



# ESF 15 Business / Nonprofit Update

Produced by Emergency Support Function 15 – External Affairs

October 2010

## ITEMS OF INTEREST FOR ESF 15

### Emergency Response Exercise Attracts More Than 100 Volunteers

Volunteer Fairfax, the Fairfax County Office of Emergency Management and the Fairfax County Health Department tested the county's ability to recover from a disaster in a practice emergency response exercise on Saturday, Sept. 25. Mock emergency volunteers walked through five stations of the Volunteer Reception Center (VRC), which helps to register and assign volunteers to community needs during an emergency. With the help of volunteers, Volunteer Fairfax was able to process over 200 volunteers. For more information about the exercise, or volunteering with Volunteer Fairfax, contact Matt Lyttle, Volunteer Fairfax emergency response program manager, by e-mail at [mlyttle@volunteerfairfax.org](mailto:mlyttle@volunteerfairfax.org) or call 703-246-3460.



### Harvard Recognizes VIPER in “Bright Ideas” Program

The Ash Center for Democratic Governance and Innovation at the John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, recognized the Virginia Interoperability Picture for Emergency Response (VIPER) – from the Virginia Department of Emergency Management – as a part of its new Bright Ideas program, which recognizes creative government initiatives around the country. 173 winning programs were selected from a pool of nearly 600 by a team of evaluators made up of academics, practitioners and former public servants. This inaugural group of Bright Ideas will serve as a cornerstone of a new online community where innovative ideas are proposed, shared and disseminated. More information is available at <http://www.ash.harvard.edu/Home/News-Events/Press-Releases/New-Bright-Ideas-Program-Recognizes-Innovative-Government-Programs>.

### NCR’s Emergency Preparedness Council Releases Regional Homeland Security Strategic Plan

Following the ninth anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks, government, nonprofit and private sector officials released an updated Homeland Security Strategic Plan for the National Capital Region (NCR). The plan will guide regional disaster preparations for the next five years, including how the NCR will spend millions in federal grant funds. The plan has been adopted by the National Capital Region Emergency Preparedness Council, a regional advisory body established through the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments. The council is composed of local elected officials from the District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia; public officials from local, state and federal agencies; and representatives from the private and nonprofit sectors. Organizations include: Greater Washington Board of Trade, The Nonprofit Roundtable, District of Columbia Hospital Association, and Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority. The complete plan is available online at [www.ncrhomelandsecurity.org](http://www.ncrhomelandsecurity.org). The strategic plan focuses on advancing the region's capabilities in several areas: improving its interoperable communications systems; enhancing its ability to share information during emergencies; protecting critical infrastructure like power and water supplies; and improving its ability to prevent deaths and injuries from terrorism and natural events. The NCR encompasses the District of Columbia and parts of Maryland and Virginia, including the cities of Alexandria, Fairfax, Falls Church, Manassas and Manassas Park and the counties of Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun and Prince William in Virginia and the counties of Montgomery and Prince George's in Maryland, which include the municipalities of Bowie, College Park, Gaithersburg, Greenbelt, Rockville and Takoma Park.

### National Capital Region Selects Homeland Security Projects to Fund

Officials recently announced how they will use \$59 million in federal homeland security funds. The money will help

area bomb squads handle improvised explosive devices; aid hospitals to treat mass casualties; assist law enforcement agencies to share information; and buy protective equipment for police and firefighters. The announcement came from local and state homeland security officials in the National Capital Region (NCR), representing the District of Columbia Mayor Adrian M. Fenty, Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley and Virginia Governor Robert F. McDonnell. In July, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security awarded the NCR money through the Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI) Grant Program. Some of the projects planned for funding include:

- **Bomb Squad Upgrades** (\$511,000): The region will purchase upgraded equipment for local squads, including electronic jammers to prevent the detonation of improvised explosive devices (IEDs). These purchases will help the region prepare for and respond to a terrorist attack using IEDs.
- **Medical Surge Capacity** (\$3,569,040): The region will increase hospitals' abilities to treat mass casualties by expanding a program that allows emergency rooms to track the real-time location of ambulances from every hospital in the region; increasing its stockpile of critical medicines; and retrofitting ambulance buses to transport patients who are in wheelchairs or cannot walk.
- **Public Health Planners** (\$3,000,000): The region will fund public health planners to continue work on critical projects, including mass fatality management; integration of volunteer doctors and nurses into medical surge operations; and integration of special needs populations into existing public health and medical surge plans.
- **Law Enforcement Information Sharing** (\$6,899,703): The region will continue funding law enforcement information sharing systems. They allow local, state and federal officers to share criminal records, fingerprint records, mug shots and other data, as well as access this information in the field using their cell phones and wireless devices.
- **First Responder Protective Equipment** (\$3,243,320): The region will buy personal protective equipment for police and firefighters, as well as continue to develop regional standards for equipment interoperability.

The National Capital Region — which is comprised of 11 local jurisdictions, two states and the District of Columbia — prepares for disasters collaboratively. This includes determining how to best and most equitably allocate scarce resources such as UASI funds. The NCR's elected officials, emergency management, law enforcement, fire and public health personnel, along with the nonprofit and private sectors, work together across the region's jurisdictional boundaries to identify and prioritize projects to improve the region's emergency preparedness and response capabilities. Past UASI grants have been used to prepare, train, and equip law enforcement, fire, emergency medical services, transportation, public health and other first responders, improving their capabilities to prevent and respond to a wide range of potential hazards in the NCR. The funding also has been used to assist public safety officials to communicate across jurisdictional boundaries by enhancing interoperable communications; offer emergency alerts and notifications to the public; educate the public on disaster preparedness; assist special needs populations to prepare for major emergencies; increase medical readiness; and equip first responders to respond to all types of hazardous situations.

### **Fallen Firefighters Memorial Service in Maryland**

FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate is joined by Acting U.S. Fire Administrator Glenn Gaines, the Honorable Doctor Dorothy Robyn Deputy Under Secretary of Defense and Congressman Roscoe Bartlett (MD 6) for a laying of the 2010 Presidential Wreath during the 2010 National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Service in Emmitsburg, Md, on Oct. 3. With over 6000 family, firefighters and general public in attendance, 105 firefighters were remembered for their ultimate sacrifice paid in service to their communities and fellow residents. This is the first year that military firefighters have now joined the over 3400 firefighters already on the Memorial Wall. FEMA/Bill Green



### **FEMA Reminds Americans That Readiness Must Continue All Year Long**

As the seventh annual National Preparedness Month (NPM) came to an end, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) continues to remind residents of the importance of emergency preparedness throughout the year.

