Emergency Preparedness
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Survey Shows Improvement in Readiness

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

Significant Increase

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

Significant Change

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

The findings include responses from 1,565 participants between June 15 and July 15. The results help the Ready Virginia public education campaign fine-tune its outreach efforts and provide an assessment of how well VDEM is meeting one of its biennial performance measures, considered a "Governor's Key Measure": *"Increase the percentage of individuals who demonstrate awareness of threats to Virginia and their personal readiness to react appropriately."*

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

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If the power goes out during a storm, make sure that you use flashlights in the dark instead of candles for fire safety reasons.

Protect Your Home From Flood Damage

The Fairfax County Office of Emergency Management and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) urge all residents to take measures now to reduce future flood loss or damage. It is safer, cheaper and ultimately much easier to limit future destruction than repair it. Such actions are referred to as hazard mitigation.

There are a number of low-cost actions that homeowners can take to better protect or lessen the impact of heavy rain or flooding. Remember to check with county building officials about standards and building codes. In addition, some mitigation measures may require hiring a contractor.

• **Relocate or elevate water heaters, furnaces and major appliances.** Elevate water heaters, furnaces and appliances, such as washers and dryers, especially if they are located in a basement. Place them on a pressure-treated wood or masonry base at least 12 inches above the previous high-water mark of a home's projected flood elevation.
• **Elevate or relocate electrical systems.** Electrical panel boxes, circuit breakers, wall switches and wall outlets should be at least 12 inches above your home's projected flood elevation. Some basement or first-floor electrical systems may even be moved to a higher floor.
• **Interior and exterior floodwalls.** To keep water away from indoor furnaces, utilities and appliances, build a watertight masonry wall around them. An outside water-resistant wall is a good way to prevent water from flowing into basement openings.
• **Repair leaks and cracks immediately.** Leaky roofs and foundation cracks let water into a home more readily. This weakens a structure and provides an ideal habitat for mold. If wet spots appear on the ceiling or cracks appear in a foundation, fix them immediately.
• **Clean gutters and drains.** If gutters and drainage systems are blocked by leaves or debris, water can overflow and quickly flood a home or yard. Check all gutters and drainage systems regularly for leaves and nests. Double-check storm drains on your street, as leaves and debris can block them, causing water to collect.
• **Invest in a battery-powered sump pump.** Sump pumps remove water out of a structure and can be an excellent defense against flooding – unless they're powered by electricity and the power is out. Battery-powered sump pumps are a relatively inexpensive solution. Be sure to purchase a backup battery as well.
• **Install a backflow valve, check valve, drain plug or standpipe.** These measures ensure sewage only flows one way – outside. Consult with a professional to remain code compliant.

FEMA's "how-to" series offers free information and publications for property owners and contractors about construction techniques and measures to reduce flood loss or damages. The series is available at *www.FEMA.gov* or by calling 1-800-480-2520.

FEMA's Emergency Management Institute (EMI) offers self-paced courses designed for people who have emergency management responsibilities and the general public. All are offered free-of-charge to those who qualify for enrollment. FEMA's Independent Study Program offers courses that support the nine mission areas identified by the National Preparedness Goal. There are a number of new courses that launched in October, including "Animals in Disasters: Community Planning." For a complete course listing, go the EMI website, *http://training.fema.gov/IS/*.

Incident Commanders: Why Call For A Chaplain Anyway

An Interagency Training For: Police, Fire, EMS, Military Command Staff, Incident Commanders & Public Safety Chaplains

Sponsored by the MW COG Public Safety Chaplain's Subcommittee of the Police Chief's and Fire Chief's Committees

Morning Program For Incident Commanders & Chaplains

Incident Commanders: Learn Why You Would Want A Chaplain At Your Critical Incident Scene
Police/Fire/EMS and Military Chaplains' primary role is to provide a spiritual presence and spiritual support to the members of your department or agency in time or crisis or a critical incident. Learn from the Police Chaplain involved with the Denver PD SWAT during Columbine, the Incident Commander involved with the DC Metro Rail Crash, a Military General and his Chaplain who will discuss the important role Public Safety/Military chaplains have at an operation scene. Learn from the President of the International Conference of Police Chaplains the training and education which prepares Chaplains to be on the scene. Plus, learn about the COG Chaplains' Deployment Plan. Virginia DCJS credit for attendance is being explored. Please consult your academies about receiving continuing education credit.

