



ESF 15 Business / Nonprofit Update

Produced by Emergency Support Function 15 – External Affairs

October 2014

ITEMS OF INTEREST FOR ESF 15

Virginia Department of Health Provides Ebola Information in Multiple Formats

877-ASK VDH3 Ebola Hotline Now Open

The Virginia Department of Health (VDH) has opened an Ebola Hotline to help answer questions from the public and provide the most up-to-date information to Virginians. The number – 1-877-ASK-VDH3 (1-877-275-8343) – is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Virginia’s 211 Call Center will be handling these calls using frequently asked questions (FAQs) developed by VDH. Additional questions from the public not on the FAQs list are added to the FAQ document on the VDH website daily. Any updates or changes in guidance are also included in that information. Updates and answers to the FAQs are also shared daily via the VDH website, Facebook and Twitter.

www.vdh.virginia.gov/

NIH Begins Early Human Clinical Trial of VSV Ebola Vaccine

NIH announced on Oct. 22 that human testing of a second investigational Ebola vaccine candidate is under way at the National Institutes of Health’s Clinical Center in Bethesda, Md. Researchers at the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) are conducting the early phase trial to evaluate the vaccine, called VSV-ZEBOV, for safety and its ability to generate an immune system response in healthy adults who are given two intramuscular doses, called a prime-boost strategy. The Walter Reed Army Institute of Research (WRAIR) is simultaneously testing the vaccine candidate as a single dose at its Clinical Trials Center in Silver Spring. “The need for a vaccine to protect against Ebola infection is urgent,” said NIAID Director Anthony S. Fauci, M.D. “NIH welcomes the opportunity to collaborate with the U.S. Department of Defense to conduct human clinical tests of another promising – and hopefully, successful – Ebola vaccine candidate.” The VSV-ZEBOV vaccine candidate was developed by researchers at the Public Health Agency of Canada’s National Microbiology Laboratory. It has been licensed to NewLink Genetics Corp through its wholly owned subsidiary BioProtection Systems, both based in Ames, Iowa.

<http://www.nih.gov/news/health/oct2014/niaid-22.htm>

“The need for a vaccine to protect against Ebola infection is urgent”

—Anthony S. Fauci, M.D.
Director, NIAID

National Cyber Security Awareness Month 2014

The Internet is part of everyone’s life, every day. We use the Internet at work, home, for enjoyment, and to connect with those close to us. However, being constantly connected brings increased risk of theft, fraud, and abuse. No country, industry, community or individual is immune to cyber risks. As a nation, we face constant cyber threats against our critical infrastructure and economy. As individuals, cybersecurity risks can threaten our finances, identity and privacy. Since our way of life depends on critical infrastructure and the digital technology that operates it, cybersecurity is one of our country’s most important national security priorities, and we each have a role to play – cybersecurity is a shared responsibility. October is National Cyber Security Awareness Month, designed to engage and educate public and private sector partners through events and initiatives with the goal of raising awareness about cybersecurity and increasing the resiliency of the nation in the event of a cyber incident. October 2014 marks the 11th Annual National Cyber Security Awareness Month sponsored by the Department of Homeland Security in cooperation with the National Cyber Security Alliance and the Multi-State Information Sharing and Analysis Center.

<http://www.dhs.gov/national-cyber-security-awareness-month-2014>



National Cyber Security
Awareness Month

Get Ready for Winter Weather!

Winter Preparedness Week in Virginia is Nov. 30-Dec. 6

Recent Virginia winters have been cold and snowy, and many people had power outages. It's so important to be winter-ready that the National Weather Service and the Virginia Department of Emergency Management have set aside Nov. 30-Dec. 6 as Winter Preparedness Week. No matter the predictions, a significant winter storm is always possible. With an El Nino weather pattern expected this season, there could be a wetter than normal winter. And El Nino winters can be snowier if atmospheric conditions are right ... just like the winter of 2009-10. Remember: an important part of winter weather planning is being prepared to stay where you are until conditions improve. To be ready, take these steps:

Get a kit. Basic emergency supplies include:

- Three days' food that doesn't need refrigeration or electricity to prepare it.
- Three days' water (a gallon per person per day).
- A battery-powered and/or hand-crank radio with extra batteries.
- For businesses and offices, some bottles of water, food bars and a radio or TV to hear local information about whether or not it is safe to travel.
- A power pack for recharging cell phones and other mobile devices.

