



ESF 15 Business / Nonprofit Update

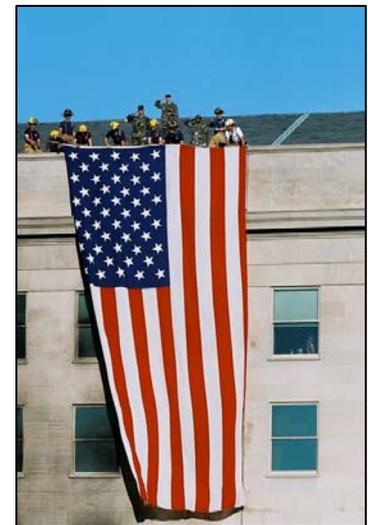
Produced by Emergency Support Function 15 – External Affairs

September 2010

ITEMS OF INTEREST FOR ESF 15



Remembering 9/11... At left, remembering those lost on United Airlines Flight 175 and at the World Trade Center; above right, those lost on United Airlines Flight 93 in Shanksville, Pa.; and at right, those lost on American Airlines Flight 77 and at the Pentagon.



Photos courtesy of The TSA blog

<http://blog.tsa.gov/>

New FEMA Web Page Promotes Public-Private Partnerships

As part of its ongoing efforts to cultivate public-private partnerships at the state and local level, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) recently launched a new Web page for state and local officials and their private sector partners to provide them with resources and the opportunity to share practices and ideas. The goal of the new page is to build a national resource that will benefit emergency management professionals and their constituents in communities nationwide. The new Public-Private Partnerships page is just the latest of FEMA's many initiatives to engage the private sector in the nation's preparedness, response, and recovery. The page provides templates and models of successful programs around the country. These partnerships include regional, state and city examples. FEMA created the web page to not only recognize partnerships but also provide tools to establish and strengthen partnerships in communities nationwide. Additional tools include a list of benefits of starting a program, online resources and information on grants and funding options.

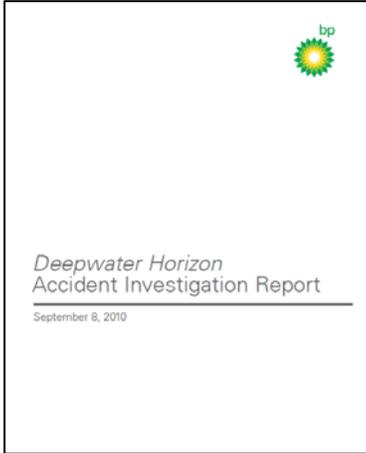
<http://www.fema.gov/privatesector/ppp.shtm>

Buses Carry Preparedness Month Ads

The city of Fairfax used Local Emergency Management Planning Grant and Citizen Corps Program funds to purchase bus advertising through September to promote National Preparedness Month. Five buses traveled through the city, George Mason University and the Vienna Metro station with an ad that directed people to the city's website (www.fairfaxva.gov) and the Ready Virginia site www.ReadyVirginia.gov.

Reprinted courtesy of the Virginia Department of Emergency Management

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BP Releases Report on Gulf Oil Spill

The long-awaited BP report on why the Deepwater Horizon drilling rig blowout occurred was recently released. According to the report, “no single factor” led to the disaster on April 20 that killed 11 workers and spread oil all throughout the Gulf of Mexico. Instead, BP claimed that “a complex and interlinked series of mechanical failures, human judgments, engineering design, operational implementation and team interfaces came together to allow the initiation and escalation of the accident. Multiple companies, work teams and circumstances were involved over time.” The report includes eight key findings that relate to the cause of the accident. These include:

- The annulus cement barrier did not isolate the hydrocarbons.
 - The shoe track barriers did not isolate the hydrocarbons.
 - The negative-pressure test was accepted although well integrity had not been established.
- Influx was not recognized until hydrocarbons were in the riser.
 - Well control response actions failed to regain control of the well.
 - Diversion to the mud gas separator resulted in gas venting onto the rig.
 - The fire and gas system did not prevent hydrocarbon ignition.
 - The BOP emergency mode did not seal the well.

BP also notes that additional physical evidence may become available following the recovery of subsea activities. BP claims that it will consider how best to examine and respond to further evidence and insights as they emerge, though ongoing activities, investigations and hearings may also provide further insight.

<http://www.hSDL.org/hslog/?q=node/5747>

BP Report:

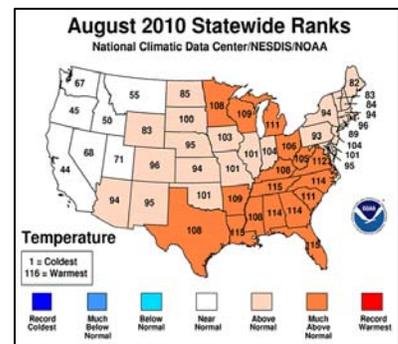
http://www.bp.com/liveassets/bp_internet/globalbp/globalbp_uk_english/incident_response/STAGING/local_assets/downloads_pdfs/Deepwater_Horizon_Accident_Investigation_Report.pdf

NOAA: Fourth Warmest U.S. Summer on Record

The contiguous United States had its fourth-warmest summer (June-August) on record, according to the latest NOAA “State of the Climate” report issued earlier this month. The report also showed the August average temperature was 75.0 degrees F, which is 2.2 degrees F above the long-term (1901-2000) average. Last month’s average precipitation was 2.41 inches, 0.19 inch below the 1901-2000 average. This monthly analysis, based on records dating back to 1895, is prepared by scientists at NOAA’s National Climatic Data Center in Asheville, N.C., and is part of the suite of climate services NOAA provides.

