



Preparedness News and Information

From FEMA's Preparedness Division

January 2, 2004

Happy New Year!

NATIONAL NEWS

GOP Lawmaker Urges Reform of Terror Alert System

Washington Post, December 29, 2003

Representative Cox said that the color-coded terrorism alert system needs to be reformed to avoid alarming citizens who are not at risk and to reduce idle threats.

Anthrax Drill Shows Weaknesses, Officials Say

CNN, December 28, 2003

The November exercise, Scarlet Cloud, found that the federal government would be unable to respond quickly to an anthrax attack.

Quake Disasters Can Be Prevented

Washington Post, December 30, 2003

While earthquakes cannot be prevented, earthquake disasters can be prevented through risk assessment, public education, building code enforcement, training, and planning.

➤ [California Quake Underscores Dangers in Old Construction](#), *Realty Times*, Dec 21

F.D.A. Rules Shots Effective for Anthrax That Is Inhaled

New York Times, December 31, 2003

The FDA found that the anthrax vaccine is safe and effective for the prevention of the disease and protects against the inhaled form of the bacteria.

USDA to Deploy "Mad Cow" System

Federal Computer Week, December 30, 2003

The USDA plans to develop a national system for tracking animals, as well as procedures for an identification and surveillance system.

STATE AND LOCAL ACTIVITIES

SCI-Fayette Reviews Emergency Strategies with Local Fire Crews

Herald-Standard, December 26, 2003

Fire department representatives met with prison officials to clarify the role of the fire police in the event of an emergency at the prison, to include traffic and crowd control.

Are You Ready for an Emergency?

Springfield News-Sun, December 28, 2003

Clark County will offer a 20-hour course as part of the Citizen Corps' effort to train citizens to cope with disasters.

➤ [Learn Lifesaving Skills to Make New Year Safer](#), *Contra Costa Times*, Jan 1

New War on Germs

Buffalo News, December 26, 2003

Erie County has a new regional Biodefense Laboratory that will become part of a federal anti-terrorism lab network and will serve a 17-county region in Western New York.

➤ [Beating Back Microbes](#), *Buffalo News*, Dec 29

Umatilla Develops New Evacuation Plan

AP/Statesman Journal, December 26, 2003

An evacuation plan has been developed, which includes creation of a wireless broadband system, in the event of a chemical weapons accident at the Umatilla Chemical Depot.

State Senator Wants to Tie Future of Homeland Security Office to US Office

AP/News Tribune, December 26, 2003

Missouri Senator Griesheimer plans to file a bill that would require the state to maintain its Office of Homeland Security as long as the federal government maintains DHS.

Safety Panel Submits Ideas

Sun Spot, December 29, 2003

Carroll County formed a committee to devise ways to determine whether new residential and commercial developments are prepared to handle medical and fire emergencies.

ABA Supporting City's Security Efforts

Jacksonville Daily Record, December 30, 2003

The American Bar Association is preparing a letter urging the Florida legislature to support bills that would allow the Jacksonville to directly fund first responders.

Kentucky First to Get Terror Plan OK

The Gleaner News, January 2, 2004

Kentucky became the first state to get approval from DHS/ODP for its three-year homeland security strategy, which includes a state training schedule and calls for a series of exercises.

A New Kind of Resolution, 'Just Do It'

The Hillsboro Argus, December 31, 2003

Hillsboro emergency management is encouraging residents to resolve to be prepared for emergencies and disasters in 2004.

Group Seeks Better Ways to Spread Word During Crises

Washington Post, December 25, 2003

The Public Emergency Communications Task Force developed a number of recommendations for Arlington County to improve the public warning system.

RELATED INFORMATION

SPOTLIGHT WEBSITE

- [National Mutual Aid Glossary of Terms and Definitions](#), FEMA
- [Emergency Planning](#), Department of Education Office of Safe and Drug-Free Schools

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.