NPM, sponsored by the Ready Campaign and Citizen Corps, is held each September. NPM encourages Americans to take simple steps to prepare for emergencies in their homes, businesses and communities. This year, more than 4,800 organizations joined the Ready Campaign as NPM coalition members, committing to promote emergency preparedness by hosting events and other activities in their communities. Coalition members encouraged the public to create a family plan, get an emergency kit and be informed about the different types of emergencies that could occur in their area and their appropriate responses. This year's campaign also reached out to more than 3 million employees in the business community, 2,445 Citizen Corps Councils, 3,514 Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT), 27 Citizen Corps partners and affiliates, and countless individuals and families across the nation. These partners worked to bring government and community leaders together to involve citizens in all-hazards emergency preparedness and resilience.

<http://www.fema.gov/news/newsrelease.fema?id=52936>

**Website Focuses on Region III Coastal Mapping**

FEMA has launched a website with information about ongoing flood level mapping efforts for the coastal areas of Virginia, Maryland, Delaware and Pennsylvania. The study will identify the 10-, 50-, 100- and 500-year flood levels for coastal flooding events. The new mapping data will be used to complete an overland wave height analysis, followed by updated Digital Flood Insurance Rate maps to replace the outdated Flood Insurance Rate Maps that date back to the mid-to-late 1970s. The website will serve as the central repository for the coastal study and will include study updates, results and the locations and dates of outreach activities.

[www.r3coastal.com](http://www.r3coastal.com)

**Preparedness Materials Available in Multiple Languages**

Ready Virginia recently translated a handout on preparing for emergencies into the next 10 languages spoken most frequently in Virginia. The handouts are available for download from <http://www.ReadyVirginia.gov> and are available in Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Hindi, Italian, Korean, Russian, Tagalog and Vietnamese. The same handout is available in English and will be translated into Spanish in the near future. In the meantime, <http://www.ListoVirginia.gov> is available to Spanish speakers. Preparedness brochures and family emergency plan worksheets in English and Spanish are available at <http://www.ReadyVirginia.gov> or by sending an e-mail to <mailto:mpio@vdem.virginia.gov> or calling 804-897-6510.



**NOAA: Year-to-Date Global Temperature Ties for Warmest on Record**

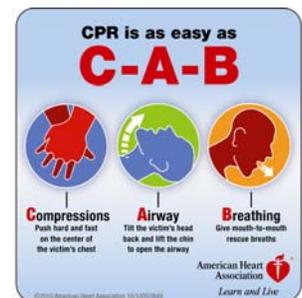
The first nine months of 2010 tied with the same period in 1998 for the warmest combined land and ocean surface temperature on record. The global average land surface temperature for January-September was the second warmest on record, behind 2007. The global ocean surface temperature for January-September was also the second warmest on record, behind 1998. The monthly analysis from NOAA's National Climatic Data Center, which is based on records going back to 1880, is part of the suite of climate services NOAA provides government, business and community leaders, so they can make informed decisions.

[http://www.noaanews.noaa.gov/stories2010/20101015\\_globalstats.html](http://www.noaanews.noaa.gov/stories2010/20101015_globalstats.html)

**A New Order for CPR, spelled C-A-B**

The American Heart Association is re-arranging the ABCs of cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) in its "2010 American Heart Association Guidelines for Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation and Emergency Cardiovascular Care," published in "Circulation: Journal of the American Heart Association." Recommending that chest compressions be the first step for lay and professional rescuers to revive victims of sudden cardiac arrest, the association said the A-B-Cs (Airway-Breathing-Compressions) of CPR should now be changed to C-A-B (Compressions-Airway-Breathing).

<http://www.newsroom.heart.org/index.php?s=43&item=1139>



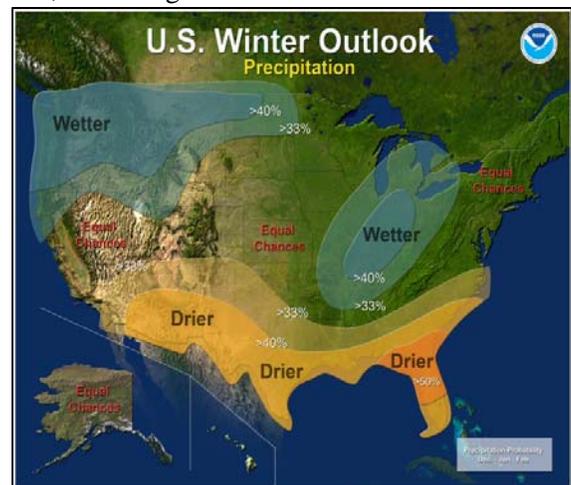
### **Red Cross and Heart Association Announce Revised First Aid Guidelines**

The American Red Cross and American Heart Association earlier this month announced changes to guidelines for administering first aid. Among the revisions are updated recommendations for the treatment of snake bites, anaphylaxis (shock), jellyfish stings and severe bleeding. The guidelines are being published in "Circulation: Journal of the American Heart Association." Volunteer experts from more than 30 national and international organizations joined the Red Cross and the American Heart Association in reviewing 38 separate first aid questions. Experts analyzed the science behind them and worked to reach consensus on the treatment recommendations. Last revised in 2005, these recommendations form the recognized scientific basis for most first aid training around the world. The expert panel also reaffirmed some key first aid recommendations, including use of aspirin when helping someone experiencing persistent chest pain or discomfort associated with a cardiac emergency. Bystanders should call 9-1-1 and activate the emergency medical services (EMS) system for anyone with chest discomfort. While waiting for EMS personnel to arrive, the person being treated may be advised to chew two low dose baby aspirin or one adult (non-enteric-coated) aspirin, if they are not allergic to aspirin or have had a stroke or recent bleeding.