Afternoon Program For Chaplains

Effective Chaplain Support and Theological Issues at a Critical Incident Scene

Panelists, Speakers, Moderator

The Honorable Leon Panetta, Director, Central Intelligence Agency
Major General Karl Horst, Commander, Joint Force Headquarters - NCR & Military District of Washington
Colonel David M. Rohrer, Chief of Police, Fairfax County Police Department - *Moderator*
Assistant Fire Chief Lawrence Schultz, DC Fire & EMS - Incident Commander, Metro Train Crash, Summer 2009
Chaplain (Colonel) Steven L. Berry, Command Chaplain, Joint Force HQ - NCR & Military District of Washington
Rabbi/Chaplain Steven Kaye - Denver Police Department, Columbine High School Shooting, 1999
Chaplain Cyndee Thomas - President, Intern'l Conference of Police Chaplains, Chaplain Coordinator: Redding, CA PD

When: **Monday, November 15, 2010;** (See schedule below)
Sworn Personnel 9 AM - 12:30 PM (Lunch available from CIA cafeteria following training, if desired)
Chaplain Personnel 9 AM - 3 PM (Lunch available from CIA cafeteria)

Where: **CIA Headquarters; Langley, VA** Off-site parking only at **Trinity United Methodist Church** (1205 Dolly Madison Blvd, McLean, VA 22101) Shuttle buses provided to the CIA Auditorium.

Pre-Registration: **Pre-Registration required by November 8 - No Walk-in's.** US Citizenship required.
To register, click here for hyperlink to web site, or type:
https://www.mwcog.org/calendar/registration.asp?COMMITTEE_ID=159&EVENT_ID=6833

More Information: Contact Dennis Bailey, MWCOG at DBailey@mwcog.org or call: 202-962-3269

Home Fires Are Biggest Threat

If someone is asked which disasters are most common in this country, the answer is usually big emergencies that affect a widespread area – events like hurricanes, floods and tornadoes. But according to the American Red Cross, fire in the home is actually the most common threat to families in the United States.

Each year, the American Red Cross and its 650 chapters respond to more than 63,600 home fires.

What can you do to keep your family safe and prepared in case a fire starts?
• Keep items that can catch on fire at least three feet away from anything that gets hot, such as space heaters.
• Never smoke in bed.
• Talk to your children about the dangers of fire and keep matches and lighters out of reach.
• Turn off portable heaters when you leave a room or go to sleep.

Planning for emergencies is important. You should:
• Make sure all household members know two ways to escape from every room of your home, and set up a meeting place outside in case of fire.
• Practice escaping from your home at least twice a year and at different times of the day.
• Teach household members to stop, drop and roll if their clothing should catch on fire.

Smoke alarms save lives. You should:
• Install smoke alarms on every level of your home, inside bedrooms and outside sleeping areas.
• Check monthly that smoke alarms are working properly by pushing the test button.
• Replace batteries in smoke alarms at least once a year.
• Replace smoke alarms every 10 years.

For more information about fire safety and steps you can take to be prepared, visit *www.redcross.org*.

Marcelo's Minute

"If you fail to plan, you plan to fail."

Marcelo Ferreira

Do you have the necessary plans in place in the event of an emergency? It is important to **plan before** a disaster strikes so that you and your family will know what to do in different situations, and also know what each other is going to do.

Family Communications Plan
How will you get in touch with your family? Cell phone lines can quickly become jammed during an emergency. Since it may be easier to make a long-distance phone call than to call across town, it is beneficial to have an out-of-town contact established.

