



PREPAREDNESS NEWS AND INFORMATION

From FEMA's Preparedness Division

October 1, 2004

NATIONAL NEWS

[Florida Takes New Threshing](#)

The Christian Science Monitor, September 27, 2004

After three storms, many residents were ready for Jeanne, but others were blasé.

[Florida Storm Deployment FEMA's Largest](#)

The Associated Press, September 27, 2004

The 2004 hurricane season has brought the largest-ever deployment of Federal Emergency Management Agency workers, agency Director Michael Brown said Sunday.

[FEMA Calling All Volunteers To Help Put Lives Back Together After Hurricanes](#)

[Faster Relief Comes From Frances' Lessons](#)

The Palm Beach Post, September 28, 2004

Hurricane Jeanne roared through Palm Beach County twice as fast as Frances — and the recovery may be twice as fast, too.

[Bush Seeks \\$7.1 Billion In Hurricane Aid](#)

South Florida Sun-Sentinel, September 28, 2004

Congress has already approved Bush's first request of \$2 billion and is considering his second, \$3.1 billion proposal, meaning the price tag for all three should exceed \$12.2 billion.

[Bush Returns To Florida](#)

[Florida Officials Say NIMS System Improves Emergency Efforts](#)

South Florida Sun Sentinel, October 1, 2004

As Hurricanes Frances and Jeanne pounded parts of the state, Miramar utilized its new emergency response system, known as NIMS, or National Incident Management System.

[Ashcroft, Ridge Open Security Conference](#)

The Associated Press, September 27, 2004

Ever-improving technology is being put to good use dealing with crime, natural disasters and terrorism, but more must be done, Attorney General John Ashcroft and Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge said Monday, opening a three-day conference on the subject.

[DHS Launches Office Of Interoperability And Compatibility](#)

DHS Press Release, September 27, 2004

Secretary of Homeland Security Tom Ridge announced the October 1, 2004, launch of the Office of Interoperability and Compatibility, along with the release of tools designed to help state and local public safety practitioners improve communications interoperability.

[Ridge: Collaboration Needed To Keep Country Safe](#)

The Associated Press, September 29, 2004

The government and the private sector have to work together to ensure the safety of the country and to handle disasters, Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge said Tuesday.

[Major Cities Rectify 9/11 Radio Issue](#)

USA Today, September 27, 2004

In 10 of the cities considered at highest risk for a terrorist attack, firefighters, police and other emergency responders in charge during a disaster can now talk to each other to coordinate a quick response.

Qaeda Threat For Elections Leads To Plan For High Alert

The New York Times, September 28, 2004

Al Qaeda's intention to carry out an election-year attack inside the United States has been confirmed by recent intelligence, but the threat information does not indicate any time, place or method of attack, senior administration officials said on Monday.

Election Heightens Terrorism Offensive

National Guard Selects Satellite Solution For Emergency Response Communications System

GovTech.net, September 2004

The National Guard recently selected a joint satellite solution to provide an emergency communications network to National Guard teams.

Cornell Publishes Emergency Preparedness Tool For Hoteliers

HospitalityNet.org, September 27, 2004

A new management tool created by The Center for Hospitality Research at Cornell provides hospitality executives and managers a roadmap to prepare for the loss of electrical power in an emergency or natural disaster.

Terrorists Could Bring Down U.S. Jets With Hidden Bombs

USA Today, September 30, 2004

Suicide attackers armed with hidden explosives that can weigh as little as a cell phone pose a serious threat to the nation's aviation system despite billions being spent on new efforts to tighten security, according to more than a dozen members of Congress and security consultants.

U.S. Plans To Offer Guidance For A Dirty-Bomb Aftermath

The New York Times, September 27, 2004

The federal government is preparing to publish advice for state and local governments on how to react if terrorists set off a "dirty bomb," including how much radiation exposure from such an attack is acceptable for the public.

Spy Imagery Agency Watching Inside U.S.

USA Today, September 26, 2004

Since the Sept. 11 attacks, about 100 employees of a little-known branch of the Defense Department called the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency — and some of the country's most sophisticated aerial imaging equipment — have focused on observing what's going on in the United States.

Cybersecurity Measures Not Likely In Intelligence Reform

GovExec.com, September 28, 2004

After a week of at times acrimonious turf fighting about cybersecurity, it appears there will be only a small mention of the issue in a larger bill to reform the government's intelligence structure, congressional and private-sector sources said Tuesday.

