



PREPAREDNESS NEWS AND INFORMATION

From FEMA's Preparedness Division

September 10, 2004

NATIONAL NEWS

[Hurricane Ivan Rages; Evacuations In Florida](#)

The New York Times, September 9, 2004

Anxious officials in storm weary southern Florida began evacuating some people from the Keys today as Hurricane Ivan ripped through Grenada, leaving at least 15 dead, and appeared headed northwest towards Jamaica and Cuba.

[Hurricane Bears Down On Jamaica](#)

[SC Emergency Officials Watch Ivan Now Heading Towards Jamaica](#)

WISV.com, September 9, 2004

South Carolina emergency officials are already watching another hurricane as cleanup continues after Hurricane Frances. State Emergency Preparedness Division spokesman Joe Farmer says the agency is closely monitoring Ivan, now a Category Five storm, churning in the Caribbean.

[Officials Watch Flooding, Ivan During Frances Cleanup](#)

The Associated Press, September 9, 2004

As sunny skies returned to South Carolina on Thursday, residents kept a watchful eye on rising streams and rivers in the wake of the torrential rains from the remnants of Hurricane Frances.

[A Hurricane Learning Curve](#)

The Christian Science Monitor, September 7, 2004

Rain-soaked and wind-ravaged residents of Florida have at least one thing to be grateful for as they cope with the effects of hurricane Frances while still mopping up after hurricane Charley: They've been cured of "hurricane amnesia," as Gov. Jeb Bush has noted.

[Emergency Workers Becoming Old Pros As Third Hurricane Approaches](#)

[Back-To-Back Punch Of Two Hurricanes Is Expected To Extract A \\$40 Billion Toll](#)

The New York Times, September 6, 2004

As Hurricane Frances lumbered across Florida on Sunday, economic analysts estimated the costs of the damage inflicted by the sprawling storm and Hurricane Charley three weeks ago could run to \$40 billion.

[Bush Asks For \\$2 Billion For Florida And Plans To Visit State](#)

YAHOO! News, September 6, 2004

President Bush asked Congress on Monday to immediately approve \$2 billion for hurricane-battered Florida and the White House announced he would visit the election battleground state on Wednesday.

[Bush Back In Florida To Visit Areas Ravaged By Hurricane Frances](#)

The Washington Post, September 9, 2004

It was almost as if the rewind button had been pushed: Another sticky Florida day. Another hurricane-battered town. Another helicopter swooping President Bush into a devastation zone.

[State Moves Fast To Deliver Food, Ice](#)

Florida Today, September 6, 2004

More than 400 water trucks, 300 ice trucks and 1 million ready-to-eat meals moved Monday from Jacksonville and Homestead to staging areas in Lakeland, West Palm Beach, Tallahassee and Orlando, en route to the worst hit counties.

[Need Ice? Cereal? The Bush Brothers Are on the Way!](#)

Ridge Urges Americans To Be Prepared For Emergencies

WBAL-TV, September 9, 2004

Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge thinks more than just the Boy Scouts should "be prepared," so he has declared September "National Preparedness Month."

DHS Taking Applications For Special Grants

DHS, Office of the Press Secretary, September 6, 2004

C. Suzanne Mencer, Executive Director of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Office of State and Local Government Coordination & Preparedness (SLGCP), announced today the application period for the 2004 Fire Prevention and Safety Grants is planned for September 1 through September 30.

N.Y. Concerns Stall First-Responder Funding Bill

The Washington Times, September 6, 2004

A bill changing how billions of federal dollars are to be channeled to first-responders and local governments has been delayed amid concerns by New York City officials about the way it would distribute the money.

Turner Says Security Gaps Along Border Imperil Nation

The Associated Press, September 9, 2004

U.S. Rep. Jim Turner, the ranking Democrat on the House homeland security committee, says the country needs a dramatically new approach to the southern border that includes technology to monitor all of it around the clock, doubling of Border Patrol agents and an increase in detention space to hold illegal entrants.

Information Sharing Program At 9-1-1 Center Recognized For Innovation In Homeland Security

Business Wire, September 9, 2004

Connect & Protect is a secure, automated, trusted information-sharing program, a joint venture by the City of Portland's Bureau of Emergency Communications (BOEC) and Regional Alliances for Infrastructure and Network Security (RAINS), a private/public partnership promoting the development and adoption of technology for homeland security.

Some In Tech Industry Critical Of Bush Administration's Cybersecurity Efforts

GovExec.com, September 3, 2004

The issue of cybersecurity has not reached a satisfactory level of prominence in the Bush administration for some observers in the technology industry, and an elevation of the issue before the November presidential election is not likely, sources say.

Funding Collaboration

GovTech.net, September 2004

Department of Homeland Security funding initiative aims to spur interoperability among locals.

THE CONGRESS

9/11 Proposals Lead The Agenda Facing Congress

The New York Times, September 7, 2004

After weeks of being overshadowed by presidential politics, members of Congress return Tuesday for a charged march to Election Day that has been complicated by the call to reorganize the nation's intelligence agencies.

The Commission That's Eating Congress

The Christian Science Monitor, September 9, 2004

With lawmakers back in session, the agenda is dominated by the 9/11 report - a rare triumph for a panel that no longer officially exists.