<http://bit.ly/9AJ8th>

### **NOAA: Another Winter of Extremes in Store for U.S. as La Niña Strengthens**

The Pacific Northwest should brace for a colder and wetter than average winter, while most of the South and Southeast will be warmer and drier than average through February 2011, according to the annual Winter Outlook released by NOAA's Climate Prediction Center. A moderate to strong La Niña will be the dominant climate factor influencing weather across most of the U.S. this winter. La Niña is associated with cooler than normal water temperatures in the Equatorial Pacific Ocean, unlike El Niño which is associated with warmer than normal water temperatures. Both of these climate phenomena, which typically occur every 2-5 years, influence weather patterns throughout the world and often lead to extreme weather events. Last winter's El Niño contributed to record-breaking rain and snowfall leading to severe flooding in some parts of the country, with record heat and drought in other parts of the country. Although La Niña is the opposite of El Niño, it also has the potential to cause weather extremes. **For the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic** there are equal chances for above-, near-, or below-normal temperatures and precipitation. Winter weather for these regions is often driven not by La Niña but by weather patterns over the northern Atlantic Ocean and Arctic. These are often more short-term, and are generally predictable only a week or so in advance. If enough cold air and moisture are in place, areas north of the Ohio Valley and into the Northeast could see above-average snow. *Photo courtesy of NOAA*



[http://www.noanews.noaa.gov/stories2010/20101021\\_winteroutlook.html](http://www.noanews.noaa.gov/stories2010/20101021_winteroutlook.html)

### **FEMA and American Red Cross Share Lead Responsibility for Mass Care**

On Oct. 22, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the American Red Cross signed a Memorandum of Agreement that sets the framework for the Red Cross and FEMA to jointly lead the planning and coordination of mass care services, which will strengthen and expand the resources available to help shelter, feed, provide emergency first-aid and deliver supplies to survivors of a disaster. By sharing the lead role, FEMA and the Red Cross will jointly assist states in their planning and coordinating of mass care services, specifically: sheltering, feeding, distribution of emergency supplies, and reuniting families separated by disasters. FEMA and the Red Cross will coordinate with other mass care partners to determine the most critical needs, conduct state mass care capability assessments, conduct joint training and exercises to improve and evaluate mass care capabilities, and provide mass care technical assistance to states and non-governmental organizations before, during and after a disaster.

<http://bit.ly/cl0VNK>

## 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) Web site (<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/xinfoshare/programs/Copy\\_of\\_press\\_release\\_0046.shtm](http://www.dhs.gov/xinfoshare/programs/Copy_of_press_release_0046.shtm)

<http://vaemergency.com/>

### Exercise Tests National Cyber Incident Response Plan

On Monday, Sept. 27, Cyber Storm III, a three-day exercise sponsored by the Homeland Security Department, brought together a diverse cross-section of the nation's cyber incident responders to assess U.S. cyber response capabilities and test the newly developed National Cyber Incident Response Plan. Representatives from the White House, seven federal departments, 11 states, 12 other countries, and 60 companies participated.

[http://www.dhs.gov/files/training/gc\\_1204738275985.shtm](http://www.dhs.gov/files/training/gc_1204738275985.shtm)



Washington, D.C. – U.S. Secret Service director Mark Sullivan addresses participants in Cyber Storm III—a three-day long, Department of Homeland Security (DHS) sponsored exercise which brings together a diverse cross-section of the nation's cyber incident responders to assess U.S. cyber response capabilities. The goal of the exercise is to examine and strengthen collective cyber preparedness and response capabilities, involving thousands of participants across government and industry.

### DHS Launches “Stop. Think. Connect” National Cybersecurity Awareness Campaign

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) launched the “Stop. Think. Connect.” public cybersecurity awareness campaign – a national initiative that promotes simple steps the public can take to increase their safety and security online – this month. “Stop. Think. Connect.” is a national public education campaign designed to increase public understanding of cyber threats and how individual citizens can develop safer cyber habits that will help make networks more secure. The campaign fulfills a key element of President Obama's 2009 Cyberspace Policy Review, which tasked DHS with developing a public awareness campaign to inform Americans about ways to use technology safely. “Stop. Think. Connect.” includes cyber forums hosted in collaboration with the National Centers of Academic Excellence to bring together diverse groups of community, private and government participants for dialogues on

cybersecurity issues; opportunities for members of the public to get involved and help spread the word by leading or hosting campaign activities; and a coalition for public and private sector organizations. As part of the campaign, the Department has also launched a new “Stop. Think. Connect.” website, [www.dhs.gov/stopthinkconnect](http://www.dhs.gov/stopthinkconnect), which provides a variety of free, downloadable resources and materials to help the public increase their safety and security online. National Cybersecurity Awareness Month is a coordinated effort between DHS, the Multi-State Information Sharing and Analysis Center (MS-ISAC), and NCSA to raise awareness about the importance of cybersecurity and help Americans establish smart cyber habits that will lead to increased protection online. To learn more about the “Stop. Think. Connect.” campaign and download free online safety tips and resources, visit [www.dhs.gov/stopthinkconnect](http://www.dhs.gov/stopthinkconnect). For information about DHS’s other efforts to protect and safeguard America’s computer systems and networks from attacks, visit [www.dhs.gov/cyber](http://www.dhs.gov/cyber).

### **NFIP Reauthorization Guidance**

On Sept. 30, President Obama signed the National Flood Insurance Program Reextension Act of 2010, which Congress passed on Sept. 24. This extended the National Flood Insurance Program until Sept. 30, 2011.

### **Fire Prevention Week**

Even though Fire Prevention Week was Oct. 3-9, it’s still a good time to remember to check your smoke alarms. And in a video message, FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate and acting US Fire Administrator Glenn Gaines discuss the simple things you can do to protect yourself from fires in the home as part of 2010 Fire Prevention outreach efforts. Watch the video: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MUNmV2uotk8>



### **FEMA and Business Roundtable Team Up To Discuss Private Sector’s Role in Strengthening Resilience**

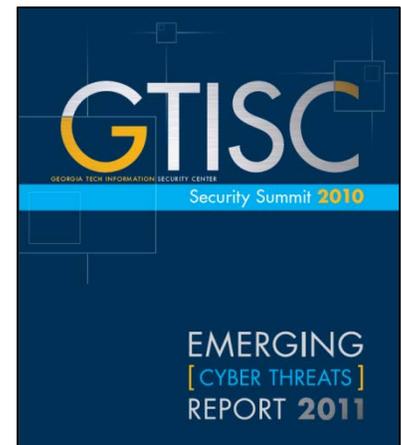
As part of its ongoing partnership with businesses and private sector organizations around this country, FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate recently participated in the Business Roundtable’s first ever podcast series focused specifically on how the private sector can help strengthen the nation’s disaster resilience. In the interview, hosted by Karl Matzke of Stanford University’s Center for Social Innovation, Fugate discussed how individuals, business, and government all share responsibility for making our communities better prepared for and more resilient to all hazards. Listen to the podcast at <http://sic.conversationsnetwork.org/shows/detail4667.html>.  
<http://www.fema.gov/news/newsrelease.fema?id=52912>

### **Cyber Threats Forecast for 2011**

The Georgia Tech Information Security Center (GTISC) has announced the release of the GTISC Emerging Cyber Threats Report for 2011, outlining the top three areas of emerging security risks. According to the report, an increase in the number of mobile and networked devices provides an enticing target for cyber criminals to steal data and thwart the functioning of systems in a variety of venues from hospitals to utility providers. For 2011, GTISC is forecasting three key cyber security areas where threats are expected to increase and evolve:

- Cyber threats targeting physical systems.
- Botnets.
- Mobile devices and social networking.

