



Preparedness News and Information

From FEMA's Office of National Preparedness

April 25, 2003

NATIONAL NEWS

Agencies Urged to Update Guidelines for Telling Workers of Anthrax Threats

GovExec, April 21, 2003

Federal officials must develop more thorough guidelines for telling employees about possible anthrax contamination, according to a new [report](#) from the GAO.

Homeland Security and DOE Deliver Radiological Detection Equipment

DHS Press Release, April 22, 2003

DHS and the Department of Energy have formally transferred a shipment of refurbished radiological detection equipment to various emergency responder agencies in California under a pilot project called the Homeland Defense Equipment Reuse (HDER) Program.

➤ [Recycled Equipment Aids At-Risk Cities](#), *Federal Computer Week*, April 22

Illinois Will Play Role of Terrorist Target in Disaster Exercise

Saint Louis Post-Dispatch, April 23, 2003

Illinois and Seattle will be the sites for TopOff, a Congressionally mandated national disaster exercise designed to test federal, state, and local preparedness.

➤ [New Test of Our Terrorism Defenses](#), *The News Tribune*, April 22

FCC and NCS Spearhead National Outreach to Secure Priority Restoration of Phone Service to 9-1-1 Center in the Event of a National Crisis

FCC Press Release, April 24, 2003

The FCC and the NCS have launched a national campaign to ensure that 9-1-1 call centers are registered in the TSP Program, a federal program that provides for priority restoration of telecommunications services considered critical to a national security.

➤ [Few 911 Centers Ask for Priority in Case of Attack](#), *AP/Charlotte Observer*, April 25

CONGRESS

Bill Pumps Money into Homeland

Federal Computer Week, April 18, 2003

Homeland security initiatives at the federal, state and local levels will see a significant infusion of money from the [fiscal year 2003 supplemental appropriations bill](#).

Chemical Security Soon to Take Hill Focus

Fox News, April 21, 2003

Sen. Corzine is putting the spotlight on his effort to get Congress to pass a chemical security proposal that would require that chemical facilities physically strengthen their security and require them to investigate whether installing "inherently safer technologies" would eliminate danger of attacks or leaks.

STATE AND LOCAL ACTIVITIES

Official Explains Homeland Funding

Federal Computer Week, April 23, 2003

The Director of State and Local Government Coordination explained during a [webcast](#) why the federal government prefers to funnel money through the states first and fielded a number of questions on funding available to first responders.

- [Local 'First Responders' Waiting for Dollars](#), *ABC11TV*, April 23
- [State, Local Officials Begin to Question Homeland Security Price Tag](#), *GovExec*, April 21

New Homeland Security Grant Programs Ready for Applicants

Herald Democrat, April 21, 2003

Two new grant programs are ready to receive applications for funding: the Citizen Corps grants and the Community Emergency Response Teams grants. The state will extend grants to cities, volunteer firefighters, and other groups seeking training and equipment to assist first responders.

- [Civilians to Learn Terrorism Safety](#), *The Jersey Journal*, April 24

Project to Understand Terror Alerts

Baltimore Jewish Times, April 25, 2003

Project Liberty staff will conduct a door-to-door campaign to help residents to understand what to do in the case of a terrorist attack, public health emergency, or any other disaster, natural or manmade.

Officials Cite Preparedness as Critical to Fire Survival

The Daily Courier, April 25, 2003

During a community roundtable discussion in Prescott on fire preparedness, officials highlighted the responsibility of individual residents to prepare their families and their homes for the possibility of evacuation.

S.C. Receives \$1.8 Million for Emergency Preparedness

Associated Press, April 18, 2003

South Carolina will receive nearly \$1.9 million in federal funds for emergency and terrorism preparedness from the Department of Homeland Security.

