



# Preparedness News and Information

From FEMA's Preparedness Division

February 6, 2004

## NATIONAL NEWS

### [Millions of Natural Disaster Deaths Could Be Averted By Better Preparedness](#)

*UN News Centre*, February 3, 2004

In one of the most extensive studies ever published of global trends in exposure, risk and vulnerability, a recent UN [report](#) links vulnerability directly to poverty.

### [USFA Critical Infrastructure Protection Guide Now Available](#)

*Firehouse.com*, February 4, 2004

A new [guide](#) developed by the USFA will assist the heads of the fire and emergency medical services with the development and implementation of appropriate department or agency-specific preparedness measures.

### [OSHA Clarifies Policy on National Emergency Management Plan](#)

*U.S. Newswire*, February 4, 2004

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration has issued its National Emergency Management Plan (NEMP), a new directive that clarifies the agency's policies during responses to national emergencies.

### [States Submit Homeland Security Plans](#)

*Government Executive*, January 30, 2004

Nineteen states have submitted their homeland security plans to DHS's Office of Domestic Preparedness.

### [Bush in Reversal, Supports More Time for 9/11 Inquiry](#)

*New York Times*, February 5, 2004

The Bush Administration reversed its original position and maintained it would support a request from the commission for a deadline extension.

### [More Mad Cow Cases Likely, Experts Say](#)

*Government Executive*, February 5, 2004

An international board of experts has told USDA Secretary Veneman that there is a "high probability" that more cases of BSE exist in the US.

### [Plan Seeks Big Rise in Antiterror Spending](#)

*New York Times*, February 4, 2004

The Bush Administration requested a 10% increase in DHS funding, but with sharp cuts in grants to local law enforcement agencies.

### [The Human Element in Keeping Nation Safe](#)

*Christian Science Monitor*, February 6, 2004

Ricin scare reveals security gaps on Capitol Hill.

### [The Office as Fortress](#)

*Baltimore Sun*, February 6, 2004

A variety of new security devices are being developed as citizen preparedness, technology, and business interests merge.

### [Firefighters Outraged at Bush Budget Cuts](#)

*San Diego Union-Tribune*, February 5, 2004

Firefighters are upset about budget cuts in the President's new budget requests, in particular the cuts to rural agencies to buy new firetrucks, protective clothing, breathing apparatus, water tanks and other equipment.

## CONGRESS

### [Lawmakers Eye Restoring Funds for First Responders](#)

*Washington Times*, February 6, 2004

Congress is likely to restore the cuts in funding for local emergency services that President Bush had proposed in his 2005 budget, despite the pressure to control spending

## HEARINGS

- [To Hold Hearings to Examine National Flood Insurance Repetitive Losses](#), Senate Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Economic Policy Subcommittee, Postponed.
- [To Hold Hearings to Examine the Department of Homeland Security's Budget for Fiscal Year 2005](#), Governmental Affairs Committee, Feb 9.

## STATE AND LOCAL ACTIVITIES

### [Henderson County Prioritizes Needs in Event of Terrorism Threat](#)

*The Hawk Eye*, February 4, 2004

County will assess areas of need to determine State funding allocations.

### [Police Make Pitch for Emergency Training](#)

*Portsmouth Herald*, February 4, 2004

Police in York, Maine will form volunteer CERT teams to assist emergency personnel in the event of a disaster.

### [Fire District to Display Disaster Preparations](#)

*Contra Costa Times*, February 4, 2004

The Fire District will host an open house, entitled "Homeland Security: A Joint-Discipline Venture," that will include seminars, demonstrations, displays and information by a number of local agencies.

### [Illinois County Selects Warning and Messaging System](#)

*Government Technology*, February 3, 2004

The first of its kind to be utilized in Illinois, a new satellite-based warning and messaging system will provide secure and verifiable information during emergencies.

### [Wave of Federal Funds Headed Here](#)

*Houston Chronicle*, February 5, 2004

Over \$65 million in funding for Houston-area flood control projects has been announced.

### [Trauma Team Asses State Response to Emergency Patients](#)

*ABC6.com*, February 4, 2004

A Rhode Island team assessed various components of the state's trauma system, including finances, emergency preparedness, research facilities and injury prevention.

## RELATED INFORMATION

### RECENT REPORTS

- [Combatting Terrorism: Evaluation of Selected Characteristics in National Strategies Related to Terrorism](#), GAO Report, February 3.
- [Reducing Disaster Risk: A Challenge for Development](#), UNDP, February 3.

### SPOTLIGHT WEBSITE

- [Homeland Security Presidential Directive/HSPD-9](#)

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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.