Make a plan. Everyone needs an emergency plan:

- Decide who your out-of-town emergency contact will be.
- Where will you meet up with family members if you can't return home?
- Get an emergency plan worksheet at ReadyVirginia.gov.

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.
- Get where you need to go before the weather gets bad.
- Get road condition information 24/7 by calling 511 or checking www.511Virginia.org

Download the Ready Virginia app. Free app for iPhone and Android features:

- Location-specific weather watches and warnings issued by NWS.
- Disaster news from the Virginia Department of Emergency Management.
- A customizable family emergency plan that can be easily shared.
- A checklist for gathering emergency supplies.
- Links to register for local emergency alerts, and more

Get more preparedness information at www.ReadyVirginia.gov and www.FairfaxCounty.gov/emergency.



A Study of Active Shooter Incidents in the United States Between 2000 and 2013

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) analyzed data on 160 active shooter incidents that occurred from 2000 to 2013 in order to help prepare law enforcement personnel to respond to these types of incidents and underscore the importance of training and exercises. The study found that active shooter incidents have become more frequent. In the first six years there was an average of 6.4 incidents per year. In the last seven years, the average was 16.4 per year. All but six of the incidents involved male shooters. In 45 incidents, law enforcement officers had to engage the shooter to end the threat.

<http://www.fbi.gov/news/stories/2014/september/fbi-releases-study-on-active-shooter-incidents>



Financial First Aid

When survivors of Hurricane Sandy were asked what they wished they would have done before the storm, one of the top five responses was collecting and safely storing important personal financial documents. A FEMA survey conducted in 2011 showed that less than 35 percent of Americans report having copies of their vital records stored as part of their preparedness kit. FEMA (www.fema.gov), together with Operation HOPE (www.operationhope.org), released an updated tool to support emergency financial preparedness. The Emergency Financial First Aid Kit (EFFAK) -- <http://www.ready.gov/financialpreparedness> -- helps individuals and families at all income levels collect and secure critical financial documents and information. The updated EFFAK includes new checklists and forms that can be filled out online and saved electronically. You can access the updated EFFAK on the FEMA or Operation HOPE websites. Learn more about this valuable tool and how it can help your family. The America's PrepareAthon! campaign also offers financial preparedness support materials, including the "Be Smart. Protect Your Critical Documents and Valuables" guide. Remember, disaster preparedness extends beyond storing water and supplies. Having a plan to pay your bills and access your important records and accounts will help you on the road to recovery.

FEMA Seeks Input

FEMA is seeking comments from insurance companies and associations on a proposed policy which requires applicants of its Public Assistance program to obtain and maintain insurance coverage equal to the assistance FEMA provided. Comments must be submitted through the process outlined in the federal register notice and are due on Dec. 8. In 2013, the Public Assistance program obligated more than \$4.5 billion. Under federal law, applicants who receive assistance under the Public Assistance program are required to obtain and maintain insurance coverage for the peril which caused the damage for at least the amount of funding FEMA provided. The proposed policy, among other things, clarifies that this requirement extends to both flood and non-flood events and can be satisfied through a variety of options including commercial insurance, blanket policies, insurance pools, self-insurance or a combination of these options. The Public Assistance Program provides grants to state, territorial, local and federally recognized tribal governments and certain private non-profit entities to assist them with the response to and recovery from disasters. Specifically, the program provides assistance for debris removal, emergency protective measures, and permanent restoration of infrastructure such as roads and bridges, water control facilities, public buildings and contents, public utilities, and parks, recreational and other facilities. The Public Assistance Policy on Insurance was recently posted to the Federal Register. The notice and related documents are online at www.regulations.gov/#!docketDetail;D=FEMA-2014-0029.

Volunteers Needed for CERT Exercise

The Fairfax County Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) is seeking victim actors who can help trainees practice their skills. The exercise is perfect for drama classes, students needing community service hours, retired persons, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts and anyone interested in disasters. The exercise is on Saturday, Nov. 15, from 7 a.m. until 2 p.m. at the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Lorton training site, located at the former Lorton Juvenile Detention Center in Lorton. Victim actors must be 16 years of age or older; must wear closed-toe shoes (no flip-flops, Crocs, sandals, etc.); should dress in clothes appropriate for the weather and that you don't mind messing up with fake blood, etc.; and will need to sign a waiver. CERT will provide simulated wound makeup and give you symptoms to role-play. When the exercise is over, they'll also feed you lunch. To volunteer, send an email to actors@fairfaxcountycert.org.



