



Preparedness News and Information

From FEMA's Preparedness Division

February 13, 2004

NATIONAL NEWS

[FDNY Wants Its Own High School - New York](#)

EMSNetwork.com, February 11, 2004

The New York Fire Department is aiming to create its own high school in Brooklyn with a homeland security and fire-focused curriculum.

[GAO Finds Bioterror Protection Gaps](#)

FCW.com, February 12, 2004

A recent Congressional investigation finds States are still not fully prepared to respond to bioterrorism threats.

[Homeland Security Spending Under Fire](#)

New York Times, February 11, 2004

Democratic Senators are charging that the President's proposed \$6 billion increase for homeland defense spending will actually cut funding for local first responder initiatives.

[Hazardous Materials Inventory Information](#)

Govtech.com, February 11, 2004

A joint project has resulted in Maryland's Online Tier II Reporting system, a 24/7 system based on an easy-to-use geographic information system that streamlines the submission and management of hazardous material inventory information.

[Lawmakers Want Full Assessment of Terrorism Risks](#)

GovExec.com, February 12, 2004

Some Congressmen on the House Homeland Security Committee are concerned that the Homeland Security Department has yet to create a full risk assessment of potential terrorism.

[Homeland Security Gets 17% Of Federal Tech Budget](#)

TechWeb, February 9, 2004

A boost in the homeland security IT budget has resulted in an increase of more than 5% from what was requested for 2004.

[Coast Guard Faces Obstacles in Efforts to Protect Ports](#)

Pasadena Star News, February 7, 2004

In addition to a battle over a radio frequency, the Coast Guard is facing other obstacles as it serves to protect the nation's ports.

[President Announces New Measures to Counter the Threat of WMD](#)

White House Press Release, February 11, 2004

President Bush today proposed new steps that the Administration believes will help combat the development and spread of weapons of mass destruction.

CONGRESS

LEGISLATION

- [H.R.3798](#) : To amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to improve aviation security.
- [H.R.3804](#) : To amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to make beach nourishment projects eligible for inclusion in mitigation plans and for hazard mitigation assistance.

STATE AND LOCAL ACTIVITIES

[City Wants Ambulance Plans](#)

Capital News 9, February 12, 2004

Looking for a new source of revenue, the city of Glens Falls, NY is looking into offering an ambulance service for citizens.

[D.C. Police, EMS to Get Broadband](#)

USA Today, February 11, 2004

D.C. officials are creating the nation's first broadband data network for emergency workers.

[County Pitches Joint Disaster Preparedness](#)

The Davis Enterprise, February 12, 2004

Yolo County, California is creating a countywide disaster preparedness plan in conjunction with four of its cities.

[Local McDonald's Teams with Citizen Corps for Preparedness](#)

Hannibal Courier-Post, February 12, 2004

A Hannibal, MO McDonald's created specially-designed placemats with the local Citizen Corps council to help people learn more about disaster preparedness.

[N.C. Animal Emergency Agency is Model for Other States](#)

Star News Online, February 12, 2004

North Carolina created a State Animal Response Team (SART), building off lessons learned from Hurricane Floyd. Under the auspices of the state Department of Agriculture, the SART team helps governments, veterinary organizations, livestock businesses and humane groups plan how to manage animals during emergencies.

[Michigan Sets Up Emergency Network of DVMs](#)

DVM Newsmagazine, February 12, 2004

State officials have created a comprehensive educational training program directed at veterinarians to improve preparedness and response to animal disease-related emergencies.

[Anti-bioterrorism Training for Houston's Water Systems](#)

News 24 Houston, February 12, 2004

600 water suppliers attended a seminar put together by the Harris County, TX Public Health Department. These public works officials will learn about threat level, vulnerability, and how to prepare against possible attacks.

[Communities Train Residents to Assist with Emergencies](#)

Arizona Republic, February 9, 2004

An Arizona official has developed a program, Assistance in Disaster, which will train volunteers to assist with traffic control, evacuations, search and rescue, evidence preservation or staff a regional reporting center where volunteer efforts are coordinated.

New Maps Increase Floodplains

Charlotte Observer, February 12, 2004

New improvements to FEMA floodplain maps have resulted in an extension of the floodplain that now encompasses 1,000 additional citizens in Mecklenburg County.

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.