



PREPAREDNESS NEWS AND INFORMATION

From FEMA's Preparedness Division

June 25, 2004

NATIONAL NEWS

[Homeland Security Leverages NOAA All-Hazards Network for Alerts and Warnings](#)

Department of Homeland Security, June 2004

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection Directorate and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) of the U.S. Department of Commerce today signed an agreement that allows Homeland Security to send critical all-hazards alerts and warnings directly through the NOAA All-Hazards Network.

[University of Texas-Dallas to Launch Emergency Readiness Conference and Exposition Series for Southwest: Scheduled to Become Annual Homeland Security Event; Former FEMA Director Witt to Deliver Keynote Address](#)

PRS Newswire, June 23, 2004

The University of Texas at Dallas (UTD) will host a major "all-hazards" emergency readiness conference and exposition Aug. 9 to 12 to promote better coordination of emergency preparedness and homeland security activities and to discuss a wide variety of other critical security issues facing both Texas and the nation.

[TVA, Other Agencies to Conduct Nuclear Exercise](#)

The Chatanooga, June 22, 2004

TVA and other federal, state and local agencies will conduct a regularly scheduled emergency preparedness exercise for Sequoyah Nuclear Plant on Wednesday, June 23. The exercise will involve about 1,000 TVA and state of Tennessee employees and emergency responders in Hamilton and Bradley counties.

[Public Health Worker Shortage Could Imperil Terrorism Preparedness](#)

CIDRAP, June 22, 2004

America's growing shortage of qualified public health workers could undermine terrorism preparedness, according to a recent report from the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO).

[FEMA Okays \\$4.2 Million for West Virginia Flood Victims](#)

Associated Press, June 20, 2004

More than \$4.2 million has been approved for housing assistance to victims of recent flooding in the state, emergency agencies announced

[Federal Aid Coming for Flooding: Fond du Lac, Winnebago Counties Among Eligible](#)

Associated Press, June 20, 2004

President Bush declared 12 Wisconsin counties struck by severe storms and flooding federal disaster areas Saturday, ordering aid to assist with state and local recovery efforts.

[Last Week's Flood Damage to be Assessed by FEMA Representatives](#)

Dover-New Philadelphia Times-Reporter, June 21, 2004

Crews will be evaluating damaged houses to determine if Tuscarawas County will qualify for federal assistance, said Patty Levensgood, director of Tuscarawas County Homeland Security and EMA.

[Floods Catch Homeowners](#)

Associated Press, June 20, 2004

There is a way families can protect their homes and furnishings. Since 1968, the federal government has sponsored the National Flood Insurance Program to make insurance coverage available, not only in high-risk zones but also in areas that are only occasionally threatened.

[FEMA Engineers Tour Sioux Falls](#)

Keloland.com, June 21, 2004

The city is hoping to get state and federal funds for help. FEMA personnel toured one of the areas hardest hit. FEMA engineers will spend two days in Sioux Falls looking over damage to roads, parks and the sewer system.

[FEMA Money Authorized For Brookside Fire](#)

FEMA, June 17, 2004

FEMA authorized the use of federal funds to help Utah fight the Brookside Fire burning about 10 miles northwest of St. George in Washington County. Michael D. Brown, Under Secretary of Homeland Security for Emergency Preparedness and Response, said the state's request for federal fire management assistance was approved at about 9 p.m. Wednesday, June 16 after it was confirmed that the fire was threatening 500 homes in the Brookside Subdivision and the surrounding area.

[Peach Bottom: Radiation Drill Held](#)

York Daily Record, June 23, 2004

FEMA led a Radiological Emergency Preparedness Exercise on Tuesday at the Peach Bottom Atomic Power Station. Conducted every other year, the exercise tests the on-site and off-site response to a scenario that usually involves a simulated radiological release.

[Red Cross Applicants Must Register With FEMA Separately](#)

WAVE-TV, June 22, 2004

Disaster recovery officials are emphasizing that people who registered with the American Red Cross for disaster assistance must also register with FEMA to be eligible for federal/state aid programs.

THE CONGRESS

[Bill Targets Repeated Flood Damage Claims](#)

Miami Herald, June 21, 2004

Legislation heading for the President's signature would begin to crack down on property owners who make repeated flood damage claims that sometimes far outstrip the value of the property. The new procedure, targeting a fraction of the 4.5 million policyholders in the National Flood Insurance Program, would force repeat claimants to accept flood mitigation efforts, move, or face significantly higher premiums.

