



Preparedness News and Information

From FEMA's Preparedness Division

May 28, 2004

NATIONAL NEWS

[Federal Officials Say Louisville Well-Prepared For Disaster Response](#)

NBC WAVE3.com, May 24, 2004

Metropolitan Louisville is one of eight cities nationwide chosen for a federal pilot project designed to help emergency planners calculate risks from natural disasters in certain areas of town.

[Report: Americans not Prepared for Disasters](#)

Palm Beach Post, May 26, 2004

Two-and-a-half years after the Sept. 11 attacks, most Americans don't know where to find emergency information, a report released Tuesday said. The Department of Homeland Security, which participated in the study, plans to launch a publicity campaign in the fall to bridge the gap, including efforts to reach out to children and businesses.

[Communicating Through a Crisis](#)

Business Weekly Online, May 25, 2004

The Homeland Security Dept. budgeted \$500 million in 2004 just for assessing infrastructure, including telecommunications systems' vulnerabilities and how to remedy them. All told, the department has allocated \$8 billion to make sure the different communications networks used by various agencies can work in harmony. That goal was put to the test in mid-May during a nationwide drill in which more than 40 agencies simulated the emergency closure of operations centers.

[al-Qaeda Said Almost Ready to Attack U.S.](#)

Associated Press/Yahoo News, May 26, 2004

al-Qaeda is determined to launch a U.S. attack in the next few months that could be linked to a major event such as the upcoming international economic summit or the summer political conventions, Attorney General John Ashcroft said Wednesday, citing "credible intelligence from multiple sources."

[Democrats Gather to Focus on U.S. Security: National Party Leaders Tour the Port of Portland and Hear Union Leaders' and Emergency Workers' Concerns](#)

Oregonlive.com, May 23, 2004

National Democratic Party leaders gathered Saturday in Portland to hear complaints of problems with U.S. domestic security.

[Simulation Software vs. the Terrorists](#)

Business Weekly, May 25, 2004

Cutting-edge programs can both help train rescue workers and help security officials pinpoint weak spots before the bad guys can. A year ago, the Homeland Security Dept., the FBI, and other agencies conducted a five-day drill near Seattle and Chicago. As part of this first-ever, national counterterrorism exercise, 8,500 people from some 100 organizations responded to simulated car bombs and biological attacks. Hundreds of "patients" showed up at the local hospitals faking flu-like symptoms or cuts and burns. All told, the exercise was a success, but it cost upwards of \$16 million and stole precious time from doctors who could have been treating real patients.

CONGRESS

[Port Needs \\$1 Billion for Security Politician Says](#)

Boston Herald, May 25, 2004

The Port of Boston needs about \$1 billion to beef up inadequate security that now doesn't even require photo and fingerprint identification of cargo crewmembers entering harbor facilities, U.S. Rep. Stephen Lynch (D-South Boston) warned yesterday.

LEGISLATION

➤ [Senate Judiciary Committee](#)

(S.2476): *A Bill to Amend the USA Patriot Act to Repeal the Sunsets*, May 21, 2004

STATE AND LOCAL ACTIVITIES

[Maryland Hospitals Get \\$9.2M for Disaster Preparedness](#)

Baltimore Business Journal, May 25 2004

Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson on Monday afternoon announced the awarding of \$498 million in grants to states and their jurisdictions to strengthen the ability of U.S. hospitals and other health care facilities to respond to bioterrorism attacks and other disasters that may cause mass casualties.

➤ [State Gets Preparedness Funds](#)

Rocky Mountain News, May 25, 2004

Colorado will get an additional \$7.7 million from the federal government to prepare for bioterrorism or any other large-scale disease or medical disaster.

