



Preparedness News and Information

From FEMA's Preparedness Division

March 12, 2004

NATIONAL NEWS

[DHS Mulls Options for Interoperable Wireless Communications](#)

GovExec.com, March 11, 2004

The Department of Homeland Security is evaluating a number of ways to increase the interoperability of wireless communications for first responders, including the consideration of a new program management office.

[Mad Cow Effects Ripple Through Food Economy](#)

Christian Science Monitor, March 11, 2004

The United States Department of Agriculture moving towards more rigorous animal testing, attempting to secure confidence in American beef while maintaining a heightened level of BSE preparedness.

[Report: Terror Alerts Need Work](#)

Associated Press, March 11, 2004

A preliminary government report maintains that that the nation is failing to adequately notify local authorities to changes in the nation's terror alert level.

CONGRESS

[Democrats Push for More Homeland Security, First Responder Funds](#)

FCW.com, March 11, 2004

Seeking to restore funding to several preparedness and first responder programs, Senate Democrats will introduce an amendment to increase homeland security and emergency responder funding by \$6.8 billion to the fiscal 2005 budget resolution. This money will also include funding for interoperable communications equipment.

HEARINGS

- [To hold hearings to examine the role of the U.S. Northern Command and U.S. Special Operations Command in defending the homeland and in the global war on terrorism, in review of the defense authorization request for fiscal year 2005](#), Senate Armed Services Committee, March 25, 2004.

STATE AND LOCAL ACTIVITIES

[Health Workers Test Mass Vaccination Skills](#)

Arizona Daily Sun, March 11, 2004

Coconino County Health Department and other agencies are participating in an exercise designed to evaluate their mass vaccination readiness. The county is distributing booster shots for tetanus and diphtheria, which will serve the dual purpose of honing their mass vaccination skills and providing needed immunizations for their schoolchildren.

Metropolitan Operators

Boston.com, March 11, 2004

A coalition of 10 metropolitan Boston cities, as well as Boston itself, are working with the University of Massachusetts' Center for Emergency Preparedness to create a Web-based regional inventory of emergency management equipment. In addition, the metropolitan mayors are establishing mutual aid agreements that will encompass non-public safety departments.

Yankton Co. Officials To Discuss West Nile Tonight

Yankton Daily Press, March 11, 2004

Yankton County, SD officials will hold a county-wide meeting to discuss preparedness strategies for dealing with mosquitoes, West Nile virus, and other diseases in their communities.

Child in Accident Listed as Critical

Asheboro Courier Tribune, March 11, 2004

Randolph Hospital, NC, personnel credit their frequent disaster drills for enabling them to respond effectively and handle an influx of victims when a day care van accident occurred in their community.

Initial Evaluation of Mock Exercise 'Impressive'

Daily Home, March 11, 2004

Emergency responders from six Alabama counties participated in an exercise to test how they would handle a hazardous chemical accident at the Anniston chemical disposal site.

A Refuge of Safety and Comfort

Needham Times, March 10, 2004

The Needham County Emergency Management Agency will host an open house on emergency shelter. Visitors will receive comfort kits, as well as materials on emergency preparedness.

State Holds Disaster Workshops For Seniors

WXII-12, March 10, 2004

A series of disaster workshops for seniors will be held by the Governor's Volunteer Commission throughout North Carolina.

Illinois Deploys New Electronic Disease Reporting System

GovTech.net, March 10, 2004

The governor of Illinois announced the development of a new electronic disease reporting system that will allow the state to increase its public health surveillance.

22 Named to Anti-terror Panel to Bolster S.D. Bay Security

San Diego Union-Tribune, March 9, 2004

Officials from various agencies and disciplines will form a panel to assess terrorist threats in the harbor and advise San Diego's federal maritime security coordinator. They also will coordinate communications, training and exercises involving civilian and government users of the bay to fortify the waterway against a terrorist attack.

RELATED INFORMATION

DISCOURSE

- [Preparedness An Issue in U.S.](#)

SPOTLIGHT WEBSITE

- [FTA Top 20 Security Program Action Items for Transit Agencies](#)

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