Emergency News
by email
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HHS Advances Development of Ebola Vaccine

The development of a vaccine to prevent Ebola virus disease will be accelerated with support from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR). Under a one-year contract with Profectus BioSciences Inc., headquartered in Baltimore, ASPR's Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA) will provide approximately \$5.8 million in funding, in addition to subject matter expertise and technical assistance, to further develop an experimental Ebola vaccine. The company will manufacture vaccine for use in animal safety studies and future clinical trials and conduct animal studies to test safety. The contract can be extended to a total of 13 months and \$8.6 million. Upon successful completion of this work, the company is expected to submit an investigational new drug application to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA). This application, once accepted by the FDA, would allow the vaccine to begin the first clinical trials for safety in humans.

<http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2014pres/10/20141016a.html>

Virginia Tech Becomes Nation's First EMAP-Accredited University

Virginia Tech is the first institution of higher education in the country to receive accreditation from the Emergency Management Accreditation Program (EMAP).

"Accreditation demonstrates that Virginia Tech makes the safety and security of our students, faculty, and staff a priority. We have devoted significant time and energy to build a culture of



preparedness on campus," said Sherwood Wilson, vice president for administration, in a press release distributed by Virginia Tech. "It's quite an achievement to be the first." Virginia Tech joins the Commonwealth of Virginia as the two entities in Virginia to receive EMAP accreditations. To view the press release from Virginia Tech, go to vtnews.vt.edu/articles/2014/10/102214-vpa-emapaccreditation.html

More Than 1.2 Million Registrants Join Virginia's "ShakeOut"

"The Great Southeast ShakeOut" was lead by Virginia this year, with more than 1.2 million registered participants in Commonwealth, totaling more than half of the entire Southeast region. Local government agencies and private-sector partners like the Red Cross and Dominion Virginia Power joined the Virginia Department of Emergency Management in practicing earthquake safety with "drop, cover, and hold on" Oct. 16 at 10:16 a.m. Numerous Fairfax County agencies also participated in the drill at government buildings and offices throughout the county. The earthquake drill was a great chance to have a conversation with coworkers and really think, even for just a few moments, about what to do in an emergency such as an earthquake. Learn more from www.ShakeOut.org.

Fairfax County Government Radio is Live Online

After the June 2012 Derecho storm, Fairfax County conducted a community survey about communications. Nearly 6,000 respondents answered questions and generated nearly 18,000 individual comments, which provided some great insight for communications during emergencies. For example, the second highest ranked way to access emergency information cited by residents was radio, only behind mobile devices. In the feedback provided, it also was suggested by many respondents that Fairfax County should create its own radio station that the county could program so that residents did not have to wait for commercial stations to get around to sharing county-specific messages. So, as an after action, Fairfax County created Fairfax County Government Radio, an online Internet station. You can listen online as well as on your mobile device, meaning that you'll be able to hear Fairfax County Government Radio 24 hours-a-day, seven days-a-week, anywhere you may be. And during emergencies, we will use the station to share important emergency information, including weather, in an audio format, the same way we currently use other platforms — like the emergency information blog (www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency/blog) and our emergency alert system where you can get emergency alerts by both text and email (www.fairfaxcounty.gov/alerts). The station is on air now; tune in and listen at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/radio.



PLANNING / PREPAREDNESS

Businesses Ready and Willing to Help Communities During Emergencies

During the January 2014 winter storm that crippled the Atlanta metro area and left thousands stranded on the city's highways, businesses stepped up to the plate to assist those with nowhere to turn. Home Depot opened 26 stores in Georgia and Alabama to shelter stranded travelers, and other local stores like Walgreens, Wal-Mart and Target welcomed weary – and cold – drivers who abandoned their cars when it was obvious they were not going to make it home that night. These businesses provided the community with resources and services when people needed them most. For more information on how businesses can partner for preparedness, visit <http://www.cdc.gov/phpr/partnerships/>.



