



Preparedness News and Information

From FEMA's Preparedness Division

March 26, 2004

NATIONAL NEWS

[Terror, and Clarke, Remain at Center of Washington Storm](#)

New York Times, March 25, 2004

A leading counterterrorism advisor to the Bush and Clinton administration maintains that the strategic calculations of the nation must shift to keep the country safe.

[Department of Homeland Security Outlines Rail and Transit Security Initiatives](#)

ContinuityCentral.com, March 25, 2004

In response to the recent attacks in Madrid, the Department of Homeland Security outlined measures to improve rail and transit authority in the US.

[New Initiative Will Improve Bioterrorism Preparedness of Health Workforce](#)

US Newswire, March 22, 2004

Congress has asked the nation's bioterrorism experts to target new mechanisms to increase the level of preparedness for the health workforce.

[Americans Are More Fearful of Fires Than a Terrorist Attack According to the 2nd Annual Duracell/Harris Interactive Preparedness Study](#)

Businesswire.com, March 24, 2004

Nearly 62% of adults in the nation's largest cities maintain being prepared for a disaster is an important priority, but nearly the same percentage do not have disaster plans in place, according to a recent study on disasters and preparedness.

[The European Terror Challenge](#)

BBC News, March 24, 2004

European preparedness officials face the challenge of establishing a way of reinforcing existing collaboration in intelligence-sharing and police investigations without creating a cumbersome new bureaucracy.

[Years Later, Gaps Remain in Bioterrorism Planning](#)

Associated Press, March 25, 2004

Many officials maintain that critical gaps remain in bioterrorism planning throughout the nation.

[States Tracked on Bioterror Plans](#)

MSNBC.com, March 25, 2004

A new [report](#) recently released maintains that states are only moderately better prepared to handle public health emergencies than in 2001.

CONGRESS

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.

- [To hold an oversight hearing to examine national flood insurance repetitive losses](#), Senate Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Committee, Economic Policy Subcommittee, March 25, 2004.
- [To hold closed hearings to examine aviation security](#), Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee, Aviation Subcommittee, March 30, 2004.
- [To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2005 for border security and enforcement and immigration services](#), Senate Appropriations Committee, Homeland Security Subcommittee, March 30, 2004.

STATE AND LOCAL ACTIVITIES

[Superintendent Urges Purchase of 3 New State Police Helicopters](#)

Newsday.com, March 24, 2004

The New Jersey Superintendent of the State Police has requested the purchase of three helicopters to assist with anti-terrorism and medical rescue missions.

[New Orleans to Become One of First Ports with New Monitoring System](#)

AP Wire, March 24, 2004

A new port monitoring system will replace the current antiquated and inefficient method of monitoring traffic into one of the nation's busiest ports.

[FEMA Director Recommends Severe Weather Safety Guide](#)

Eagle-Gazette, March 24, 2004

The deputy director of Fairfield County's Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security seeks to prepare his communities by maintaining the goal of equipping every family with a copy of *Are You Ready*.

[Hurricanes, Terrorism Top Emergency Seminar](#)

The Sun News, March 24, 2004

The three-day S.C. Hurricane and Emergency Management Conference "Improving the Odds" occurs this week. The conference will feature face-to-face training and information sharing, as well as presentations by federal officials.

RELATED INFORMATION

REPORTS

- [Ready or Not? Protecting the Public's Health in the Age of Bioterrorism](#)

SPOTLIGHT WEBSITE

- [Domestic Preparedness](#)

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.