



# Preparedness News and Information

From FEMA's Preparedness Division

May 21, 2004

## NATIONAL NEWS

### [FEMA's New On-Line Course Helps Urban Firefighters Battle Wildfires More Safely](#)

FEMA Press Release, *Firehouse.com*, May 17, 2004

The Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is unveiling today an on-line, independent study course that will enable urban firefighters with expertise in responding to structure fires to safely participate in a wildland/urban interface event.

### [Simulated Attack at Pentagon Tests Government Response Capabilities](#)

*govexec.com*, May 19, 2004

The government's ability to respond to another domestic terrorist attack was put to the test Wednesday when a simulated radiological "dirty bomb" went off at the Pentagon. The exercise, called Gallant Fox II, was staged to test the Pentagon Force Protection Agency's emergency response units in a real-world scenario.

### [Officials Say Hurricane Forecasts Improve](#)

*Baton Rouge Advocate*, May 19, 2004

National Weather Service officials said Tuesday their ability to forecast where hurricanes will make landfall has improved, but there is still too much margin of error. Five-day forecasts can be 200 nautical miles off the eventual landfall mark, and 24-hour forecasts still miss the spot the storm comes ashore by 75 nautical miles.

[Hurricane Awareness Week, May 16-22](#), *WOAI.com*, May 19, 2004

### [Longer Airport Lines Likely this Summer](#)

*USA TODAY*, May 18, 2004

Airports already dealing with long lines of passengers at security checkpoints could see the problem get worse this summer as air travelers take to the skies in potentially record numbers. Air travel is growing sharply at the same time that Congress has reduced the number of airport security screeners from a peak of 55,000 to a maximum of 45,000.

## CONGRESS

### [Bioterror Defense Plan is Boost](#)

*Boston Globe*, May 19, 2004

Congress is poised this week to approve the largest biological defense program in US history, setting aside nearly \$6 billion over the next decade to stockpile new vaccines and develop other medical countermeasures to protect against the threat of bioterrorism.

## HEARINGS

### ➤ [Senate Judiciary Committee](#)

Hearing on the Examination of the Threats of Animal and Eco-Terrorism (SD-226), May 18, 2004

### ➤ [Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security](#)

Hearing on the "Anti-Terrorism Intelligence Tools Improvement Act of 2003" (HR 3179), May 18, 2004

## STATE AND LOCAL ACTIVITIES

### [Smart Mississippi Homeowners can Protect Themselves from Floods](#)

*The Sun-Herald*, May 18, 2004

Experts at Tuesday's Association of State Floodplain Managers national conference agreed that while no insurance policy or technology can completely protect homeowners, smart planning can save lives and life savings. The conference was held in Biloxi and attracted a record 1,000 attendees.

### [County Beefs up on Quake Preparedness](#)

*The Argus*, May 18, 2004

Several officials from various agencies say the county is in good shape, but they learned several lessons at a recent Federal Emergency Management Agency training. FEMA hosted 75 people from around the county at the training at its Emmitsburg, Md. institute.

### [Emergency Preparedness on the First Coast \(Jacksonville, FL\)](#)

*First Coast News*, May 17, 2004

Since September 11th, security has been in the forefront around the country. Yesterday, it takes center stage on the First Coast. The Protect Freedom II Exercise took place in four counties. The goal is to see how emergency personnel would respond if there was a terrorist attack in the area.

### [Rogersville and Fordland Agree to New Countywide Emergency Management](#)

*Ozarks Newsstand - South County Mail*, May 19, 2004

The Rogersville Board of Aldermen approved \$1,500 for a countywide Emergency Management office at the May 3 meeting. According to Mayor Jack Cole, the new office will benefit the city and Webster County.

### [Emergency Center Will Not Be Cheap](#)

*Hernando Today*, May 20, 2004

The construction of the county's new Emergency Operations Center (EOC) will cost \$5 million and will become home to the Emergency Management Department next year when it is completed.

### [Emergency Planners and Water Commission Discuss Potential Floods this Season](#)

*The Brownsville Herald*, May 20, 2004

An official from the International Boundary and Water Commission briefed a crowd of local officials and others concerned about water and flood issues in preparation for the hurricane season.

### [Disaster Drill Successful](#)

*Chiefland Citizen*, May 20, 2004

The Levy County Emergency Management Department reported this week that the county passed a recent graded federal disaster drill with "flying colors."

### [Maine CERT Volunteers Assist Utica Clean-up](#)

*Morton Grove Champion*, May 20, 2004

CERT volunteers assist in tornado clean-up efforts, removing and sorting debris from private properties and a nearby creek for eight-and-a-half hours. It was the volunteers' first assignment since they completed CERT training, some wrapping up the program just weeks ago.

### **[NOAA Expects Near Average Central Pacific Hurricane Season as Hawaii Observes Hurricane Preparedness Week: "Be Aware, Be Prepared"](#)**

NOAA News, May 18, 2004

NOAA hurricane experts forecast four to five tropical cyclones to occur within the Central Pacific during the 2004 hurricane season. Typically, four to five tropical cyclones; one hurricane, two tropical storms, and one to two tropical depressions, occur each year in the Central Pacific. The hurricane season officially begins on June 1 and continues through November 30.

### **[Giuliani Defends NYC as Families Heckle](#)**

Chicago Tribune, May 20, 2004

Former Mayor Giuliani gave a compelling defense of New York's reaction to the disaster while members of the federal commission investigating the attacks again questioned the response of emergency workers.

### **[Agencies Test Terror Response](#)**

Fairbanks Daily News-Miner, May 20, 2004

Instructors with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security are in Fairbanks holding a three-day workshop on how to respond to a biological, chemical or nuclear attack.

### **[Terror Drill Offers Emergency Crews Teamwork Training](#)**

News-Journal Online, May 19, 2004

A fictitious terrorism event was designed to train emergency responders to handle an attack at a race and to measure local preparedness and response capabilities.

## **RELATED INFORMATION**

### **OPINION**

- **[Officials Help Save City FEMA Program](#)**, *Fort Smith Times-Record*, May 18, 2004

### **ARTICLE OF INTEREST**

- **[U.S. Labor Department Issues Report on Emergency Preparedness for Federal Workers with Disabilities](#)**, *U.S. Newswire*, May 17, 2004

### **SPOTLIGHT WEBSITES**

- **[Emergency Preparedness and Response Staff Statement No. 13](#)**, *New York Times*, May 18, 2004
- **[National Mutual Aid and Resource Management Initiative](#)**, *DHS/FEMA Preparedness Division*

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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.