Businesses, organizations, government agencies, colleges and schools, and families and individuals are encouraged to learn about tornado safety by participating in the next Statewide Tornado Drill, set for March 17, 2015, at 9:45 a.m. In case of widespread inclement weather on that date, the drill will be held the next day. Get more information and register at www.ReadyVirginia.gov.

The Taming of the Flu

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), winter is the typical season for influenza activity, but flu outbreaks can happen as early as October. The flu is different from a common cold, and usually comes on suddenly. Flu symptoms can include muscle or body aches; sore throat; cough; headaches; and fever. Anyone can get the flu, but some people are at high risk of developing serious flu-related complications. This includes people age 65 years and older, people with chronic medical conditions (such as asthma, diabetes or heart disease), pregnant women and young children. Now is a good time to prepare for the upcoming flu season. The best way to prevent this respiratory illness is by getting a flu vaccine each year. There are several vaccine options available this season, including the flu shot and nasal spray. If you are sick with the flu, avoid spreading it by:

- Staying home from school or work.
- Covering your mouth with your elbow when you cough or sneeze.
- Washing your hands often with soap and warm water.

For more information about the upcoming flu season and how to prevent its spread of this illness, visit www.CDC.gov.

McAuliffe Announces Homeland Security Grant Awards

Governor Terry McAuliffe announced earlier this month that more than \$4.8 million in federal funds will be awarded to multiple local government agencies to enhance emergency preparedness throughout Virginia, including three for Fairfax County. The funds, administered by the Virginia Department of Emergency Management, are from the fiscal year 2014 State Homeland Security Grant program. "These critical funds, provided by our partners at the U.S.

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Department of Homeland Security, will be used immediately to help emergency planners and first responder agencies throughout Virginia get tools, equipment and other resources they need to keep Virginia communities safe,” said McAuliffe. “With this grant, Virginia joins federal and local governments in working together proactively to ensure that our residents are better protected and able to recover more quickly from possible terrorist attacks, major disasters and other emergencies.” To allot the funds, the Office of the Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security invited project proposals from local government agencies to be submitted in ten categories of special emphasis and priority for Virginia. A total of 187 project proposals valued at more than \$23 million were received. A total of 79 projects valued at \$4.8 million met the criteria and will receive funding.

<https://governor.virginia.gov/newsroom/newsarticle?articleId=6828>

Cyber Security Task Force Takes “Whole Government” Approach

Hackers compromising banking and retail networks to steal consumers’ personal information. Foreign actors virtually accessing our trade secrets. Criminal groups lining their pockets by exploiting any online vulnerability they can find. In today’s virtual world, it is well known that cyber crime can jeopardize our privacy, our economy, and even our national security. Less well known is an organization – the National Cyber Investigative Joint Task Force (NCIJTF) – that is working around the clock to fight the threat.

<http://www.fbi.gov/news/stories/2014/october/cyber-security-task-force-takes-whole-government-approach>

Sneaky Gas

When power outages occur after severe weather such as hurricanes or snow storms, using alternative sources of power can cause carbon monoxide (CO) to build up in your home and poison your family. CO is a colorless, odorless gas created by gas ranges, portable generators, and burning wood, and is also produced by running your car. While hundreds of people die in the U.S. each year from accidental CO poisoning, this tragedy can be prevented. You should follow these important safety tips:

- Operate portable generators outdoors in a well-ventilated location away from windows, doors, and vent openings.
- Do not run your car inside a garage that is attached to your home, even if the garage door is open to the outside.
- Never use your oven or stove to heat your home.

Having a battery-powered or battery back-up CO detector in your home can also help protect you. Just be sure to check it every six months. Since you can’t see or smell carbon monoxide, it is important to recognize the most common symptoms of CO poisoning which include:

- Shortness of breath.
- Fatigue.
- Nausea.

CO poisoning can be confused with flu symptoms, food poisoning and other illnesses. If you think you’re experiencing CO poisoning, get fresh air and seek medical attention immediately!

<http://www.cdc.gov/co/guidelines.htm>

<http://www.epsc.gov/PageFiles/112345/464.pdf>

National Terrorism Advisory System

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

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

Depending on the nature of the threat, alerts may be sent to law enforcement, distributed to affected areas of the

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

Emergency Alerts (Fairfax Alerts) – In the Know, On the Go

Get emergency alerts by email, as well as by text or pager. Sign up at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/alerts.