Read the report: <http://www.gtisc.gatech.edu/pdf/cyberThreatReport2011.pdf>



### **FEMA Assistance Climbs Past \$28 Million**

The catastrophic winter storms that inundated Virginia in December and February left the Commonwealth blanketed with record and near record snow amounts. Two presidential disaster declarations have resulted in FEMA grants totaling \$28,459,094.47 since Sept. 30. The grants provide recovery assistance to the state and local governments and certain private nonprofit organizations in the 56 affected jurisdictions. Localities designated include Fairfax County, and the independent cities of Fairfax, Falls Church, Manassas and Manassas Park.

<http://www.fema.gov/news/newsrelease.fema?id=52948>

## GAO Report

Increasingly, broadband Internet service is seen as critical to a nation's physical infrastructure and economic growth. Universal access to, and increased use and adoption of, broadband service are policy goals stated in the National Broadband Plan. Some recent studies indicate that despite achieving nearly 95 percent broadband deployment and globally competitive adoption rates, the United States has moved from the top to the middle of the international rankings. The Government Accountability Office (GAO) recently released a report (GAO 10-825: Telecommunications) on the subject.

<http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d10825.pdf>

## Fall Fire Season Began Friday, Oct. 15

Shorter days and cooler nights are sure signs that autumn has arrived. And that means that the wildland fire season in Virginia began Friday, Oct. 15. Officials with the Virginia Department of Forestry (VDOF) remind everyone to be careful with outdoor fire any time of year but especially during the fall and spring seasons when the risk of a fire escaping is greatest. John Miller, director of resource protection, said, "Fall fire season runs through

Nov. 30. Each autumn, after the leaves turn color, they dry out and fall to the ground creating 'fuel' for a wildland fire. As humidity levels drop and winds increase this time

of year, it doesn't take long for a fire to escape." From Jan. 1 to Oct. 7, 2010, there have been 810 wildland fires that have burned 5,305 acres of privately owned land in the Commonwealth. During an average year in Virginia 1,270 fires burn a total of 10,500 acres. VDOF records indicate that humans cause more than 95 percent of wildland fires – the bulk of which are preventable. In addition to taking safety precautions to prevent a debris burn, campfire or hot ashes from a woodstove or fireplace from escaping and becoming a wildland fire. Miller also noted that motorists should also avoid parking their vehicles in piles of dry leaves

[http://www.dof.virginia.gov/press/nr/2010/2010-10-08\\_fall-fire-season.htm](http://www.dof.virginia.gov/press/nr/2010/2010-10-08_fall-fire-season.htm)



## Protect Your Home From Future Flood Damage

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) urges all residents to take measures now to reduce future flood loss or damages. It is safer, cheaper and ultimately much easier to limit future destruction than repair it. FEMA calls such actions hazard mitigation. There are a number of low-cost actions that homeowners can take now to better protect or lessen the impact of heavy rain or future flooding. It is important to check with local building officials about standards and building codes. In addition, some mitigation measures may require hiring a contractor. Here are a few suggestions to keep your home safe when floodwaters come knocking:

- **Relocate or elevate water heaters, furnaces and major appliances.** Elevate water heaters, furnaces and appliances, such as washers and dryers, especially if they are located in a basement. Place them on a pressure-treated wood or masonry base at least 12 inches above the previous high-water mark of a home's projected flood elevation.
- **Elevate or relocate electrical systems.** Electrical panel boxes, circuit breakers, wall switches and wall outlets should be at least 12 inches above your home's projected flood elevation. Some basement or first-floor electrical systems may even be moved to a higher floor.
- **Interior and exterior floodwalls.** To keep water away from indoor furnaces, utilities and appliances, build a watertight masonry wall around them. An outside water-resistant wall is a good way to prevent water from flowing into basement openings.
- **Repair leaks and cracks immediately.** Leaky roofs and foundation cracks let water into a home more readily. This weakens a structure and provides an ideal habitat for mold. If wet spots appear on the ceiling or cracks appear in a foundation, fix them immediately.
- **Clean gutters and drains.** If gutters and drainage systems are blocked by leaves or debris, water can overflow and quickly flood a home or yard. Check all gutters and drainage systems regularly for leaves and nests. Also double-check storm drains on your street, as leaves and debris can block them, causing water to collect.
- **Invest in a battery-powered sump pump.** Sump pumps remove water out of a structure and can be an excellent

defense against flooding—unless they're powered by electricity and the power is out. Battery-powered sump pumps are a relatively inexpensive solution. Be sure to purchase a backup battery as well.

- **Install a backflow valve, check valve, drain plug or standpipe.** These measures ensure sewage only flows one way – outside. Consult with a professional to remain code compliant.

FEMA's How-To Series offers free information and publications for property owners and contractors about construction techniques and measures to reduce flood loss or damages. The series is available at [www.FEMA.gov](http://www.FEMA.gov) or by calling 1-800-480-2520. These include: Repairing Your Flood Damaged Home; Above the Flood: Elevating Your Floodprone House; Selecting Appropriate Mitigation Measures for Floodprone Structures; Design Guidelines for Flood Damage Reduction; Answers to Questions About Substantially Damaged Buildings, and more.

### **Survey Shows Some Improvement in Readiness**

The Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM) recently concluded an online survey that shows several changes in citizen preparedness.

#### **Significant Increase**

- Percentage of people who have **discussed emergency plans** with their families: 69 percent (up from 54 percent in 2008).
- Percentage of people with **emergency kit**: 66 percent (up from 49 percent in 2008).
- Percentage of people who said they would **go to the Internet for information** during emergencies: 77 percent (up from 65 percent in 2008). The Internet remains in third place after local radio and television, but the increase could indicate the public's growing confidence in the Internet as a credible information source.

#### **Significant Change**

Where people **go to learn about emergency preparedness**:

- Local radio/television is the top choice, followed by local government and Ready Virginia websites. Newspapers and brochures/fliers came in at third and fourth place. In 2008, newspapers were the top choice.
- Messages that need to be emphasized:
  - 31 percent said they have a **meeting place** outside their neighborhood (not tested in 2008)
  - Less than half (44 percent) have one identified (down from 50 percent in 2008).
  - Only 15 percent said they have a **written family plan** (not tested in 2008).

