



PREPAREDNESS NEWS AND INFORMATION

From FEMA's Preparedness Division

September 3, 2004

NATIONAL NEWS

[The Department Of Homeland Security Makes Preparations For Hurricane Frances](#)

FEMA, September 2, 2004

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security is pre-positioning personnel and supplies to ensure readiness to provide immediate emergency assistance when Hurricane Frances makes landfall. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is coordinating activities of other federal departments and with state agencies to prepare for a possible rapid response to the current Category 4 strength storm.

[As Florida Braces For 2nd Big Storm, The Flight Begins](#)

The New York Times, September 3, 2004

As a formidable hurricane lurched closer, tens of thousands of Florida residents fled their coastal homes on Thursday and clogged highways and airports, taking no chances as predictions about the storm's path remained sketchy and forecasters warned of potentially widespread flooding and destruction.

[Hurricane Frances Tears Into The Bahamas](#)

[Fearing Frances Florida Bracing For Another Major Hurricane](#)

The News-Press, September 2, 2004

Hurricane Frances is poised to deliver something Florida hasn't seen in a century of record keeping — a second monstrous hurricane in less than a month.

[Southwest Florida Anxious As Storm Nears](#)

[Savannah Coast Guard Provides Air Security For Republican National Convention This Week](#)

Savannah Morning News, August 29, 2004

Drawing on training and operations during the G-8 Summit in June, Coast Guard expands its homeland security role. This week the skies above the Republican National Convention in New York will be protected in part by pilots and crew members from the Coast Guard Air Station-Savannah.

[Coast Guard Provides Security For Republican Convention](#)

[Convention, Delegates Tightly Guarded](#)

Scripps Howard News Service, August 31, 2004

There are 2,508 delegates at the Republican National Convention, and they are swaddled in a cocoon of security that includes 37,000 police, hundreds of surveillance cameras, and 181 dogs that signal they have sniffed explosives when they abruptly sit down.

[Effort Intensifies To Secure Penn Station](#)

[Unseen Multi-Agency Security Force On The Job At GOP Convention](#)

GovExec.com, August 30, 2004

While a nearly 22,000-strong security force stood watch in and around Madison Square Garden Saturday, New York Police Commissioner Ray Kelly announced the arrest of two terrorism suspects who authorities say were casing several subway stations, including one around the corner from the Garden, as well as bridges and other venues in the city.

[Intel Op Center Fuses 20 Units](#)

[Ace Keystone Cops Here To Help](#)

New York Daily News, August 29, 2004

A secretive search-and-rescue team composed of highly trained emergency workers from Pennsylvania was activated today to respond to any catastrophe at the Republican National Convention, the Daily News has learned.

[ICE Opens First Of Five New Bases On North Border](#)

The Washington Times, August 30, 2004

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement has opened the first of five planned air and marine facilities aimed at increasing security along the U.S.-Canada border — where drug smuggling and the entry of illegal aliens have become significant problems.

[U.S. Planes Seen Vulnerable Over Bomb Screening Gaps](#)

Reuters, August 31, 2004

U.S. airlines are vulnerable to the same kind of mid-air bombings that apparently blew up two Russian planes because most travelers are not screened for explosives, industry experts and officials said on Tuesday.

[As In Russia, U.S. Jet Screening Vulnerable To Bombs](#)

[Fight Stuff For Flight Crews](#)

New York Post, August 29, 2004

Flight attendants nationwide will begin self-defense training this week, learning to fight, tie up terrorists and use on-board items like coffee urns as weapons. Nearly three years after the 9/11 suicide hijackings, the Department of Homeland Security is launching a voluntary program to train airline crews in the use of force.

[Al-Qaida May Target VA Hospitals](#)

Yahoo! News, August 27, 2004

Al-Qaida terrorists looking for a U.S. military target might try to attack a Veterans Affairs hospital rather than a base or other high-security installation, the FBI and Homeland Security Department warn in a new nationwide terrorism bulletin.

[As Anxiety Grows, So Does Field Of Terror Study](#)

The New York Times, September 1, 2004

Motivated by the terror attacks of 9/11, colleges have rushed to create counterterrorism and homeland security courses, and thousands of students in New York and elsewhere are pursuing degrees in that area, making disaster one of the fastest-growing fields in academia.

[Illegal Immigrants Avoid Charley Relief](#)

Bradenton Herald, August 28, 2004

Fear of deportation is one of the many obstacles preventing illegal immigrants who lost their homes or jobs during Hurricane Charley from seeking disaster relief. The language barrier is also a problem, and undocumented workers can't apply for cash assistance, although they are eligible for food and temporary shelter.

