



## Preparedness News and Information

From FEMA's Office of National Preparedness

March 14, 2003

### NATIONAL NEWS

#### **Measuring Lost Freedom vs. Security in Dollars**

*Washington Post*, March 10, 2003

In an unusual twist on cost-benefit analysis, top advisers to President Bush want to weigh the benefits of tighter domestic security against the "costs" of lost privacy and freedom.

#### **Governmentwide Security Surveillance Net Takes Shape**

*Federal Computer Week*, March 10, 2003

The Federal Computer Incident Response Center is developing a centralized data analysis capability that will collect incident reports from agencies to see what cyber attacks are being made on government computers and, in return, providing agencies with information on how best to defend against them.

#### **Federal Funds Made Available to Nation's Firefighters**

*CNN*, March 10, 2003

DHS freed up \$750 million for the nation's fire departments Monday, making it available for training, equipment and anti-terrorism efforts.

➤ [IAFF Urges End to Bickering on Homeland Security](#), *Firehouse*, March 12

#### **Homeland Security Goal: Everybody on the Same Page**

*The Town Talk*, March 11, 2003

One goal for homeland security is for all governmental agencies to have complimentary systems in place to handle terrorist threats and attacks.

#### **US Hospitals Can't Handle Terror or Disaster, Report Says**

*Sun Spot*, March 12, 2003

The Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations issued a [report](#) urging governments, healthcare organizations, and emergency service providers to implement community-based preparedness programs.

#### **Ridge Unveils School Preparedness Effort**

*Washington Post*, March 8, 2003

Bush administration officials used a Montgomery County high school yesterday as their stage for announcing a \$30 million grant program to help the nation's schools prepare for emergencies, including the threat of a terrorist attack.

- [Schools Prepare for Disasters](#), *Cincinnati Enquirer*, March 9
- [Curricula for Terror](#), *Rocky Mountain News*, March 10
- [Educators Praise Needed Funds](#), *Hattiesburg American*, March 12

## CONGRESS

### **Senator: Smallpox Compensation Plan Will Move Quickly**

*GovExec*, March 7, 2003

Sen. Judd Gregg, R-N.H., Thursday yesterday said a White House plan to resolve compensation issues in the national smallpox immunization plan would move “very quickly” through Congress.

### **RECENT HEARINGS**

- [Progress Since 9/11: The Effectiveness of U.S. Anti-Terrorist Financing Efforts](#), House Financial Services Committee, March 11
- [Force Protection Policy: The Role of the Department of Defense and the National Guard in Homeland Security](#), House Armed Services Committee, March 13

## STATE AND LOCAL ACTIVITIES

### **Stroudsburg High Shooting Drill to Test Staff, Faculty Preparedness**

*Pocono Record*, March 12, 2003

Stroudsburg High School and the Monroe County Office for Emergency Services are holding a drill to test the school plan for responding to shooters in the school.

- [Security Training and Response](#), *KAUZ*, March 12

### **Smallpox Campaign Taxing Health Resources**

*Washington Post*, March 10, 2003

As they rush to answer President Bush's call to vaccinate millions of emergency workers against smallpox, state and local health officials say they have stopped virtually all other counterterrorism efforts and in many cases have begun other trimming services.

### **States to Apply for \$600 Million in First Responder Grants**

*GovExec*, March 7, 2003

Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge announced Friday that nearly \$600 million is available to U.S. states and territories to assist state and local public safety and law enforcement personnel to prevent, prepare and respond to terrorism.

- [Ridge Announces Anti - Terror City Funding](#), *NY Times*, March 11

### **County Gives Severe Weather Lessons**

*Oakland Press*, March 8, 2003

In an effort to educate residents about what to do during severe weather, Oakland County Executive Patterson has declared March 16-22 as Severe Weather Awareness Week.

### **\$17 Million Headed To Ohio**

*Ohio News Network*, March 8, 2003

Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge announced \$17,510,000 in funding made available for Ohio to better assist state and local public safety and law enforcement personnel prevent, protect and respond to terrorism.

- [Mississippi First Responders to Receive Funds](#), *The Democrat*, March 10

### **Federal Funds Not Reaching S. Jersey**

*Gloucester County Times*, March 10, 2003

Eighteen months after the terrorist attacks, first-response agencies in South Jersey have received relatively little federal money that can be used for homeland security projects.

