



ESF 15 Business / Nonprofit Update

Produced by Emergency Support Function 15 – External Affairs

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ITEMS OF INTEREST FOR ESF 15

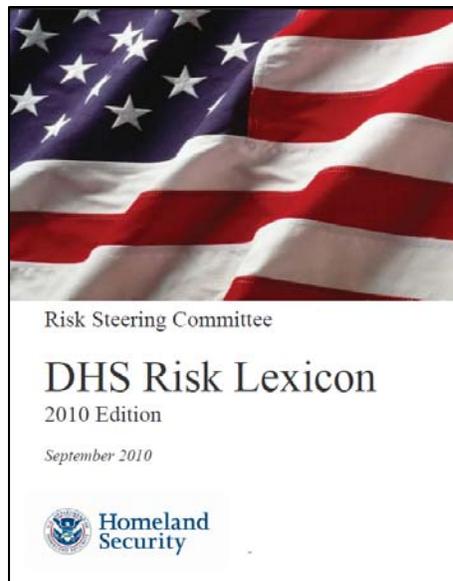
DHS Risk Lexicon

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) recently released this report, which establishes and makes available a comprehensive list of terms and meanings relevant to the practice of homeland security risk management and analysis. To do this, the report:

- Promulgates a common language to ease and improve communications for the DHS and its partners.
- Facilitates the clear exchange of structured and unstructured data, essential to interoperability amongst risk practitioners.
- Gathers credibility and grows relationships by providing consistency and clear understanding with regard to the usage of terms by the risk community across the Department.

According to the report: “If the DHS, as a whole, adopts common definitions for risk-related terminology and uses these common definitions in written and oral communications, we will continue to improve our ability to manage homeland security risk.”

<http://www.dhs.gov/xlibrary/assets/dhs-risk-lexicon-2010.pdf>



New VDOT Customer Service Center Provides 24/7 Support

The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) has established a Customer Service Center to take calls and answer transportation questions 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Residents can dial 1-800-FOR-ROAD (1-800-367-7623) from anywhere in the state to report road hazards, report potholes, ask transportation questions, request maintenance services or get information related to Virginia’s roads. Virginians should continue to dial 5-1-1 to get information about traffic and road conditions. This up to the minute traffic information is also available online at www.511virginia.org. The VDOT Customer Service Center is located in Salem with a satellite office in Northern Virginia. The center is staffed by 25 employees and handles up to 1,000 calls a day. On average, each call is answered in approximately 28 seconds.



http://www.vdot.virginia.gov/newsroom/statewide/2010/customer_service_center_offers49186.asp

FEMA Issues New Guidance to Support People with Disabilities During Disasters

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) early this month announced new guidelines on emergency sheltering to help state planners and nonprofit organizations ensure that people with access and functional needs receive lawful and equitable assistance in the aftermath of a disaster. The Functional Needs Support Services Guidance, or FNSS, gives state governments recommendations to help them provide emergency sheltering services that meet the needs of their communities and are in compliance with existing federal laws designed to prevent discrimination on the basis of disability. These laws include the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Stafford Act, the Fair Housing Act, the Rehabilitation Act, the Architectural Barriers Act and the Post-Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, one in every five Americans has some type of disability. The FNSS guidance encourages emergency managers to integrate the needs of people with disabilities – and all populations in their communities – into every aspect of their planning for disaster preparedness, response and recovery operations.

FNSS document: http://www.fema.gov/pdf/about/odc/fnss_guidance.pdf

FEMA’s Office of Disability Integration and Coordination: <http://www.fema.gov/about/odc/>

VRE Disaster Exercise Nov. 13: “Victims” Triage

On Saturday, Nov. 13, from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., the Virginia Railway Express (VRE) conducted its annual disaster exercise on the train tracks near Fleet Road in Springfield, Va. The exercise simulated a train derailment as a result of a terrorist attack.

www.vre.org

Winter Weather is Coming – Are You Ready?

Who can forget the winter of 2009-2010! Multiple record-breaking snowstorms and cold temperatures affected every part of Virginia. Millions suffered through power outages. Snowplow drivers worked around the clock to get roads open. School systems shut down for days. Sadly, 14 Virginians lost their lives due to last winter’s storms. Many communities set records for the number of days with at least one inch of snow on the ground. And it could happen again this year. **Winter Preparedness Week – Dec. 5-11** – is the time to get ready for possible bad weather. All it takes is one heavy snow that sticks around for several days or an ice storm that knocks out power to remind us that being prepared ahead of time just makes sense. Take these three steps to preparedness:

- **Make a plan** – Decide on a meeting place outside of your neighborhood if your family is separated and cannot return home because of closed roads. Choose an out-of-town relative or friend to be your family’s point of contact for emergency communications. With your family, write down an emergency plan; free worksheet at www.ReadyVirginia.gov.
- **Get a kit** – Assemble basic supplies for winter weather – three days of food and water (a gallon per person per day); a battery-powered and/or hand-crank radio with extra batteries; and your written family emergency plan. After you have these essential supplies, add a first-aid kit, medications if needed, blankets and warm clothing, supplies for special member of your household, and pet items.
- **Stay informed** – Before, during and after a winter storm you should listen to local media for information and instructions from emergency officials. Be aware of winter storm watches and warnings and road conditions. You can get road condition information 24/7 by calling 5-1-1 or checking www.511Virginia.org. Go to www.ReadyVirginia.gov and print out an emergency supply checklist and a family emergency plan. It’s time to get ready for winter weather now.