Shelter-in-Place and Evacuation Plans
Should I stay or should I go? Your circumstances, location and the nature of the emergency will be important for determining whether to evacuate or to stay put. Utilizing the available information (through local authorities), the plans that you develop in addition to common sense may help keep you from immediate danger.

Utility Shut-Off and Safety
Do you know how to shut off the gas, water and electricity to your home? For safety, you may be instructed to shut off your utilities during an emergency. Knowing how to do this prior to the event will save valuable time and stress. A hot water heater also may be a great source of clean drinking water when the standard water supply becomes contaminated, if you take the proper steps. If you do turn off the gas for any reason, a qualified professional must turn it back on. NEVER attempt to turn the gas back on yourself.

For additional information, visit:
• *www.fairfaxcounty.gov/oem/prepare/plan.htm*
• *www.fema.gov/plan/prepare/plan.shtm*
• *www.ready.gov/america/makeaplan/index.html*

If you or your organization need a presentation about emergency preparedness, call 571-350-1013; e-mail*marcelo.ferreira@fairfaxcounty.gov*.

Store at least one gallon of water per day for each person and each pet. Observe the expiration date for store-bought water; replace other stored water every six months. See the article below for more tips on food and water needs regarding emergency preparedness.

Food and Water Needs: Preparing for Emergency

Follow these steps to make sure you and your family have enough safe food and water (for drinking, cooking, bathing, etc.) available in the event of a disaster or emergency.

Prepare an Emergency Food Supply

Keep foods that:

• Have a long storage life.
• Require little or no cooking, water or refrigeration in case utilities are disrupted.
• Meet the needs of babies or other family members who are on special diets.
• Meet pets' needs.
• Are not very salty or spicy, as these foods increase the need for drinking water, which may be in short supply.

How to Store Emergency Food

• A disaster can easily disrupt the food supply at any time, so plan to have at least a three-day supply of food on hand. When storing food, it is not necessary to buy dehydrated or other types of emergency food. Canned foods and dry mixes will remain fresh for about two years.
• Certain storage conditions can enhance the shelf life of canned or dried foods. The ideal location is a cool, dry, dark place. The best temperature is 40 to 60°F.
• Keep foods away from ranges or refrigerator exhausts. Heat causes many foods to spoil more quickly. Keep food away from petroleum products, such as gasoline, oil, paints and solvents. Some food products absorb their smell.
• Protect food from rodents and insects. Items stored in boxes or in paper cartons will keep longer if they are heavily wrapped or stored in airtight containers.
• Date all food items. Use and replace food before it loses freshness.

Preparing Food

Preparing food after a disaster or emergency may be difficult due to damage to your home and loss of electricity, gas and water. Having the following items available will help you to prepare meals safely:

• Cooking utensils.
• Knives, forks and spoons.
• Paper plates, cups and towels.
• A manual can- and bottle-opener.
• Heavy-duty aluminum foil.
• Gas or charcoal grill; camp stove.
• Fuel for cooking, such as charcoal. (Never burn charcoal indoors. The fumes are deadly when concentrated indoors.)

Prepare an Emergency Water Supply

• Store at least one gallon of water per day for each person and each pet (try to store a two-week supply if possible). You should consider storing more water than this for hot climates, for pregnant women and for people who are sick.
• Observe the expiration date for store-bought water; replace other stored water every six months.
• Store a bottle of unscented liquid household chlorine bleach to disinfect your water and to use for general cleaning and sanitizing. (Caffeinated drinks and alcohol dehydrate the body, which increases the need for drinking water.)

Water Containers (Cleaning and Storage)

Unopened commercially bottled water is the safest and most reliable emergency water supply. Use of food-grade water storage containers, such as those found at surplus or camping supply stores, is recommended if you prepare stored water yourself.

For proper water storage, label containers as "drinking water" and include the storage date. Replace stored water that is not commercially bottled every six months. Do not store water containers in areas where toxic substances such as gasoline or pesticides are present.

