



Preparedness News and Information

From FEMA's Preparedness Division

November 28, 2003

NATIONAL NEWS

[Health Agencies Ready Supplies for Bioterror Attack](#)

Federal Times, November 24, 2003

Since the September 11 attacks, federal agencies have restructured their emergency preparedness and response plans, placing a priority on interagency communication.

[Cultural Barriers a Challenge for Pentagon in Homeland Mission](#)

GovExec, November 25, 2003

NORTHCOM faces cultural barriers as it works with other federal departments and agencies; however, the number of agencies working with NORTHCOM could change depending on the final organizational structure of DHS.

[Homeland Security Unveils First 'Center of Excellence'](#)

Technology Daily/GovExec, November 25, 2003

DHS announced that the University of Southern California will house a 'center of excellence' and receive funding to study risk analysis and the economic impact of terrorist threats and attacks.

CONGRESS

[Democrats Question Watch List Center](#)

Federal Computer Week, November 24, 2003

Democrats on the House Select Committee on Homeland Security issued a [report](#) outlining ten basic requirements for an effective terrorist screening center.

RECENT LEGISLATION

- **HR 3583:** To direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to establish an independent panel to assess the homeland security needs of the National Capital Region, Nov 21
- **HR 3644:** To establish a technology, equipment, and information transfer program within the Department of Homeland Security, Nov 21

STATE AND LOCAL ACTIVITIES

[Anti-Terrorism Funds Buy Wide Array of Pet Projects](#)

Washington Post, November 23, 2004

The Washington Post traced funding received by the metro-DC area for homeland security and found that while the funds have assisted the area, critical needs remain unaddressed.

- [Disaster Radio Network Closer but Still on Hold](#), *Washington Post*, Nov 23
- [High-Tech Health Watch Draws Cash](#), Questions, *Washington Post*, Nov 23

[Program Helps with Disaster Preparedness](#)

The Express-Times, November 23, 2003

Community members participated in a drill and received more than 20 hours of training in order to become members of the Community Emergency Response Team.

- [Group Seeking Medical Volunteers](#), *Nashua Telegraph*, Nov 23
- [Lowell Neighborhoods Join Disaster-Response Campaign](#), *Lowell Sun*, Nov 25
- [Community Emergency Response Teams Training in Westport](#), *Westport Minuteman*, Nov 28

November Brings Earthquake Reminder

Hawaii Tribune-Herald, November 23, 2003

Because Hawaii's two largest earthquakes in 50 years occurred in November, the US Geological Survey's Hawaiian Volcano Observatory is reinforcing preparedness measures.

Officials Find No Problems with Emergency Drill at Nuclear Plant

Potts Town Mercury, November 24, 2003

FEMA held an emergency training drill at the Limerick Generating Station that went according to plan, and the company found a few areas that could use additional attention.

MPD Reserves Concentrate on Preparedness

The Meridian Star, November 23, 2003

Reserve officers with the Meridian Police Department are able to participate in continued training, to ensure that reserve departments are current with training and certifications.

Group Awards Accreditation to Seattle Police

Seattle Times, November 23, 2003

The Commission of Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies named the Seattle Police Department as one of only four large US city departments to be accredited based on more than 400 standards.

County Prepares for Bio-Terror Attack

The Saratogian, November 25, 2003

The Saratoga County Public Health Departments is looking for volunteers that would dispatch to assist with non-medical duties to expedite treatment in a mass casualty event.

- [Mass Slowest in Spending Bioterrorism Prevention Money](#), *Herald Tribune*, Nov 28

County Begins Process to Improve Homeland Security

Daily Home, November 26, 2003

After its Homeland Security Assessment, six recommendations were made to better prepare St. Clair County, including updating its EOP and establishing an agriculture incident team.

Program Readies Residents for the Worst

The Olympian, November 27, 2003

The Thurston County Office of Emergency Management sponsors a program encouraging citizens to prepare for disasters, from earthquakes to terrorist attacks.

- [Learn About Post-Fire Flood Protection](#), *Ventura County Star*, Nov 28

RELATED INFORMATION

RECENT REPORTS

- [Preparing Responders to Respond: The Challenges to Emergency Preparedness in the 21st Century](#), *Heritage Lecture #812*, Nov 24
- [Keeping Terrorists Out of America by Unifying Terrorist Watch Lists: Ten Requirements for a Call for the Government to Create an Effective Terrorist Screening Center](#), Democratic Members of the House Select Committee on Homeland Security, Nov 2003

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.