



# Preparedness News and Information

From FEMA's Preparedness Division

December 5, 2003

## NATIONAL NEWS

### **Gephardt Wants Increased Security Funds**

*AP/The Mercury News*, December 1, 2003

Presidential candidate Gephardt called for \$100 billion to be spent over five years on homeland security issues to assist state and local governments.

### **Report Shows Limited Gains on Terror Info**

*AP/WTOP*, December 2, 2003

A [report](#) by the Markle Foundation finds that the federal government has made limited progress in improving how it gathers and disseminates terrorist-related information.

### **National Guard to Take on More Homeland Defense Duties**

*GovExec*, December 2, 2003

Based on the findings from a number of military studies, the National Guard will play a greater role in protecting critical infrastructure as one of its emerging mission requirements.

### **Sept 11 Probers Look at Emergency Radios**

*AP/New York Times*, December 2, 2003

According to preliminary findings by NIST, the overwhelming volume of transmissions by responders during September 11 may have cut off as many as half of the radio calls.

➤ [Commerce's NIST Updates Progress of World Trade Center Investigation](#), Dec 2

### **Labor Secretary Keynotes Seminar on Emergency Preparedness for People with Disabilities**

*DOL Press Release*, December 2, 2003

Labor Secretary Chao delivered the keynote address at a federal seminar for managers on emergency preparedness for people with disabilities.

### **US Pressing Industry on Technology Security**

*New York Times*, December 4, 2003

Federal officials speaking at the first National Cyber Security Summit highlighted the need for private sector to make progress in voluntarily complying with the national cybersecurity plan.

### **Feds Think Regionally**

*Federal Computer Week*, December 1, 2003

Federal officials are exploring the possibility of funding regional areas as a way to finance the mobilization of homeland security-related resources.

## STATE AND LOCAL ACTIVITIES

### **OEP Conducts Search and Rescue Exercise**

*Southwest Daily News*, December 2, 2003

Calcasieu Parish conducted a drill as a culmination of training conducted for CERT members and to test the Parish's plan to involve community volunteers.

### **Group Says Better Communication Needed for Emergency Response**

*AP/Daily Press*, December 1, 2003

During a hearing before the Virginia Senate and House Commerce and Labor Committees, the heads of state agencies, public utilities, and representatives from insurance companies discussed lessons learned from Hurricane Isabel, with better communication as a key finding.

### **Red Cross Securing Area Schools**

*The Reporter*, November 29, 2003

The Southeastern Chapter of the ARC is establishing agreements with local school districts for use as mass care centers in the event of an emergency.

- [Preparing for Disaster](#), *Capital News 9*, December 1, 2003

### **CERTificates for New Emergency Volunteers**

*The Rio Rancho Observer*, December 1, 2003

The first class of citizens completed CERT training, an eight week course geared to empower residents to take care of themselves and others during a disaster.

- [Kirksville Urges Residents to Become 'CERT' -ified](#), *KTVOTV3*, Dec 1

### **Terror Funds Disputed**

*The Detroit News*, December 1, 2003

Emergency management directors in southeast Michigan believe that funding that the state received for terrorism preparedness is not being fairly distributed.

### **Round 24 of the Assistance to Firefighters Grants Is the Largest Announced**

*USFA Press Release*, November 28, 2003

FEMA announced that an additional 635 grants were made as part of the *2003 Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program*.

### **Grant Backs Medical Crisis Group**

*The Herald-Sun*, December 1, 2003

A grant to the Orange County Health Department will be used to create a volunteer emergency medical unit to assist citizens in the event of a public health emergency.

### **Brown County Organizes Another Terror Drill**

*The Green Bay News-Chronicle*, December 2, 2003

Brown County will hold a tabletop exercise that will focus on integrating state and federal agencies with local resources in the event of a chemical disaster.

### **Mayor Urged to Seek More Terror Funds**

*NY Newsday*, December 1, 2003

The Chairman of the City Council Public Safety Committee sent a letter to Mayor Bloomberg requesting a detailed accounting of the city's homeland security spending and a plan for obtaining additional funding.

### **Emergency Response on School Agenda**

*Independent*, December 3, 2003

Since October, Hazlet has conducted three school evacuation drills to ensure that faculty and students know what to do should a crisis strike the school.

### **Report Looks at Tourism Crisis Responses**

*Honolulu Advertiser*, December 2, 2003

A report released by the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation International Centre for Sustainable Tourism found that Hawaii did a good job in developing contingency plans following the September 11 attacks.

### **State Ahead in Bioterror Readiness**

*Seattle Post-Intelligence Reporter*, December 4, 2003

An expert with the CDC found that while Washington state is not fully prepared for a bioterrorism event, such as an outbreak of smallpox, it is further along than most states.

- [GA Hospital Gets Grant Money to Combat Bioterrorism](#), *Macon Telegraph*, Dec 5

### **Storm Policy Reviewed**

*Daily Leader*, December 3, 2003

The Pontiac City Council reviewed its winter storm preparedness policy, which outlines protocols and call down procedures.

### **Success, Failure in Cedar Fire Described**

*Union-Tribune*, December 3, 2003

A [report](#) delivered to the mayor and the San Diego City Council outlined some of the lessons learned from the wildfires this fall.

### **Disaster Plan for Homeless Discussed**

*Hampton Roads Daily Press*, December 4, 2003

During a meeting in Hampton, emergency management officials and response personnel discussed the need for preparedness plans that address the unique requirements of those that are homeless or require special services.

### **CDs Advise on Disaster Planning**

*Anchorage Daily News*, December 4, 2003

During the kickoff meeting of "Think AHEAD" (Able to Handle Emergencies and Disasters), business owners were given the option of a CD at the basic, intermediate, or advanced level to assist them with their preparedness planning efforts.

### **City Moves to Better Protect Drinking Water**

*Newzcentral*, December 4, 2003

The Hanford City Council agreed to hire a consultant to conduct a vulnerability assessment on the city's water system.

### **Central Minnesota Hospitals Plan Test of SARS Readiness**

*St. Cloud Times*, December 5, 2003

Approximately 20 hospitals and 14 county governments will participate in a weeklong drill to test the area's health alert network and mass casualty preparedness.

## **RELATED INFORMATION**

### **RECENT REPORTS**

- [Combating Terrorism: Improvements Needed in Southern Command's Antiterrorism Approach for In-Transit Forces at Seaports](#) (GAO-04-80NI), October 31
- [Creating a Trusted Network for Homeland Security](#), Markle Foundation, Dec 2
- [Bioterrorism: A Threat to Agriculture and the Food Supply](#) (GAO-04-259T), Nov 19
- [Initial 30-Day Post-Fire Overview](#), City of San Diego Manager's Report, Dec 3

### **SPOTLIGHT WEBSITE**

- [Independent Study List](#), Emergency Management Institute

---

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.