



Preparedness News and Information

From FEMA's Preparedness Division

January 30, 2004

NATIONAL NEWS

Indians Want Jurisdiction to Combat Terrorism Threat

The Washington Times, January 26, 2004

American Indian tribes are attempting to amend the Homeland Security Act to gain greater jurisdiction over homeland security matters.

CDC Plans Biodefense Testing

Government Executive, January 23, 2004

The CDC plans to test regional and state public health and emergency departments on the adoption of bioterrorism guidelines as well as how they would respond to an attack.

New York Seeks Change in Disbursing Terror Funds

New York Times, January 27, 2004

Because of the growing number of urban areas receiving federal funding, New York City politicians argue that the city and other "obvious targets" are being shortchanged.

U.S. Government Offers Free Cyber Alerts

Miami Herald, January 28, 2004

DHS has started a new program, the National Cyber Alert System, which will allow citizens who sign up for the service to receive emails about major virus outbreaks and other internet attacks.

➤ [We're Making Rapid Progress](#), *MSNBC/Newsweek*, Jan 29

Evans Issues Preparedness Wake Up Call to Americans

Red Cross Press Release, January 28, 2004

During a [speech](#) at the National Press Club, ARC President Marsha Evans noted that many Americans remain "stagnant" when it comes to preparedness activities.

Bush to Seek Big Increase in Funding for Mad Cow Programs

GovExec/Congress Daily, January 29, 2004

Secretary of Agriculture Veneman announced that the President's FY05 budget would include increased funding for programs designed to prevent mad cow disease.

First Responders Seek Relief from Radio Interference

Government Technology, January 30, 2004

Public safety organizations, including IAFC, announced preparation of a letter requesting that President Bush support a [consensus plan](#) that would reduce radio interference.

Bush to Seek \$274M for Bioterror Watch

AP/New York Times, January 29, 2004

President Bush announced that he will ask Congress for funding to strengthen bioterrorism surveillance and study ways to automate the BioWatch network.

HHS Secretary Says "Vast Majority" of States Ready for Smallpox

GovExec, January 29, 2004

HHS Secretary Thompson announced that a "vast majority" of states are now prepared to meet the 10-day immunization goal set by CDC in the event of a smallpox attack.

➤ [Studies Find US States, Cities Improve Preparations for Bioterrorist Threats](#), *VOA*, Jan 30

CONGRESS

Durbin Introduces Mad Cow Legislation

Journal Standard, January 29, 2004

Senator Durbin announced legislation (S.2007) that would strengthen livestock feed standards, improve surveillance of neurological disorders in livestock, and broaden labeling requirements.

HEARINGS

- [Ensuring the Continuity of the United States Government: A Proposed Constitutional Amendment to Guarantee a Functioning Congress](#), Senate Judiciary Committee, Jan 27
- [Covering the Waterfront – A Review of Seaport Security since September 11](#), Senate Subcommittee on Terrorism, Technology, and Homeland Security, Jan 27

LEGISLATION

- **S. 2031**: A bill to authorize the States to implement such mechanisms as are necessary in a time of national crisis to ensure the continuity of the Senate in the event that a quorum of the Senate is not present due to the inability of members of the Senate to discharge the powers and duties of their office, Jan 27

STATE AND LOCAL ACTIVITIES

Disaster Teams Huddle

WTOK-TV, January 26, 2004

Regional Response Teams from each of Mississippi's Homeland Security regions met in Meridian for joint training.

Grants to Boost Public Health

Star-Telegram, January 25, 2004

Tarrant County has received two grants for bioterrorism preparedness that will also assist the county in preparing for other hazards.

Citizen Corps Celebrates Success At Two-Year Anniversary

Citizen Corps Website, January 22, 2004

The Federal preparedness program observes two years in service with a public opinion poll that asserts many Americans are interested in volunteer service.

Emergency Funds Face Questioning

Times Record News, January 26, 2004

Wichita County officials maintain doubts that local officials can effectively manage preparedness training programs.

Malta Prepares for the Worst

The Saratogian, January 26, 2004

The town of Malta has been active in developing preparedness programs for residents, including establishing evacuation plans in the event of a hazardous material accident on a major highway through the town.

'Be Prepared' Good Advice in Any Era

South Bend Tribune, January 26, 2004

Emergency preparedness plans are integral to home security plans, and experts recommend that families be prepared to shelter-in-place if necessary.

Scaled-Back Drill a Realistic Exercise

The Seattle Times, January 27, 2004

A 10-story evacuation of 200 people from 42-story high-rise building was conducted during a simulated fire drill in Seattle.

Wood Co. Discusses Disaster Cooperation

Wisconsin Rapids Daily Tribune, January 27, 2004

Representatives from a variety of Wood County agencies gathered together for a tabletop exercise simulating a school explosion.

Testing Response

Star-Telegram, January 28, 2004

The Red Cross held a disaster drill simulating the response to a flood threatening fifty homes in an effort to improve volunteers' response time.

MSU Part of Partnership to Respond to Animal Health Emergencies

MSU Press Release, January 29, 2004

Michigan State University is teaming with other state organizations to form the Michigan Emergency Veterinary Network (Vet Net), a comprehensive education program aimed at improving awareness, preparedness, and response to animal health related emergencies.

NWS Slates Training Program

Herald Democrat, January 30, 2004

The National Weather Service in Fort Worth is conducting a storm spotter training program sponsored by the Fannin County Emergency Management Agency.

RELATED INFORMATION

RECENT REPORTS AND ARTICLES

- [2003 Citizen Corps Survey of U.S. Households](#), Citizen Corps, Jan 2004
- [Dealing with Dirty Bombs: Plain Facts, Practical Solutions](#), Heritage Foundation, Jan 27
- [FEMA's Path to Homeland Security](#), *Journal of Homeland Security and Emergency Management*, 2004
- [The Public Safety Interference Problem & The Consensus Plan Solution](#), IAFC, 2004
- [Public Health Preparedness at a Price: Illinois](#), The Century Foundation, 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.