http://www.noaanews.noaa.gov/stories2010/20100908_augtemps.html

Photo Credit: NOAA





Emergency Preparedness in Fairfax County

Fox 5 television focused on emergency preparedness in conjunction with the ninth anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the U.S., broadcasting live from the McConnell Public Safety and Transportation Operations Center (MPSTOC) on Monday morning, Sept. 13. Dave McKernan, coordinator of emergency management for Fairfax County, was featured, along with Sulayman Brown, emergency operations center manager, and Marcelo Ferreira, community liaison, with Fairfax County's Office of Emergency Management. Tracy Shelton, MPSTOC general manager, along with Matt Lyttle, Volunteer Fairfax's emergency response program manager, were also featured in the morning's interviews with Fox 5 reporter Matt Ackland.

<http://www.myfoxdc.com/dpp/news/local/inside-look-at-emergency-preparedness-center-091310>

Napolitano in New York City to Commemorate Ninth Anniversary of 9/11

Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary Janet Napolitano inscribes "God Bless America" and signs her name at the site of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks – part of the new construction ongoing in the footprints of the former World Trade Center. Napolitano visited New York City on Sept. 10-11 to commemorate the ninth anniversary of 9/11.

Photo by The Port Authority of New York & New Jersey/Michael Dombrowski.

http://www.dhs.gov/ynews/releases/pr_1284170927631.shtm



Emergency Training Exercise Held on Friday, Sept. 17

Fairfax County held an emergency training exercise on Friday, Sept. 17, at the [McConnell Public Safety and Transportation Operations Center](#) (MPSTOC) on Alliance Drive in Fairfax. Exercise participants mainly trained inside the MPSTOC building, but a contingent of county agencies staged in the MPSTOC parking lot, which is between Route 29, the Fairfax County Parkway and West Ox Road. The all-day exercise was intended to train personnel that respond to the county's Emergency Operations Center in the Incident Command System (ICS) and how that integrates with the National Incident Management System (NIMS). The exercise also included establishing a unified command of response agencies on location at an event site. To exercise the field location, emergency response agencies, including police, fire and rescue, health and public works, established a unified command post in the MPSTOC parking lot. The McConnell Public Safety and Transportation Operations Center is a partnership between the commonwealth of Virginia and Fairfax County and houses personnel from the Virginia Department of Transportation and Virginia State Police, as well as the county's [Office of Emergency Management](#), [Department of Public Safety Communications](#) (9-1-1 Center), [Police Department](#) and [Fire and Rescue Department](#). The Police Forensics facility also is housed in a separate building connected to the MPSTOC. MPSTOC was officially opened in October 2008 with a [ribbon-cutting](#) by members of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, local and state dignitaries, and the center's namesake, former Fairfax County Supervisor Elaine McConnell.

Social Networking for Emergency Management and Public Safety

On March 10, the workshop titled "Social Networking for Emergency Management and Public Safety" was held in Seattle, Wa. The objective of this workshop was to showcase ways social media networking technologies can be used

to support emergency management and public safety operations. The general consensus of participants was that social media tools can help communicate with the public in emergencies, build situational awareness, and spur recovery. A report summarizing the information presented by the keynote speakers and panelists lays out conclusions on where the tools are today and their potential role in emergency response planning and implementation now and in the future. Among the conclusions:

- Agencies have to trust the public on some level to manage emergencies. All emergencies are local and public.
- More needs to be studied in regards to how crowd sourcing leads to robust decisions. Experts in general tend to struggle with the concept that people are turning more and more online to a fan base to help guide their decisions.
- Deferring the release of information is no longer an option. Social media tools can be used; they are being used and used well in the emergency management community. Agencies must consider the ramifications (staffing, resources, control of information) when joining the social media conversation.
- Public demand and competition, even among government agencies, will drive the data. One city cannot afford to remain silent when others are openly sharing.
- People want information, and they expect it immediately. The challenge will be balancing resources and accuracy against the need to produce instant information.
- Government agencies may have to change policies, practices, and skill sets to effectively use social media. They will need to use new terms like branding and dialogue. They may also need to partner more broadly.

http://nwrta.pnl.gov/docs/social_networking.pdf

Ready Business Mentoring Initiative

Designed as a call-to-action for business leaders, the Ready Campaign has created the Ready Business Mentoring Initiative. This new initiative is designed to help owners and managers of small and medium-sized businesses prepare for emergencies. The initiative includes Ready Business Mentoring Guides which are designed to teach business owners and managers about

affordable ways to better protect their businesses. In addition, the Ready Campaign collaborated with the Education Disaster Extension Network (EDEN) to create presentation materials to support the Ready Business Mentoring Guides. See the mentoring guides and more information about the initiative on the Ready website.

<http://www.ready.gov/business/mentor/index.htm>



FEMA Launches New PSA Campaign In Spanish to Encourage Hispanic Americans to Take Steps to Prepare for Emergencies

The Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Ad Council were joined recently by Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa to launch a new series of Spanish-language public service advertisements (PSAs) encouraging Americans to take steps to prepare for emergencies. The PSAs were launched as part of National Preparedness Month, and direct viewers to Listo.gov, the Spanish-language extension of Ready.gov. According to a recent Ad Council survey, nearly six in ten Hispanic Americans have not taken steps to prepare for an emergency.