By Laura Southard, Virginia Department of Emergency Management

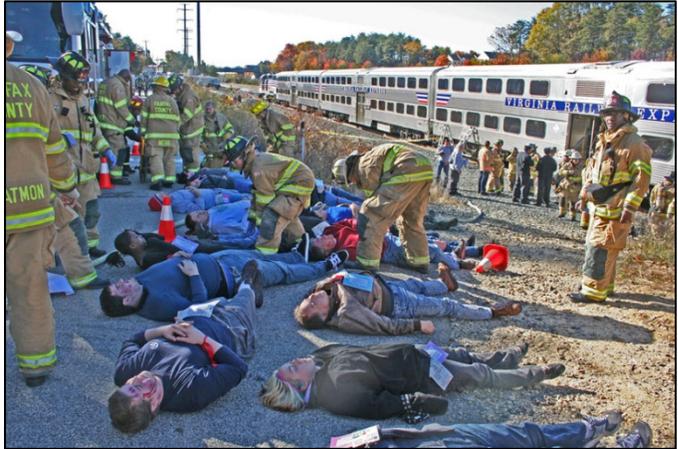
Social Media Threats Surveyed

According to The Rising CCO III, an annual survey conducted by global executive search firm Spencer Stuart and global public relations firm Weber Shandwick, 34 percent of global chief corporate communications officers (CCOs) report that their companies experienced a social-media based reputation threat during the past 12 months. Yet, just as many – 33 percent – say they are not prepared for managing these types of online reputational threats. Social media threats are top of mind for CCOs of the world’s largest companies this year. They forecast that the most critical challenge as well as the greatest opportunity in the year ahead is social or online media, with 54 percent citing new/social media experience among the most important qualifications for tomorrow’s communicators. CCOs worldwide are ramping up to meet the challenge: Social media/blogging is expected to be the fastest-growing function in communications departments in the next 12 months, having risen dramatically from 28 percent (2008) to 41 percent (2010) in two years.

<http://www.continuitycentral.com/news05446.html>

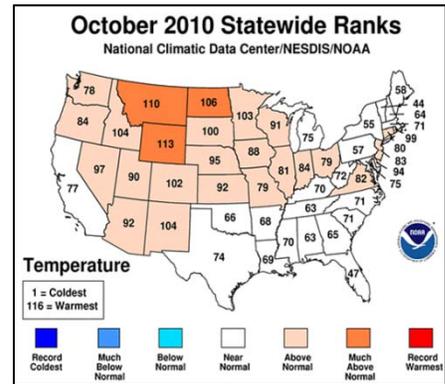
NOAA: U.S. Experienced Above Average Temperatures; Below Average Rainfall

The contiguous United States had its 11th warmest October on record, according to the latest NOAA “State of the Climate” report issued earlier this month. The average temperature for October was 56.9 F, which is 2.1 F above the 1901–2000 average. The average precipitation was 1.85 inches, which was 0.26 inch below the 1901–2000 average.



The report, which draws from a network of long-term weather stations across the country, showed the combined average temperatures for the past three months (August–October) were the fifth warmest on record. This monthly analysis, based on records dating back to 1895, is prepared by scientists at NOAA’s National Climatic Data Center in Asheville, N.C., and is part of the suite of climate services NOAA provides.

http://www.noaaneews.noaa.gov/stories2010/20101108_octtemps.html



A Governor’s Guide to Homeland Security

Early this month, the National Governors Association Center for Best Practices released the 2010 update to “A Governor's Guide to Homeland Security.” The report can be found online at:

<http://www.nga.org/Files/pdf/1011GOVGUIDEHS.PDF>



Secretary Napolitano delivers remarks on “If You See Something, Say Something” campaign
Photo by: Barry Bahler/DHS

“If You See Something, Say Something” Expands in D.C.

“If You See Something, Say Something” – that’s what DHS Secretary Janet Napolitano and Transportation Security Administration Administrator John Pistole are urging you to do. Together, they announced the expansion of the nationwide “If You See Something, Say Something” campaign to Washington, D.C. on Monday, Nov. 15. The goal is simple: encourage everyone to identify and report indicators of terrorism, crime and other threats to the proper law enforcement authorities. Napolitano made the announcement at DC’s Reagan National Airport (DCA) alongside Metropolitan Police Chief Cathy Lanier, Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority Police Chief Stephen Holl and Metro Transit Police Chief Michael Taborn.

