



# Preparedness News and Information

From FEMA's Preparedness Division

November 21, 2003

## NATIONAL NEWS

### **CDC Chief Touts Improvements in Meeting Public Health Challenges**

*National Journal/GovExec*, November 14, 2003

Over the past year, the CDC has invested resources to be better prepared to meet public health challenges, to include improved communications and funding for bioterrorism preparedness.

### **USDA Announces New Food Safety and Security Guidelines for Consumers**

*USDA Press Release*, November 17, 2003

The USDA released a new brochure providing useful tips for keeping foods safe from contamination entitled *Food Safety and Food Security: What Consumers Need to Know*.

### **FEMA Announces Application Procedures for 2004 Harvard**

*USFA/Firehouse*, November 19, 2003

Application procedures have been established for the 2004 Harvard Fire Executive Fellowship Program, under which eight fire executives will receive fellowships to attend the three-week session in Cambridge.

### **House Panel to Set Performance Goals for Homeland Security**

*GovExec*, November 19, 2003

The House Select Committee on Homeland Security will set performance standards for DHS to gauge the success of the agency's programs and activities.

### **DHS to Fund State, Local Pilots**

*Federal Computer Week*, November 20, 2003

Funding from the FY 2004 DHS budget will be used to fund small, innovative demonstration projects showing how commercial technology can foster integration and collaboration.

## CONGRESS

### **Homeland Security Panel OKs First Responder Funding Reforms**

*Congress Daily/GovExec*, November 20, 2003

The House Emergency Preparedness and Response Subcommittee approved [HR 3266](#), which would require DHS to award grant money based on threats, vulnerabilities, and risk assessments.

- [The Bull's-Eye Versus the Pork Barrel](#), *New York Times*, Nov 19
- [Cox Calls for Homeland Security Accountability](#), *Federal Computer Week*, Nov 19

## CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS

- [Agroterrorism: The Threat to America's Breadbasket](#), Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs, Nov 19
- [Homeland Security: The Balance Between Crisis and Consequence Management Through Training and Assistance \(Review of Legislative Proposals\)](#), House Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security, Nov 20
- [Mark-Up H.R. 3266, the Faster and Smarter Funding for First Responders Act of 2003](#), House Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness and Response, Nov 20

## RECENT LEGISLATION

- **HR 3534**: To enhance border security, improve homeland security, remove incentives for illegal immigration, and establish a guest worker program, Nov 19

- **HR 3565:** To provide that a grantee may not receive the full amount of a block grant under the Local Law Enforcement Black Grant program unless that grantee adopts a health standard establishing a legal presumption that heart, lung, and respiratory disease are occupational diseases for public safety officers, Nov 20

## STATE AND LOCAL ACTIVITIES

### Oakland Learned from Losses in '91

*Union-Tribune*, November 16, 2003

There are a number of lessons that can be learned from the Oakland fires of 1991 and applied to the San Diego fires, to include community response to the disaster.

### Terror Drill Tests Readiness on Border

*Sierra Vista Herald*, November 15, 2003

State and local first responders from Arizona participated with response personnel from Mexico in a massive drill at the Mariposa Port of Entry.

### Hospital Exercises to Improve Response Times

*Alameda Times-Star*, November 17, 2003

Alameda County hospitals participated in a number of state disaster drills to exercise their ability to cope with mass casualty disasters.

- **Remember, This Is Only a Drill**, *Fort Bragg Advocate-News*, Nov 20

### Tabletop Drill Simulates Train Disaster, Shooting

*Dunn Daily Record*, November 17 2003

Local, state, and federal officials conducted a tabletop exercise involving a hazardous materials leak and a gunman shooting at the scene.

### Emergency Crews Pass Test with Costco Response

*Statesman Journal*, November 19, 2003

Emergency planning assisted Salem's emergency response system during the evacuation of Costco and response to a potential HazMat/mass casualty incident.

### Lewes Committee Calls for Study of Flood Risk

*Cost Press Reporter*, November 19, 2003

The Lewes Mitigation Planning Team adopted a resolution urging the city to study the vulnerability of Lewes Beach to flooding.

### County Practices for Disease Outbreak

*North County Times*, November 18, 2003

San Diego County conducted a vaccination drill to practice responding to an outbreak of a communicable disease.

- **Emergency Preparedness: Preparing for the Worst**, *Grand Forks Herald*, Nov 21

### Officials Stage Fake Pneumonic Plague Epidemic to Test Readiness

*Stanford Report*, November 19, 2003

Stanford University held a campuswide emergency exercise that simulated an outbreak of pneumonic plague that required administrators to answer tough questions about campus security.

- **Penn State's HazMat Team a Vital 24-Hour Community Protector**, *Penn State Live*, Nov 19

### 40 Attend Ohio Terror Response Training Session

*The Herald-Dispatch*, November 19, 2003

Lawrence County conducted an exercise to clarify roles and responsibilities in the event of a terrorist attack involving weapons of mass destruction.

### **Emergency Planning Urged**

*Voices*, November 19, 2003

The Southbury LEPC is encouraging families to teach their children about emergency preparedness, recommending the [FEMA for Kids](#) website as a teaching aid.

### **Region Planning for Possible Emergency**

*Brainerd Dispatch*, November 19, 2003

Regional public health agencies are coordinating efforts in Cass County to develop emergency preparedness plans.

- [Metrowide Preparedness Urged to Meet Possible Bioterrorism](#), *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, Nov 21

### **From Tornadoes to Floods – Fairfax County is “StormReady”**

*NOAA Press Release*, November 18, 2003

Fairfax has been classified “StormReady” by the National Weather Service, signifying that the county has met all communication, safety, and preparedness criteria necessary to assist community members in receiving warnings and responding to future weather-related events.

- [Taft Urges Ohioans to Prepare for Winter](#), *Sidney Daily News*, Nov 20
- [Winter Storm Preparedness Week Shows Importance of Planning](#), *Daily Illini*, Nov 21

### **Round Twenty-Three of the Assistance to Firefighters Grants Announced**

*USFA Press Release*, November 21, 2003

An additional 134 grants to firefighters were made as part of the 2003 Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program.

### **Phone Network to Help Inform Eagan Residents in an Emergency**

*Thisweek Newspapers*, November 20, 2003

Eagan City police will be able to record a message and send it out electronically to telephones in a specific geographic area.

### **Officials Prep for Medical Emergencies**

*Daily Southtown*, November 21, 2003

Local police chiefs are teaming up with public health officials to develop a statewide database of medical personnel to be called upon in an emergency and to draft a municipal emergency guide.

## **RELATED INFORMATION**

### **RECENT REPORTS**

- [The State of the CDC, Fiscal Year 2003](#)
- [Food Safety and Food Security: What Consumers Need to Know](#), USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service, Nov 2003
- [Top Management Challenges in the Department of Justice: 2003](#), USDOJ/OIG, Nov 17
- [Silent Vector: Issues of Concern and Policy Recommendations](#), CSIS, Sep 2003

### **SPOTLIGHT WEBSITE**

- [Winter Storm Preparedness](#), Illinois Emergency Management Agency, 2003

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