<http://www.fema.gov/news/newsrelease.fema?id=52710>



Congressional Domestic Preparedness Panel Chair: CBRNE "Incident Will Happen"

A congressionally-mandated commission says the United States has an "urgent" need to implement changes in the way the U.S. Department of Defense plans for and would respond to a chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear or high-yield explosive (CBRNE) incident. The report of the "Advisory Panel on Department of Defense Capabilities for Support of Civil Authorities After Certain Incidents" provides more than 40 recommendations about how the nation can overcome obstacles that complicate the nation's ability to respond effectively to CBRNE incidents. The study, "Before Disaster Strikes – Imperatives for Enhancing Defense

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Support of Civil Authorities,” focuses mostly on the military-civil response issues which are generally beyond the subject matter of the blog.

<http://incaseofemergencyblog.com/2010/09/20/congressional-domestic-preparedness-panel-chair-cbrne-incident-will-happen/>

Report: <http://www.rand.org/nsrd/DoD-CBRNE-Panel/Report-Advisory-Panel.pdf>

FEMA Provides More Than \$6.2 Million to Virginia Department Of Transportation

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security’s Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) announced earlier this month the approval of \$6,280,483.39 in federal funds to the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) for costs associated with debris removal, emergency protective measures and state maintained infrastructure from the 2009 severe winter storms. To date, more than \$21 million has been obligated to Virginia applicants affected by the December disaster. Expenses incurred by VDOT include costs for labor, materials, fees and equipment, as well as for cleaning up the widespread heavy deposits of timber and woody debris along roads within Buchanan, Dickerson, Lee, Russell, Scott and Wise Counties in VDOT’s Bristol District; snow removal efforts including labor, equipment, contractor services, materials for salt, as well as meals for employees on duty during their 48 hour reimbursement period in both Fairfax and Prince William Counties.

<http://www.fema.gov/news/newsrelease.fema?id=52783>

DHS Could Improve Public Transit Security Information Sharing, Says GAO

Among the 12 most frequently cited mechanisms for sharing security information, the public transit agencies surveyed by the Government Accountability Office “were the least satisfied with” the Homeland Security Department’s Homeland Security Information Network, reports the GAO. Furthermore, GAO identified the potential for overlap between the Public Transportation Information Sharing and Analysis Center, the Homeland Security Information Network public transit subportal, and the Transportation Security Information Sharing and Analysis Center, which all communicate similar unclassified and security-related information to public transit agencies. Federal and transit industry officials ... reported the need to streamline information sharing. Moreover, a greater proportion of survey respondents who were unaware of the Public Transportation Information Sharing and Analysis Center or Homeland Security Information Network “were from midsize agencies, nonrail agencies, and those without their own police department.

GAO Summary: <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-10-895>

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.

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- 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://vaemergency.com/>

FEMA Administrator Kicks Off National Preparedness Month

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Administrator Craig Fugate kicked off the seventh annual National Preparedness Month, joining local Washington, D.C. officials and students from Ferebree-Hope Elementary School at the Serve DC Commander Ready event on Sept. 1, to talk about the importance of family and community emergency preparedness, especially as Hurricane Earl approached the East Coast of the U.S. and other storms continue to form in the Atlantic Ocean. National Preparedness Month is led by FEMA's Ready Campaign in partnership with Citizen Corps and The Advertising Council, and is a nationwide effort encouraging individuals, families, businesses and communities to work together and take action to prepare for emergencies. National Preparedness Month is supported by a coalition of public, private and non-profit organizations that help spread the preparedness message.

<http://www.fema.gov/news/newsrelease.fema?id=52558>

Office of Emergency Management Provides Tips for Businesses

The Fairfax County Office of Emergency Management has begun offering articles and resources for area businesses to use in newsletters, publications and online, as well as presentations specifically designed for area businesses – small and large. For more details, contact Marcelo Ferreira at 571-350-1013. At right, an emergency preparedness article as printed in the Springfield Chamber of Commerce newsletter.

CHALLENGE COMPLEX

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IMAGE

Prepare Your Employees To Withstand a Disaster

Disasters and emergencies can affect anyone at any time. Do you and your employees have the plans and supplies in place to help withstand the first three to five days after a disaster? Employee preparedness can be the difference in whether your business is able to effectively recover from a disaster. The Fairfax County Office of Emergency Management suggests three steps that each individual and family should take to prepare for an emergency.

- 1. MAKE A PLAN**
 Determine how you will contact your family, and get back together, if you are separated during an emergency. Be sure to identify what you will do in various situations. More information is available at www.ready.gov and www.kiaaonline.org.
- 2. ASSEMBLE A KIT**
 An emergency kit should contain basic supplies to help you withstand a disaster. It's best to think first about the basics of survival: fresh water, food, clean air and warmth. Employees should also consider a smaller kit for their office, including snack foods and other appropriate items, in case it's necessary to shelter in place while at work.
- 3. STAY INFORMED**
 The most convenient way to stay up-to-date about local emergencies is to register for the Community Emergency Alert Network (CEAN), which delivers important emergency alerts, notifications and updates during a major emergency, and weather and traffic alerts. Register at www.fairfaxcounty.gov. Businesses can even sign up to file employees, such as security officers or communications officers, so that those with responsibilities of informing employees will know what's happening and can share with your workforce.

The Office of Emergency Management would like to help you and your colleagues the tools to prepare for an emergency. If you or your business are in need of a presentation about emergency preparedness or other emergency related topics, contact Marcelo Ferreira at 571-350-1013, TTY 711, or by e-mail at marcelo.ferreira@fairfaxcounty.gov. The Fairfax County Office of Emergency Management web page (www.fairfaxcounty.gov/em) and the county's emergency information Web page (www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency) are also helpful resources and feature valuable information for businesses and employees alike.

