



PREPAREDNESS NEWS AND INFORMATION

From FEMA's Preparedness Division

September 24, 2004

NATIONAL NEWS

[Hurricane-Weary Florida In Jeanne's Sights](#)

MSNBC.com, September 23, 2004

Hurricane Jeanne appeared to be zeroing in on the Southeast coast Thursday, and forecasts put Florida firmly in the deadly storm's sights with landfall possible this weekend.

[FEMA Makes Funds Available](#)

The Daytona Beach News, September 22, 2004

The Federal Emergency Management Agency has expanded its disaster assistance program to the 26 Florida counties affected by hurricanes Charley and Frances, including Flagler.

[Homeland Security Chief Tours Damaged Panhandle](#)

The Associated Press, September 20, 2004

Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge and Governor Jeb Bush visited Monday with emergency medical workers treating people injured by Hurricane Ivan and its aftermath.

[Healing Team Arrives On Heels Of Hurricane](#)

USA Today, September 21, 2001

As Hurricane Ivan took its deadly swipe at this Gulf Coast city last week, the Federal Emergency Management Agency was mobilizing a team of 31 doctors, nurses and paramedics in Jacksonville, 350 miles away.

[FEMA: Storms Require Long-Term Recovery](#)

The Associated Press, September 19, 2004

The pounding of three major hurricanes in Florida during the past five weeks will require a long-term rebuilding effort comparable to the 1994 Los Angeles area earthquake, the nation's top emergency official said Saturday.

[Bush Gets Close Look At Muddy Flood Damage](#)

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, September 23, 2004

President Bush offered solace for flood victims and scorn for Sen. John Kerry yesterday as he inspected the ravages of last weekend's flooding in Allegheny County before heading to a campaign rally in Latrobe.

[Al Qaeda Seen Planning For 'Spectacular' Attack](#)

The Washington Times, September 21, 2004

U.S. intelligence agencies concluded recently that al Qaeda — fearing its credibility is on the line — is moving ahead with plans for a major, "spectacular" attack, despite disruptions of some operations by recent arrests in Britain and Pakistan.

[Covert Tests Reveal Airport Screening Failures](#)

GovExec.com, September 22, 2004

Undercover tests of aviation screening operations revealed widespread problems, raising concerns that explosives and weapons could get into airport sterile areas and checked baggage systems, the Homeland Security Department's inspector general said Wednesday.

[DHS Seeks Real-World Data On Security Breaches](#)

ComputerWorld.com, September 20, 2004

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security plans to launch several pilot projects that officials at the agency hope will help solve one of the most pressing cybersecurity research problems: a lack of real-world data about attacks.

[Port Security Bill Approved By Senate](#)

GovExec.com, September 22, 2004

The Senate on Tuesday passed a port security bill that includes various technology provisions. The bill, S. 2279, would emphasize evaluating current security systems for deficiencies and would require the Homeland Security Department to recommend how to address problems.

[Mayor Says Aid To City Will Protect The Country](#)

The New York Times, September 18, 2004

Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg said yesterday that Congress was finally heeding his calls for more antiterrorism money for New York City and other potential targets, but that the work to secure the aid must go on.

THE CONGRESS

[Chief Gainer Irks Members: No Consultation With House On New Capitol Security](#)

The Hill, September 23, 2004

Lawmakers overseeing the Capitol are angry with Capitol Police Chief Terrance Gainer because he set up 14 new checkpoints around the congressional complex last month without consulting them.

[Senate Leader Works To Break Impasse On Homeland Security Bill](#)

GovExec.com, September 21, 2004

Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist, R-Tenn., has waded into a dispute between appropriators and House Ways and Means Chairman Bill Thomas, R-Calif., to try to break an impasse over the fiscal 2005 Homeland Security spending bill that has prevented the House from appointing conferees.

[House Chairman May Slow Homeland Bill In Customs Fee Dispute](#)

[Senate Confirms Goss As Next CIA Director](#)

GovExec.com, September 23, 2004

The Senate Wednesday confirmed Representative Porter Goss, R-Florida, as the next CIA director on a 77-17 vote.

