



Preparedness News and Information

From FEMA's Preparedness Division

December 24, 2003

Happy Holidays!

NATIONAL NEWS

Department of Homeland Security Releases Summary Conclusions from National Exercise

DHS Press Release, December 19, 2003

DHS released its [summary conclusions](#) from TOPOFF2, a national-level full-scale exercise that took place in Seattle and Chicago.

- [Terror Drill Finds City Lapses](#), *Chicago Sun-Times*, Dec 20
- [Drill Shows 'Humbling' Gaps in Readiness](#), *UPI*, Dec 19

Congress Seeks Better System for Funding Terrorism Response

Global Security Newswire/GovExec, December 22, 2003

Lawmakers are debating how DHS should provide funding to states and local jurisdictions—to include thoughts on if the money should go to states or localities and whether it should be awarded based on population or vulnerabilities.

Democrats Question Terror-Readiness Funds

AP/Yahoo, December 22, 2003

Democratic presidential candidates are questioning whether states and local jurisdictions have the funding needed to increase security during an elevated threat level.

- [Cash-Strapped Cities Grapple with Security Costs](#), *Reuters/Yahoo*, Dec 22

Report Urges Network Redundancy

Federal Computer Week, December 23, 2003

A [report](#) from the The Progress and Freedom Foundation finds that the federal government should enact policies to create greater redundancy in communications systems.

STATE AND LOCAL ACTIVITIES

Hamilton Heights Schools Get Crisis-Response Plan

Indianapolis Star, December 22, 2003

The Hamilton Heights School District became the first in the county to adopt a multiagency disaster preparedness plan.

Carteret Bolsters Emergency Steps

Home News Tribune, December 22, 2003

The Borough of Carteret pulled together a team of instructors to discuss strategic planning and incident management to help prepare officials to respond to disasters.

Brigham City Will Deliver Emergency Preparedness Manual to All Residents

Casper Star-Tribune, December 20, 2003

Using funding from a DHS grant, city officials are planning to deliver an emergency preparedness manual to every house early in 2004.

Round Twenty-Seven of the Assistance to Firefighters Grants Is Announced

USFA Press Release, December 19, 2003

An additional 483 grants were made to fire departments in round twenty-seven of the 2003 Assistance to Firefighter Grant Program.

Bay Area Called Prepared, but Very Far from Immune

Contra Costa Times, December 23, 2003

Earthquake experts believe that East Bay is better prepared for a large earthquake but that parts of the region would be heavily damaged by a magnitude 6.5 or higher quake.

Medical Reserve Unit Receives Homeland Security Grant

San Antonio Business Journal, December 22, 2003

The Texas Medical Rangers, a volunteer medical reserve unit at the University of Texas, has received a grant from HHS to support its homeland security efforts.

Maine Schools, Communities Use Grant to Prepare for Emergencies

Portsmouth Herald, December 23, 2003

Southern Maine school districts received a grant from the Department of Education to build an Emergency Response and Crisis Management preparedness and response system.

Panel Will Examine Keeping Water Safe

The Oregonian, December 23, 2003

The City of Portland has created a committee that will study how to protect the drinking water supply.

Ocean Health Officials Learn from Terror Drill

Tri-Town News, December 25, 2003

During the Garden Vector Bioterrorism Weapon Tabletop Exercise in New Jersey, officials learned the importance and need for communications among first responders.

RELATED INFORMATION

RECENT REPORTS

- [Top Officials \(TOPOFF\) Exercise Series: TOPOFF 2: After Action Summary Report](#), Dec 19
- [Preventing a Communications Blackout: The Need for Telecom Redundancy](#), The Progress and Freedom Foundation, 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.