<http://blog.dhs.gov/2010/11/if-you-see-something-say-something.html>

Stop. Think. Connect. Campaign Launches National Cybersecurity PSA Challenge

The **Stop. Think. Connect.** campaign has launched its cybersecurity Public Service Announcement (PSA) Challenge, giving individuals the opportunity to submit their own short video encouraging Americans to do their part to stay safe and secure online. The campaign will select a winner(s) to feature on the U.S. Department of Homeland Security’s YouTube channel and for use during cybersecurity awareness promotions. Contestants have until Feb. 14, 2011 to submit videos for the Challenge. The Challenge was kicked off with a PSA featuring White House Cybersecurity Coordinator Howard Schmidt. To submit a video for the Challenge, upload it to the Department of Homeland Security’s “Engage” YouTube channel at <http://www.youtube.com/DHSEngage>, in response to White House Cybersecurity Coordinator Howard Schmidt’s video. PSAs must be either 30 or 60 seconds in length, and include the message, “**Stop. Think. Connect**” and at least one of the following Internet safety tips:

- Keep a Clean Machine
- Protect Your Personal Information
- Connect with Care
- Be Web Wise
- Be A Good Online Citizen

Stop. Think. Connect. is a national public awareness effort, coordinated by the Department of Homeland Security to guide the nation to a higher level of Internet safety by challenging the American public to be more vigilant about developing safe online habits. Its purpose is to persuade Americans to see Internet safety as a shared responsibility— at home, in the workplace, and in our communities—and demonstrate that shared responsibility by bringing together a coalition of federal, state and local government, as well as private sector partners.

E-Verify Now Can Match Passport Photos

E-Verify (www.dhs.gov/e-verify) – a system operated by the Homeland Security Department in partnership with the Social Security Administration that enables participating employers to electronically verify employment eligibility – now includes U.S. passport photo matching to automatically check the validity and authenticity of all U.S. passports and passport cards presented for employment verification checks.

http://www.dhs.gov/ynews/releases/pr_1289422305190.shtm

SBA Loans Available After Drought Declaration

The U.S. Small Business Administration is offering Economic Injury Disaster Loans to small businesses, small agricultural cooperatives and most private nonprofit organizations of all sizes located in Accomack, Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun and York counties and the city of Alexandria. These EIDLs are available due to a disaster declaration for drought and excessive heat from June 1 through Aug. 31. More information is available at

www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance.

Drought Report

The latest NOAA U.S. National Drought Monitor indicates “abnormally dry” to “moderate drought” conditions exist in approximately 50 percent of the Commonwealth. The Coastal Plain and Southwest Virginia are the only areas that are not in an “abnormally dry” or “moderate drought” condition. Approximately 1 percent of Virginia is experiencing “severe drought” conditions. All state drought regions have been released from the “Drought Watch” status enacted in July except for the Northern Virginia Region, the Shenandoah Region and the Upper Rappahannock River area.

http://www.deq.virginia.gov/export/sites/default/waterresources/drought/documents/11032010_droughtprt-final.pdf

FBI Releases 2009 Hate Crime Statistics Report

Earlier this month the Federal Bureau of Investigation released its Hate Crime Statistics 2009 report, a comprehensive collection of data on hate crimes committed in the United States last year. Included in the report are tables organized by incidents and offenses, victims, offenders, location type (i.e. schools or residences), and jurisdiction (state and agency). According to the report, there were 8,336 victims of hate crimes in 2009, of which 4,057 were crimes based on bias against race, 1,575 were crimes based on bias against religion, 1,482 were crimes based on bias against sexual orientation, 1,109 were crimes based on bias against ethnicity or national origin, and 99 were crimes based on bias against people with disabilities. There were 6,225 offenders, of whom 62.4 percent were white, 18.5 percent were black and 7.3 percent were groups of individuals of various races. The number of law enforcement agencies that submitted data for the Hate Crime Report was the highest ever, totaling 14,222.

FBI hate crime statistics: <http://www2.fbi.gov/ucr/hc2009/index.html>

<http://www.hsdl.org/hslog/?q=node/5873>

Extremely Active Atlantic Hurricane Season Was a “Gentle Giant” for U.S.

According to NOAA the 2010 Atlantic hurricane season, which ended Nov. 30, was one of the busiest on record. In the Atlantic Basin a total of 19 named storms formed – tied with 1887 and 1995 for third highest on record. Of those, 12 became hurricanes – tied with 1969 for second highest on record. Five of those reached major hurricane status of Category 3 or higher. These totals are within the ranges predicted in NOAA’s seasonal outlooks issued on May 27 (14-23 named storms; 8-14 hurricanes; 3-7 major hurricanes) and Aug.5 (14-20 named storms; 8-12 hurricanes; 4-6 major hurricanes).

An average Atlantic season produces 11 named storms, six hurricanes and two major hurricanes. *Photo: Hurricanes Karl, Igor and Julia (from left to right on Sept. 16) were part of the onslaught of Atlantic storms this season. Photo courtesy of NOAA.*

http://www.noanews.noaa.gov/stories2010/20101129_hurricanesseason.html



PLANNING / PREPAREDNESS

Current Threat Level

- The United States government's national threat level is Elevated, or Yellow.
- The U.S. threat level is High, or Orange, for all domestic and international flights. Only small amounts of liquids, aerosols and gels are allowed in carry-on baggage. See the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) website (<http://www.tsa.gov>) for up-to-date information on items permitted and prohibited on airlines.
- Virginia Threat Level: 



Under an elevated threat level, businesses should:

- Continue all precautions from lower Threat Conditions.
- Announce Threat Condition ELEVATED to employees.
- Review vulnerability and threat assessments and revise as needed.
- Identify and monitor governmental information sharing sources for warnings and alerts.
- Update and test call down list for emergency response teams and key employees.
- Review and coordinate and update mutual aid agreements with other critical facilities and government agencies.
- Establish and monitor active and passive security measures.
- Review employee training on security precautions (bomb threat procedures, reporting suspicious packages, activities and people).
- Conduct communications checks to ensure radio contact can be established.