Other resources for businesses include:

- Virginia Department of Emergency Management: Business Toolkit (www.vcenteragency.com/business/Business_Toolkit.pdf)
- Federal Emergency Management Agency: Ready Business (www.ready.gov/business/index.html)
- Department of Homeland Security: Private Sector Resources Catalog (www.dhs.gov/subotgic_12731619442.stm)
- Internal Revenue Service: Disaster Assistance and Emergency Relief for Individuals and Businesses (www.irs.gov/businesses/small/article/0,cs102130,00.html)

TSA Could Do More for Pipeline Security, Says GAO

The Transportation Security Administration's Pipeline Security Division has identified the 100 most critical pipeline systems and developed a pipeline risk assessment model based on threat, vulnerability, and consequence, but could improve the model's consequence component and better prioritize its efforts, reports the Government Accountability Office. The consequence component takes into account the economic impact of a possible pipeline attack, but not other possible impacts such as public health and safety, as called for in Homeland Security Department risk management guidance. The division "plans to improve its model by adding more vulnerability and consequence data, but has no time frames for doing so."

<http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-10-867>

Social Media is Changing Emergency Management

From the Federal Emergency Management Agency to state and local entities, emergency operators are using social media and Web 2.0 technology to reach out and interact with the public and enhance communications among partners, reports "Government Computer News." "... Social media tools allow emergency managers to disseminate information to wider audiences, interact with the public, monitor social media networks to get a better sense of what's happening on the ground during a crisis, get better situational awareness, and improve collaboration for sharing information during an emergency and sharing of best practices and lessons learned." An American Red Cross report issued last month, "Social Media in Disasters and Emergencies," indicates that 18 percent [of adults] would turn to digital social media if calls to 9-1-1 were unsuccessful.

<http://gcn.com/articles/2010/09/06/social-media-emergency-management.aspx>

Avineon Inc. Introduces Readiness Index Tool for Measuring Emergency Preparedness

Avineon, Inc., a provider of IT, geospatial, engineering, and program management solutions, recently announced that its online Readiness Index™ tool debuted in September during the Department of Homeland Security's National Preparedness Month. The Readiness Index™ provides businesses with the opportunity to measure their emergency preparedness and will be introduced through a series of webinar demonstrations. The Readiness Index™ is a secure online system with the functionality to measure and monitor emergency preparedness against a 1 through 100 scale. On a daily basis, the system computes an overall readiness index for the organization and also a readiness index by emergency type. Organizations can use the tool to continuously monitor their level of preparedness for a wide range of disasters.

http://www.domesticpreparedness.com/Industry/Industry_Updates/Avineon_Inc._Introduces_Readiness_Index_Tool_for_Measuring_Emergency_Preparedness/

General Aviation Secure Program

The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) Office of General Aviation has recently launched the General Aviation Secure Program. This program is designed to build upon the Airport Watch program, encouraging everyone to be vigilant about general aviation security and report any unusual activities to TSA. The TSA notes that if anything raises your suspicions, it might be a problem.

For emergencies or time-sensitive issues, call 9-1-1 first.

- Aircraft with unusual modifications or activity.
- Pilots appearing to be under the control of others.
- Unfamiliar persons loitering around the field.
- Suspicious aircraft lease or rental requests.
- Anyone making threats.
- Unusual, suspicious activities or circumstances.

Aircraft Security

- Always lock your aircraft.
- Don't leave keys in unattended aircraft.
- Use secondary lock or aircraft disabler if available.
- Lock hangar when unattended.



New Report: Terrorism More Complex and Diverse Than Ever

The Bipartisan Policy Center recently released a report, "Assessing the Terrorist Threat: A Report of the Bipartisan Policy Center's National Security Preparedness Group," which outlines current terrorist threats. The findings of this report come from interviews with a wide range of senior U.S. counterterrorism officials at both the federal and local levels. Overall, the report finds that "the threat today is more complex and more diverse than at any time over the past nine years. Al-Qaeda or its allies continue to have the capacity to kill dozens, or even hundreds, of Americans in a single attack." The report also points out that a large number of Americans have been involved in the process of planning and carrying out recent terrorist attacks. Concerning weapons of mass destruction (WMD), the report claims that "militant jihadist groups will be able to deploy only crude chemical, biological, or radiological weapons for the foreseeable future, and these will not be true 'weapons of mass destruction,' but rather weapons of mass disruption, whose principal effect will be panic but likely few deaths."

<http://www.hsdl.org/hslog/?q=node/5749>

Report: <http://bit.ly/duPJEE>

FEMA Releases Two Tabletop Exercise Presentations Free For Download

How often do you get something for free? To mark National Preparedness Month, FEMA's Private Sector Division is releasing two Tabletop Exercise presentations, free for download and use by any organization as tools for continuity planning, preparedness and resiliency. They're designed so you can gather a group of employees or any team for a few hours and review an emergency plan, using these PowerPoint presentations and exercise "news" videos to add realism and spur discussion. We put a lot of work into these, and they are different than many others

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you have probably seen because:

- They are free and simple to use.
- They are filled in the notes pages so you can facilitate on your own.
- The Virtual News Network (VNN) injects make them compelling for a group setting.
- They are scalable to meet the timeframe and needs of your organization.
- There is both a Hurricane Scenario and a Chemical Accident Scenario (more scenarios to come).
- They weren't done in a vacuum – FEMA vetted them with private sector stakeholders and incorporated ideas.

For information, visit <http://www.fema.gov/privatesector/exercises.shtm>.