You Choose the Type of Alerts

- Pick the types of weather alerts you wish to receive, along with traffic and public safety alerts.
- Create a “do not disturb” timeframe when you don’t want to receive weather alerts.
- Learn about county government non-emergency notices such as taxes and elections.

Alerts for Many Different Devices

- Choose up to 10 delivery methods like home phone, cell phone, email, text messaging and more.
- Manage your Fairfax Alerts profile from your phone by downloading the iPhone or Android app.
- Mobile app allows for two-way conversations with emergency managers and does not use text messaging service.

Alerts for Your Locations

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

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



MEDIA ARTICLES OF INTEREST

Better Storm Forecasts Coming this Winter

The next time some nasty storms are heading your way, the National Weather Service says it will have a better forecast of just how close they could come to you. The weather service yesterday started using a new high-resolution computer model that officials say will dramatically improve forecasts for storms up to 15 hours in advance.

<http://www.emsworld.com/news/11707346/nws-forecasts-become-more-localized>

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/capital-weather-gang/wp/2014/09/30/rapid-refresh-weather-model-to-aid-severe-storm-tracking/>



Disaster Prone: Could FEMA Have Saved \$4 Billion on Emergency Spending?

The number of federal disaster declarations has ballooned in the last decade; Presidents George W. Bush and Barack Obama have made 38 percent of all declarations since the programs began in 1953. Some critics say this trend of nationalizing disasters that were traditionally handled by state and local governments is stretching the Federal Emergency Management Agency too thin and diverting resources from more serious crises. Further, the calculation

of whether one receives aid often has more to do with where the disaster occurred than the level of damage.

<http://media.scrippsnationalnews.com/disaster-prone>

Why Big Data Missed the Early Warning Signs of Ebola

By the time data-mining early warning systems picked up on Ebola in Guinea in March, the government of that country had already notified the WHO of the outbreak. Most monitoring systems emphasize English-language material and even systems that translate from other languages cannot cover all sources. In the case of Ebola in Guinea, early social media conversations among aid workers and local media sources that could have tipped monitoring systems were mostly in French and were not translated. This highlights a need for better and more local data to enhance early warning systems, as well as mechanisms for translating it.

http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2014/09/26/why_big_data_missed_the_early_warning_signs_of_ebola

Why Ebola Won't Spread in U.S.

Ebola has arrived in the United States and people are frightened. The nation's top infectious diseases expert says it's perfectly normal to feel anxious about a virus that kills so fast and is ravaging parts of West Africa. Dr. Anthony Fauci of the National Institutes of Health emphasizes that the United States is different from African nations where fragile health care systems have been overwhelmed by Ebola. Scientists know how to stop the virus from spreading with adequate resources, he says.

http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/U/US_EBOLA_IN_AMERICA?SITE=AP&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT&CTIME=2014-10-06-16-22-21

As Ebola Spreads, a Look Back at Bird Flu

As scary as the Ebola incidents in Texas and the outbreak in Africa are, it's worth noting that nine years ago this month the country was confronting another outbreak that looked rather ominous, too: a deadly strain of influenza that had originated in birds in Asia. The so-called bird flu elicited a widespread government response, including a white paper from then-President George W. Bush's White House laying out the strategies should the flu reach pandemic levels in the United States.

<http://www.emergencymgmt.com/health/Ebola-Spreads-Look-Back-Bird-Flu.html>

Facebook's New Tool Tells Friends You're Safe During Natural Disasters

In the wake of the earthquake and tsunami that devastated Japan in 2011, a team of Japanese Facebook engineers went to work on tools that would help people connect and communicate with friends and family in the event of other natural disasters. These tools were available only in Japan, but now, this same work has spawned a new Facebook feature meant to provide help in the event of any natural disaster, worldwide. Revealed by Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg on Thursday Oct. 16 in Tokyo, the tool is called Safety Check. When natural disaster hits, such as an earthquake in Japan or typhoon in the Philippines, it lets Facebook users quickly alert family and friends that they are safe.

<http://www.wired.com/2014/10/facebook-unveils-tool-alerting-friends-safety-natural-disaster/>

<http://www.emsworld.com/news/11735785/facebook-safety-check-tool>

Top Infectious Diseases Physicians Say Enterovirus D68 And Influenza Far More Dangerous Than Ebola In U.S.