At this time there is no credible information warning of an imminent, specific threat to the homeland. All Americans should continue to be vigilant, take notice of their surroundings, and report suspicious items or activities to local authorities immediately. Everyone should establish an emergency preparedness kit and an emergency plan for themselves and their family, and stay informed about what to do during an emergency.

http://www.dhs.gov/xinfo/share/programs/Copy_of_press_release_0046.shtm

<http://vaemergency.com/>

FEMA Administrator Issues Challenge to Find New Ways to Prepare For Disasters

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Administrator Craig Fugate took the stage at the 2010 TEDMED Conference in San Diego, Calif., recently and announced a new public challenge to come up with creative ideas on how we can prepare communities before disaster strikes. Fugate posed the challenge to the audience as he discussed how responding to disasters takes an entire team, not just the U.S. government, and how we must plan for the entire community before disaster strikes. Fugate, a former volunteer fire-fighter and emergency medical technician, drew parallels between treating a sick patient and responding to a community devastated by a disaster. Although Fugate announced the new challenge at the TEDMED conference, FEMA is encouraging all members of the public to participate and submit their ideas by visiting www.challenge.gov/fema. TEDMED is part of the TED conference series, which brings together speakers from a wide variety of fields, including business leaders, journalists, entertainment figures, scientists, artists and authors, to share their diverse experiences and how their fields intersect with health and medicine. For more information visit www.tedmed.com.

<http://www.fema.gov/news/newsrelease.fema?id=53135>

FEMA Announces Scientific Resolution Process for Flood Mapping

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) announced early this month a new Scientific Resolution Panel (SRP) process to strengthen FEMA's commitment to using the most reliable science and data to determine flood hazards for communities across the nation. FEMA regularly updates Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) in coordination with local communities to ensure they reflect the best available flood hazard data. FEMA works with communities to develop updated maps and allows communities to submit conflicting scientific or technical data during a regulatory appeal period. Routinely, FEMA and the community work together to come to a resolution.

However, now when a resolution cannot be reached, an independent panel of experts may be convened to review the data and provide a recommendation to resolve the dispute. Individual panels will review FEMA's data, review the data submitted by the community, and render a decision within 150 days of being convened. The panel's decision will become the recommendation to the FEMA Administrator for resolution.

<http://www.fema.gov>

Poll: Children's Needs Should be Prioritized in Disaster Planning, Response, and Recovery Efforts

Most Americans believe children should be given a higher priority in disaster planning and response, according to the results of a nationwide survey released last month by the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP). The poll found:

- 76 percent of Americans agree that if resources are limited, children should be given a higher priority for life-saving treatments.
- 75 percent believe that if tough decisions must be made, life-saving treatments should be provided to children rather than adults with the same medical condition.
- 92 percent agree that if there were a terrorist attack, our country should have the same medical treatments readily available for children as are now available for adults.

"Yet, the country's strategic national stockpile of medical countermeasures that can be used to respond to a range of biomedical threats is significantly lacking in medications for children – much of what is available to treat adults is unavailable in doses or preparations approved for use by children."

<http://www.aap.org/advocacy/releases/opinionpoll102210.htm>

Business Continuity Institute Publishes Supply Chain Failure Research

The Business Continuity Institute (BCI) has released the results of a recent survey which looked into the impacts of the supply chain on business continuity. The research, covering 35 countries, shows that over 70 percent of organizations recorded at least one supply chain disruption in 2010. The BCI says that the survey shows that while awareness of supply chain risks is increasing, many businesses remain exposed to high levels of risk; and the survey report concludes that outsourcing, in particular in IT and manufacturing, often ultimately reduces cost-benefits through greater exposure to supply chain disruption.

<http://www.continuitycentral.com/news05445.html>

Winter Fire Safety

According to the United States Fire Administration, winter residential building fires result in an estimated average of 945 deaths, 3,825 injuries and \$1,708,000,000 in property loss each year

- Fires in one- and two-family dwellings account for 67 percent of all winter residential building fires.
- Cooking is the leading cause of all winter residential building fires.
- Winter residential building fires occur mainly in the early evening hours, peaking from 5 to 8 p.m.

