



Preparedness News and Information

From FEMA's Office of National Preparedness

July 11, 2003

NATIONAL NEWS

Rule Provides Liability Protection for Anti-terror Technologies

GovExec, July 10, 2003

The Homeland Security Department Friday will publish a proposed rule designed to accelerate the development of anti-terrorism technologies that will protect companies from massive lawsuits in the event such technologies fail to prevent another terrorist attack.

Nuke Weapons Chief Orders More Security

Associated Press, July 8, 2003

The administrator of the nation's nuclear weapons programs ordered tighter security at the labs this week in response to a recent spate of security failures.

➤ [NNSA Announces Security Initiatives for Weapons Laboratories](#), *NNSA*, July 8

TSA Takes on Cost of Airport Security

GovExec, July 8, 2003

In a long-anticipated move, the Transportation Security Administration finalized agreements to help three of the nation's largest airports pay for the installation of explosive-detection equipment.

Homeland Security Dept. Enlists Wall St.

NY Times, July 8, 2003

U.S. Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge on Tuesday enlisted Wall Street's help in fighting terrorism by announcing new initiatives to stop money laundering and other financial crimes just blocks from the site of the Sept. 11 attacks.

9/11 Commission Says Bush Administration Slow to Provide Info

CNS News, July 9, 2003

Focusing on what happened, how it happened and making sure everyone's prepared if it happens again, America's 9/11 commission Tuesday released its first progress report in the aftermath of the worst terrorist attacks in the nation's history.

➤ [9/11 Panel: Feds not Cooperating](#), *The Examiner*, July 9

As Bioterror Threat Grows, Federal Capacity to Respond Shrinks

GovExec, July 8, 2003

According to a new [report](#) released by the Partnership for Public Service, the government's capacity for anticipating and responding to a bioterrorist attack is diminishing while the threat continues to grow.

➤ [U.S. Lacks Bureaucrats to Fight Bioterror - Report](#), *Reuters*, July 8

- [Report Calls U.S. Agencies Understaffed for Bioterror](#), Partnership for Public Service, July 2003

CONGRESS

[FEMA Supplemental Request May Reach Congress Monday](#)

GovExec, July 6, 2003

The White House could send a \$1.9 billion supplemental request to Capitol Hill for disaster relief funding as early as Monday July 7, according to a House Appropriations Committee spokesman.

[Cybersecurity Laws Coming, Putnam Says](#)

Washington Technology, July 10, 2003

Cybersecurity regulations that will affect the private sector are on the way this year according to Representative Adam Putnam at a Capitol Hill forum sponsored by the Business Software Alliance and the Center for Strategic and International Studies of Washington.

- [Panel Chair Will Push for Cybersecurity Standards in Private Sector](#), *GovExec*, July 10

[Schlesinger Calls for Permanent Standing Committee on Homeland Security](#)

Select Committee on Homeland Security, July 10, 2003

During questioning at a Homeland Security Subcommittee hearing on reform of the House committee structure, James Schlesinger, the nation's first Secretary of Energy, called for the establishment of a single standing committee to oversee the Department of Homeland Security.

BILLS RECENTLY INTRODUCED

- **H.R.2708:** To provide for the security of commercial nuclear power plants and facilities designated by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, *House Energy and Commerce, House Judiciary Committee*, July 10

RECENT HEARINGS

- [Appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security](#), Senate Committee on Appropriations, July 9
- [Appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security](#), Senate Committee on Appropriations, July 10

STATE AND LOCAL ACTIVITIES

[UPMC to Grow Training Center](#)

Pittsburgh Business Times, July 7, 2003

UPMC Health System is looking to grow a local training center, an expansion that could transform it into a national draw for emergency medical and military personnel involved in homeland security.

Funded with Fed Millions, New State Division Focuses on Bio-Terror, Natural Crises

Independent Record, July 7, 2003

Funded with millions of federal dollars, the Helena Public Health and Safety Division aims to fortify the state's aging public health system, and officials hope the new division will better prepare Montana for bio-terrorism attacks, earthquakes, smallpox outbreaks or any other variation of disaster.

City Practices Disaster Response

Plano Star Courier, July 9, 2003

Emergency services personnel and political leaders practiced everything from press conferences to command-and-control functions in what was described as a comprehensive, two-day emergency preparedness drill monitored by the Texas Engineering Extension Service.

Antidote at the Ready for Attack

St. Petersburg Times, July 9, 2003

Since April, Hernando county's emergency medical personnel and first responders have been equipped with drugs courtesy of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to treat nerve agent exposure during a terrorist attack.

Knopp Unhappy with No Funds

The Hour Online, July 9, 2003

While Norwalk is making strides on its own to be better prepared for terrorist situations by hiring a Director of Emergency Management and creating a Public Safety Commission, Mayor Alex Knopp said he is unhappy with the lack of federal government funding and support.

Grants Allow Towns to Buy Costly Disaster Gear

Brattleboro Reformer, July 10, 2003

Area emergency officials say that Vermont's allotment of more than \$13 million in Homeland Security grants for the latter half of 2003 will allow the state to be better prepared for disasters including inclement weather, fires and possible terrorist attacks.

City Disaster Drill to Have National Import

Laurel Leader, July 10, 2003

The U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency has chosen Laurel to be the first jurisdiction in the country to receive computers, new software to run on them and training on the software that can help governments and public safety agencies deal with disasters, according to a FEMA spokeswoman.

Wellesley One of Pilot Sites for Threat-Preparedness Program

Wellesley Townsman, July 10, 2003

Along with 11 other communities across the country, Wellesley is participating in a pilot program aimed at preparing cities and towns to respond to bioterrorism and infectious disease outbreaks.

Yellow to Orange: What Changes?

News-Gazette, July 10, 2003

Illinois has a list of precautions the state takes for each homeland security threat advisory level, and drafted a template for local and county governments about a year ago, listing recommended actions for each color.

Secret Bioterrorism Detectors Placed in San Francisco

KTVU, July 10, 2003

At a series of secret locations in at least 31 cities, government scientists have deployed sensitive devices that sample the air around the clock for evidence of anthrax, smallpox and other deadly agents, and could provide early warning of a biological attack in a program dubbed 'Biowatch'.

\$9.6 Billion Plan Announced for Redesign of Los Angeles Airport to Thwart Terrorists

NY Times, July 10, 2003

The new LAX plan according to Los Angeles Mayor Hahn would increase the number of passengers passing through the airport each year by more than 20 million and would make the 75-year-old airport, "the safest and most secure airport in America."

Get Ready, New York

NY Newsday, July 11, 2003

Mayor Michael Bloomberg and Office of Emergency Management Commissioner John Odermatt are touting the publication of 572,000 copies of the "Ready New York" guide with tips on items to have on hand and how to react to various emergencies.

RELATED INFORMATION

RECENT REPORTS

- [Building the Expertise to Defend America from Bioterrorism](#), Partnership for Public Service, July 2003
- [Fixing the Homeland Security Appropriations Bill](#), Heritage Foundation, July 2003
- [Ready New York](#), New York City Emergency Management, July 2003

SPOTLIGHT WEBSITE

- [The Emergency Manager's Toolbox](#), All Hands Emergency Management Consulting and Training Services

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.