HEARINGS

- [To hold hearings to examine aviation security](#), Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee, June 22, 2004.
- [To hold hearings to examine the use of subpoena authority and pretrial detention of terrorists in fighting terrorism](#), Judiciary Committee, Terrorism, Technology and Homeland Security Subcommittee, June 22, 2004.
- [To hold hearings to examine security screening options for airports](#), Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee, Aviation Subcommittee, June 24, 2004.

- [To hold hearings to examine H.R.2608, to reauthorize the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program](#), Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee, Science, Technology, and Space Subcommittee, June 24, 2004.

LEGISLATION

- Select Committee on Homeland Security, [HR 3266](#), June 16, 2004

STATE AND LOCAL ACTIVITIES

[Bioterrorism Drill Tests Charlotte-Mecklenburg's Reflexes](#)

Charlotte Observer, June 23, 2004

Charlotte's largest-ever terrorism drill didn't kick off with an explosion or a toxic cloud. It started slowly and insidiously about 8 a.m. Tuesday, with a report of patients showing signs of smallpox infection at Presbyterian Hospital Matthews.

[North Dakota to Get Less for Bioterrorism Preparedness](#)

Grand Forks Herald, June 24, 2004

The amount of money North Dakota gets to prepare for bioterrorism will be cut 22 percent in the next fiscal year, a state official says. State Bioterrorism Coordinator Tim Wiedrich said North Dakota will get about \$5.2 million from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in fiscal 2004, which starts in September.

[Quake Damage has Drawn Only Fraction of Aid so Far: Total of \\$30 Million in Reimbursements have been Approved out of \\$239 Million in SLO County Claims](#)

San Luis Obispo Tribune, June 20, 2004

Six months after the San Simeon Earthquake caused \$239 million in damage countywide, only \$30 million in government aid has been approved by federal and state agencies. That represents just 12.5 percent of damage claims

[Flood-Wrecked Families Seek Aid at FEMA Centers: Fletcher Visits Spots Hit Hard in Henry, Martin, Magoffin](#)

Louisville Courier-Journal, June 19, 2004

Gov. Ernie Fletcher (R.) toured several Eastern Kentucky counties to speak with citizens and to survey flood damage. Many residents are seeking aid as a result of recent storm damage and flooding, and are making use of several FEMA aid centers.

- [Number of People Applying For Federal Assistance Climbs](#), *WKYT*, June 22, 2004

[Amateur Radio Enthusiasts Stress Emergency Preparedness During Annual 'Field Day'](#)

PRS Newswire, June 22, 2004

Amateur Radio (or "ham radio") operators throughout the Americas will put their emergency communication and technical expertise to the test during "Field Day," June 26 and 27.

[Chamisa Students Excel at Emergency Preparedness](#)

Los Alamos Monitor, June 22, 2004

Student council members at Chamisa Elementary School completed a three-month campaign about Emergency Preparedness. Sixth graders C.J. Horne, James Larkin and Bethany Letellier came up with the idea as part of their Leadership Seminar sponsored by school counselor Diane Tuttle.

Agency Tests Emergency Preparedness

Columbus, NE Telegram, June 22, 2004

When disaster strikes, nobody wants to be left behind, including the city's four-legged residents. Employees and volunteers at the Columbus Animal Shelter understand that, and held a disaster drill Monday night to test their preparedness to move their occupants to a safe place in case of catastrophe.

RELATED INFORMATION

RECENT REPORTS

- [Homeland Security: Performance of Information System to Monitor Foreign Students and Exchange Visitors Has Improved, but Issues Remain: GAO-04-690](#), June 18, 2004
- [Highlights: GAO-04-690](#), June 18, 2004
- [FEMA Special Report: National Fire Incident Reporting Data To Study Nightclub Fires In The U.S.](#), June 21, 2004
- [State Public Health Employee Shortage Report](#), June 22, 2004

SPOTLIGHT WEBSITES

- [FEMA: Eight Fire Officials Selected For Harvard Senior Executives In State And Local Government Program](#), June 15, 2004
- [The National Incident Management System \(NIMS\) Integration Center](#), June 21, 2004

OPINION

- [A Scenario Where Questions Linger: Despite Plans, Some Doubt Government's Ability to Provide Services in an Emergency](#), June 22, 2004

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.