A panel of infectious diseases experts this morning expressed far more grave concerns for Americans about the risks of flu and enterovirus D68 than for Ebola virus disease. That's noteworthy because the group included Bruce Ribner, MD, MPH, the Emory University Hospital doctor who led the team that successfully treated two Ebola-infected medical missionaries, Dr. Kent Brantly and Nancy Writebol. Infectious diseases caregivers and public health professionals are gathered in Philadelphia through the weekend for the annual meeting of the Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA), more commonly known as IDWeek 2014. The Society organized the press conference because of the very timely news about Ebola here, Europe, and West Africa, as well as children with respiratory disease caused by enterovirus D68. Of these three diseases, one kills 3,000 to 49,000 Americans each year, yet is preventable: Influenza.

<http://www.forbes.com/sites/davidkroll/2014/10/09/enterovirus-d68-and-influenza-far-more-dangerous-than-ebola->

[in-u-s-say-top-infectious-diseases-physicians](#)

How Nigeria Prevented an Ebola Epidemic

Nigeria is the most populous country in Africa and a growing economic powerhouse. The capital, Lagos, is home to some 21 million people – almost as many as live in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone combined. When news broke on July 23rd that a case of Ebola had been confirmed in Lagos, the world held its breath. But Nigeria has successfully prevented the feared “apocalyptic urban outbreak.”

<http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/284229.php>

Special Report: America's Perpetual State of Emergency

In his six years in office, President Obama has declared nine emergencies, allowed one to expire and extended 22 emergencies enacted by his predecessors. Since 1976, when Congress passed the National Emergencies Act, presidents have declared at least 53 states of emergency – not counting disaster declarations for events such as tornadoes and floods, according to a USA TODAY review of presidential documents. Most of those emergencies remain in effect.

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2014/10/22/president-obama-states-of-emergency/16851775/>

Tech Company Develops Ebola Virus Detection Test

A Baltimore-based bio tech company hopes to have a test ready by early next year that will detect the Ebola virus. Company officials said the test will be fast and accurate. It will detect Ebola on surfaces. Located in University of Maryland BioPark, PathSensors has developed technology to detect anything from salmonella to the nerve agent ricin.

<http://www.wbaltv.com/health/tech-company-develops-ebola-virus-detection-test/29324186>

Pentagon Builds Units to Transport Ebola Patients

As more U.S. troops head to West Africa, the Pentagon is developing portable isolation units that can carry up to 12 Ebola patients for transport on military planes. The Pentagon says it does not expect it will need the units for 3,000 U.S. troops heading to the region to combat the virus because military personnel will not be treating Ebola patients directly. Instead, the troops are focusing on building clinics, training personnel and testing patient blood samples for Ebola.

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/world/2014/10/26/ebola-transport-military-patients-aircraft-phoenix-air/17669025/>



www.CapitalRegionUpdates.gov

FLU

CDC Issues Updated Preparedness Framework for Flu Pandemics

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recently issued an updated framework

(http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr6306a1.htm?s_cid=rr6306a1_e) for pandemic flu preparedness and

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response, which incorporates information from new planning and response tools and aligns with the World Health Organization's new pandemic phases. "Compared with the previous U.S. government stages, this updated framework provides greater detail and clarity regarding the potential timing of key decisions and actions aimed at slowing the spread and mitigating the impact of an emerging pandemic," the agency said. The framework is intended to support and organize planning and response efforts at the federal, state and local levels. "The use of common concepts is critical for tracking the course of the pandemic, for communication, and for implementing timely, coordinated response efforts," the authors note.

<http://mhanewsnow.typepad.com/prepared/2014/09/cdc-issues-updated-preparedness-framework-for-flu-pandemics.html>

HHS Pursues Detection Tests for Influenza

Potential tests to help doctors diagnose influenza sooner and more accurately will advance in development under contracts from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR). The tests could help boost influenza pandemic preparedness by increasing diagnostic capabilities in near-patient care settings such as doctors' offices, clinics and hospitals. One award will advance the development of a simple, low-cost molecular test under a 3.5-year, \$12.9 million contract with Alere Inc., headquartered in Waltham, Mass. The other award, to InDevR Inc., of Boulder, Colo., will allow a biochip test to move forward under a two-year, \$7.9 million contract with options to extend the contract up to \$14.7 million over four years. The tests use different technologies to detect influenza viruses and offer different levels of information about the viruses detected. Both tests would use swabs taken from a patient's nasal passage. Alere will develop its iNAT Influenza A&B test which could yield results within 15 minutes and show whether a patient has an infection caused by a seasonal influenza virus type A or B infection. InDevR will develop its FluChip-8G test to identify seasonal influenza viruses and recognize novel flu viruses within four hours in near-patient settings.