Analysis Predicts Drop In First Responder Funding

GovExec.com, October 1, 2004

First responders will probably see a downturn in federal funding in the next few years, a market research firm concluded in a report to be published Friday.

Lobbyists Seek To Extend Terrorism-Insurance Program

The Hill, September 29, 2004

Lobbyists are stepping up their efforts to secure an extension of a popular federal terrorism-insurance program this year, even though it does not expire until the end of next year and the Treasury Department will not weigh in on its effectiveness until next spring.

THE CONGRESS

[Cox Urges House To Make Committee Permanent](#)

The Orange County Register, September 29, 2004

Rep. Christopher Cox Thursday will formally recommend to the House that his homeland security committee become a permanent fixture in Congress with firm jurisdiction over all aspects of the new cabinet department.

[House, Senate Diverge On 9/11 Response](#)

The Christian Science Monitor, September 27, 2004

As clock winds down on 108th Congress, lawmakers focus on 9/11 commission goals.

[Senate Bill Proposes Anti-Terror Database](#)

The Washington Post, September 28, 2004

Counterterrorism authorities would be granted unprecedented access to law enforcement and commercial databases containing billions of records about private citizens under a bipartisan bill to restructure the intelligence system that the Senate began debating yesterday.

[House Leaders Promise 'Clean Bill' On Intelligence](#)

The Hill, September 29, 2004

House Majority Leader Tom DeLay (R-Texas) said he is confident that the intelligence-reform bill will pass without any unrelated provisions despite pressure from lobbyists who view the measure as an enticing vehicle to help various industries.

HEARINGS

- [Recommendations Of The Select Committee On Homeland Security On Changes To The Rules Of The House Of Representatives](#), September 30, 2004

STATE AND LOCAL ACTIVITIES

[A 178-Foot Surprise Rises Over Washington](#)

The New York Times, September 30, 2004

Those who live and work in this fortified city woke up Wednesday to find a 178-foot white blimp floating in highly restricted airspace about 1,000 feet above some of the most visible symbols of American democracy and military strength - the White House, the Capitol and the Pentagon.

[Emergency Communications Upgrades Making Progress](#)

Clarksburg Exponent Telegram, September 29, 2004

West Virginia is ahead of other states in complying with a system designed to standardize communications between emergency responders throughout the nation, officials say.

[School Buys Town For Anti-Terror Training](#)

The Associated Press, September 30, 2004

The New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology purchased the former Phelps Dodge Corp. town for \$5 million on Wednesday, a day after getting the go-ahead from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

[FEMA Evaluates Marshall County's Disaster Drill](#)

Times-Republican, September 29, 2004

More than 100 firefighters, law enforcement officials, paramedics and other volunteers participated in a nuclear disaster drill at the Marshall County Fairgrounds that was to be evaluated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

[Costly Equipment Sees Little Use](#)

Charlestown Daily Mall, September 28, 2004

Since the federal government started spending money on homeland security in 1999, West Virginia has seen five years pass, received \$50 million in funds and watched the nation get hit with the worst terrorist attack in its history.

[Security Widened At IMF, World Bank](#)

The Washington Post, September 30, 2004

Tomorrow and Sunday, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund will hold their annual fall meetings at their Foggy Bottom headquarters, where security was heightened in August after homeland security officials announced that both financial institutions were potential terrorism targets.

[Bus drivers, truckers joining fight against terrorism](#)

The Capital, September 26, 2004

Soon, thousands of bus drivers, truckers and other transportation workers throughout the state could join the war against terrorism.

[Truckers Once Again 'Knights Of The Road'](#)

[Workshop Ties Business To Disaster Preparation](#)

The Baltimore Sun, September 26, 2004

The program emphasizes a disaster's impact on businesses, which are often left out of planning but can be damaged or destroyed by natural or man-made events.

RELATED INFORMATION

RECENT REPORTS

- **[Department Of Homeland Security: Formidable Information And Technology Management Challenge Requires Institutional Approach](#)**, GAO, August 2004
- **[Bioterrorism And The Food Supply](#)**, *Directions Magazine*, September 29, 2004

SPOTLIGHT WEBSITES

- **[NRC: Emergency Preparedness and Response](#)**, Nuclear Regulatory Commission
- **[DOT: 2004 Emergency Response Guidebook](#)**, Department of Transportation

OPINION

- **[Fliers Face New Scrutiny, But This Time With A Twist](#)**, *USA Today*
- **[TSA Cannot Be Trusted](#)**, *USA Today*

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.