Although at its highest in December, residential building fire incidence is collectively highest in the three winter months of January, February and March.

http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/citizens/home_fire_prev/holiday-seasonal/winter.shtm

FEMA Offers Mitigation Tips to Make Properties Water Resistant

Officials from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) urge residents to take steps to lessen damages during future flooding events. Some measures to reduce damages from floods are fairly simple and inexpensive; others will require a professional, licensed contractor. It is important to ensure any construction work meets current government building codes. That will decrease the chance of major damages from wind or water to your home. A professional home builder, architect, contractor or building supply retailer may provide invaluable information, as well. Some tips to protect your property from flooding include:

- **Raising Electrical System Components** – Electrical system components, such as service panels, meters, switches and outlets, are easily damaged by floodwater and may require replacement. Short circuits in flooded systems are a significant danger. Raising electrical system components at least one foot above



The U.S. Coast Guard offers a free "paddle smart" brochure and sticker for boaters and kayakers. The sticker is available at http://cgvi.uscg.mil/media/main.php?g2_itemId=785212.

projected flood elevation enables faster clean up and speeds up repairs and returning home.

- **Elevating Appliances** – Appliances such as washers and dryers should be located at least 12 inches above the projected flood elevation. Washers and dryers can sometimes be elevated on masonry or pressure-treated lumber; those appliances can also be moved to a higher floor.
- **Raising HVAC** – Heating, ventilating and cooling (HVAC) equipment, such as a hot water heater, can be damaged extensively if inundated by floodwaters. Exterior HVAC equipment should be elevated at least 12 inches above the home's projected flood elevation.
- **Ensure solar heater, water tank and satellite antenna and any other equipment you have on the roof** - Disconnect the TV before lowering the antenna and make sure it is not in contact with power lines. Remove them if you cannot safeguard their structure.
- **Install Sewer Backflow Valves** – Flooding can cause sewage backflow from sanitary sewer lines into houses through drain pipes. Those backups will not only cause damage that is hard to repair, but can also become health hazards. Backflow valves are designed to block drain pipes temporarily and prevent flow into the house and should be installed by a licensed plumber or contractor.
- **Important documents and objects** – Keep them in a high place and in a sturdy container, where it's less probable that water can reach them.

Homeowners insurance policies do not cover flooding. FEMA's National Flood Insurance Program facilitates federally backed flood insurance to homeowners, business owners and renters. Flood insurance is easy to obtain and is sold by most insurance agents or companies. FEMA's "How To" series at www.fema.gov/plan/prevent/howto/index.shtm can be viewed, downloaded and printed, or copies may be ordered by calling 1-800-480-2520. The series features illustrated guides about such topics as reinforcing garage doors and anchoring fuel tanks. You can also visit www.fema.gov or www.ready.gov for additional mitigation information.

Tips to Avoid Being Scammed this Holiday Season

As the holidays approach, the FBI reminds the public to use caution when making online purchases. Cyber criminals continue to create ways to steal your money and personal information. If a deal looks too good to be true, it likely is. Be wary of e-mails or text messages that indicate a problem or question regarding your financial accounts. Criminals will attempt to direct victims to click a link or call a number to update an account or correct a purported problem. The links may appear to lead you to legitimate websites, but they are not. Any personal information you share on them could be compromised. Here are some tips you can use to avoid becoming a victim of cyber fraud:

- Do not respond to unsolicited (spam) e-mail.
- Do not click on links contained within an unsolicited e-mail.
- Be cautious of e-mail claiming to contain pictures in attached files; the files may contain viruses. Only open attachments from known senders. Scan the attachments for viruses if possible.
- Avoid filling out forms contained in e-mail messages that ask for personal information.
- Always compare the link in the e-mail with the link to which you are directed to determine if they match and will lead you to a legitimate site.
- Log directly onto a store's website identified in the e-mail instead of linking to it from an unsolicited e-mail. If the e-mail appears to be from your bank, credit card issuer, or other company you deal with frequently, your statements or official correspondence will provide the proper contact information.
- Contact the actual business that supposedly sent the e-mail to verify if the e-mail is genuine.
- If you are asked to act quickly, it may be a scam. Fraudsters often create a false sense of urgency.
- Verify any requests for personal information by calling the business or financial institution using the phone numbers listed on a billing statement or credit card.

If you have received a suspicious e-mail, file a complaint with the Internet Crime Complaint Center: www.ic3.gov. For more information on e-scams, visit the FBI's E-Scams and Warnings webpage: www.fbi.gov/scams-safety/e-scams.

MEDIA ARTICLES OF INTEREST

TOPOFF Deficiencies Addressed in DHS IG Report

A new report by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Inspector General (IG) on the National Level Exercise (NLE) program revealed that, because government planners recognized that the Top Officials (TOPOFF) 4 and previous NLEs focused almost exclusively on response operations and law enforcement, “insufficient emphasis [had not been] placed on prevention and intelligence activities.” Consequently, “in preparation for NLE 2009, exercise planners agreed that a primary area of concern should be securing the southwest border and preventing terrorists from entering and attacking the United States,” the IG’s report stated. NLE 2009 was the first major exercise exclusively dedicated to terrorism prevention and protection.