More information and helpful tips is online at *http://emergency.cdc.gov/disasters/foodwater/prepare.asp*.

The Center for Community Security and Resilience, Virginia Tech University and IBM have partnered to understand how the emergency management information system serves senior citizens, people with disabilities and residents who do not speak English fluently in Arlington and Fairfax counties and the city of Alexandria. If you have a disability, are a caregiver for someone with a disability, or are age 65 years or older and are interested in participating or learning more about this study, call 1-877-544-9670 or e-mail *EMSResearch@vt.edu*. The research has been approved by the Institutional Review Board of Virginia Tech.

OEM was part of the Annandale Fall Festival on Oct. 23. If you would like an exhibit or emergency preparedness presentation, call the Office of Emergency Management at 571-350-1000, TTY 711.

Assistive Technology

Assistive technology refers to devices commonly used by people with disabilities to improve or enhance their ability to perform daily living tasks. The term "assistive technology" encompasses a plethora of accommodations that range from a wheelchair to elevators that audibly announce floors. There is a wide variety of assistive technology that can be used in emergency preparedness. Examples include accessible evacuation plans in Braille, evacuation chairs and fire alarms that also flash.

The following websites have more information about assistive technology for emergencies:

• NRW for Deaf and Hard of Hearing – U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's guide on National Weather Service radios that are accessible to persons with hearing disabilities.
http://weather.gov/nwr/special_need.htm

• Use of TTYs with wireless phones – U.S. Federal Communications Commission's fact sheet for TTY users making emergency phone calls with wireless phones.
www.fcc.gov/cgb/consumerfacts/ttywireless.html

• FCC fact sheet: Hearing Aid Compatibility for Wireline Telephones.
www.fcc.gov/cgb/consumerfacts/hac_wireline.html

• FCC fact sheet: Hearing Aid-Compatibility for Wireless Telephones.
www.fcc.gov/cgb/consumerfacts/hac_wireless.html

• FCC fact sheet: Communicating During Emergencies.
www.fcc.gov/cgb/consumerfacts/emergencies.html

FAIRFAX COUNTY citizen corps
www.fairfaxcounty.gov/oem/citizencorps

The Fairfax County Citizen Corps harnesses the power of individuals through education, training and volunteer service to make communities safe, stronger and better prepared to respond to the threats of terrorism, crime, public health issues and disasters of all kinds. There are five core programs:

Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS)

Provides support for the police department by incorporating volunteers so that law enforcement professionals have more time for frontline duty. VIPS includes auxiliary police officers, administrative volunteers, and the Citizen's Police Academy.
www.fairfaxcounty.gov/oem/citizencorps/vips.htm

Neighborhood Watch

Brings private citizens and law enforcement together to reduce crime and improve the quality of life in our neighborhoods. It brings to life the simple concept of neighbors watching out for neighbors. Volunteers may join an existing group or establish one in their neighborhood.
www.fairfaxcounty.gov/oem/citizencorps/nw.htm

Medical Reserve Corps (MRC)

Operated by the Health Department, MRC is composed of medical and non-medical volunteers trained to assist the community in dispensing medication during public health emergencies.
www.fairfaxcounty.gov/mrc/

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)

Trains people in neighborhoods, workplaces, and schools in basic disaster response skills, such as fire suppression and search and rescue, and helps them take a more active role in emergency preparedness.
www.fairfaxcounty.gov/oem/citizencorps/cert.htm

Fire Corps

Volunteers are trained to perform non-operational administrative duties at the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department Headquarters and at volunteer fire stations.
www.fairfaxcounty.gov/oem/citizencorps/firecorps.htm

Employers are encouraged to check, maintain and replace old smoke alarms. You can prevent tragedy simply by testing and maintaining smoke alarms and practicing a fire escape plan. www.usfa.dhs.gov/citizens/focus/smoke_alarms2010.shtm

Fall Fire Season Under Way

Fall weather combined with fallen leaves create an increased chance for fire in late October and November in Virginia. The wildland fire season in Virginia began on Oct. 15.

