



Preparedness News and Information

From FEMA's Preparedness Division

May 14, 2004

NATIONAL NEWS

[Bioterrorism Expert Warns of Pandemic](#)

The Hill, May 12, 2004

A bioterrorism expert testified before Congress yesterday that a deadly new influenza strain could cause the next worldwide epidemic in the near future. David Relman, an infectious-diseases clinician and researcher who teaches at Stanford University's medical school, said the avian flu — which kills about two-thirds of infected humans — could reach the scale of the 1918 worldwide pandemic that killed about 30 million people.

[Lieberman Decries Gaps in Bioterror Preparedness](#)

Washington Post, May 8, 2004

Budget cuts, poor coordination, and a lack of attention from high-ranking federal health officials have "left America still too vulnerable to a possible bioterror attack," Sen. Joseph I. Lieberman wrote yesterday in an iteration of gaps in the nation's preparedness.

[National Flood Reports on Isabel Claims](#)

Insurance Journal, May 11, 2004

The National Flood Insurance Program has completed reviews of the first group of claims review requests received from policyholders who suffered Hurricane Isabel-related damage. As part of the ongoing review, the National Flood Insurance Program's general adjusters have reviewed 273 claims of the 948 requests received to date, with 33 of these claims identified for additional insurance payments.

[Some Homeowners to See Insurance Break](#)

Galveston County Daily News, May 11, 2004

A new interpretation of flood insurance rules could save coastal homeowners hundreds of dollars a year. In a memo to flood insurance agents, the Federal Emergency Management Agency on April 30 said homes with shutters and certain other privacy screening used to enclose space below the flood plain would be eligible for lower flood insurance rates.

[September 11 Commission Turns to New York's Finest, Bravest](#)

New York Daily News, May 11, 2004

The Sept. 11 commission's next public hearing, in New York, will focus in part on what's been done to improve poor communication and deal with a rivalry between the city's fire and police departments that hindered rescue efforts.

[Agencies Set Security Plan for High-Profile Events](#)

Govexec.com, May 7, 2004

A federal interagency working group will present a plan by the end of this month for coordinating security, preparedness and intelligence-sharing at several major events, including the summer's political conventions in Boston and New York, homeland security officials said.

[DHS Remains Committed to Contested Passenger-Screening Program](#)

Govexec.com, May 10, 2004

The Homeland Security Department remains committed to developing a controversial passenger screening program despite recent disclosures and a public outcry about how federal agencies obtained passenger records from airlines.

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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.

CONGRESS

HEARINGS

- [Subcommittee On Infrastructure And Border Security](#)
Hearing on The Transportation Security Administration's Progress in Enhancing Homeland Security, May 12, 2004
- [House Energy and Commerce Committee](#)
Hearing on Faster Funding for the First Responders Act of 2004, May 11, 2004

STATE AND LOCAL ACTIVITIES

[County Receives Grant for Dispatching System](#)

Worklink.com, May 10, 2004

The Coos County Sheriff's Office has received a \$716,417 federal grant toward improving its emergency response systems. According to a Sheriff's Office press release, the U.S. Department of Justice awarded the funds to the agency through its State Domestic Preparedness Equipment Grant Program, a fund jointly operated with the Department of Homeland Security.

[Utica, Granville Given Storm Funds: Disaster Designation to Aid the Rebuilding, Debris Removal Effort](#)

Journal Star, May 11, 2004

Utica Mayor Fred Esmond said a much-needed local government disaster designation will provide at least \$2 million in federal assistance to help cover costs of rebuilding public buildings and pay overtime for emergency workers. The nearby Putnam County community of Granville, damaged by the same April 20 tornadic storm system, also received the designation and qualifies for federal money to pay for 75

[GOP-Fest Security Tab Rockets to \\$76M](#)

New York Post, May 11, 2004

The city's costs for security tied to the Republican National Convention are now expected to hit a staggering \$76 million - or \$29 million more than Bloomberg administration officials had previously estimated.

[Prepare for Likely Disasters, Avoid Others: Homeland Security Official Announces Grant to Help Buy out Flood-Prone Homes in Chatham](#)

Savannah Morning News, May 12, 2004

In preparing for hurricanes, coastal Georgians also are ready to respond to all kinds of threats, natural and man-made. Michael Brown, undersecretary for the Department of Homeland Security reiterated that message to the Governor's Emergency Management Conference Tuesday at the Savannah International Trade Center.

[Morgan Getting Funds to Build Storm Shelters](#)

Decatur Daily News, May 11, 2004

Morgan County is among 23 counties that will build storm shelters with funding through the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Federal Emergency Management Agency. U.S. Sen. Richard Shelby announced today that FEMA awarded a \$996,000 grant to distribute between Emergency Management Agencies in the counties.

RELATED INFORMATION

SPOTLIGHT WEBSITE

- [U.S. Environmental Protection Agency - Emergency Prevention, Preparedness, and Response](#)

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