Study Calls for Sheltering-in-Place in the Event of Nuclear Attack

Using Washington, D.C. as a Model, Study Urges Sheltering Option Versus Evacuation

Stanford University experts have concluded that in the event of a nuclear detonation, people in large metropolitan areas are **better off sheltering-in-place in basements for 12-24 hours**

than trying to evacuate immediately, unless a lengthy warning period is provided. The scientific and engineering analysts comprehensively modeled the impacts of a detonation in downtown Washington, D.C. and calculated clogged exit roads would pose more significant risks by exposing evacuees to radiation than if people were to remain in place at the center of large buildings or in basements. “The logistical challenge of an evacuation appears to be beyond current response capabilities,” said author Lawrence M. Wein, the Jeffrey S. Skoll Professor of Management Science, at the Stanford Graduate School of Business. He noted, “Sheltering in basements saves approximately twice as many lives as being above ground” in the Washington, D.C. area. The authors recommend government encourage businesses and citizens to develop a basement shelter strategy, including the storage of food, water, blankets and other necessities at facilities and homes located in or near large cities.

<http://www.gsb.stanford.edu/news/research/wein-sheltering-in-place-attack.html>

Stanford University experts have concluded that in the event of a nuclear detonation, people in large metropolitan areas are better off sheltering-in-place in basements for 12-24 hours than trying to evacuate immediately, unless a lengthy warning period is provided.

Businesses with Preparedness Plans More Likely To Survive Disasters

One-fourth of all businesses that close because of a disaster never reopen, according to the Institute for Business and Home Safety. However, businesses that have and implement a disaster preparedness plan typically have less damage, loss and downtime than those that do not. “A business that survives a disaster helps the whole community recover from a disaster,” said Federal Coordinating Officer Gracia Szczech. Have a business continuity plan that includes: a pre-identified relocation site; means to retrieve data, including employee, customer and vendor records; a strategy for contacting people, such as a call-down tree; and a method for operating effectively with a smaller staff of key individuals. FEMA provides a step-by-step approach to emergency planning, response and recovery for companies of all sizes in the “Emergency Management Guide for Business and Industry,” available free in the FEMA publication library at <http://go.usa.gov/xbF>. Additional preparedness information is available at www.Ready.gov/business. The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) has partnered with Agility Recovery Solutions to offer business continuity strategies for small business owners via their “Prepare My Business” website (www.preparemybusiness.org). The SBA is a primary source of money for the long-term rebuilding of disaster-damaged private property – including businesses. For information about SBA programs, visit www.sba.gov or call 800-659-2955.

<http://www.fema.gov/news/newsrelease.fema?id=52693>

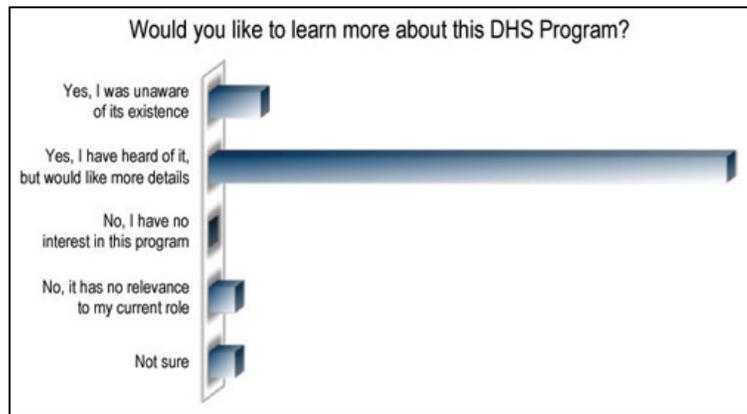
DomPrep Survey: PS-Prep, Is it Relevant?

Public Law 110-53 includes a provision (Title IX, PS-Prep), for the development of a voluntary disaster preparedness certification process for private sector entities. This voluntary certification and accreditation program is being developed and managed by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). One of the key elements of the program is the enhancement of private sector preparedness, readiness and resilience to natural and manmade disasters. Most DomPrep40 members who responded to this survey

indicated that they are not as knowledgeable about the PS-Prep Program as they would like to be. Nonetheless, most respondents supported at least some elements of the program – but many believe that there are other elements that need to be reviewed and perhaps modified. For more on PS-Prep, visit the DHS website at

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

http://www.domesticpreparedness.com/Commentary/DP40/DomPrep_Survey%3a_PS-Prep%2c_Is_It_Relevant/



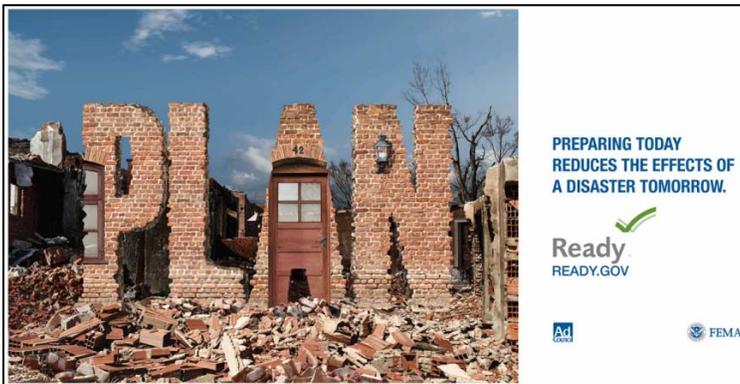
New Study Indicates Difficulty in Evaluating Effectiveness of Citizen Tips Campaigns

The Mineta Transportation Institute has released a report evaluating the security awareness tips campaigns aimed at the public, along the lines of the “See Something, Say Something” initiative, of five San Francisco-area transportation agencies. “Exploring the Effectiveness of Transit Security Awareness Campaigns in the San Francisco Bay Area” finds “none of the five agencies analyzed for this study measures the effectiveness of their campaigns. Whereas they all have a similar goal—to increase passenger awareness about security issues—little evidence therefore exists confirming whether they are achieving this goal.” But also according to the report: “A positive finding of this research is the consistency with which Bay Area transit organizations address the need for passenger awareness as part of their overall security program.”

