt-out option that would allow states to construct the network themselves, rather than leave the task to the federal government. Many details of the nationwide network remain unknown or undecided, however, which leaves the opt-out question up in the air. As part of a tax-and-jobs bill in 2012, Congress created FirstNet with

the aim of delivering the first high-speed, nationwide wireless broadband network dedicated to public safety, using nationwide 700 MHz spectrum to break down decades-long interoperability and communications challenges.

<http://www.emergencygmt.com/safety/FirstNet-Is-Opting-Out-an-Option.html>

### 2014 Hurricane Season Limp to a Close

No additional development is expected in the tropics before the Atlantic hurricane season ends on November 30th. The 2014 hurricane season has been a quiet one with a below average number of tropical storms and hurricanes.

Overall, there were eight named tropical storms, of which six became hurricanes and two became major hurricanes.

<http://www.wusa9.com/story/weather/2014/11/21/2014-atlantic-hurricane-season/70018182/>

## FLU

### National Influenza Vaccination Week, Dec. 7-13

National Influenza Vaccination Week (NIVW) is a national observance that was established to highlight the importance of continuing influenza vaccination. Influenza (“flu”) is a contagious disease that spreads around the United States every winter, usually between October and May. Flu is caused by influenza viruses, and is spread mainly by coughing, sneezing, and close contact. Anyone can get flu, but the risk of getting flu is highest among children. Symptoms come on suddenly and may last several days. They can include:

- fever/chills
- sore throat
- muscle aches
- fatigue
- cough
- headache
- runny or stuffy nose



Flu can make some people much sicker than others. These people include young children, people 65 and older, pregnant women, and people with certain health conditions – such as heart, lung or kidney disease, nervous system disorders, or a weakened immune system. Flu vaccination is especially important for these people and anyone in close contact with them. Flu can also lead to pneumonia, and make existing medical conditions worse. It can cause diarrhea and seizures in children. Each year thousands of people in the United States die from flu, and many more are hospitalized. Flu vaccine is the best protection against flu and its complications. Flu vaccine also helps prevent spreading flu from person to person. Get more information from [www.cdc.gov/flu](http://www.cdc.gov/flu) or the Fairfax County Health Department at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/flu](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/flu).



### Tracking Flu Outbreaks on Your Own

Flu season is here and it can spread quickly. Some are asking: who has the flu, am I being exposed? Well, forget word of mouth and get your smart phone. Now you can track outbreaks on your own. Flu Near You is a free website and mobile app that uses the power of crowdsourcing to track and monitor flu symptoms around the county. “It increases awareness around the flu in your area and countrywide,” says Jasmine Meyer. Once you register, there’s a questionnaire with boxes to check for signs of the flu like headache, fever, chills and fatigue.

<http://philadelphia.cbslocal.com/2014/11/04/health-tracking-flu-outbreaks-on-your-own/>

### **Vaccination: Your Best Shot for a Healthy Flu Season**

The blast of early winter weather gripping the U.S. is a reminder that the number of people getting sick from the flu often increases this time of year. CDC reports that we are now seeing flu activity in all but two states – and this is likely to grow as the flu season progresses. RADM Boris D. Lushniak, MD, MPH, Acting U.S. Surgeon General, wrote a post on the Health and Human Services blog earlier this month to encourage you to get your flu vaccine now. Lushniak says it's your best shot for a healthy flu season. By choosing to immunize, you can prevent illness and save lives. This not only benefits you, but your loved ones and the broader community, because babies (<6 months of age) and others with severe allergies to vaccine components cannot get the flu vaccine, so they must rely on us to get vaccinated to shield them from contracting a contagious and possibly serious illness.

<http://www.hhs.gov/blog/2014/11/18/vaccination-your-best-shot-healthy-flu-season.html>



[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wnDVbr1\\_vSM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wnDVbr1_vSM)

### **Review Finds Flu Shot is Still a Good Choice for Seniors**

The seasonal flu vaccine protects seniors during so-called epidemic seasons, when flu is widespread, according to a review of past studies. It is important to reassess the effectiveness of the vaccine every year, the authors write, but based on these results, it's a good idea for people over 60 to get a flu shot every year, they conclude.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/11/12/us-health-elderly-flu-vaccine-idUSKCN0IW22V20141112>

### **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**

### **Planning for High-Impact Threats to Critical Infrastructure**

Dec. 5; Washington, D.C.

Top experts will update measures being taken to plan for and mitigate high-impact threats such as EMP, extreme space and cyber to critical infrastructure. The conference will also review recent emergency management table top exercises providing insights into practical steps to reduce the tragic effects of these high-impact scenarios.

<http://www.eventbrite.com/e/planning-for-high-impact-threats-to-critical-infrastructure-tickets-12608493343>

### **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](http://www.emstoday.com/index.html#showcase_3)

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### **2015 Virginia Emergency Management Symposium**

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

Save the date. Plan to attend the Symposium "Partnerships: Share the Load," sponsored by Virginia Emergency Management Association and the Virginia Department of Emergency Management.

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

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

March 23-26, 2015; Orlando, Fla.

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

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

### **SPIE Defense + Security 2015**

April 20-25, 2015; Baltimore, Md.

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

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

### **30th Annual National Security Conference**

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

[https://www.nsi.org/form\\_ImpactSurvey.html](https://www.nsi.org/form_ImpactSurvey.html)

### **International Hazardous Materials Response Teams Conference & Expo 2015**

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

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

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

### **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.redcrossna.org/Online/disaster\\_registration.php](http://www.redcrossna.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](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/oem/outreach/newsletter.htm)

## LINKS

### Fairfax County Web Resources

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

### Additional Web Resources

- Capital Region Updates - [www.CapitalRegionUpdates.gov](http://www.CapitalRegionUpdates.gov)
- Virginia Citizen Corps - [www.vaemergency.com/citcorps/index.cfm](http://www.vaemergency.com/citcorps/index.cfm)

### DHS Science & Technology Directorate Newsletter

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

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

### DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report (OSIR)

The Department of Homeland Security provides a Web-based "Daily OSIR," which is posted on the DHS public Web site. Accessing the report via the Web enables readers to retrieve the current Daily Report as well as 10 days of archived DHS Daily Reports. Once you arrive at the Web page you will find the most recent Daily OSIR at the top of the page, under the title "Current Report." This report is posted each morning, except for weekends and holidays. Simply click on the title "DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report." This will launch the current days report in PDF format. You can submit content comments or make suggestions by contacting the DHS Daily Report Team by telephone at 202-312-3421 or by e-mail at [NICCCReports@dhs.gov](mailto:NICCCReports@dhs.gov). You can access the Daily OSIR at: [http://www.dhs.gov/files/programs/editorial\\_0542.shtm](http://www.dhs.gov/files/programs/editorial_0542.shtm).

### Fairfax County Government Emergency Information Line

[www.fairfaxcounty.gov/opa/infoline.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/opa/infoline.htm)

### Emergency Management Magazine

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

### FEMA Private Sector

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

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Emergency Information: [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:anthony.castrilli@fairfaxcounty.gov).

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