



Preparedness News and Information

From FEMA's Preparedness Division

March 19, 2004

NATIONAL NEWS

[Department of Homeland Security Announces Homeland Security Funding Task Force](#)

DHS Press Release, March 15, 2004

DHS announced a Homeland Security Funding Task Force composed of state, county, city, and tribal representatives to examine the funding process and ensure that Department of Homeland Security funds move quickly to local first responders.

[Task Force to Study First-Responder Funding](#), *Government Computer News*, March 18, 2004

[Department of Homeland Security Announces Arizona Border Control Initiative](#)

DHS Press Release, March 16, 2004

In a first -of- its- kind effort to achieve an even safer and more secure Southwest border, Department of Homeland Security Under Secretary for Border and Transportation Security Asa Hutchinson unveils the "Arizona Border Control (ABC) Initiative."

[Border Security Plan Draws Mixed Reaction](#), *The Business Journal*, March 17, 2004

[DHS's 22 Combined Agencies Are Performing Well](#)

The Miami Herald, March 18, 2004

DHS Deputy Secretary Admiral Loy addresses priorities for the Department's second year to include better information sharing with states and cities to improve infrastructure protection.

[Lawmakers Demand Standards For Homeland Security Grants](#)

GovExec, March 18, 2004

During a Congressional hearing the director of domestic preparedness for the Homeland Security Department fielded questions about national preparedness standards and the need to tell states and local first responders the "minimum essential capabilities" the federal government expects from them when grants are awarded.

CONGRESS

HEARINGS

- [Homeland Security Subcommittee Domestic preparedness 2005 Appropriations](#), Appropriations Subcommittee, March 18, 2004
- [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

[Drills Test Emergency Preparedness](#)

News 14 Carolina, March 16, 2004

Local and state officials in a two-day drill tested their preparedness for an incident involving the Catawba nuclear power plant. The drill included exercises in evacuation, shelter readiness, and decontamination.

Is Your Family Prepared If A Tornado Strikes

WAVY-10, March 16, 2004

In conjunction with Tornado Preparedness Day across Virginia, many communities across the state reviewed their tornado preparedness procedures.

County Approves Reverse 911 System

NCTimes.com, March 16, 2004

San Diego County supervisors Tuesday unanimously approved spending \$42,000 to install a "reverse 911" system that would allow emergency personnel to provide faster, better evacuations when disasters such as the October wildfires strike.

[Supervisors OK 'reverse 911' System To Notify Public of Disasters](#), *San Diego Union Tribune*, March 16, 2004

Ohio Wants Computers to Track Deadly Diseases

The Plain Leader, March 17, 2004

Ohio is considering investing \$700,000 in a team of analysts and an electronic surveillance system that can flag spikes in the sale of certain over-the-counter medications. Building a public health system able to weather a catastrophe may ultimately depend on how reliably a state tracks unusual patterns of illness.

Preparedness and Early Warning of Impending Weather Dangers

Kansas City Info Zine, March 17, 2004

As a component of their successful Project Community Alert (PCA), area emergency managers have partnered with two local companies to help ensure public safety, preparedness and life-saving response through accurate and timely warning.

Emergency Responders Meet to Plan for Biological Threat

Clarksburg Exponent Telegram, March 18, 2004

Emergency Preparedness Planning Exercise prepared city officials to handle a botulism outbreak along with an unknown chemical spill from a tanker truck. Goal of the exercise was to work together to develop a plan that would serve city residents.

'Quake' Will Test Agencies' Disaster Plan

Tennessean.com, March 19, 2004

Officials from Tennessee will join the U.S. Army and the Federal Emergency Management Agency in Operation Heartland '04, one of the largest emergency-preparedness exercises in the region.

Use Homeland Security Funds To Reopen Closed Firehouses

Queens Chronicle, March 18, 2004

Congresswoman asks that part of the city's 2005 Homeland Security funding be used for reopening six closed firehouses.

American Red Cross: Ready For Disaster

East Texas Review, March 18, 2004

March is designated as American Red Cross month, and chapters across the nation are reminding the public of the enormous and numerous tasks the ARC has undertaken, both before and after a disaster.

[American Red Cross Month Being Celebrated in March](#), *Leesville Daily Leader*, March 18, 2004

'Storm Ready' Drill Prepares Responders For Variety of Scenarios

The Evening Times, March 18, 2004

State participates in a flood response scenario that was all part of the state's "Storm Ready" preparedness drill sponsored by the National Weather Service.

PA Security Assessments, Strategies Win U.S. Homeland Security Approval

Yahoo News, March 18, 2004

U.S. Department of Homeland Security has approved Pennsylvania's three-year State Homeland Security Assessment and Strategic Plan and its two prominent Urban Areas Security Initiatives (UASIs).

Disaster Drill Prep Crews for Evacuations From Shea

Times Ledger, March 18, 2004

More than 1,000 police officers, firefighters, paramedics, and employees from a host of New York agencies and organizations participated in the city's largest ever disaster preparedness drill on Sunday.

[OEM Says Sunday's Mock Attack At Shea 'Went Very Well'](#), *The Western Queens Gazette*, March 19, 2004

San Luis Obispo, Calif., Business Urged to Be Earthquake-Ready

Miami Herald, March 19, 2004

After the San Simeon earthquake and during a local workshop, business leaders are urged to start preparing for the next big disaster.

Students Prepare For Severe Weather

WGAL Channel 8, March 17, 2004

Thousands of school children learned how to play it safe during a statewide emergency preparedness drill designed to test plans and procedures in the event of severe weather.

[School Prepares For Tornadoes](#), *Richmond Times Dispatch*, March 17, 2004

Preparedness and Early Warning of Impending Weather Dangers

Kansas City Info Zine, March 17, 2004

Emergency managers in the Kansas City Metro are warning residents that their safety depends on being aware and prepared, in combination with timely and accurate warning.

Municipal Summit to Address Security Issues

Public Opinion, March 17, 2004

Municipal officials from across Franklin County will discuss homeland security, the statewide building code, health insurance and a countywide communications system during a local summit.

[125 Municipal Representatives Expected to Attend Countywide Meeting Thursday](#), *Public Opinion*, March 16, 2004

Not Ready For the Next Attack

Washington Post, March 18, 2004

Recent surveys have shown that while an overwhelming majority of Americans expect terrorists to attack the United States in the near future, only about two in 10 have done anything to prepare for such an occurrence.

RELATED INFORMATION

OPINION

- [Emergency Unpreparedness](#), Op-Ed, New York Times, March 15, 2004

SPOTLIGHT WEBSITE

- [National Model Intrastate Mutual Aid Legislation](#), *EMACweb.org*, March 2004

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.