<http://incaseofemergencyblog.com/2010/09/17/new-study-indicates-difficulty-in-evaluating-effectiveness-of-see-something-say-something-like-citizen-tips-campaigns/>

Report: http://transweb.sjsu.edu/mtiportal/research/publications/documents/2914_09-19.pdf

Mineta Transportation Institute: http://transweb.sjsu.edu/mtiportal/research/publications/summary/2914_09-19.html



Business Preparedness

Remember these three key steps to preparing your business: Get an emergency supply kit; make an emergency plan; and be informed about local threats.

www.ready.gov/business



New Data Show Gains in Public Health Preparedness

State and local health departments have made significant progress toward improving public health emergency preparedness and response capabilities, says a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report. The report, “Public Health Preparedness: Strengthening the Nation’s Emergency Response State by State,” presents data on a broad range of preparedness and response activities. Among the highlights: nearly 90 percent of states and localities demonstrated the ability to activate and rapidly staff their emergency operations centers for drills, exercises, or real

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incidents, and 96 percent developed after action reports/improvement plans following these activities.

http://www.cdc.gov/media/pressrel/2010/r100921.htm?s_cid=mediarel_r100921

In Case of Emergency, Please Remove Your Bra

Caught in a disaster? You'd better hope you're wearing the Emergency bra. Simply unsnap the bright red bra, separate the cups, and slip it over your head – one cup for you, and one for your friend. Dr. Elena Bodnar won an Ig Nobel Award for the invention last year, an annual tribute to scientific research that on the surface seems goofy but is often surprisingly practical. And now Bodnar has brought the eBra to the public; purchase one online for just \$29.95. It sounds silly, but Bodnar, a Ukraine native who now lives in Chicago, started her medical career studying the effects of the 1986 Chernobyl nuclear plant disaster. If people had had cheap, readily available gas masks in the first hours after the disaster, she said, they may have avoided breathing in Iodine-131, which causes radiation sickness. The bra-turned-gas masks could have also been useful during the Sept. 11



The Emergency Bra is a protective garment that transforms into two respiratory face masks in case of an emergency. www.EBra.com

terrorist attacks, and for women caught outside during the dust storms that recently enveloped Sydney, she said.

<http://www.foxnews.com/scitech/2010/09/23/emergency-remove-bra/>



MEDIA ARTICLES OF INTEREST

FEMA to Reimburse Metro for Snow Costs

Metro says the Federal Emergency Management Agency will reimburse it \$1.76 million to cover snow removal costs from the February storms. FEMA has already given Metro \$1 million for the December snowstorm. Metro says the storms \$12.7 million for snow removal and millions more in lost revenue. Related expenses include overtime, contractors and supplies such as salt, deicer and fuel for snow removal equipment. Metro worked with Washington on behalf of all three Metro jurisdictions to submit snow removal expenses to FEMA.

<http://www.wset.com/Global/story.asp?S=13122314>

Before a storm, bring in loose items from outside that could blow away such as furniture, garbage cans, plants, etc.

Microsoft To Shut Down Disaster Communication Service Vine

It's ironic that Microsoft chose the day before the anniversary of the 9/11 disaster to announce the shuttering of Vine – the service was built to help people in exactly those types of situations. Vine is designed to keep family and friends in touch when other communication methods are either broken or not particularly efficient. Times of crisis usually involve a breakdown in mobile phone or other key communication infrastructures, and Vine is designed to be as hardy as possible to keep people connected. Vine can be accessed via a desktop client (Windows only for now), text message or e-mail.

<http://techcrunch.com/2010/09/10/microsoft-to-shut-down-disaster-communication-service-vine/>

An Inside Look at the National Reconnaissance Office

Fox 5 television takes you inside a place few cameras ever go: inside the operations center for the National Reconnaissance Office in Chantilly, Va. After decades of keeping an eye on rival superpowers, in just a few days, a new generation of spy satellites will be launched to take over the job of being America's "Eyes in the Sky." Tom Fitzgerald has the Fox 5 exclusive.

<http://www.myfoxdc.com/dpp/news/local/an-inside-look-at-the-national-reconnaissance-office-091610>

