



Preparedness News and Information

From FEMA's Preparedness Division

February 20, 2004

NATIONAL NEWS

[Post Office Could Deliver Urgent Medicine](#)

AL.com, February 19, 2004

The postal service announced it could possibly distribute needed medicine to support public health programs during a disaster.

[Ridge Backs Idea for DHS Committee](#)

FCW.com, February 12, 2004

The DHS Secretary maintained he would support the creation of a permanent House authorization committee on homeland security.

[Keeping Track During Disasters](#)

Washington Post, February 19, 2004

A couple has created a web site that allows individuals and families to post all the information they or their immediate or extended families would need during an emergency, including where to meet after a disaster.

[Emergency Workers Imperiled by Loss of Fund, Schumer Says](#)

New York Times, February 15, 2004

Senator Charles Schumer (D-NY) maintains that cuts in the Department of Homeland Security's budget to improve radio interoperability leave many first responders at risk.

[Feds Dispute Schumer Accusations](#)

1010 News, February 15, 2004

Federal officials dispute Senator Schumer's assertion.

[Homeland Security Forms Groups to Bolster Cybersecurity](#)

GovExec.com, February 19, 2004

DHS has created three groups of government technology officials to share information in an effort to strengthen computer security and coordinate responses to future computer attacks.

[Ghost Town Getting New Life as `Terrorist' Target](#)

Kansas City Star, February 19, 2004

The town of Playas, NM has taken on a new role as a terrorist response training camp run by a New Mexico university. This summer the town will be a mock target for simulated terrorist and suicide bomber strikes.

[American Red Cross President Urges People to Have Disaster Preparedness Plan](#)

DigitalJournal.com, February 15, 2004

The president of the American Red Cross, Marsha Evans, maintains the need for preparedness and a family plan in the event of both natural and man-made disasters.

[Bio-Chemical Attack Possibility Worries Experts](#)

Firehouse.com, February 19, 2004

At a terrorism seminar last month at Columbia University's School of Journalism, many experts discussed the possibility of a biological pathogen disaster.

STATE AND LOCAL ACTIVITIES

[Anti-Terrorism Preparedness](#)

WAND-TV, February 17, 2004

The Governor of Illinois has announced more than \$14 million in grants for anti-terrorism preparedness, to include coordinating hospitals, enhancing the Illinois Poison Control Center, and disaster planning.

[Texas Undergoes Disaster Drills](#)

News 8 Austin, February 18, 2004

The federal government will hold a preparedness exercise based on a simulated nuclear explosion and radiation leak in Texas. The scenario is designed to test a multi-state response to multiple emergencies.

[Hospital Hosts Terror Preparedness Seminar](#)

Palestine Herald-Press, February 17, 2004

Many residents and local responders attended a preparedness seminar that focused on a number of issues, such as chain of command, communications and weapons of mass destruction (WMD) event. The resulting discussion will be used in creating the next step for the community: a training scenario.

[Professor: Houston Can Lead in Bioterrorism Response](#)

Houston Star-Telegram, February 18, 2004

A leading expert on biosecurity maintains that the city of Houston and county health departments have been increasingly pro-active in their biological preparedness campaign.

[Northern Iowa Counties Participate in Homeland Security Tabletop Exercise](#)

Charles City Press, February 20, 2004

Region holds first of six tabletop exercises to be held in the state as part of a three-year Iowa Homeland Security strategy.

[State Launches 'Vet Net' for Emergencies](#)

The Daily Reporter, February 18, 2004

A group of officials representing a variety of interests, including the state, universities, and industry, have created a network of veterinary information, as part of Michigan's homeland security efforts in animal health and protection.

[Hospital Officials Say State Slow in Disbursing Homeland Funds](#)

Tennessean, February 17, 2004

Tennessee hospitals maintain that the state has been inefficient in distributing homeland security funds.

[Bioterrorism Guide Gains Popularity](#)

Baraboo News Republic, February 17, 2004

A color-coded bioterrorism guide created by a public health nurse has gained popularity in public health agencies throughout the country.

RELATED INFORMATION

INTERNATIONAL

- [PM's Speech at the Inauguration of World Congress on Natural Disaster Mitigation](#)

SPOTLIGHT WEBSITE

- [House Select Committee on Homeland Security, First Responders: A New Partnership.](#)

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.