[Hurricane Charley Daily Summary For September 1, 2004](#)

THE CONGRESS

[House Plans Immediate Action On Security After Convention](#)

The Hill, September 2, 2004

House Republicans are planning to pass a modest homeland security bill the first week Congress is back in Washington after the GOP convention. The move will come after Republicans touted their record on homeland security throughout this week's convention.

[Congressional Leaders Promise Quick Intel Overhaul](#)

USA Today, August 29, 2004

Congressional leaders on Sunday would not guarantee passage of an overhaul of the nation's intelligence agencies by the November election, but pledged to try to make it happen.

STATE AND LOCAL ACTIVITIES

[Disaster Preparedness Plan Aims To Align Businesses With Officials](#)

The Baltimore Sun, September 2, 2004

Carroll County will become the first community in Maryland to take advantage of a free federally funded program to prepare for natural or man-made disasters and is hoping to draw local businesses into the mix.

[El Paso Prepares For Terrorist Drill](#)

KFOX 14, August 31, 2004

The stage was set and all goes as planned for the biggest terrorism drill in our city's history. It began Tuesday morning with four men trying to gain entry into the U.S. from the Paso Del Norte bridge, one was severely sick and taken to the hospital.

[FEMA Grant Will Help Map County Floodplains](#)

The Grand Rapids Press, August 29, 2004

A \$250,000 federal grant to digitally map Ottawa County floodplains and water conditions should help improve flood protection of properties. The Federal Emergency Management Agency recently awarded the funds to the Ottawa County Drain Commission to complete the 14-month project.

[DC Metro To Prepare Riders For Terror](#)

The Washington Post, September 2, 2004

Metro will begin training a select group of commuters this month in ways to evacuate trains and subway tunnels and help fellow passengers during a terrorist attack or rail disaster. Transit officials have developed a highly unusual program that will include walking the volunteer passengers into dark subway tunnels to teach them to navigate live tracks as trains roll by.

[Panel OK's \\$12.2M For Communications Gear](#)

The Union Leader, September 1, 2004

A state advisory panel yesterday approved spending \$12.2 million in federal homeland security funds to buy portable and mobile radios that would enable firefighters and emergency responders statewide to talk with each other and police.

[State Buying TV Truck For Disaster Assessing](#)

The Pentagraph, September 2, 2004

Illinois taxpayers are about to become the owners of a video production truck worth nearly a half million dollars. The vehicle, similar to equipment already in use by television stations, will be deployed to disaster scenes to send pictures and audio of the incident back to state officials in Springfield.

[South Carolina's Hurricane Evacuation Web System Performs Successfully](#)

GovTech.net, September 1, 2004

The South Carolina Hurricane Evacuation Decision Support Solution, managed by the South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT), provides government officials, the Emergency Preparedness Office and transportation executives with near real-time information on rapidly changing traffic and evacuation route information.

[Gaston Ravages Richmond](#)

The Washington Post, September 1, 2004

With a ferocity beyond the ken of even longtime residents, Tropical Storm Gaston delivered a pounding blow to Richmond and its environs Monday night, killing at least five people, drenching

downtown in nearly a foot of surging water, spawning twisters, wrecking scores of city blocks, and leaving at least 100,000 homes and businesses without power or mobility.

[Unwanted Lesson: Homeowners Insurance Rarely Covers Floods](#)

[Storm Aid In High Gear: Polk Among Counties Getting Fast Storm Relief](#)

PolkOnline.com, August 28, 2004

People in Polk and other counties declared disaster areas because of Hurricane Charley are getting federal and state help faster than any other emergency in history. That's what officials from the Federal Emergency Management Agency said this past week, issuing a report which shows that thousands of local residents have received more than \$10 million in federal aid as a result of Charley.

[FEMA Offers Trailers For Charley's Victims](#)

The News-Press, September 2, 2004

A sign of progress in recovery from Hurricane Charley came Sunday for Charlotte and Sarasota counties as those made homeless by the storm began trickling in to residential trailers provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

RELATED INFORMATION

RECENT REPORTS

- **[A Personal Preparedness Resource For DC Metro Riders](#)**, July 2004

SPOTLIGHT WEBSITES

- **[State of Florida](#)**, September 2004
- **[FEMA Storm Watch](#)**, September 2004
- **[The National Hurricane Center](#)**, September 2004

OPINION

- **[Mr. Bush And The Truth About Terror](#)**, *The New York Times*, September 2, 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.