- [W.VA Awarded \\$1.8 Million Grant for Homeland Security](#), *AP*, April 20
- [Iowa to Receive Anti-Terror Funds](#), *KTIV*, April 21
- [State Receives Funding for Terrorism Preparedness](#), *Detroit News*, April 19
- [State Awarded Funding](#), *Town Times*, April 24

Emergency Preparedness Program Aimed at Seniors

New Britain Herald, April 19, 2003

Seniors will be instructed on planning for emergencies by the Plainville Fire Marshal in response to heightened concerns about terrorism and homeland security.

U Emergency Plan Addresses Civil Unrest, Terrorism

Minnesota Daily, April 21, 2003

The University of Minnesota has created an emergency preparedness plan outlining the responsibilities of key departments during a disaster and establishing who will make decisions during and after an emergency.

- [Schools Keeping Security in Mind](#), *Whittier Daily News*, April 19
- [Training Day at Sierra College](#), *The Union*, April 24

Business Group Lines Up Backups to State Emergency Response

Wichita Eagle, April 21, 2003

Under a unique public-private partnership in NJ, major corporations, hospital networks and other organizations are volunteering to help with everything during an emergency from transportation and communications to assisting victims and cleaning up damage.

LI Sharpens its Bioterror Plan

Newsday, April 22, 2003

The growing fear that New York City could suffer a bioterrorism attack has sobered officials on Long Island, who in recent months began stepping up plans to respond to such an event.

New Emergency Phone System Working

The Repository, April 22, 2003

The new countywide emergency notification system in Canton uses phone messages to alert residents of a disaster shortly after it happens and will be activated by a select group of health, emergency and safety officials.

State More Prepared than Ever to Respond to Bioterrorism

Shelby Star, April 22, 2003

State officials say NC is better prepared to respond to an act of terrorism now that doctors can report unusual symptoms to the state health director instead of waiting until a diagnosis is made.

- [Public Health Teams Hone Crisis Skills](#), *Fayetteville Observer*, April 19

Governor Refuses to Release Details of Homeland Security Plan

9News, April 22, 2003

Colorado Gov. Bill Owens refused to publicly release details of the state's plan to fight terrorism and respond to emergencies, citing security reasons after the Democratic Leadership Council had requested the information.

- [Colorado's Security Strategy Relies Heavily on Existing Assets](#), *AP*, April 24

Map's Colors Reveal Quake Danger Zones

Mercury News, April 23, 2003

A [map](#) revealed at the Disaster Resistant California Conference identifies the maximum shaking that could occur from future earthquakes.

York County Drills ‘As One’

York Daily Record, April 23, 2003

York County, PA participated in an exercise in which a malfunction at Three Mile Island resulted in the release of radioactive steam.

Bill Benefits Emergency Responders

Lewistown Sentinel, April 23, 2003

Representative Sather is the prime sponsor of a bill that would enable a \$25 million grant program in the Governor’s 2004 budget to be apportioned to fire and ambulance services.

➤ [County ‘More Ready Than Ever’ to Handle Disaster](#), *The Gazette News*, April 23

Bioterror Scenario: Healthy People Might Be A Problem

The Town Talk, April 24, 2003

At an exercise in Alexandria, LA, emergency professionals reacted to an imagined toxic release and discussed how to deal with worried well.

Emergency Plans Ordered for Casinos

Sacramento Bee, April 24, 2003

The California Gambling Control Commission approved a resolution requiring Indian casinos to adopt emergency preparedness plans.

Disaster Response Team Ready to Meet Challenges

Norwich Bulletin, April 24, 2003

The Connecticut Eastern Regional Response Integrated Team held their first training session and allowed responders from multiple disciplines to view resources from other departments.

FEMA Pleased with Stepped-Up Training

St Petersburg Times, April 25, 2003

FEMA REP staff reviewed training records for Citrus County and found that 83% of first responders have now received required training, up from just 8% in December.

RELATED INFORMATION

RECENT REPORTS

- [US Postal Service: Better Guidance Is Needed to Improve Communication Should Anthrax Contamination Occur in the Future](#), GAO-03-316, April 7, 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.