<http://www.hstoday.us/content/view/15189/149/>

A Tale of Social Media Represents FEMA Chief’s Trust in Public as a Resource

Craig Fugate received an e-mail message from his office concerning a pipeline explosion in northern California in early September. Fugate, the chief of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), read e-mail references back to the California Emergency Management Agency that painted an incomplete picture of a fire raging after an accident. But instead of tracing the e-mail back to its source and making phone calls in an attempt to discover more information, the FEMA administrator consulted Twitter. Consulting the public via Twitter rather than waiting for official government responses, as Fugate illustrated, represented a change in thinking for FEMA. He would like to see FEMA adopt more of such methods to make use of the public as a resource in an emergency rather than viewing them as a liability – or worse, victims that only can do what they are told.

<http://www.hstoday.us/content/view/15288/149/>

Aim to Crackdown on Disaster Assistance Fraud

FEMA, which serves as the managing partner agency for the Disaster Assistance Improvement Program (DIAP) that centralizes applications for 60 different assistance programs offered by 17 different federal agencies on the DisasterAssistance.gov website, is undertaking market research on how it can strengthen its controls against fraud, waste and abuse.

<http://www.gsnmagazine.com/node/21771>



“Open for Business” Helps Small Businesses Prepare for Disaster

The Institute for Business and Home Safety ... is helping small businesses find answers and shape them into meaningful action plans, reports “Emergency Management” magazine. It offers Open for Business, a free program designed to assist small businesses in their efforts to prepare for and mitigate the effects of a disaster. A template probes deeply into all facets of disaster preparedness, along with an eight-session online series addressing diverse areas

related to planning and recovery.

<http://www.emergencymgmt.com/disaster/Small-Businesses-Survive-Disaster.html>

Fusion Centers Lack Full Federal Support

Many state and local analysts may have access to federally supported fusion centers but they still lack access to many of the information-sharing programs connecting the various levels of government. As such, law enforcement agents and analysts often are reduced to trading e-mail messages to share information rather than turning to robust databases designed to provide them with the capability to “connect the dots” and piece together terrorist and criminal threats, cautioned a report from the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). The department must do more to connect state and local representatives to federal information networks and to provide them with federal personnel as well as timely and complete information, the DHS Office of the Inspector General (IG) determined in its report, “Information Sharing With Fusion Centers Has Improved, but Information System Challenges Remain.”

Report: http://www.dhs.gov/xoig/assets/mgmttrpts/OIG_11-04_Oct10.pdf

<http://www.hstoday.us/content/view/15439/128/>

Bird Flu Falls Off the Radar, but Cases Show It's Still a Threat

In the wake of last year's pandemic of H1N1 swine flu – which turned into far less of a global threat than had been feared – the world has largely forgotten about the H5N1 bird flu. But that flu has not disappeared. Nor does it seem any less lethal. In contrast to the swine flu, which killed only 1 out of every 2,000 people who got it, the avian flu kills about 3 out of 5. The world was reminded last week when a 59-year-old woman returning from a vacation in China became the first Hong Kong resident with the virus in seven years. The flu was originally discovered in Hong Kong in 1997 and recurred there in 2003.

http://www.nytimes.com/2010/11/23/health/23global.html?_r=4

Report Addresses Emergency Preparedness for Disabilities, Special Needs

In an effort to advance efforts in emergency preparedness for persons with special needs, the American National Standards Institute Homeland Security Standards Panel has released a final workshop report outlining recommendations for the timely development of standards to support more effective emergency preparedness for all.

<http://ohsonline.com/articles/2010/11/28/ansi-report-addresses-emergency-preparedness-for-disabilities-special-needs.aspx>

Homeland Security Proposes Ending Color-Coded Threat Alerts

The Homeland Security Department is proposing to discontinue the color-coded terror alert system that became a symbol of the country's post-9/11 jitters and the butt of late-night talk show jokes. The 8-year-old system, with its rainbow of five colors – from green, signifying a low threat, to red, meaning severe – became a fixture in airports, in government buildings and on newscasts. Over the past four years, millions of travelers have begun and ended their trips to the sound of airport recordings warning that the threat level is orange. The system's demise would not be the end of terror alerts; instead, the alerts would become more descriptive and not as colorful. In the past two years, Obama administration officials have changed security protocols without changing the color of the threat, such as introducing new airport security measures after a terrorist tried to bring down a Detroit-bound jetliner last Christmas.

<http://www2.timesdispatch.com/news/2010/nov/24/homeland-security-proposes-ending-color-coded-thre-ar-674321/>

Wireless Network Excludes DHS

Federal law enforcement officers from different agencies soon will be able to talk to each other on their own radios in the Washington area – but the Department of Homeland Security will not be a part of the new system. The Justice Department this month is rolling out a new state-of-the-art interoperable tactical communications system in the national capital region. Called IWN, for Integrated Wireless Network, the new system addresses long-standing problems with existing legacy radio systems highlighted by communications failures on Sept. 11 and during Hurricane Katrina. The Department of Homeland Security (DHS), which includes some of the federal government's largest law enforcement agencies – and which is responsible for leading national efforts on interoperable communications – will not be a part of it, however. Officials said DHS may participate in the system in other parts of the country, but not in the capital area, a decision made in 2007.

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2010/nov/28/wireless-network-excludes-dhs/>

FLU

Fairfax County Pandemic Flu Preparedness

Be sure to visit the county's flu Web page for information on upcoming events and other preparedness news.