The findings include responses from 1,565 participants between June 15 and July 15. The results help the Ready Virginia public education campaign fine tune its outreach efforts and provide an assessment of how well VDEM is meeting one of its biennial performance measures, considered a "Governor's Key Measure":

*"Increase the percentage of individuals who demonstrate awareness of threats to Virginia and their personal readiness to react appropriately."*

A baseline survey was conducted June-July 2008. Performance measures and data on how well each agency is doing to meet its measures are shared online at [www.vaperforms.virginia.gov/](http://www.vaperforms.virginia.gov/).

### **Perspective on Preparedness: Taking Stock Since 9/11**

The Local, State, Tribal and Federal Preparedness Task Force announces that it has submitted its final report and recommendations to Congress. "Perspective on Preparedness: Taking Stock Since 9/11" offers an analysis of what preparedness has meant in the United States, both historically and since 9/11, and includes an in-depth analysis of post-9/11 preparedness-related activities. We focused on four themes – one cross-cutting, foundational area (strategic investments) along with the three explicit areas of emphasis in the congressional language—policy and guidance, capabilities and assessment, and grants. The heart of this report is 25 specific recommendations for creating a better defined, better integrated, more effective preparedness system. These recommendations are categorized under four overarching recommendations, aligned to the legislative requirement:

- Consider bold, innovative investments to increase the long-term cost-effectiveness and sustainability of preparedness through cost-reducing measures;
- Transform existing advisory bodies into a "networked" preparedness policy advisory system capable of influencing policy from initiation to implementation;
- Prioritize development and phased implementation of a national preparedness assessment framework; and
- Make targeted improvements to preparedness grant-related coordination and collaboration, business processes, and capability assessment linkages.

The Task Force members encourage all members of the preparedness community to review the document and to discuss ways to implement the recommendations with their constituents, partners, and leadership.

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

### **FEMA Encourages Americans to Start Preparing For Winter Weather**

Earlier this month the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) released its 2010 U.S. Winter Outlook, predicting extreme weather patterns for different regions of the country this winter. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) reminds residents and businesses to get ready for winter storms and extreme cold. Americans can find helpful tips and recommendations at [www.ready.gov/america/beinformed/winter.html](http://www.ready.gov/america/beinformed/winter.html). “With winter right around the corner, it’s never too early to start preparing for snowstorms, icy roads and other types of severe weather,” said FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate. “Whether you live in an area that is used to severe winters or not, there are three simple steps all Americans should take to get ready: put together an emergency supply kit, develop a family communications plan, and stay informed about the risks and emergencies in your community.” Severe winter weather can include snow or subfreezing temperatures, strong winds and ice or heavy rain storms. An emergency supply kit both at home and in the car will help prepare people for winter power outages and icy or impassable roads. An emergency supply kit should include a three-day supply of food and water, a battery-powered or hand-crank radio and extra flashlights and batteries. Thoroughly check and update your family's emergency supply kit and add the following supplies in preparation for winter weather:

- Rock salt to melt ice on walkways;
- Sand to improve traction;
- Snow shovels and other snow removal equipment;
- And adequate clothing and blankets to help keep you warm.
- Ensure your family preparedness plan and contacts are up to date and exercise your plan. Learn about the emergency plans that have been established in your area by your state and local government, and ensure your home and car are prepared for the winter weather.

Finally, everyone should get familiar with the terms that are used to identify a winter storm hazard and discuss with your family what to do if a winter storm watch or warning is issued. Terms used to describe a winter storm hazard include the following:

- **Freezing Rain** creates a coating of ice on roads and walkways.
- **Sleet** is rain that turns to ice pellets before reaching the ground. Sleet also causes roads to freeze and become slippery.
- **Winter Weather Advisory** means cold, ice and snow are expected.
- **Winter Storm Watch** means severe weather such as heavy snow or ice is possible in the next day or two.
- **Winter Storm Warning** means severe winter conditions have begun or will begin very soon.

For more information and winter preparedness tips, visit: [www.ready.gov/america/beinformed/winter.html](http://www.ready.gov/america/beinformed/winter.html).

## **MEDIA ARTICLES OF INTEREST**

### **Some Won't Work During a Pandemic**

New York first responders, accustomed to putting their lives on the line, may be reluctant to do during a potentially lethal pandemic, researchers suggest. Lead author Dr. Robyn Gershon of Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health finds more than 50 percent of the New York metropolitan area first responders and other essential workers may be absent from work during a serious pandemic – even if they are healthy. The study involved more than 1,100 workers including hospital employees, police and fire department personnel, emergency medical services workers, public health workers and correctional facility officers. An estimated 80 percent would be available to report to duty, but 65 percent say they would be willing to show up for work – the percent willing ranged from a high of 74 percent for public health workers to a low of 56 percent of correctional workers.

[http://www.upi.com/Health\\_News/2010/10/01/Some-wont-work-during-a-pandemic/UPI-37511285912607/](http://www.upi.com/Health_News/2010/10/01/Some-wont-work-during-a-pandemic/UPI-37511285912607/)

### **DHS Drafts Certification Program for Small Business Preparedness**

The Homeland Security Department wants to make it easier for small businesses to certify they have met national voluntary preparedness standards. DHS has published its first plan to create a small business classification in the Voluntary Private Sector Accreditation and Certification Preparedness program, according to an Oct. 1 notice (<http://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2010/10/01/2010-24673/voluntary-private-sector-accreditation-and-certification-preparedness-program>) in the Federal Register. Comments from the public are invited; however, the notice did not specify a deadline for their submission. The preparedness program was established following a recommendation from the 9/11 Commission so businesses could demonstrate they are meeting a national standard for preparedness created by DHS. The department adopted three national standards for the program in June. In the course of reviewing public comments, DHS said concerns were raised about small business participation, specifically a need for affordable methods of compliance, a model for compliance, education, tools, technical assistance, best practices and a self-assessment method.

<http://washingtontechnology.com/articles/2010/10/04/dhs-homeland-security-small-business-preparedness.aspx>

### **Fairfax County Dam Failure**

During the heavy rains that drenched the Washington region the end of September/beginning of October, the Kingstowne Park dam in Fairfax County's Alexandria section failed. According to the Washington Post, "It was a quick and quiet death, but the environmental impact has been devastating: The two largest lakes are nearly empty, leaving migratory birds, turtles and fish dead or swimming fruitlessly in evaporating puddles."

