



PREPAREDNESS NEWS AND INFORMATION

From FEMA's Preparedness Division

October 8, 2004

NATIONAL NEWS

[Homeland Security Bid To Set Up Regional Structure Could Hit Roadblocks](#)

GovExec.com, October 6, 2004

The chief sponsor of the law that created the Homeland Security Department said Tuesday that the planned creation of a regional structure for the department could meet with trouble.

[Bush Seeks Extra \\$691 Million In Hurricane Aid](#)

Reuters, October 5, 2004

The disaster relief money comes on top of the \$12.2 billion Bush has already asked for to help Florida and other states recover from hurricanes Charley, Frances, Jeanne and Ivan.

[U.S. Alerts Schools About Terror Threat](#)

The Associated Press, October 7, 2004

The Education Department has advised school leaders nationwide to watch for people spying on their buildings or buses to help detect any possibility of terrorism like the deadly school siege in Russia.

[Are Terrorists 'Casing' Planes?](#)

The Christian Science Monitor, October 7, 2004

Security experts continue to be concerned that terrorists are monitoring and probing the nation's aviation system in order to uncover vulnerabilities and prepare for another attack.

[FAA Panel: Airport Fire Units Lacking](#)

USA Today, October 6, 2004

Federal standards for airport fire departments are inadequate to save lives and are hampering firefighters from battling searing flames that occur in plane crashes, a government advisory panel will announce Wednesday.

[Domestic Security Will Challenge Next President](#)

MSNBC, October 5, 2004

The post-election landscape for homeland security promises to be a rocky one regardless of who wins in November. And the biggest headaches facing the next president in this area could well involve bureaucracy, not terrorism.

[Election Day Anti-Terrorism Plans Draw Criticism](#)

The Washington Post, October 6, 2004

A push by the 50 states to coordinate anti-terrorism activities before Election Day is drawing warnings from Democrats, civil rights groups and election officials, who say excessive measures could suppress turnout among urban and minority voters.

[U.S. Election Security Faces Tricky Balancing Act](#)

Reuters, October 3, 2004

U.S. officials hoping to stop a possible al Qaeda attack before the November election face the difficult task of providing enough security without scaring voters away from the polling stations.

[FBI To Get Help On Election Day Plots](#)

USA Today, October 6, 2004

Attorney General John Ashcroft quietly has issued a sweeping directive that authorizes the FBI to use hundreds of law enforcement agents from other federal agencies to help investigate any terrorist plots that target the Nov. 2 elections.

DHS Awards Metropolitan Medical Response System Grants

GovTech.net, October 2004

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) recently awarded more than \$46 million in Metropolitan Medical Response System (MMRS) grants for fiscal year 2004. The 110 grants reach 114 MMRS jurisdictions throughout the United States.

FEMA Releases New Study Course For Disaster Response Personnel

GovTech.net, October 2004

Michael D. Brown, under secretary of the Department of Homeland Security for Emergency Preparedness and Response, announced recently the release of the new IS-200 Basic Incident Command System course for federal disaster workers and all emergency personnel with disaster response duties.

Security Funding Puts Focus On Prevention

Rapid City Journal, October 7, 2004

South Dakota plans to shift federal homeland-security money toward preventing and away from responding to emergencies, according to Tom Dravland, secretary of the state Department of Public Safety.

THE CONGRESS

House Approves \$14 Billion Drought, Hurricane Aid Package

North County Times, October 6, 2004

The House unanimously approved nearly \$14 billion in aid Wednesday for victims of recent hurricanes and drought after Republicans yielded to campaign-season pressure and included money for struggling farmers and ranchers.

Senate Approves Measure To Overhaul Intelligence Community

Knight Ridder, October 6, 2004

The Senate on Wednesday overwhelmingly passed legislation to make the most sweeping changes in the nation's intelligence community since the creation of the Central Intelligence Agency in 1947.

Senators Seek To Replace Governmental Affairs With Homeland Panel

GovExec.com, October 5, 2004

Senate Majority Whip Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., and Minority Whip Harry Reid, D-Nev., floated a major Senate reorganization plan Monday that would largely consolidate homeland security oversight and funding responsibilities in the Governmental Affairs and Appropriations committees and implement a significant change in the chamber's intelligence oversight duties.

STATE AND LOCAL ACTIVITIES

Congressman Wants Region's Evacuation Routes Studied

ABC 7, October 6, 2004

Western Maryland Congressman Roscoe Bartlett wants to know how millions of people would get out of the Washington area if there is a terrorist attack or other emergency.

Bay Area Is Inching Toward Regional Approach To Terror

San Mateo County Times, October 6, 2004

The Bay Area's nine core counties are making piecemeal, self-contained improvements in security, spending more than \$60 million on new protective gear and high-tech anti-terror devices.

Biohazard Shelter Makes Hospital More Prepared

Scranton Times Tribune, October 6, 2004

The \$18,000 portable, bright yellow tent will allow medical personnel to decontaminate patients without risking contamination themselves. It can be used in various situations anywhere in the county.

Controversy Over Fort Detrick Expansion

WJZ 13, October 6, 2004

Some residents in Frederick are concerned about a plan to build a federal Department of Homeland Security biodefense center at Fort Detrick in Frederick.

Free Training Offered To Prepare For Terrorist Attack Or Natural Disaster

Quad-City Times, October 6, 2004

In a move reminiscent of the civil defense educational campaigns of the 1950s and 1960s, a local organization funded by the federal government announced Wednesday that it is offering free training to help people prepare for a terrorist attack or natural disaster.

Schuylkill Gears For Flood Aid Process

The Morning Call, October 5, 2004

Schuylkill County's emergency management coordinator explained to local officials Monday night what kind of federal grants are available to them for dealing with damage caused by the remnants of Hurricane Ivan.

Police Officers Training For Major Emergencies

The Star Ledger, October 7, 2004

More than 100 police officers from departments and colleges throughout Essex County participated in a two-day training session this week to learn how to respond to large-scale public emergencies.

Colorado Planning Early Warning Center To Analyze Threats

Rocky Mountain News, October 4, 2004

Colorado is planning a "terrorism early warning center," where state and federal employees would examine hints of threats and distribute warnings.

Secret Service Says Fire Unit Exists

The Washington Times, October 6, 2004

U.S. Secret Service officials yesterday acknowledged the existence of a recently formed White House unit with the capabilities of a fire-and-rescue company.

NY Leaders Divided Over Best Way To Increase Share Of Anti-Terror Aid

The Associated Press, October 5, 2004

The proposed 9/11 reforms being rushed through Congress ahead of the November election offer New York a unique chance to change a formula for distributing anti-terrorism dollars.

State Police Unveil Upgrades: Force Adds Mobile Command Center, Helicopter

Delaware State News, October 7, 2004

The Delaware State Police showed off two new pieces of equipment Tuesday that officials say will aid in their quest to keep Delawareans safe.

Terror Drill Tests Puget Sound Waterfront

KOMO 4, October 6, 2004

Wednesday at the Port of Tacoma, the FBI, Tacoma and Seattle Police and the National Guard responded to a make-believe terror plot, Weapons of Mass Destruction.

Wireless System To Aid Firefighters

The Boston Globe, October 6, 2004

A \$1 million grant from the Department of Homeland Security will outfit the Boston Fire Department's fleet of engines with wireless computers, giving firefighters access to floor plans and other critical information about buildings throughout the city.

RELATED INFORMATION

SPOTLIGHT WEBSITES

- **[Metropolitan Medical Response System \(MMRS\)](#)**

OPINION

- **[First Public Drill Comes Three Years After 9/11](#)**, *Quad-City Times*, October 5, 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.