<http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2014pres/10/20141001a.html>

Candidate H7N9 Avian Flu Vaccine Works Better With Adjuvant

An experimental vaccine to protect people against H7N9 avian influenza prompted immune responses in 59 percent of volunteers who received two injections at the lowest dosage tested, but only if the vaccine was mixed with adjuvant – a substance that boosts the body's response to vaccination. Without adjuvant, immune responses produced by the investigational vaccine were minimal regardless of vaccine dosage, according to findings from a clinical trial sponsored by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), part of the National Institutes of Health. The Phase 2 trial enrolled 700 healthy adults aged 19 to 64 years old at four NIAID-sponsored Vaccine and Treatment Evaluation Units (VTEU) in the United States. It was led by Mark J. Mulligan, M.D., of Emory University, Atlanta. Results appear in the current issue of the "Journal of the American Medical Association."

<http://www.nih.gov/news/health/oct2014/niaid-07.htm>

Fairfax County Pandemic Flu Preparedness

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

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



TRAININGS / EXERCISES / CONFERENCES

Secured Cities Conference 2014

Nov. 4-6; Baltimore, Md.

A collaborative peer-to-peer venue, Secured Cities provides the only platform where public/private partnership initiatives, including technology, funding and budget issues, can be discussed, ideas shared and solutions reached through comprehensive education and networking opportunities.

<http://securedcities.com/>

IAEM 62nd Annual Conference & EMEX 2014

Nov. 14-19; San Antonio, Tex.

The International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM) Annual Conference provides a forum to discuss current trends and topics, share information about the latest tools and technology in emergency management and homeland security, and advance the work of IAEM. This year's theme is "Navigating the New Normal."

<http://www.iaem.com/page.cfm?p=events/annual-conference>

6th Annual Aid & International Development Forum (AIDF) Disaster Relief Summit

Nov. 19-20; Washington, D.C.

The summit strives to enable quicker and better response during crisis and catastrophes in a more effective, sustainable and cost-efficient way. This year's program focuses on best practice in logistics and transport, innovations in water security and ICT solutions for disaster relief while also offering experiential zone and unique pitch tank sessions.

<http://disaster-relief.aidforum.org/>

Planning for High-Impact Threats to Critical Infrastructure

Dec. 5; Washington, D.C.

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

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

EMS Today 2015

Feb. 25-28, 2015; Baltimore, Md.

EMS Today, now in its 34th year, is a unique and stimulating experience for emergency medical services (EMS) personnel worldwide. This event offers four full days of workshops, sessions, competitions, networking and more.

http://www.emstoday.com/index.html#showcase_3

2015 Virginia Emergency Management Symposium

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

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

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

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

March 23-26, 2015; Orlando, Fla.

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

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

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SPIE Defense + Security 2015

April 20-25, 2015; Baltimore, Md.

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

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

International Hazardous Materials Response Teams Conference & Expo 2015

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

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

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

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.redcrossna.org/Online/disaster_registration.php

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

Published monthly by the Office of Emergency Management

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

LINKS

Fairfax County Web Resources

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

Additional Web Resources

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

DHS Science & Technology Directorate Newsletter

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

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

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report (OSIR)

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

Fairfax County Government Emergency Information Line

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/opa/infoline.htm

Emergency Management Magazine

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

FEMA Private Sector

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

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Emergency Information: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency

To Unsubscribe:

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

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

Please forward this ESF 15 Business/Nonprofit Update to other contacts you have inside or outside your organization. If you have any suggestions on how to improve this update or other communications between Fairfax County and the business/nonprofit community, contact Tony Castrilli, Director of the Fairfax County Office of Public Affairs, at 703-324-3187, TTY 711, or by e-mail at anthony.castrilli@fairfaxcounty.gov.

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