



Preparedness News and Information

From FEMA's Office of National Preparedness

May 16, 2003

NATIONAL NEWS

Critics Question Value of Huge Homeland Security Exercise

GovExec, May 9, 2003

The largest federal emergency-preparedness exercise in U.S. history, calling to duty 8,500 government and costing \$16 million has experts worried that it will not truly test the nation's response capacity due to the fact that officials will know many details of the attack ahead of time.

- [Emergency Workers in Two Cities Drill for Disaster](#), *Reuters*, May 13
- [Mock Explosion Launches Bioterror Drill](#), *Washington Post*, May 13

Military Remains Best Equipped for Terror Attack, Experts Claim

CNSNews, May 12, 2003

The Department of Homeland Security has assembled a vigorous shield against acts of terrorism, but in the case of a major nuclear or biological attack, the U.S. military would need to play a crucial role, anti-terrorism experts said.

Homeland Security Studies Drone Patrol

NY Times, May 13, 2003

The Homeland Security Department is considering the use of unmanned aircrafts to track drug smugglers, illegal immigrants and terrorists along the porous U.S. border with Mexico, according to Tom Ridge.

- [DHS Seeks More Dollars for Border Tech](#), *Federal Computer Week*, May 13

U.S. Will Release Some Port Security Cash

Washington Times, May 13, 2003

Officials from the Department of Homeland Security sent a mixed message Tuesday to lawmakers concerned about port security funding, promising to release one set of funds but warning that another might have to be used to meet cost over-runs in other areas.

- [Cities, Ports to Receive \\$700 Million for Homeland Security](#), *GovExec*, May 15

DHS Creating Cyber R&D Center

Federal Computer Week, May 14, 2003

The Homeland Security Department is creating a research and development center to coordinate cybersecurity efforts across civilian and defense agencies, universities, and the private sector, a top official told Congress.

- [White House Official Defends Importance of Homeland Cyber Official](#), *GovExec*, May 15

CONGRESS

Lack of Senior Officials at Homeland Security Stymies Congress

GovExec, May 12, 2003

Created only months ago, the House and Senate Homeland Security Appropriations subcommittees nevertheless have hit the ground running with a flurry of hearings, with members saying that the only significant impediments they face are those posed by the Bush administration.

Homeland Officials Grilled on Whether Money is Adequate

GovExec, May 13, 2003

In the wake of suicide bombings late Monday killing Americans and others in Saudi Arabia, a member of a Senate Appropriations subcommittee questioned Tuesday whether the Bush administration has requested adequate funding to protect against terrorists at home.

Senator Introduces Chemical, Nuclear Plant Security Bills

GovExec, May 13, 2003

Last week, Senator Inhofe introduced the [Chemical Facilities Security Act of 2003](#) which gives DHS one year after the enactment of the bill to create regulations requiring chemical plant operators to conduct vulnerability assessments and to prepare site security plans.

BILLS RECENTLY INTRODUCED

- **H.R.2073:** To amend title 32, United States Code, to provide assistance to States for the discharge of homeland security activities by the National Guard, and for other purposes, House Armed Services Committee, May 14
- **S.1043:** A bill to provide for the security of commercial nuclear power plants and facilities designated by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, May 12

RECENT HEARINGS

- [FY2004 Appropriations for the Bureau of Customs and Border Security, Transportation Security Administration and the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center](#), *Senate Appropriations Committee*, May 13
- [Investing in Homeland Security: Challenges Facing State and Local Governments](#), *Senate Governmental Affairs Committee*, May 15
- [Full committee markup of the Wastewater Treatment Works Security Act of 2003 and the Nuclear Infrastructure Security Act of 2003](#), *Senate Environment and Public Works Committee*, May 15
- [Project Bioshield-How America will Meet the Challenge of Bioterrorism](#), *House Select Homeland Security Committees*, May 15

STATE AND LOCAL ACTIVITIES

Neighborhood Plans for Disaster

Idaho Statesman, May 11, 2003

The Sunrise Rim neighborhood, began last week to tally its resources as it begins to work on an emergency preparedness plan which include at least five generators, four neighbors trained in first aid and an unused well it could tap in case of an emergency.