Bush Plan Draws On Advice Of 9/11 Panel

The Washington Post, September 9, 2004

President Bush yesterday proposed giving a new national intelligence director broad powers to plan intelligence agencies' spending priorities and clandestine activities, making a concession to lawmakers moving to implement the more sweeping proposals of the Sept. 11 commission.

Senate Challenges Bush On Veto Threat

The New York Times, September 9, 2004

The Senate ignored a White House veto threat on Wednesday and voted to block President Bush from handing some Homeland Security Department jobs to private companies.

Intelligence Reform: "It's A Tidal-Wave-Type Internal Issue"

The Hill, September 9, 2004

A new Senate task force has begun reviewing options to reshape radically congressional oversight of intelligence activities, and its recommendations are likely to trigger intense jurisdictional disputes in the coming weeks.

Spending Bills Await Delegation In D.C.

Bangor Daily News, September 6, 2004

Congress goes back to work this week after the summer recess and Maine's congressional delegation says they have a lot of work to accomplish with an election less than two months away.

STATE AND LOCAL ACTIVITIES

Towns Complying With Homeland Security National Incident Management System

Deerfield Review, September 9, 2004

Three years after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, local police and fire departments have been busy coordinating with the state and federal government to be ready if another attack should occur in the Chicago area. For starters, Deerfield, Riverwoods and Bannockburn must all meet an Oct. 1 deadline to pass a resolution stating they comply with the National Incident Management System (NIMS).

State Police Put Media Through Training Paces

ABC12.com, September 8, 2004

Some first-of-its-kind state police terrorism awareness training Wednesday turned the state's television, radio and newspaper reporters into students. The State Police Homeland Security section set out to train the media in how we can continue to get critical information to you if terrorists ever hit here.

Chicago Plans Advanced Surveillance

USA Today, September 9, 2004

A surveillance system that uses 2,000 remote-control cameras and motion-sensing software to spot crimes or terrorist acts as they happen is being planned for the city.

County FEMA Teams To Aid Florida

The Journal News, September 6, 2004

Two Federal Emergency Management Agency relief teams from Rockland have been ordered to hurricane-ravaged portions of Florida to help with emergency medical care and recovery efforts.

Long Lines Ease As Supplies Reach Frances Victims

Sun-Sentinel, September 9, 2004

Long waits for food, water, ice and tarps dwindled at FEMA distribution centers as electricity was restored to more homes, some residents returned to work and alternative relief sites -- bolstered by nonprofit organizations, cities and other local groups -- eased the demand.

[As The Rivers Rise, So Does Misery Level](#)

St. Petersburg Times, September 8, 2004

Although Hurricane Frances is gone, the misery it left behind is about to get worse for people who live near rivers in the Tampa Bay area. Rainfall from Frances has left the Alafia River so swollen that nearby residents are about to face the worst flooding since Hurricane Donna 44 years ago.

[City Begins Disaster-Training Program For Terror Attacks - Police, Firefighters, Health Workers To Focus On Coordinated Response To 'Dirty Bomb'](#)

San Francisco Chronicle, September 8, 2004

San Francisco launched a month-long training program Tuesday for more than 4,000 firefighters, police officers and public health workers who would be called to the front lines in the event of a terrorist attack in the city.

[The Target List Confusion](#)

Oakland Tribune, September 7, 2004

Hastily devised and error-prone, the list of potential terror targets baffles local officials. Meanwhile, not enough money flows to patrol high-priority sites.

[Ready...Just In Case: Much Money, Effort Has Been Spent In Years Since 9/11](#)

Finger Lakes Times, September 8, 2004

Every day, Cathy Bond, a Wayne County bio-terrorism prevention coordinator, calls the Newark hospital, checking for unusual events. She's looking for patients with suspicious ailments or injuries, or a sudden surge in illness.

[Indiana Governor Announces New Homeland Security Training Site](#)

GovTech.net, September 7, 2004

Indiana Gov. Joe Kernan recently announced an agreement that includes the creation of a homeland security training center at the Muscatatuck State Development Center.

[Pennsylvania Governor Rendell's Homeland Security Cabinet Kicks Off National Preparedness Month With Rally At State Capitol](#)

YAHOO! News, September 9, 2004

Members of PA Governor Edward G. Rendell's Homeland Security Cabinet today kicked off National Preparedness Month in Pennsylvania with a rally at the State Capitol.

[Vilsack Names Miller Homeland Security Head](#)

The Associated Press, September 9, 2004

Iowa Governor Vilsack has named David Miller as the new head of Iowa's homeland security office.

RELATED INFORMATION

RECENT REPORTS

- [Mental Health Status Of World Trade Center Rescue And Recovery Workers And Volunteers --- New York City, July 2002--August 2004](#), September 2004
- [Physical Health Status Of World Trade Center Rescue And Recovery Workers And Volunteers --- New York City, July 2002--August 2004](#), September 2004

- [Homeland Security: Federal Leadership Needed To Facilitate Interoperable Communications Between First Responders](#), September 2004

SPOTLIGHT WEBSITES

- [FEMA: Hurricane Frances Information](#), www.FEMA.gov
- [CDC Emergency Preparedness And Response: Hurricanes](#), www.cdc.gov
- [GSA: National Preparedness Month](#), September 2004
- [National Security/Homeland Security Presidential Directives](#), September 2004

OPINION

- [The Police And The Protests](#), *The New York Times*, September 4, 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.