



Preparedness News and Information

From FEMA's Preparedness Division

December 19, 2003

NATIONAL NEWS

Terror Panel Seeks Civil Liberties Board

AP/Yahoo, December 14, 2003

The [final Gilmore Commission report](#) recommends that an advisory board be created to assess how anti-terrorism measures have affected civil liberties.

Classified Look at U.S. Biodefense Nearly Finished

Washington Post, December 16, 2003

Senior officials have almost completed an assessment that catalogues gaps in measures to protect against bioterrorism and begins to develop strategies for addressing those gaps.

Justice Report: U.S. Attorneys' Offices Unprepared for Crises

GovExec, December 16, 2003

A [report](#) by the Department of Justice Inspector General found that many U.S. Attorneys' offices are unprepared to respond to crises ranging from natural disasters to terrorist attacks.

Bush Signs New Homeland Security Directives

Technology Daily/GovExec, December 17, 2003

President Bush signed two homeland security presidential directives: [HSPD-7](#) requires coordination in identifying critical infrastructures and [HSPD-8](#) outlines national preparedness objectives.

STATE AND LOCAL ACTIVITIES

Counties to Benefit from Grants

News and Sentinel, December 14, 2003

Funding has been made available to community service organizations in West Virginia as part of the Emergency Food and Shelter Program.

Washoe Developing System to Track Patients with Symptoms of Certain Illnesses

Reno Gazette-Journal, December 13, 2003

The Washoe District Health Department plans to create an early detection system, which will receive daily reports from hospital emergency room patients.

New Panel Homes in on Issues of Security

Juneau Empire, December 14, 2003

Juneau has formed a special committee on emergency planning to review emergency plans and make recommendations to the Assembly.

Holden Signs Executive Orders to Bolster Homeland Security

Jefferson City News Tribune, December 14, 2003

Missouri Governor Holden signed six executive orders aimed at increasing the state's homeland security preparedness.

Drill at Dow Plant Prepares for Terrorism

The Star-Ledger, December 15, 2003

A terrorism drill at the Dow Chemical Company plant was held to test the preparedness level of the facility and the employees.

Local Colleges Unite for Homeland Security

The Reporter, December 15, 2003

A number of Pennsylvania colleges have formed a consortium to offer a homeland-security program to equip people with needed overarching managerial administrative and planning skills.

Departments Get Together to Discuss Plans in Case of Bad Weather

Palladium-Item, December 15, 2003

Preble County officials and state departments met to discuss preparedness efforts, to include communications, in the event of a severe winter storm.

Bioterrorism Preparedness Plan Passed

Herald Democrat, December 17, 2003

The Sherman School Board approved an interlocal agreement that allows the county health department to immunize or treat residents in the event of a bioterrorism threat.

N. County Rescuers Drill for Disasters

The Berkshire Eagle, December 17, 2003

Firefighters and EMS providers participated in 12 hours of classroom training and simulation, culminating in a drill testing their ability to handle widespread chemical contamination.

Public Invited to Homeland Security Expo Next Month

Macomb Daily, December 18, 2003

A Homeland Security Expo will be held in Macomb County to influence citizens to become more involved in security and crisis preparedness.

Some Say Dallas Still Lacking Homeland-Security Resources

WFAA-TV, December 17, 2003

Officials in North Texas argue that they still do not have the resources required to respond to a crisis, especially in the area of communications.

CSEPP to Get an Additional \$4.1 Million in 2004

Tri-City Herald, December 18, 2003

The CSEPP board of governors was informed that the program will receive additional funding, which will include a study to determine the need for an evacuation plan for the Hermiston depot.

Review of Deadly Alligator Alley Accident Provides Insights Into Lessons Learned

USFA Press Release, December 17, 2003

A [technical review](#) of the a 2002 traffic accident in Florida determined that pre-incident planning and exercises played a crucial role in helping responders resolve the incident.

RELATED INFORMATION

HOMELAND SECURITY PRESIDENTIAL DIRECTIVES

- [HSPD-7: Critical Infrastructure Identification, Prioritization, and Protection](#), Dec 17
- [HSPD-8: National Preparedness](#), Dec 17

RECENT REPORTS

- [Securing Our Homeland, Protecting Our Liberty](#), Gilmore Commission, Dec 15
- [Review of the Critical Incident Response Plans of the United States Attorneys' Offices](#) (Report Number I-2004-001), December 2003
- [I-75 Multiple Vehicle Collision/Mass Casualty Incident](#) (USFA-TR-155), December 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.