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/10/05/AR2010100505873.html>

### **Virginia Has Plan for Children During Emergencies**

When the recent Save the Children report, "America Remains Unprepared," listed Virginia as among the handful of East Coast states that have not enacted basic safeguards to protect children who are in child care during disasters, Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS) Director of Public Affairs, Marianne McGhee, pointed out to HSToday.us that "this is incorrect." McGhee said "Virginia has, in fact, enacted basic safeguards to protect children in care," and stressed that "as part of our official licensing standards, the Commonwealth of Virginia *does* require all licensed child care centers to have evacuation and reunification plans in place. In support of this, the Virginia Department of Social Services provides training for providers and publishes information to help child care providers tailor their individual plans – as each would be different, of course." McGhee referenced "Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan for Family Day Homes" and pages 65-68 of the "Standards for Licensed Child Day Centers" [as] two examples. The Save the Children study concluded that millions of children are vulnerable should a disaster strike the East Coast.

"America Remains Unprepared" Report: <http://bit.ly/awuLQ2>

<http://www.hstoday.us/content/view/14950/149/>

### **Smart Phones and Citizen Scientists Can Help Streamline Relief**

Smart phones are today's go-to tool for quick data collection. But one important use of smart phones that is becoming more common is their use during disasters to keep people organized and savvy about what is going on. During a disaster, it's often the people in the middle of it who have the best information, the best video and photos of what's happening, and that information can be a huge benefit to those just entering the scene to help with relief efforts. Yet it is tough to get such data out to those who need it during relief efforts, including vital information that scientists and relief workers have to have but which the average person doesn't know to provide. Jules White is an assistant professor at Virginia Tech, and he has come up with the idea of a cell phone app that can transmit the vital data collected by the phone's owner to search and rescue workers after a disaster like an earthquake or flood.

<http://planetgreen.discovery.com/tech-transport/smart-phones-and-citizen-scientists-can-help-streamline-disaster-relief.html>

### **Wired Wants Better Cybersecurity Slogan for DHS**

The Department of Homeland Security kicked off its new computer security campaign this month as part of National Cyber Security Awareness month, writes Wired "Threat Level" blogger Ryan Singel. "The campaign is called 'Stop. Think. Connect.' The problem is it's not clear at all what you are supposed to stop, think about or connect to... Got a

better slogan?" Go to the blog and add your suggestion.

<http://www.wired.com/threatlevel/2010/10/dhs-cybersecurity-slogan/>

DHS Cyber Security website: [http://www.dhs.gov/files/events/gc\\_1285863484637.shtm](http://www.dhs.gov/files/events/gc_1285863484637.shtm)

### **Secretary Napolitano Voicing New Metro Messages**

Now airing at a Metro subway station near you: Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano, voicing a new public awareness message designed to encourage vigilance among transit customers.

[http://voices.washingtonpost.com/federal-eye/2010/10/janet\\_napolitano\\_voicing\\_new\\_m.html](http://voices.washingtonpost.com/federal-eye/2010/10/janet_napolitano_voicing_new_m.html)

Janet Napolitano voicing new Metro messages



### **DHS Gets WeatherBug Data**

Live information from the WeatherBug network is now going to be shared with Homeland Security officials to track atmospheric threats, reports WTOP. The goal of this program is 'to provide guidance to first responders as to where toxic clouds might be moving,' says Bill Callahan, vice president of program management at AWS/WeatherBug.... The information will help Homeland Security 'decide what population needs to be evacuated and where they can evacuate them to,' he says.

<http://www.wtop.com/?sid=2069547&nid=25>

### **Virginia Disaster Aid for Winter Storms Tops \$28 Million**

Federal disaster grants awarded to Virginia to help recovery efforts following two winter storms has topped \$28.4 million. The Federal Emergency Management Agency said on Oct. 8 that most of the funding, \$24.6 million, was awarded to pay for protective measures. Another \$2.1 million was awarded for debris removal costs. President Barack Obama issued disaster declarations following winter storms in December 2009 and in February that brought up to 3 feet of snow in some parts of the commonwealth.

<http://www.wtop.com/?nid=722&sid=2073578>

### **First Responders Used Runners Because Radios Did Not Work Underground**

Emergency services battling to save lives in the wake of the 7 July 2005 London bombings needed to use runners to send messages back to the control room as their radios did not work underground, an inquest into the terrorist attacks has heard. The "Daily Telegraph" reports that paramedics, firefighters and police attending to casualties on the stricken Tube trains sent messengers back to the surface to pass on requests for more help. In the case of the deep London Underground station at Russell Square, which is linked to ground level by a long spiral staircase, this could take a quarter of an hour, the hearing was told. Hugo Keith QC, counsel to the inquests, also highlighted the lack of a system for the drivers of the devastated Tube trains to communicate with their passengers. Timothy Batkin, the driver of the train destroyed in the Aldgate bombing, said he could hear people screaming behind him "help us, help" but he was unable to respond. Four suicide bombers launched coordinated attacks on three Tube trains and a bus in London on 7 July 2005, killing fifty-two people and leaving more than 700 injured.

<http://homelandsecuritynewswire.com/first-responders-used-runners-because-radios-did-not-work-underground>

### **Avoid a Crisis: Why Your Company Should Monitor Social Media**

Just after tax day 2010, a former call center employee of H&R Block put up Twitter messages encouraging his followers to call the company and ask for him by his Internet moniker, "Kid Fury." The Internet phenom's tweets began showing up when customers searched online for help with tax questions. And they also caught the attention of the company's eagle-eyed Social Media Team, established during the 2009 tax season. The team saw Kid Fury's tweets about 10 minutes after he posted the first one, and they were able to identify him and contact his manager. Within about an hour, he had taken down the messages and apologized. The quick response minimized customer confusion and shut down what could have been a major disruption at the company's call centers.

<http://managementhelp.org/blogs/crisis-management/2010/10/09/proactive-social-media-pays-off/>

### **Study: U.S. grid robust, hard to bring down**

Reliance on a particular kind of mathematical model – a so-called topological model – for understanding complex

systems has led a growing number of researchers to conclude that the U.S. electric grid is exceedingly vulnerable to disruption; two mathematicians now argue that these studies “have ignored the physics of how things actually work -- like electricity infrastructure.” An examination of how the grid actually works would show that the U.S. electrical grid is probably more secure than many people realize.

<http://homelandsecuritynewswire.com/study-us-grid-robust-hard-bring-down>

### **Feds Use Social Media to Gather Private Information**

The federal government exploits social media users' desire for online popularity to gain access to private information, a digital civil liberties watchdog group says. By “friending” users on Facebook, Flickr, Myspace, Twitter and other social media sites, federal investigators can gather information involving immigration and homeland security cases, according to government documents obtained by The Electronic Frontier Foundation. This tactic takes advantage of social media users’ likelihood to become cyber “friends” with others, whom they might not know, to increase online popularity.

<http://www.wtopnews.com/?sid=2080366&nid=116>

### **Natural Disasters Affect More People But Claim Fewer Lives**

Natural disasters “are claiming fewer lives every year, even as the number of people affected soars, reports Reuters. And far fewer would die if governments and aid agencies put more effort into prevention measures.... \$1 invested in reducing disasters in developing countries [is] estimated to save \$7 in losses.