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

New Study Re-examines Bacterial Vaccine Studies Conducted During 1918 Influenza Pandemic

Secondary infections with bacteria such as Streptococcus pneumonia, which causes pneumonia, were a major cause of death during the 1918 flu pandemic and may be important in modern pandemics as well. According to a new article in the "Journal of Infectious Diseases" co-authored by David M. Morens, M.D., senior advisor to the director

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.

of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, part of the National Institutes of Health. The researchers examined 13 studies published between 1918 and 1920. During this time, many scientists erroneously believed that influenza was caused by bacteria, not a virus. As a result, researchers began performing and publishing results from clinical trials testing bacterial vaccines designed to prevent the flu. In their new study, Dr. Morens and his colleagues used modern statistical and evaluation methods to re-analyze the vaccine effectiveness data from these old studies in an attempt to correct for any statistical biases in the original analysis. In addition to confirming the importance of bacterial infections associated with the 1918 influenza pandemic, the new analysis suggests that the use of bacterial vaccines containing *S. pneumonia* could reduce pneumonia rates and deaths in modern influenza pandemics as well. During the 2009-2010 H1N1 influenza pandemic, the authors write, autopsy results implicated bacterial infections in 29 to 55 percent of deaths. In light of this study, the authors recommend more research into the use of bacterial vaccines to prevent illness and death associated with influenza.

<http://www.niaid.nih.gov/news/newsreleases/2010/Pages/BacVac1918.aspx>

Seoul Steps up Efforts to Prevent Bird Flu

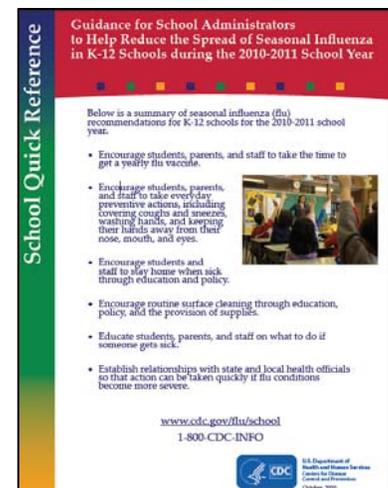
South Korea is ramping up its efforts to prevent an outbreak of avian influenza (AI), a deadly disease that affects poultry and humans. South Korea resumed exporting fresh poultry products to Hong Kong in September as Hong Kong lifted its four-month import ban following the outbreak of low pathogenic avian influenza here. The disease led to the culling of millions of fowl in the past, while claiming hundreds of human lives worldwide. The move follows the confirmed outbreak of highly contagious high pathogenic avian influenza in Japan's Hokkaido, the ministry added. An outbreak of low pathogenic AI was also confirmed last month in South Korea's South Jeolla Province. As the first of its steps, the government will increase its number of sterilizations of key habitats for migratory birds from once to twice a week.

http://www.mcot.net/cfcustom/cache_page/125035.html

Guidance for School Administrators to Help Reduce the Spread of Seasonal Influenza

- Encourage students, parents, and staff to take the time to get a yearly flu vaccine.
- Encourage students, parents and staff to take everyday preventive actions, including covering coughs and sneezes, washing hands, and keeping their hands away from their nose, mouth and eyes.
- Encourage students and staff to stay home when sick through education and policy.
- Encourage routine surface cleaning through education, policy, and the provision of supplies.
- Educate students, parents, and staff on what to do if someone gets sick.
- Establish relationships with state and local health officials so that action can be taken quickly if flu conditions become more severe.

PDF: http://www.cdc.gov/flu/pdf/school/schoolguidance_reducingspreadofflu.pdf



Report Warns Against Flu Complacency

Flu season is upon us, and once again, public health officials are concerned about not only the public's complacency toward vaccinating themselves and their children, but the continuing lack of progress in preparations to adequately respond to a potentially deadly pandemic or mass casualty public health crisis.

<http://www.hstoday.us/content/view/15440/149/>

National Influenza Vaccination Week

National Influenza Vaccination Week (NIVW) is a national observance that was established to highlight the importance of continuing influenza vaccination, as well as fostering greater use of flu vaccine after the holiday season into January and beyond. The 2010-2011 season's NIVW is scheduled for Dec. 5-11, 2010.

<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/NIVW/index.htm>

TRAININGS / EXERCISES / CONFERENCES

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

Building and Maintaining Organizational Resiliency

Dec 2-3; Charlotte, N.C.

Contingency Planning Association of the Carolinas' 12th Annual Symposium. Once again CPAC brings together a variety of experienced and respected professionals to share practical solutions and tactics helping ensure organizations are prepared for business interruptions.

http://www.cpaccarolinas.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=18&Itemid=6

Global Leadership Forum on Emergency Management

Dec. 9; Leesburg, Va.

The forum will explore the underlying causes of both natural and man-made disasters, the growing severity of their impact, the limited nature of the current coping mechanisms, and the very different approaches now needed to avert large-scale loss and suffering. It will help outline the more integrated initiatives now being shaped to ensure effective prevention and preparedness.

