



Preparedness News and Information

From FEMA's Preparedness Division

November 14, 2003

NATIONAL NEWS

[Forum Examines Journalistic Preparedness for Emergencies](#)

Dateline Alabama, November 11, 2003

During a forum at the University of Alabama, presenters stated that while media organizations arrive quickly to the scene of an incident and play an important role in the dissemination of information, they are not prepared for specific emergencies.

[9/11 Panel: What If the Unthinkable Happens Again?](#)

The Star-Ledger, November 11, 2003

The National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States will hold a public session at Drew University focusing on emergency preparedness.

[Satellite Technology's Role in Police and Public Safety Emergency Communications](#)

Government Technology, November 11, 2003

A satellite system is assisting mobile command centers, allowing responders to conduct research and providing on-scene command, control, and communications.

[Securing the Homeland: Helping State and Local First Responders and First Preventers](#)

DHS Press Release, November 13, 2003

DHS announced that an [additional \\$725 million](#) is available for the Urban Area Security Initiative to help urban areas enhance their overall security and preparedness levels.

CONGRESS

[Some Homeland Security Activities Remain Unfunded](#)

GovExec/Technology Daily, November 10, 2003

According to a Senate budget expert, more than 25 percent of federal homeland security activities remain unfunded as many appropriations bills remain to be passed.

[Lawmakers Blast Proposal to Overhaul Public Health Service Corps](#)

Congress Daily/GovExec, November 13, 2003

Lawmakers are hesitant to support a plan, which includes new physical fitness requirements, by Secretary Thompson to overhaul the Public Health Services Corps in an effort to make it a fully deployable force prepared to respond to emergency situations.

STATE AND LOCAL ACTIVITIES

[Loudoun Launches Medical Corps](#)

Leesburg 2day, November 13, 2003

The Loudoun County Health Department received a grant to develop volunteer medical and public health response capabilities.

[Bonfire Report Says Rescuers Unorganized](#)

Houston Chronicle, November 10, 2003

A [report](#) by the US Fire Administration found that rescuers responding to the 1999 bonfire collapse at Texas A&M were hampered by the lack of a centralized command system.

- [FEMA Review of Deadly Texas A&M Bonfire Collapse Provides Insight Into Lessons Learned](#), *FEMA Press Release*, Nov 10

State Ag Department Unveils New Agrisecurity Tool

Michigan Ag Connection, November 7, 2003

In an effort to boost its agrisecurity capabilities, the Michigan Department of Agriculture has procured two mobile emergency supply units and provided its veterinarians with emergency response kits.

- [Ridge Praises Iowa's Agriterrorism Defenses](#), *AP/Sentinel News*, Nov 14

City, County Create Fire Prevention Task Force

The San Diego Channel, November 13, 2003

The San Diego Regional Fire Prevention and Emergency Preparedness Task Force has been formed to develop recommendations on how the area can better prepare for disasters, use resources more efficiently, and changes that are needed in existing codes and regulations.

Emergency Drill Will Test Attack Response

The Star-Ledger, November 14, 2003

Federal, state, and local responders will participate in a drill to test their ability to react to a potential terrorist attack on a major container ship.

- [Study Backs Up Mayor's LNG Tanker Concerns](#), *WCVB*, Nov 7

Health Agencies Joining Forces

AP/Pioneer Press, November 10, 2003

Local health departments in Wisconsin have formed a dozen regional planning groups develop plans to improve coordination and communication during a public health emergency.

New Plan Aligns State's Technology with Program Needs

Portsmouth Herald, November 10, 2003

The New Hampshire State Office of Information Technology released its technology plan, which identified six strategic technology solution areas, to include emergency preparedness.

Schools Get Grants Over \$1M

Public Opinion, November 10, 2003

Schools in Pennsylvania received a grant to enhance emergency response preparedness between county agencies and local school districts.

1st-Responder Needs Detailed to Get Grant

Medill News Service, November 10, 2003

Local officials in Missouri have until November 15 to submit a needs assessment to the state in order to qualify for federal funding.

- [How Secure Is Your Town?](#) *Daily News Tribune*, Nov 13

The City Needs Volunteers to Help Prepare for Any Future Disasters

New Haven Register, November 11, 2003

Mayor Richetelli is forming the Milford Coalition for Community Preparedness to organize community volunteers to assist in putting preparedness plans into action.

Group is Pushing Disaster Plan for Animals

The Plain Dealer, November 12, 2003

The goal of the American Veterinary Medical Foundation is to ensure that all states have a plan in place to take care of animals in disaster by the end of the decade.

Strides Made in Readiness, Officials Say

The Courier-Journal, November 12, 2003

Officials from Indiana and Kentucky say that they have made necessary changes in preparing for chemical and biological terrorism in the two years since September 11.

Oswego Hospital Holds Radiation Contamination Drill

Oswego Daily News, November 13, 2003

Local, state, and federal agencies participated in a drill that tested the hospitals capabilities to decontaminate and deal with contaminated and injured patients.

- [Local Hospital Prepared for Terrorist Attack](#), *WTVO Illinois*, Nov 12
- [Hospital Prepares for Disaster](#), *The Myrtle Beach Sun News*, Nov 14

Pasadena Officials Test Emergency Preparedness

News 24 Houston, November 13, 2003

Pasadena held a drill to test emergency crews ability to respond to a major HazMat spill and terrorist attack.

- [Mock Chemical Spill Tests Emergency Readiness](#), *The Courier Herald*, Nov 13

Emergency Preparedness Topic of Session

Oconomowoc Focus, November 12, 2003

City officials participated in training to develop a plan of action for crisis situations, to include meeting the needs of public safety personnel and ensuring that finance and public works would be able to address the recovery challenges they would face.

Drill Rehearses Bioterror Treatment

New 14 Carolina, November 13, 2003

The county health department conducted a bioterrorism drill at a local high school to test the department's plans to distribute large quantities of medication.

Round Twenty-Two of the Assistance to Firefighters Grants Announced by FEMA

USFA Press Release, November 14, 2003

FEMA announced another 193 grants to local fire departments as part of round 22 of the 2003 Assistance to Firefighters Grant program.

- [Pumpkintown Firefighters' New Radios to Get Welcome Reception](#), *Greenville News*, Nov 9

Region Readies for Terror Attack

Erie Times News, November 14, 2003

During a regional meeting, officials were briefed on the different shapes that terrorism can take, to include agricultural terrorism and attacks on the food supply.

RELATED INFORMATION

RECENT REPORTS

- [Bonfire Collapse: Texas A&M University](#), Technical Report Series (USFA-TR-133), Nov 2003

SPOTLIGHT WEBSITE

- [Responder Knowledge Database](#)
- [2003 Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program](#)

APPOINTMENTS

- [Liscouski Takes Reins of National Communications System](#), *GCN*, Nov 13

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.