➤ [Hawaii Receives \\$2.8 Million for Bioterrorism Preparedness](#)

Kpua.net, May 25, 2004

Hawaiian health officials will receive an additional \$2.8 million from the federal government to better prepare for bioterrorism attacks, infectious disease outbreaks and natural disasters. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services says it was releasing \$498 million nationwide

[More Storms and Tornadoes Hit Midwest](#)

Yahoo News/AP Report, May 25, 2004

On Monday night, Iowa was drenched by yet another wave of powerful thunderstorms, even as residents of Independence, an eastern town of 6,000 people, waited for Malone Creek to recede. As that wave of storms swept eastward early Tuesday, one person was killed when a mobile home was destroyed at Winchester, Illinois.

[Federal Homeland Security Funds more Focused Second Time Around](#)

Avalanche-Journal, May 25, 2004

Last year, Federal Homeland Security money washed over the South Plains, leaving cash in practically every corner of the region to better equip emergency workers.

[FEMA Helping with Flood Problems in Carlsbad](#)

Krqa.com, May 25, 2004

The Federal Emergency Management Agency has a temporary office in Carlsbad to help speed disaster money to the area after spring floods. The agency brought in about 30 workers after floods hit Carlsbad and outlying areas of Eddy County last month.

➤ [31 FEMA Workers Assigned to Carlsbad](#)

Current-Argus, May 22, 2004

Local emergency management leaders say Federal Emergency Management Agency personnel have bent over backward to help them get federal disaster money for the community. FEMA set up shop in Carlsbad after the April flooding in the city and the outlying areas in the county.

Gov. Johanns Submits Presidential Disaster Request

Southwest Nebraska News, May 23, 2004

Gov. Mike Johanns today requested that President George W. Bush issue a Presidential Disaster Declaration in Nebraska less than 24 hours after tornadoes ravaged parts of the state. The Governor cosigned the disaster request with Richard Hainje, Region VII Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

➤ **Official Sees Good Case for Federal Assistance**

Omaha World-Herald, May 25, 2004

Just seeing the damage caused by Saturday night's tornadoes was enough to convince the regional director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency that Nebraska had a strong case for federal help.

Local Emergency Teams Respond to SEMA Audit

Daily American Republic, May 2, 2004

Local emergency responders take exception to the findings of a recently released audit of the State Emergency Management Agency that cited staffing shortages of several response teams in the state. The Ozark Regional Hazmat/Weapons of Mass Destruction in Poplar Bluff and the City of Kennett teams reportedly were among the eight found to be understaffed by the auditors.

Parish Hoping to Get Federal Relief for Flood Recovery

Daily World, May 26, 2004

St. Landry Parish was sacked for between \$3 million and \$3.5 million in damages by recent floods due to heavy rains, parish president Don Menard said Tuesday. Parish roads, already in poor condition, were further eroded by high water, Menard said. The parish has applied for federal disaster assistance.

Conyers Tackles Blaze with help from FEMA, GDOT, and the EPA

Citizenonline.com, May 26, 2004

Olde Town Conyers was turned into a ghost town Tuesday when a toxic gas cloud caused by an industrial fire floated over the city. The smoke plume from the fire at BioLab on Rockdale Industrial Boulevard, which contained a variety of chlorine-based chemicals, drifted east, primarily on the north side of Interstate-20, and ultimately led to authorities ordering an evacuation of a 1-mile radius around the fire. The cloud went directly over Olde Town and the Georgia International Horse Park (GIHP) and, at the high point of the fire, the cloud created a thick haze that made 8 a.m. appear more like early dusk and left a pungent smell in the air. BioLab is the world's largest manufacturer of pool and spa supplies.

RELATED INFORMATION

OPINION

- **Former FEMA Director's Views of Homeland Security**, *kgw.com*, May 23, 2004

ARTICLE OF INTEREST

- **Ford and MSU Hold Emergency Preparedness Competition**, *MSU Newsroom*, May 24, 2004

SPOTLIGHT WEBSITES

- **National Mutual Aid and Resource Management Initiative**, *DHS/FEMA Preparedness Division*

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.