



PREPAREDNESS NEWS AND INFORMATION

From FEMA's Preparedness Division

July 23, 2004

NATIONAL NEWS

9/11 Panel Suggests Intelligence Overhaul

Associated Press, July 22, 2004

The United States government could not protect its citizens from the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks because it failed to appreciate the threat posed by al-Qaida operatives who exploited those lapses to carry out the deadliest assault ever on American soil, the chairman of the Sept. 11 commission said Thursday.

9/11 Panel Blames 'Failure of Imagination'

Sun-Sentinel, July 22, 2004

The Sept. 11 terrorist attacks came amid U.S. government "failures of imagination, policy, capabilities and management," according to a bipartisan commission that did the most comprehensive investigation of what went wrong and what needs to be changed to protect the nation.

Red Cross, DHS Stress Personal Disaster Preparedness

American Red Cross In the News, July 20, 2004

The American public understands that personal preparedness for all types of disasters is key to homeland security, but many have difficulty finding out exactly how to prepare for a terrorist attack or a natural disaster, according to a new American Red Cross/Wirthlin Worldwide survey released Tuesday.

American Red Cross Poll Finds Public Less Prepared; Only One in 10 American Households Has Family Emergency Plan, Disaster Kit, and First Aid and CPR Training U.S.

Newswire. July 22, 2004

The American Red Cross, George Washington University, the Department of Homeland Security and the Council for Excellence in Government, co-sponsored a symposium titled, "Public Preparedness-A National Imperative," which brought together a broad spectrum of leaders to identify the issues, challenges and barriers to public preparedness, and the needs and expectations of the public both during and after a disaster. The American Red Cross chose this forum to release preparedness research conducted last month by Wirthlin Worldwide.

The Heart-Healthy Firefighter. A Call to Action

Firehouse, July 20, 2004

A ten year study conducted by the United States Fire Administration (USFA) from 1990 to 2000, determined that the leading cause of on-duty death for firefighters was by heart attack (44 percent), with death from trauma (including both internal and head injuries) as the second leading cause (27 percent), and asphyxia and burns accounting for 20 percent of all firefighter fatalities. Firefighters over age 40 accounted for 60 percent of firefighter deaths, while only representing 46 percent of the firefighter workforce nationwide.

THE CONGRESS

US Details Terror Attack Response Plans

VOA, July 22, 2004

Bush administration officials say extensive planning and exhaustive preparations have been undertaken to assure rapid and effective responses in the event of a terrorist attack at the

Democratic or Republican national conventions. Appearing before a Senate committee, Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson testified on America's preparedness in the event of a catastrophic chemical, biological or nuclear attack.

HEARINGS

Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee: Hearing to examine preparations for possible future terrorist attacks, Thursday, July 22, 2004

Senate Governmental Affairs Oversight of Government Management, the Federal Workforce and the District of Columbia Subcommittee: Hearings to examine government-wide workforce flexibilities available to federal agencies, focusing on those enacted in the Homeland Security Act, specifically their implementation, use by agencies, and training and education related to using the new flexibilities. July 20, 2004

STATE AND LOCAL ACTIVITIES

Emergency Preparedness: Base Stages Mock Crash

Grand Forks Herald, July 22, 2004

Injured crewmembers and passengers lay on the ground waiting to be rescued as the flames of a burning KC-135 tanker shot down by a missile Wednesday in Hatton got closer to the ammunition cases spread throughout the crash scene. Had this been a real-life scenario, communication between Grand Forks Air Force Base and local emergency response agencies on scene would have been crucial.

FEMA Official Clarifies Mitigation Role

Hope Star, July 22, 2004

As Hempstead County and Southwest Arkansas cleans up from recent severe weather, a Federal Emergency Management Agency representative sought to clarify Wednesday what he characterized as misconceptions about the federal agency's role in planning which might reduce the damage from future natural disasters.

Victims Seek Aid, Peace of Mind

Burlington County Times, July 21, 2004

A friendly face, a kind word and a sincere effort to assist. Flood-affected residents received at least that much yesterday from Federal Emergency Management Agency officials manning disaster recovery centers in Lumberton and Medford.

3 Disaster Headquarters Opened. Flood Victims Can Seek Help, Answers

Courier-Post, July 21, 2004

The federal government opened its doors in Cherry Hill, Medford and Lumberton Tuesday, giving flood victims three official headquarters to seek monetary relief, ask questions and vent frustration. "Whatever we can do for people, we're going to do it," said Peter Martinasco, the Federal Emergency Management Agency officer appointed by the president to oversee South Jersey. "We're gonna be here for as long as it takes."

Technologies and Solutions for Homeland Security Requirements Exhibited at GOVSEC

PR Newswire July 21, 2004

Information Technology (IT) products and services designed to support the war against terrorism will be a prominent focus of GOVSEC, The Government Security Expo and Conference, July 28-29 at the Washington Convention Center, Washington, D.C. National, state, and local government officials responsible for the securing their agency's information assets can participate in eight conference sessions to discuss the foremost concerns for public sector IT security professionals. Attendees will hear from government and industry experts involved in information security policy, strategy, and technology implementations, and learn about key government regulations such as the Federal Information Security Management Act (FISMA).

Emergency Initiative Approved, Hospitals, Oneida Co. OK Disaster Plan

Utica Observer Dispatch, July 21, 2004

Oneida County (NY) took one more step toward emergency preparedness Tuesday when representatives from area hospitals and other care facilities signed the county's Mutual Aid Evacuation and Supply Plan.

Maywood, Tilden Fire Departments Receive FEMA Grants

SWNEBR.net, July 22, 2004

Nebraska's Senator Ben Nelson announced today that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) has awarded Assistance to Firefighters Grants to the Tilden Volunteer Fire Department, and the Maywood Volunteer Fire Department. The grants come as the eighth round of approximately \$750 million that is expected to be released in fiscal year 2004.

Red Cross Offers Flooding Preparedness Tips

Town Times, July 22, 2004

The American Red Cross offers the following tips to prepare for flooding caused by heavy rains. Know the difference between "watches" and "warnings." A National Weather Service watch means conditions favor the occurrence of a flood. A warning means a hazardous event is occurring or is imminent in 30 minutes to an hour. Be aware of hazards: floods can roll boulders, topple trees, destroy bridges or carry deadly debris. The role for being safe is simple; bond for higher ground and stay away from floodwaters.

They're Gonna Wash Us Away ... And Then What Happens?

KATC, July 17, 2004

For the next week, 250 emergency workers of various stripes will be in Baton Rouge, figuring out how New Orleans could handle the aftermath of a major hurricane.

RELATED INFORMATION

SPOTLIGHT WEBSITES

National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States

The National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States (also known as the 9-11 Commission), an independent, bipartisan commission created by congressional legislation and the signature of President George W. Bush in late 2002, prepare a full and complete account of the circumstances surrounding the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, including preparedness for and the immediate response to the attacks. The Commission is mandated recommendations designed to guard against future attacks.

RECENT REPORTS

The Complete "9/11 Report"

National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States, July 22, 2004.

OPINION

Personal Preparedness

Washington Times, July 21, 2004

When did Americans begin to assume personal responsibility for preparing themselves and their families for disasters? Was it September 11? Was it when Hurricane Isabel struck, or when Southern California was up in flames? Was it when tornadoes and floods hit 15 states, or was it when the lights went out in millions of American homes and businesses last August? Did the prediction of an active hurricane season get their attention?

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.