



Preparedness News and Information

From FEMA's Preparedness Division

August 15, 2003

NATIONAL NEWS

Business as Usual for Chemical Plants

Washington Post, August 11, 2003

The 15,000 chemical facilities around the country that produce, use or store significant quantities of toxic chemicals continue to present attractive targets for terrorists.

Report Finds Threat Alerts in Color Code Baffle Public

NY Times, August 9, 2003

A new Congressional report has found that the government's much ridiculed color-coded terrorist alert system is so vague in detailing threats that the public "may begin to question the authenticity" of the threats and take no action when the alert level is raised.

- [Report Suggests Overhaul of Terror-Warning System](#), *CNN*, Aug 12
- [Terror Alert System is Too Vague, Congressional Researchers Say](#), *GovExec*, Aug 13

Smallpox Vaccinations Warning

CBS, August 12, 2003

Despite worry about the possibility of a terrorist attack using smallpox, [a panel of scientists](#) is recommending that members of the general public not get vaccinated against the disease unless they are part of a carefully monitored research study.

- [No Need for General U.S. Smallpox Shots -Report](#), *Reuters*, Aug 9

Report: Children More Vulnerable in Fires

AP/Yahoo, August 13, 2003

A report released by FEMA finds that children under the age of five are more than twice as likely to die in residential fires.

- [FEMA Kicks Off Public Safety Campaign](#), *USFA*, Aug 13

Outage Illuminated Preparedness Question

Detroit Free Press, August 15, 2003

The power outages offered state and local officials an opportunity to gage their readiness, and that of their citizens, in the event of a terrorist attack.

- [Northeast Power Outage Raises Importance of Preparedness](#), *US Newswire*, Aug 14
- [How to Protect Your Health During a Blackout](#), *Democrat and Chronicle*, Aug 15

Companies Should Review Emergency Plans with Employees

American Society of Safety Engineers, August 14, 2003

Officials from the American Society of Safety Engineers issued a press release highlighting the importance of companies reviewing emergency plans with employees.

CONGRESS

Lawmakers Cite Air Safety Flaws

NY Times, August 8, 2003

Two lawmakers suggested today that the Bush administration was not moving quickly enough to improve passenger safety despite new warnings of possible terror attacks.

- [Lawmaker Wants Smaller Cargo Screened for Explosives](#), *CNN*, Aug 8

STATE AND LOCAL ACTIVITIES

Localities Short on Homeland Security Personnel, not Equipment

GovExec, August 8, 2003

While homeland security is not entirely unfunded, the federal government has made it clear that under no circumstances is it going to get into the expensive proposition of hiring local police and firefighters.

Agencies Still Lack Proper Equipment

Anniston Star, August 10, 2003

Many firefighters, police officers and paramedics entrusted to serve as first responders and who would help direct an evacuation in the event of a chemical weapons accident at the Anniston Army Depot are not equipped to do their jobs.

Power in Preparedness

Bismarck Tribune, August 11, 2003

CERT is the Community Emergency Response Team, a program led by the North Dakota Citizen Corps and co-sponsored by first lady Mikey Hoeven, the North Dakota League of Cities and North Dakota Emergency Management.

CERT Volunteer Saves Couple, Seven Dogs from Burning Van

Hernando Today, August 9, 2003

Hernando County EMS coordinates the local CERT program, which has provided basic skills training in disaster preparedness, fire suppression, medical operations, and light search and rescue to over 150 local residents during the past two years.

Grants Help Bring Anti-terror Gear to Area

Democrat and Chronicle, August 9, 2003

Tapping a flood of new homeland-security money from Washington, county officials throughout New York have begun ordering millions of dollars' worth of new equipment to help them respond to a major terrorist attack.

Homeland Grants Help Firefighters

The Herald, August 9, 2003

Almost 2,000 fire departments nationwide have received more than \$125 million in federal grants this year as part of the Homeland Security Department's emergency preparedness program to enhance basic fire services.

- [Hinsdale Firefighters Receive Grant to Update Equipment](#), *Berkshire Eagle*, Aug 13
- [Homeland Security Grant Secured for Pas Fire Department](#), *Gulf Live*, Aug 14

Helmet Peak Firefighters Granted Funds to Upgrade

Tucson Citizen, August 9, 2003

A volunteer fire department in Helmet Peak, south of Tucson, will upgrade its equipment and programs with a \$53,460 grant from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

Drill Helps State, Region Prepare for Emergencies

Portsmouth Herald, August 12, 2003

Operation Yankee was orchestrated this past weekend by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and emergency management teams from six states.

Hawaii will get \$6.8 Million to Guard Against Terrorism

Honolulu Advertiser, August 12, 2003

Hawaii will receive a \$6.8 million federal grant to train Honolulu's first responders for chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and explosive attacks.

'Be Prepared' Motto Key to Valley-Wide Campaign

The Express-Times, August 13, 2003

Leadership from the American Red Cross, Girl Scouts, and Boy Scouts kicked off a campaign in the Lehigh Valley to encourage residents to prepare for natural disasters or other catastrophes.

Terrorism Treatment Promoted in Montco

The Philadelphia Inquirer, August 13, 2003

Officials are recommending that vacant buildings at a state hospital be refurbished to provide surge capacity in the vent of a mass casualty event.

Prepared for the Worst: City is on Leading Edge of Planning

Carlsbad Current-Argus, August 12, 2003

Carlsbad has developed and implemented a comprehensive emergency preparedness plan, which includes an extensive list of resources and a detailed description of city-owned facilities.

Homeland Security Issues Prompt Local Officials to Examine Preparedness

The Sun Staff, August 14, 2003

A technical questionnaire highlights the need for the Town Council to discuss homeland security issues.

Oregon to Unveil Emergency Link

Federal Computer Week, August 12, 2003

Oregon's Regional Alliance for Infrastructure and Network Security will launch an automated response system to distribute incident alert information to key agencies and first responder organizations.

Getting Prepared Against Terrorism

News-Journal, August 15, 2003

Longview officials participated in a workshop to discuss preparations for issues that could surface during a terrorism incident.

Homeland Security Advisors Meet with Governors

WANE, August 14, 2003

Homeland security directors from across the nation met with homeland security advisors in Indianapolis as part of [NGA's 95th Annual Meeting](#) to discuss airport security, intelligence gathering, and funding.

RELATED INFORMATION

RECENT REPORTS

- [Homeland Defense: DOD Needs to Assess the Structure of U.S. Forces for Domestic Military Missions](#), GAO-03-670, July 2003
- [Review of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Smallpox Vaccination Program Implementation, Letter Report #4](#), Institute of Medicine, The National Academies, August 2003
- [Critical Infrastructure Preparedness and Homeland Security, *Perspective on Preparedness*](#), July 2003

The information contained in this newsletter was collected from Internet sources. Opinions expressed do not necessarily represent the official position of the Department of Homeland Security or FEMA's Preparedness Division.