<http://www.fit.edu/glf/documents/GLF1%20flyer%20101025.pdf>



3rd Annual Regional State Border Coordination Workshop

Jan. 24-25, 2011; Gettysburg, Pa.

The states and urban areas of the All Hazards Consortium (AHC) will hold the 3rd Annual Regional State Border Coordination Workshop to further develop the findings and discussions that came out of the 2nd Annual State Border Coordination Workshop regarding existing catastrophic evacuation planning efforts within the states of North Carolina, Virginia, Maryland, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, Delaware, New Jersey, New York and the District of Columbia, including efforts, challenges and opportunities to achieve the long-term vision of a coordinated plan and support of integrated planning.

<http://ahcusa.org/stateborderworkshop.htm>



Combating Terrorism Technical Support Office Advanced Planning Briefing for Industry

Jan. 25, 2011; Washington, D.C.

The Combating Terrorism Technology Support Office operates under the auspices of the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Special Operations/Low-Intensity Conflict and Interdependent Capabilities. The Departments of State, Energy, and Homeland Security, along with the FBI and other agencies, contribute funds for projects of interest. Currently, the office oversees and supports three programs focusing on aspects of the war on al-Qaeda. Government representatives from more than 100 agencies contribute to identifying and selecting key

requirements for combating terrorism, promoting solutions that serve multiple end users, and preventing unnecessary duplication of effort. The primary focus is on user participation and user-oriented requirements. The office reviews projects under development, identifies new user requirements, and reviews proposals for new research and development to meet those requirements. The Advanced Planning Briefing for Industry forecasts the requirements for potential projects that will be funded in the coming fiscal year and advertised using a broad agency announcement.

<http://www.ndia.org/meetings/1090/Pages/default.aspx>

Biodefense and Emerging Diseases Research Meeting

Feb. 6-9, 2011; Washington, D.C.

At this conference of the American Society for Microbiology, scientists, physicians, public health researchers and policy makers from around the world will discover the latest research from microbial sciences related to biodefense and bioterrorism; discuss new information on preventative modalities, therapeutics, and clinical diagnoses related to biothreat agents; and learn about the most recent trends in the management and planning of biodefense programs.

<http://www.asm.org/index.php/meetings/biodefense-and-emerging-diseases-research-meeting.html>



Biometrics Conference

Feb. 23-24, 2011; Arlington, Va.

The theme is “National Security Through Biometric Collaboration—A Roadmap to Tomorrow.” The conference will highlight successful partnerships that have evaluated or implemented policy or biometrics technologies and approaches for increasing the pace of scientific advancement.

<http://www.ndia.org/meetings/1860/Pages/default.aspx>



Impact 2011

April 4-6, 2011; Westfields Marriott Hotel, Chantilly, Va.

The National Security Institute’s 26th Annual IMPACT Security Conference, “Protecting Secrets: Confronting a New World of Risk,” an essential for government and contractor security directors and managers responsible for protecting classified and sensitive information assets from a growing array of threats posed by espionage, terrorism, computer crime and information warfare.

<http://www.nsi.org/impact-2010.html>

The Women in Public Safety Communications Leadership Conference

April 13-14, 2011; Orlando, Fla.

Delve into the daily demands and long-term career issues confronting women in leadership positions in the public safety communications industry. Take control of your career – discuss concerns, experiences and successful solutions and tactics with women just like you. Following last year’s highly praised inaugural event, the 2011 Conference program covers everything from office communication and social media to career development and maintaining a work-life balance while excelling in this demanding field.

<http://wipsc.apointl.org/>

10th Workshop on Economics of Information Security

June 14-15, 2011; George Mason University, Arlington, Va.

The Center for Infrastructure Protection and Homeland Security (CIP/HS) at the George Mason School of Law will be hosting The Tenth Workshop on Economics of Information Security, or WEIS 2011. CIP/HS will be co-hosting this event with the Interdisciplinary Center for Economic Science (ICES) at George Mason University. This two-day workshop will take place at George Mason University’s Arlington Campus on Tuesday, June 14, and Wednesday, June 15, 2011.

<http://weis2011.econinfosec.org/index.html>

Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials - International 2011 Conference

August 7-12, 2011; Philadelphia, Pa.

“Powerful Connections.” Don’t miss this opportunity to make powerful connections with executives, dispatchers, and

technicians involved in all aspects of public safety communications – from law enforcement to PSAPs to government agencies. The APCO Annual Conference is a great place to learn new skills, explore new products and services, and connect with people who will enhance your career.

<http://www.apco2011.org/>

LINKS

Fairfax County Blogs and Web Resources

- 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/>
- Virginia Citizen Corps - <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 NICCRports@dhs.gov. You can access the Daily OSIR at:

http://www.dhs.gov/files/programs/editorial_0542.shtm.

Fairfax County Government Emergency Information Web Page

The county's emergency information page features easy navigation and a clean look so that residents can easily find emergency information.

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency/

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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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 feel free to 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, please contact Merni Fitzgerald, Director of the Fairfax County Office of Public Affairs, at 703-324-3187, TTY 711, or by e-mail at merni.fitzgerald@fairfaxcounty.gov.

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