



Preparedness News and Information

From FEMA's Preparedness Division

April 23, 2004

NATIONAL NEWS

[New Homeland Security Team to Focus on High-Profile Targets](#)

New York Times, April 19, 2004

DHS Secretary Tom Ridge has created a government task force to coordinate security for high-profile public events, such as the International Monetary Fund and World Bank meetings, the dedication of the new World War II Memorial, the July 4 celebrations, and the two political nominating conventions.

[U.S., European Union Expand Seaport Cargo Security Program](#)

Newsday.com, April 22, 2004

The US and EU signed an agreement designed to strengthen the security of cargo entering points by enhancing the U.S. Container Security Initiative.

[Despite Technology, Utica Tornadoes Proved a Surprise](#)

Chicago Tribune, April 22, 2004

Although forecasters considered themselves prepared with advance radar imaging, satellites, and other high-tech tools, many were caught off guard by the sudden storms.

[N Korea Train Blast 'Kills Many'](#)

BBC.co.uk, April 22, 2004

Two trains, carrying petrol and liquefied gas, have collided in a North Korea train station, igniting a blaze that has left many dead, with some witnesses reporting no emergency efforts underway.

[U.S. III-Prepared for Effects of Attack](#)

Harvard Crimson, April 23, 2004

According to a soon-to-be-published report by the American College of Neuropsychopharmacology, the US lacks significant mental health support for post-disaster recovery.

CONGRESS

[House Considers How to Respond to Attack](#)

Washington Post, April 22, 2004

The House is considering a bill to respond quickly to a catastrophic event. In the event of 100 of the 435 seats becoming vacant, the measure would require special elections for the House speaker within 45 days.

[Lawmakers, GAO Call for Better Continuity of Operations Planning](#)

GovExec.com, April 22, 2004

Upon the issuance of a GAO [report](#) citing the lack of government Continuity of Operations Planning (COOP) among the various agencies, the House Government Reform Committee is investigating how to ensure these plans are put in place.

HEARINGS

- ["Can Federal Agencies Function in the Wake of a Disaster? A Status Report on Federal Agencies' Continuity of Operations Plans."](#) Government Reform Committee, April 22, 2004

STATE AND LOCAL ACTIVITIES

[Counties Participate in Emergency Drill](#)

JeffcoNews.com, April 22, 2004

A simulated plane crash gave officials and responders in Jeffco County, CO a sense of the complexities of aviation disaster response.

[Council is Expected to Vote on Firehouse Repairs](#)

Courier Journal, April 22, 2004

Over \$700,000 is at stake in firehouse funding as the Louisville Metro Council votes on an ordinance to help renovate city firehouses that have fallen into disrepair.

[Fire Prepares for Busy Season](#)

Canyon Courier, April 22, 2004

With this winter's blizzards leaving many broken twigs and branches on the forest floor, district firefighters are preparing for their next fire incident in a variety of ways.

[Event Aims for Preparedness](#)

Redding.com, April 23, 2004

The Shasta Area Red Cross and a community hospital are partnering to present "Together We Prepare Day," an event that will include adult CPR training, a preparedness fair and age-appropriate emergency education for children.

[Campus Preps for 'Big One'](#)

The UW Daily Online, April 23, 2004

As part of Disaster Preparedness Month, the University of Washington organized a campus component of the statewide earthquake drill, testing faculty and students alike.

[Health Officials Seek Disaster Plans](#)

The Princeton Packet, April 23, 2004

The Princeton Regional Health Commissions has sought to clarify disaster command and control in a recent series of meetings.

RELATED INFORMATION

REPORTS

- [Continuity of Operations: Improved Planning Needed to Ensure Delivery of Essential Services](#)

OPINION

- [Biosafety on Albany Street](#)

INTERNATIONAL

- [Foreign Diplomats Briefed About Anti-Terror Measures](#)

SPOTLIGHT WEBSITE

- [NOAA: Tornadoes](#)

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.