To Text or Not to Text During Emergencies

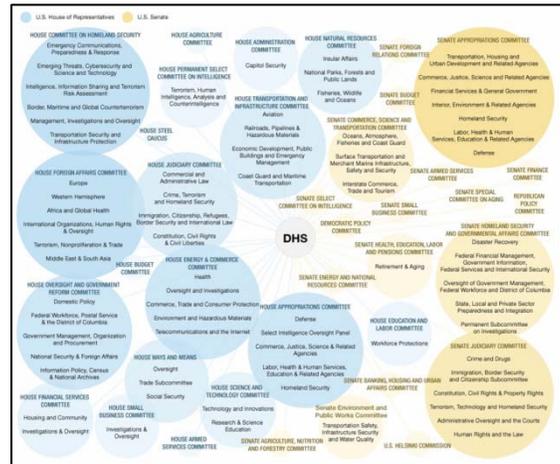
As part of National Preparedness Month, a group that promotes health and safety programs has launched an initiative to tell the public to use text messaging to communicate with friends and families immediately after an emergency or disaster before calling on the phone. But some telecommunications experts warn that might not be the best advice. Safe America Foundation, a nonprofit advocacy group based in Marietta, Ga., kicked off its Text First, Talk Second campaign, saying texting is more efficient and during an emergency not everybody can use voice lines. A person who texts has an 800-to-1 better chance of sending a message to someone in an emergency than using voice communications because a short message such as “imok,” for I’m OK, requires 4 bytes using standard text messaging protocols, according to data from Robert Duncan, vice chancellor for research at the University of Missouri and a member of the foundation’s volunteer advisory task force. But other telecommunication’s experts said texting is not reliable during emergency situations and voice communication should be the first option, especially when calling 9-1-1.

http://www.nextgov.com/nextgov/ng_20100914_5986.php

Who Oversees Homeland Security? Um, Who Doesn’t?

“ Truthfully ... most people miss the biggest problem, and that is that the direction you get from the committees tends to be inconsistent. ”
- Michael Chertoff, Homeland Security Secretary from 2005 to 2009

A few weeks ago, at a forum in Aspen, Colo., the deputy secretary of the Department of Homeland Security, Jane Holl Lute, was asked about congressional oversight of her department. How many committees and subcommittees have oversight over DHS? Her answer? 108. And that number has grown significantly since 2004.



<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=128642876>

Chart: <http://www.hlswatch.com/wp-content/uploads/2010/09/COngressional-oversight-of-DHS-.jpg>

FLU

Fairfax County Pandemic Flu Preparedness

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

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency/pandemicflu/>

Mutated Avian Flu H5N1 Can Infect Humans

A strain of highly pathogenic avian influenza (H5N1) that mutated in pigs in Indonesia has acquired the ability to infect humans, researchers have found, reports “Asahi.” The data suggests that pigs are at risk of infection during outbreaks of influenza virus A (H5N1) and can serve as intermediate hosts in which this avian virus can adapt to mammals, the [researchers] said in a report published in the online edition of the journal “Emerging Infectious Diseases” of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

<http://www.asahi.com/english/TKY201009010306.html>

Report: <http://www.cdc.gov/eid/content/16/10/PDFs/10-0508.pdf> (1.5MB, PDF)

How to Clean and Disinfect Schools to Slow the Spread of Flu

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Cleaning and disinfecting are part of a broad approach to preventing infectious diseases in schools. To help slow the spread of influenza (flu), the first line of defense is getting vaccinated. Other measures include covering coughs and sneezes, washing hands, and keeping sick people away from others. Below are tips on how to slow the spread of flu specifically through cleaning and disinfecting.

- Know the difference between cleaning, disinfecting and sanitizing.
 - Cleaning removes germs, dirt and impurities from surfaces or objects.
 - Disinfecting kills germs on surfaces or objects.
 - Sanitizing lowers the number of germs on surfaces or objects to a safe level, as judged by public health standards or requirements.
- Clean and disinfect surfaces and objects that are touched often.
- Simply do routine cleaning and disinfecting.
- Clean and disinfect correctly.
- Simply do routine cleaning and disinfecting.
- Handle waste properly.

<http://www.flu.gov/professional/school/cleaning.html>

Shocking Hand Sanitizer Study From University of Virginia

A surprising study has come out of the University of Virginia, and it might make you think twice about stocking up on hand sanitizer ahead of the coming flu season. Hand Sanitizer was the first line of defense in the war against the H1N1 Flu outbreak in 2009. But now a new study from UVA says the use of hand sanitizer is not effective in stopping the spread of the common cold or influenza.

<http://www.nbc29.com/Global/story.asp?S=13140075>

Flu Update from CDC

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports that in 2009-2010, a new and very different flu virus (called 2009 H1N1) spread worldwide causing the first flu pandemic in more than 40 years. CDC expects the 2009 H1N1 virus to spread again this season, along with other seasonal flu viruses. This season's flu vaccine will protect against three different flu viruses: an H3N2 virus, an influenza B virus and the H1N1 virus that caused so much illness last season. The CDC notes that you should get vaccinated this year even if you got a 2009 H1N1 or a seasonal vaccine last year because the vaccine viruses have been updated. Immunity sets in about two weeks after vaccination; flu vaccine provides protection through the flu season.

<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/about/qa/disease.htm>

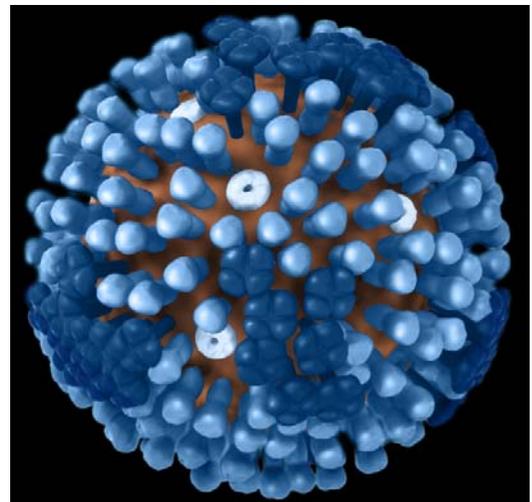
1 in 5 Territorians Have Had Swine Flu Vaccine