[Senate Confirms Goss As Intelligence Chief](#)

[Senate Panel Fends Off Challenges To Intelligence Overhaul](#)

GovExec.com, September 23, 2004

Legislation to institute the most sweeping overhaul of intelligence programs since the 1940s was unanimously approved Wednesday by the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee, despite efforts by the White House to mold the legislation to its liking.

[Chairman Cox: Creation Of Homeland Security Department Has Helped To Safeguard America](#)

Press Release, September 22, 2004

As Republicans celebrate their 10-year anniversary as a majority party in the U.S. House of Representatives, Chairman Christopher Cox (R-CA) pointed to the creation of a strong, effective force against terrorism, the Department of Homeland Security, as a defining accomplishment.

[House Approves Cox Resolution On National Preparedness Month](#)

STATE AND LOCAL ACTIVITIES

[States Get 3 Years For NIMS](#)

Federal Computer Week, September 23, 2004

State and local leaders have three years to establish and implement systems and practices needed to ensure seamless response to emergencies and incidents or else federal grants will be withheld, Homeland Security Department officials said this month.

County Stages Terrorist Attack To Test Emergency Management

Tri-City Tribune, September 22, 2004

County officials know that terrorism is a real threat, even to the small communities of Poinsett County. That is why Merle Williams, Office of Emergency Management director, organized an exercise earlier this month to test the county's preparedness for an outbreak of smallpox.

FEMA Tours Tornado Damaged Areas

Potomac News, September 23, 2004

State and federal officials toured the tornado-ravaged areas of Lake Jackson on Wednesday to prepare preliminary damage assessments that could be used to direct federal aid to Prince William County.

New County-Wide Radio System To Go Online This Week

Hillsboro Free Press, September 22, 2004

About 55 new radios will be brought on-line this week for county fire departments and emergency medical crews, the Marion County Commission learned Monday. Money for the radios is coming through the U.S. Office of Domestic Preparedness under Homeland Security.

New Headquarters Will Guard Capital Area

The Washington Post, September 21, 2004

A new military headquarters at the District's Fort McNair will work to deter and respond to terrorist activities in the Washington region, bringing area military resources under a unique joint command that will prepare for attacks such as the strike on the Pentagon on Sept. 11, 2001.

Senators Want Base At Selfridge: Legislators Push To Get Border Security Air Wing

The Times Herald, September 18, 2004

Michigan's two U.S. senators have asked the Department of Homeland Security to locate a base for a new Northern Border Air Wing at Macomb County's Selfridge Air National Guard Base.

Terror Plans Are Suspect

The Cincinnati Post, September 18, 2004

A new report by the New York Academy of Medicine concludes that the nation's terrorist-response plans don't take into account how real people in real situations really act. Thus, said the august academicians, the nation's vaunted terrorism-response plans in two likely scenarios are of little value.

FEMA OKs Grants For Virginia Storm Victims

Richmond Times-Dispatch, September 23, 2004

The Federal Emergency Management Agency has approved more than \$4.6 million in grants to help people in central Virginia hurt by the remnants of Tropical Storm Gaston.

Training Base Plan Gets Kudos

The Indianapolis Star, September 20, 2004

The state's plan to turn a soon-to-be closed mental institution into a homeland security training base is getting some early positive reviews.

Homeland Security Money Stuck In Red Tape

WVLT-TV 8, September 23, 2004

A lot of red-tape, at least that's what the state's homeland security director believes. This year, our state received more than 40 million dollars, so far, none of it's been touched.

[Homeland Security Officials Look At Protecting Schools](#)

The Associated Press, September 23, 2004

Alabama homeland security officials are asking schools to "dust off" evacuation plans following the recent terrorist attack on a school in Russia.

RELATED INFORMATION

RECENT REPORTS

- [Redefining Readiness: Terrorism Planning Through The Eyes Of The Public](#), *The New York Academy Of Medicine*, September 2004
[Appendix To The Study Report](#)
- [Homeland Security: Observations On The National Strategies Related To Terrorism](#), GAO, September 2004

SPOTLIGHT WEBSITES

- [EPA: Emergency Prevention, Preparedness, And Response](#)
- [OSHA: Emergency Preparedness And Response](#)

OPINION

- [Homeland Security Left Capitol Wide Open](#), *Quad-City Times*, September 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.