<http://www.alertnet.org/db/topics/disasterreduction.htm>

### **FEMA Seeks Vendors to Care for Animals During Disasters**

Because FEMA is required by law to provide for the welfare of household pets and ‘service animals’ during large scale disasters, the agency is conducting market research to identify firms capable of providing the necessary food, shelter and veterinary supplies in case of emergencies, reports “Government Security News.” The vendors will enable FEMA to comply with statutory requirements ... under the PET Act and Section 403.a.3.J of the Stafford Act.

[http://www.gsnmagazine.com/node/21660?c=disaster\\_preparedness\\_emergency\\_response](http://www.gsnmagazine.com/node/21660?c=disaster_preparedness_emergency_response)

### **GIS-Based Interoperability System Alters How Virginia Manages Emergencies**

It’s easy to quantify success more than two years after the Virginia Interoperability Picture for Emergency Response (VIPER) system first made its mark in the information-sharing world — just look at the handful of innovation awards, its role as a model for a national interoperability initiative, and even VIPER on YouTube. But the real story is how VIPER, which displays real-time geospatial information, has changed the not-so-easily quantifiable — essentially altering how the Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM) manages emergencies.

<http://www.emergencymgmt.com/disaster/Virginia-Interoperability-Picture-Emergency-Response.html>

## **FLU**

### **Fairfax County 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/>

**CDC urges you to take the following actions to protect yourself and others from influenza (the flu):**

**#1** Take time to get a flu vaccine.

**#2** Take everyday preventive actions to stop the spread of germs.

**#3** Take flu antiviral drugs if your doctor prescribes them.

### **Flu Season is Here**

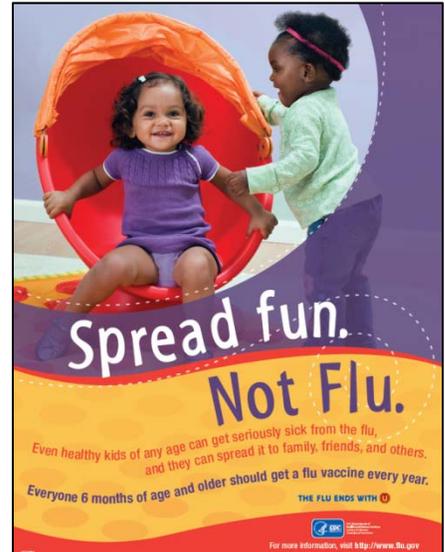
Flu season typically runs October through April. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommend an

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annual flu vaccine as the first and most important step in protecting against the flu. Flu vaccine is available now in some local pharmacies. Cost for vaccine may vary by location. The Fairfax County Health Department will also have flu vaccine available by the end of October in its five district offices. Although the World Health Organization has officially declared an end to the H1N1 pandemic, this does not mean that the H1N1 virus has gone away. Flu is a serious illness that can make even healthy children and adults sick. This year, a new universal vaccination recommendation was issued. Everyone over six months of age should get a flu vaccine, especially people who are at high risk such as young children; pregnant women; people with chronic health conditions like asthma, diabetes or heart and lung disease; and people 65 years and older. People who received 2009 H1N1 vaccine should get another flu vaccine this season. In addition to a flu vaccine, follow these steps year-round to prevent the spread of germs:

- Wash your hands with soap and water often throughout the day.
- Cough or sneeze into a tissue or your sleeve, not your hands.
- Stay home from work or school when sick to avoid infecting others.

To learn more about the flu and where to find vaccine, visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/flu](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/flu).



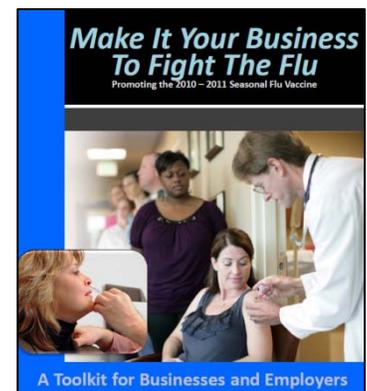
### **BARDA Funds Year-round Egg Supply for Pandemic Flu Vaccine**

A \$57 million three-year federal contract will secure a continued year-round supply of eggs and other essential supplies for pandemic influenza vaccine as part of pandemic preparedness. The Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA), part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response, awarded the contract to Sanofi Pasteur of Swiftwater, Pa., renewing the company's 2004 egg supply contract. A steady egg supply provides a foundation for pandemic flu vaccine as HHS supports the development of diverse, flexible, modern domestic vaccine technology and manufacturing infrastructure for pandemic flu and other infectious diseases vaccines. Influenza vaccine made in the United States uses chicken eggs. These chickens and the eggs used for vaccine are monitored closely for contamination, and vaccines are tested to ensure they are safe and do not contain bacteria. The first egg supply contract was awarded because, at the time, eggs for flu vaccine were available only at the time of year that seasonal influenza vaccine was manufactured, although a pandemic can strike at any time. The initial contract provided eggs in the fall to manufacture avian flu vaccine for pre-pandemic vaccine stockpiles. Under the contract, the egg supply will accommodate operation of a third domestic production line at Sanofi Pasteur during a pandemic. Also under the contract, BARDA has the option to fund production of flu vaccine for use in research studies. For more information about BARDA and HHS preparedness efforts for public health and medical emergencies visit [www.phe.gov](http://www.phe.gov). To learn more about pandemic and seasonal flu, visit [www.flu.gov](http://www.flu.gov).

### **Fight The Flu: A Toolkit for Businesses and Employers**

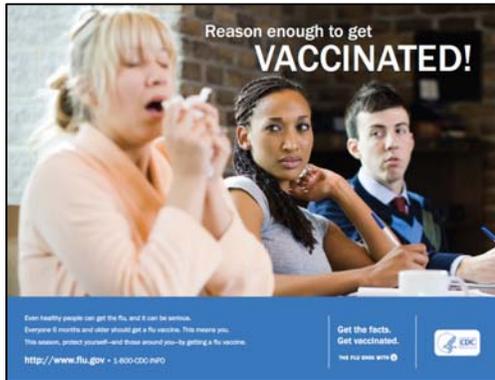
The single best way to prevent seasonal flu is to get a yearly flu vaccine, but good health habits and antiviral medications are other measures that can help protect against the flu. To help businesses, employers, and their employees learn about these strategies for preventing flu, CDC provides the flu toolkit, flyers, posters and other materials to post and distribute in the workplace. The purpose of "Make It Your Business To Fight The Flu: A Toolkit for Businesses and Employers" is to provide information and recommended strategies to help businesses and employers promote the 2010 – 2011 seasonal flu vaccine.