Officials with the Virginia Department of Forestry (VDOF) remind everyone to be careful with outdoor fire any time of year but especially during the fall and spring seasons when the risk of a fire escaping is greatest.

John Miller, director of resource protection, said, "Fall fire season runs through Nov. 30. Each autumn, after the leaves turn color, they dry out and fall to the ground creating fuel for a wildland fire. As humidity levels drop and winds increase this time of year, it doesn't take long for a fire to escape."

From Jan. 1 to Oct. 7, 2010, there have been 810 wildland fires that have burned 5,305 acres of privately owned land in Virginia. During an average year in the state, 1,270 fires burn a total of 10,500 acres.

VDOF records indicate that humans cause more than 95 percent of wildland fires – the bulk of which are preventable. In addition to taking safety precautions to prevent a debris burn, campfire or hot ashes from a woodstove or fireplace from escaping and becoming a wildland fire, motorists should also avoid parking their vehicles in piles of dry leaves. More information is available on the VDOF website at *www.dof.virginia.gov*.

Reduce Fire Risk at Home

Many traditional fall chores can reduce the risk of fire damaging a home.

• Clear roof and gutters of leaves, pine needles and any branches.
• Stack firewood at least 30 feet from the house.
• Rake dead leaves and clear dead branches from around the house. On flat ground the cleared area should be at least 30 feet in all directions. If you live on a slope more raking will be needed, especially downhill from the house.
• If you have a gas or propane tank, be sure to rake dead leaves, pine needles and small branches away from it – 30 feet in all directions is a good place to start.
• Try composting. For great tips, check out the Virginia Tech website: *http://pubs.ext.vt.edu/426/426-703/426-703.html*
• Trim all tree branches that overhang your house.
• Trim all tree branches from within 20 feet of all chimneys.
• Put a hose (100 feet or longer if possible) on a rack and attach it to an outside faucet.

If there is an emergency, the following can help the fire department and other first responders.
• Clear the view of your house number so it can be easily seen from the street.
• Remove trees along the driveway to make it 12 feet wide.
• Prune branches overhanging the driveway to have 14 feet overhead clearance.

Tornado Drill

The annual statewide tornado drill will be 9:45 a.m. on March 15. The drill is an opportunity for schools, businesses and individuals to practice basic steps in tornado safety during the National Weather Service's test of the NOAA Weather Radio alerting network.

During the drill, NOAA Weather Radios will sound a test signal to start the drill, and participants will practice quick evacuation to designated safe areas in their buildings. Radio and TV stations will also broadcast the test signal. Detailed instructions and registration details are at *www.vaemergency.com/threats/tornado/index.cfm*.

Fairfax County, Va., publication.

To request this information in an alternate format, call 571-350-1000, TTY 711.

Fight the Flu: A Toolkit for Businesses and Employers

The single best way to prevent seasonal flu is to get a yearly flu vaccine, but good health habits and antiviral medications are other measures that can help protect against the flu.

To help businesses, employers and their employees learn about these strategies for preventing flu, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) provides a flu toolkit, fliers, posters and other materials to post and distribute in the workplace.

"Make It Your Business To Fight The Flu: A Toolkit for Businesses and Employers" provides information and recommended strategies to help businesses and employers promote the 2010-2011 seasonal flu vaccine.

More information is at *www.cdc.gov/flu/business*.

Annual VRE Emergency Drill

It's that time of year again. Fall? No. Halloween? No. It's the annual Virginia Railway Express (VRE) emergency drill.

Every fall, VRE simulates a train disaster. During the simulated disaster, local first responders test their skills in responding to a situation on a train. VRE is looking for volunteers to be victims of this simulated train disaster.

This year's drill will take place in Springfield on Saturday, Nov. 13. Volunteer victims need to arrive by 6:30 a.m. and should be done by noon.

FEMA has launched a website (*www.r3coastal.com*) with information about ongoing flood level mapping efforts for the coastal areas of Virginia, Maryland, Delaware and Pennsylvania.