Group Holds Animal Rescue Training in Putnam

Journal News, May 11, 2003

A field at Green Chimneys was transformed this weekend into an emergency shelter for animals needing help in a disaster in an elaborate training exercise for the next hurricane, flood or terrorist attack.

Local Police in Preparedness Drill

West New York Reporter, May 11, 2003

Specialization and preparedness has become a hallmark of the Union City Police Department under the direction of Mayor and Director of Public Safety Brian Stack.

How to Reason with Hurricane Season

Sun Herald, May 12, 2003

The city of Venice brought the experts together Friday to give residents the heads up on hurricane preparedness with representatives from multiple agencies discussing topics from gathering emergency supplies to creating a plan should disaster strike.

Supes Aim to Snag Anti-Terror Grant Money

Daily Republic, May 12, 2003

The Solano County Sheriff's Office intends to claim up to \$271,961 through the State Domestic Preparedness Program to buy protective gear to improve local response to chemical and biological attacks as well as radiological and explosive devices.

Disasters Under Review for Clues on Evacuation

Boston Globe, May 12, 2003

As the United States faces the threat of terrorism and major cities contemplate the prospect of mass evacuation, public officials are reviewing major disasters, including hurricanes and nuclear plant accidents, for clues on how best to evacuate a city.

EMA Details New Emergency Preparedness Program

Herald Standard, May 14, 2003

Fayette County Emergency Management Agency has a new program designed to teach families, neighborhoods and community organizations how to prepare for and respond to natural and man-made disasters.

Kids Learn Importance of Safety

Tri-Valley Herald, May 14, 2003

Comprehensive emergency preparedness packets prepared by PG&E called "Safe Kids" include general gas and electric safety information, which teachers will incorporate into

lesson plans that will be distributed to every kindergarten through eighth-grade pupil in the Tracy Unified School District.

Civil Air Patrol Finds Post 9/11 Mission

Democrat and Chronicle, May 15, 2003

The Civil Air Patrol's skills and equipment, largely used for search and rescue since the end of World War II, seem ready-made to help fight the homefront war on terror with a strong focus on reconnaissance, photographic analysis, command logistics and emergency communications.

Emergency Funding Awarded

Voices.com, May 14, 2003

Congresswoman Nancy Johnson announced that Connecticut has been awarded an \$8.6 million grant to boost its emergency preparedness and meet the needs of first responders by allowing the Department of Public Safety to purchase equipment and finance the planning, conducting and evaluating of chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear terrorism exercises.

Senate Approves State Homeland Security Office

Associated Press, May 13, 2003

Legislation establishing a state homeland security office was given final legislative approval 35-1 Tuesday by the state Senate spelling out the powers of the governor and state military authorities in the event of an emergency.

FdL County Plans Preparedness Exercise

Reporter, May 14, 2003

Fond du Lac County Emergency Management will coordinate a terrorism preparedness exercise on Thursday, May 15 to include participants such as emergency dispatchers, police officers and sheriff's deputies, as well as firefighters, emergency medical technicians, emergency managers and elected officials.

Tamrac Residents Training for Emergencies

Sun-Sentinel, May 15, 2003

Tamrac's growing CERT program, which has more than 300 participants, will add more members after the conclusion of its eight-week training class covering disaster preparedness, fire suppression, search and rescue, first aid and post-disaster organization.

RELATED INFORMATION

RECENT REPORTS

- [Homeland Security: Justice Department's Project to Interview Aliens After September 11](#), GAO-03-459, April 2003
- [Counterfeit Documents Used to Enter the United States From Certain Western Hemisphere Countries Not Detected](#), GAO-03-713T, May 2003

The information contained in this newsletter was collected from Internet sources. Opinions expressed do not necessarily represent the official position of the Federal Emergency Management Agency.