<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/business/>



## Poll: Three Out Of 10 Health Care Workers “Living In A Bubble,” Not Getting Flu Vaccine

A new Consumer Reports Health poll reveals a disconcerting proportion of “at risk” groups who will not get the flu vaccine this year. Of most concern, only 40 percent of Americans in the “work risk” category – meaning those who care for young children and those who work in residential nursing homes, hospitals and other health care environments – said they would definitely get the vaccine this year, which combines the seasonal and the 2009 H1N1 (swine) flu, while 28 percent said they would definitely not get the vaccine. The nationally representative poll, conducted by the Consumer Reports National Research Center, found additional examples of “at risk” populations living in a bubble. For example, only 45 percent of Americans considered “at health risk” said they definitely planned on getting the flu vaccine this year. This category includes people with lung conditions such as asthma, diabetics, people with heart conditions (except hypertension), those with immune system problems and those with neurological or neuromuscular disease. All of these conditions are



linked to an increased likelihood of flu-related complications.

<http://pressroom.consumerreports.org/pressroom/2010/10/my-entry-1.html>

Poll highlights and guidance for flu and other vaccines are available online at [www.ConsumerReportsHealth.org](http://www.ConsumerReportsHealth.org).

## New Study Indicates That Even Delayed Treatment With Oseltamivir Improves Survival In Patients Infected With Avian Influenza (H5N1)

A study published in the “Journal of Infectious Diseases” indicates that treatment with oseltamivir significantly reduces mortality in patients with influenza A/H5N1, or bird flu, even when given late in the course of illness. In humans, influenza A/H5N1 is associated with severe disease and a high mortality rate.<sup>1</sup> The multinational observational study, which is the largest-ever analysis of confirmed influenza A/H5N1 cases, showed a survival rate of 50 percent in patients who received oseltamivir within six to eight days after the onset of their influenza symptoms, compared with 29 percent in patients who did not begin antiviral treatment during the same time period. In addition, these data, collected from 308 A/H5N1 patients occurring between 1997 and 2009 in 12 countries, showed oseltamivir was even more effective when treatment was started soon after symptom onset, with approximately 80 percent of patients surviving when oseltamivir was administered within two days of symptom onset compared to 20 percent survival for those who were untreated.

<http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/205113.php>

## TRAININGS / EXERCISES / CONFERENCES

### VFPA Fall Training Conference

Nov. 1-3; Roanoke, Va.

The 2010 Virginia Fire Prevention Association Fall Training Conference.

[http://www.vfpa.org/events/fall\\_conf\\_info.html](http://www.vfpa.org/events/fall_conf_info.html)

### Emergency Preparedness & Hazmat Response Conference

Nov. 7-10; Baltimore, Md.

This all-hazards conference for government and industry, with education, training, and networking, is sponsored by the Baltimore Local Emergency Planning Committee and Environmental Protection Agency Region III. It offers an opportunity to meet and mingle with decision makers in emergency preparedness and prevention.

<http://2010conference.org/>

### Optimizing Investments in Critical Infrastructure Protection

Nov. 15-18; Arlington, Va.



This workshop sponsored by the Military Operations Research Society will examine the status and emerging focus of

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methods and models for assessing risk and allocating risk-reduction resources and identify new or improved tools, techniques, and processes needed to optimize investments in infrastructure protection

<http://www.mors.org/events/2010infrastructure.aspx>

### **Southeast Counter-Terrorism and Emergency Response Conference and Expo**

Nov. 16-18; Charlotte, N.C.

This conference for senior counter-terrorism personnel, emergency management and disaster response personnel, and first responders will cover regionally relevant and timely topics on counter-terrorism measures, threat assessment, crisis training, trends in terrorism threats, methodology for tracking, medical center preparedness, and more. It will provide information on current terrorist threats, current mitigation and prevention systems, and plans and information on how best to prepare. An expo hall will showcase counter-terrorism equipment, training, communication equipment, emergency and temporary housing, emergency vehicles, weapons, tactical equipment, protective clothing, medical emergency equipment and more.

<http://defensetradeshows.com/southeast-counter-terrorism-and-emergency-response-conference-and-expo/>

### **Transportation Disaster Response – A Course for Emergency Responders**

Nov. 16-18; Ashburn, Va.

Designed specifically for emergency responders and planners, this course by the National Transportation Safety Board teaches how to effectively manage a major transportation disaster. Audio and video materials, case studies, recent examples, and panel discussions illustrate key principles of the unique aspects of responding to major transportation disasters. The course will cover the Incident Command System, investigative processes, terrorism, hazardous materials, site security, media inquiries, communicating with the local community and families of the victims, forensics, and long-term issues affecting the community.

[http://www.nts.gov/Academy/CourseInfo/TDA402\\_2010.htm](http://www.nts.gov/Academy/CourseInfo/TDA402_2010.htm)

### **Disaster Hospitals and Healthcare Organizations Course**

Nov. 30; Sykesville, Md.

This course, sponsored by the Texas Engineering Extension Service with host Maryland Emergency Agency, is for people from the hospital and healthcare community who are responsible for ensuring the resiliency of healthcare services during a high-consequence or catastrophic event.

[http://www.mema.state.md.us/calendar/view\\_event.asp?CalendarID=11501](http://www.mema.state.md.us/calendar/view_event.asp?CalendarID=11501)

### **International Symposium on Societal Resilience**

Nov. 30-Dec. 2; Fairfax, Va.

As the first of its kind, the symposium's main goal is to draw domestic and international stakeholders to dialogue and share research in the field of societal resilience. The program will offer a variety of panels with distinguished speakers and interactive breakout sessions that will include presentations on emerging issues in resilience and homeland security.

<https://www.signup4.net/Public/ap.aspx?EID=HOME58E>



### **Biodefense and Emerging Diseases Research Meeting**

Feb. 6-9; 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>

### **National Capital Region Homeland Security Events**

[http://www.mwcog.org/committee/committee/events\\_homeland.asp?COMMITTEE\\_ID=134](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](http://www.redcrossnca.org/Online/disaster_registration.php)



## 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/](http://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."

[http://www.dhs.gov/files/programs/editorial\\_0542.shtm](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 to easily find emergency information.

[www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency/)

### 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/>

**FAIRFAX COUNTY 703-817-7771**  
**EMERGENCY**  
**INFORMATION LINE**

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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 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](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, 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](mailto:merni.fitzgerald@fairfaxcounty.gov).

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