A survey has found about one in five people in the Northern Territory (Australia) have been vaccinated against swine flu. The study shows at the start of this year around 20 percent of the Territory's population had received the jab, in line with the rest of the country. But Dr. Penny Allbon from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare says a lot of people at greater risk of H1N1 did not heed the call to be vaccinated.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2010/09/10/3008718.htm?>

FAO says H5N1 Outbreaks Are up This Year

Reversing a trend that began in 2007, the number of countries affected by H5N1 avian influenza and the number of reported H5N1 outbreaks in birds have increased this year, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) says. Sixteen countries (plus Hong Kong) had H5N1 outbreaks this year through August, compared with about 11 in all of 2009, according to charts in the Sep 2 issue of "FAO AIDE News," a bulletin that reports



A 3D graphical representation of the biology and structure of a generic influenza virus; not specific to the 2009 H1N1 virus. *From CDC*

periodically on avian flu. In the first 6 months of this year, 390 H5N1 outbreaks were reported, versus 297 for all of 2009, the FAO said. However, those numbers do not include Indonesia, which reports the majority of H5N1 poultry outbreaks worldwide, because Indonesia, unlike other countries, counts outbreaks at the village level rather than the household level, the report says. The FAO cautioned that the number of outbreaks is more subjective than the number of affected countries, because it is strongly influenced by such variables as the case definition, awareness level, and effectiveness of surveillance. In particular, the report says a big increase in reported H5N1 outbreaks in Egypt this year "is most likely the result of improved surveillance through the effectiveness of the CAHO [Community Animal Health Outreach] program." (It says Egypt has had 264 poultry outbreaks this year, compared with 71 for the same period last year, but does not specify which months those numbers cover.)

[http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/cidrap/content/influenza/avianflu/news/sep1310avian-jw_\(2\).html](http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/cidrap/content/influenza/avianflu/news/sep1310avian-jw_(2).html)

Vietnam to Destroy Expired Tamiflu Amid Controversy

The Ministry of Health has ordered the destruction of a controversial reserve of over 9.7 million capsules of Oseltamivir (aka Tamiflu), "Tuoi Tre" reported earlier this month. The reserve is estimated to be worth some VND280 billion (\$14.3 million U.S.) in total. According to the local newspaper, news of the edict came from an unnamed source from the ministry. Four local manufacturers began producing the capsules at the ministry's request, starting in 2006. Since then, a mere 100,000 capsules have been distributed to cities and towns throughout the country. It is unclear whether or not the distributed capsules were ever used, "Tuoi Tre" reported. Following the drug cache's expiration in February 2008, the ministry extended the date.

<http://www.thanhniennews.com/2010/Pages/20100913142230.aspx>

NIH Study Models H1N1 Flu Spread

As the United States prepares for the upcoming flu season, a group of researchers supported by the National Institutes of Health continues to model how H1N1 may spread. The work is part of an effort, called the Models of Infectious Disease Agent Study (MIDAS), to develop computational models for conducting virtual experiments of how emerging pathogens could spread with and without interventions. The study involves more than 50 scientists with expertise in epidemiology, infectious diseases, computational biology, statistics, social sciences, physics, computer sciences and informatics. As soon as the first cases of H1N1 infections were reported in April 2009, MIDAS researchers began gathering data on viral spread and affected populations. This information enabled them to model the potential outcomes of different interventions, including vaccination, treatment with antiviral medications and school closures. The work built upon earlier models the MIDAS scientists developed in response to concerns about a different potentially pandemic influenza strain H5N1 or avian flu.

<http://www.nih.gov/news/health/sep2010/nigms-21.htm>

Lessons From the Swine Flu Pandemic

Kevin Bersell, an emergency preparedness specialist with Public Health Region 2 of the New Mexico Department of Health, writing in "Emergency Management," offers four lessons from the H1N1 pandemic:

1. All response is local—most of the time
2. Not everyone wants our help
3. It's good to have friends
4. Public health can do incident command well

View the commentary: <http://www.emergencymgmt.com/health/Lessons-H1N1-Pandemic.html>

TRAININGS / EXERCISES / CONFERENCES

National Capital Region Homeland Security Events

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

Virginia Emergency Management Courses

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<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

Medical Management of Chemical and Biological Casualties

Oct. 17-22; Aberdeen, Md. and Fort Detrick, Md.

Physicians, nurses, physician assistants, senior medical noncommissioned officers and other medical professionals from every military service and civilians should attend. The course combines classroom, laboratory and field training.

https://ccc.apgea.army.mil/courses/in_house/MCBC.htm



Border Management Summit

Oct. 25-27; Arlington, Va.

The summit brings together thought leaders and policy makers across local, state, and federal law enforcement; the Homeland Security Department; and international government organizations as a forum to discuss current and future border security initiatives. Three tracks focus on policy, procedure, and technology.

<http://www.bordermanagementsummit.com/Event.aspx?id=332720>

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/>

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/>

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

LINKS

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Fairfax County Blogs and Web Resources

- Fairfax County CERT - <http://fairfaxcountycert.blogspot.com/>
- Fairfax County Citizen Corps Web Page - www.fairfaxcounty.gov/oem/citizencorps/
- Fairfax County Citizen Corps Blog - <http://citizencorps.blogspot.com/>
- Virginia Citizen Corps - <http://www.vaemergency.com/citcorps/index.cfm>

DHS Science & Technology Directorate Newsletter

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

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

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report (OSIR)

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

Fairfax County Government Emergency Information Web Page

The county's emergency information page features easy-to-find emergency information.

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency/

Fairfax County Government Emergency Information Line

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/opa/infoline.htm

Emergency Management Magazine

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



FEMA Private Sector

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

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