- [Locke Slams Federal Foot-Dragging on Security Funds](#), *Seattle Times*, March 13

### **Even in Red Alert, S.C Would be Quietly Covered**

*The State*, March 9, 2003

Like most states, South Carolina has its own emergency designations ranging from Op Con 1 to Op Con 5, but they are not in sync with the five color-coded federal alerts.

- [County: We Are Ready for Code Red](#), *Sun-Sentinel*, March 13
- [Ohio Task Force Unveils Threat Guidelines for Schools](#), *NBC4*, March 13

### **Callaway Co. Pleased with Emergency Readiness Drill**

*Fulton Sun*, March 9, 2003

An emergency response team consisting of Callaway and Fulton emergency and government officials participated in a preparedness training exercise, sponsored jointly by FEMA and the NRC.

### **Terrorism Preparedness Continues in County**

*Gazette News*, March 10, 2003

Ongoing preparation in Franklin County for potential terrorist attacks in the region continue, as officials get additional equipment needed in case of radiological, biological and chemical attack, and increase their knowledge about terrorist methods.

- [Federal Terror Funds Reach Area](#), *The Olympian*, March 12

### **Experts: Minnesota Not Prepared for Attacks**

*Minnesota Daily*, March 10, 2003

A select panel of experts told Democratic Sen. Dayton that Minnesota's health and safety departments need better equipment, training and facilities to be fully prepared for an attack.

### **Fire Crews, Hospitals Prepare For Chemical Attack**

*KOIN*, March 10, 2003

In Oregon, a heightened alert status continues around the Umatilla Chemical Weapons Depot where seven area fire departments and three hospitals took part in an emergency drill over the weekend.

- [Bellaire Practices Terror Exercise](#), *Traverse City Record-Eagle*, March 12
- [Local Squad is Prepared for Disaster](#), *PR Newswire*, March 10

### **Citizen Crisis Team Gain Interest**

*Patriot News*, March 9, 2003

Shippensburg area officials are backing Community Emergency Response Teams, a federal program pushed by President Bush to train citizen teams to save lives, including their own, during disasters.

- [Civilian Responders Have New Role](#), *Democrat and Chronicle*, March 10

### **Governor Touts Oregon's Readiness for Emergencies**

*The World Link*, March 11, 2003

At a meeting of the governor's security council, Governor Kulongoski reported that state agencies are as ready to as they can be to deal with emergencies.

### **Parsippany Radio Service Sounds Call for Volunteers**

*Daily Record*, March 10, 2003

The township of Parsippany is seeking more HAM radio operators to fill out its ranks of emergency communicators who can respond if normal dispatch services are overwhelmed or disabled during a disaster.

### **Bay's Top Worry: Earthquakes**

*The Examiner*, March 10, 2003

Bay Area residents are more likely to fear earthquakes than terrorist attacks and are more likely to be ready for an emergency than citizens in any other metropolitan area, according to a new survey.

- [Exercise in Preparedness Conducted at S.J. Airport](#), *Mercury News*, March 13

### **Kentucky to Test Outdoor Weather Alert Sirens**

*Cincinnati Post*, March 10, 2003

There will be a statewide siren test in Kentucky this week as part of a cooperative effort of the Kentucky Division of Emergency Management, the National Weather Service and the state's local emergency management agencies.

### **Preparing for Disasters**

*Washington Post*, March 13, 2003

A training center to assist emergency responders prepare for large scale disasters will open on the George Washington University campus in Loudon County this spring.

## **RELATED INFORMATION**

### **RECENT REPORTS**

- [The Decontamination of People Exposed to CBRN Substances or Material](#), UK Home Office, February 2003
- [Nuclear Regulation: Emergency Preparedness Issues at the Indian Point 2 Nuclear Power Plant](#), GAO-03-528T, March 10
- [Health Care at the Crossroads: Strategies for Creating and Sustaining Community-wide Emergency Preparedness Systems](#), JCAHO
- [Survey: What Do First Responders Need to Be Ready for a Potential Terrorist Attack](#), *Firehouse.com*, March 13. See related [article](#).
- [General Security Risk Guidelines](#), ASIS International, January 2003

---

The information contained in this newsletter was collected from Internet sources. Opinions expressed do not necessarily represent the official position of the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Office of National Preparedness.