The study will identify the 10-, 50-, 100- and 500-year flood levels for coastal flooding events. The new mapping data will be used to complete an overland wave height analysis, followed by updated Digital Food Insurance Rate Maps to replace the outdated Flood Insurance Rate Maps that date back to the mid-to-late 1970s.

The website will serve as the central repository for the coastal study and will include study updates, results and the locations and dates of outreach activities.

Preparedness Materials Available in Multiple Languages

Ready Virginia recently translated a handout on preparing for emergencies into 10 of the languages spoken in Virginia. The handouts are available for download from *www.ReadyVirginia.gov* in Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Hindi (spoken in India and other countries), Italian, Korean, Russian, Tagalog (spoken in the Philippines) and Vietnamese.

The same handout is available in English and will be translated into Spanish in the near future. In the meantime, *www.ListoVirginia.gov* is available to Spanish speakers.

Preparedness brochures and family emergency plan worksheets in English and Spanish are available at *www.ReadyVirginia.gov* or by sending an e-mail to *mpio@vdem.virgnia.gov* or by calling 804-897-6510, TTY 711.

The Fairfax County Office of Emergency Management is available to deliver emergency preparedness presentations to community organizations and homeowners associations. If interested, contact Marcelo Ferreira at 571-350-1013, TTY 711, or via e-mail at *marcelo.ferreira@fairfaxcounty.gov*.

"With winter right around the corner, it's never too early to start preparing for snowstorms, icy roads and other types of severe weather."
FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate.

FEMA Encourages Winter Weather Preparation

Last month, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) released its 2010 U.S. Winter Outlook, predicting extreme weather patterns for different regions of the country this winter. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) reminds residents and businesses to get ready for winter storms and extreme cold.

"With winter right around the corner, it's never too early to start preparing for snowstorms, icy roads and other types of severe weather," said FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate.

Severe winter weather can include snow or subfreezing temperatures, strong winds and ice or heavy rain storms. An emergency supply kit both at home and in the car will help prepare people for winter power outages and icy or impassable roads.

An emergency supply kit should include a three-day supply of food and water, a battery-powered or hand-crank radio and extra flashlights and batteries.

Thoroughly check and update your family's emergency supply kit and add the following supplies in preparation for winter weather:
• Rock salt to melt ice on walkways.
• Sand to improve traction.
• Snow shovels and other snow removal equipment.
• Adequate clothing and blankets to help stay warm.

Ensure that your family preparedness plan and contacts are up to date and exercise your plan. For more information and winter preparedness tips, visit: *www.ready.gov/america/beinformed/winter.html*.

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

The Fairfax County Amateur Radio Emergency Services (ARES) team held a training session on Sept. 25 at the McConnell Public Safety and Transportation Operations Center. Within the Office of Emergency Management's situational awareness room, the ARES members maintain a section of radio communications equipment that can be used in the event that Fairfax County's normal communications are disabled. The team is on call and holds monthly meetings at the Alternate Emergency Operations Center (AEOC). Pictured from left are ARES members Art Pond, KD5FBT (AEC for Operations); Tom Azlin, N4ZPT (EC); Bob Spiller, AJ4RS; Rick Miller, AI1V; Steve Glickstein, W4FMD; and Don Lewis, KI4D. Photo by Sulayman Brown, OEM.

Following the ninth anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks, government, nonprofit and private sector officials released an updated Homeland Security Strategic Plan for the National Capital Region (NCR).

The plan will guide regional disaster preparations for the next five years, including how the NCR will spend millions in federal grant funds. The plan has been adopted by the National Capital Region Emergency Preparedness Council, a regional advisory body established through the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments.

The plan is online at *www.ncrhomelandsecurity.org*.

The strategic plan focuses on advancing the region's capabilities in several areas: improving its interoperable communications systems; enhancing its ability to share information during emergencies; protecting critical infrastructure like power and water supplies; and improving its ability to prevent deaths and injuries from terrorism and natural events.