



Preparedness News and Information

From FEMA's Preparedness Division

June 11, 2004

NATIONAL NEWS

[Nuclear Power Plant in New York Prepares to Drill for Terror Attack](#)

New York Times, June 5, 2004

For two decades, the emergency drills at the Indian Point nuclear reactors have been meant to show Federal regulators how plant operators and local public safety officials would cope with a radiation release that began with a pipe break or a pump failure. The hypothetical crisis that will be the subject of the drill is a terrorist attack. And this time, the targets of persuasion are not only the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and the Federal Emergency Management Agency, but also the local governments and the public.

➤ [Routine Drill at a New York Power Plant, With a New Focus on Terrorism](#)

New York Times, June 9, 2004

The emergency drill was the same exercise performed every other year at the plant, but for the first time, the script involved terrorism. The event, which involved more than 1,000 state and local officials in addition to the F.B.I., Norad, and the White House, challenged local governments, including Putnam, Westchester, Rockland, and Orange Counties, to respond to a staged crisis that started around 8 a.m. and lasted until 4. The possibility that a plane could crash into the plant has been a source of concern ever since Sept. 11, 2001, when a 767, the same type of plane used in Tuesday's exercise, flew over the plant on its way to the World Trade Center.

[Cincinnati to be Testing Ground in Terrorism Fight](#)

Ohio News Network, June 8, 2004

Federal officials will use the Cincinnati region as a proving ground for new technology and ideas in the fight against terrorism. "While this new program will be pilot-tested here in Cincinnati, the lessons we learn will likely have far-reaching implications for cities across the nation in their planning for emergency preparedness and public safety measures," said Charles McQueary, undersecretary for science and technology in the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. McQueary and U.S. Sen. George Voinovich, R-Ohio, announced the program in a news conference Monday. They said three other urban areas to be included in the program will be announced in a few weeks.

[FEMA Should Come to Aid of Michigan](#)

Port Huron Times-Herald, June 6, 2004

St. Clair County Emergency Management is hoping that representatives of the Federal Emergency Management Agency will look kindly upon the county and Michigan's other flood-damaged communities. FEMA officials were in the county this week to assess the flooding's impact. Friedland said the county received 424 reports totaling more than \$1.6 million in damages to homes and other private properties. Municipalities reported another \$600,000 in damages.

[U.S. to Order Anthrax Vaccine: Government also Wants Treatment, Adviser Says](#)

Washington Post, June 8, 2004

Despite slow action on Capitol Hill, the Bush administration is moving forward to create defenses against biological terrorism and expects to place a big new order for anthrax vaccine by late this summer, one of the government's top health experts said Monday. Philip K. Russell, a top bioterrorism adviser in the Department of Health and Human Services, also revealed that the government plans to buy a new type of treatment for people infected with anthrax.

Study: Health Preparedness Varies Widely in States

Contra Costa Times, June 6, 2004

If California faces a bioterrorist attack or major disease outbreak, a resident's personal health and safety will depend on where he or she lives. That's the conclusion of a study on public health preparedness released Wednesday by RAND Health, a nonprofit research organization.

FEMA Aid for Yap Hits \$6M: Utilities Repaired, Half of all Homes Rebuilt

Guam Pacific Daily News, June 8, 2004

Two months after Typhoon Sudal pummeled Yap, the island state has been given more than \$6 million in emergency aid from the U.S. government. Yap government official assessed that the island state is about halfway to fully rebuilding destroyed and damaged homes.

Federal Disaster Aid Authorized

FEMA Headquarters, June 8, 2004

Federal disaster aid has been made available for West Virginia to help families and businesses recover from the effects of a series of severe storms that began late last month, the head of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) announced. Michael D. Brown, Under Secretary of Homeland Security for Emergency Preparedness and Response, said President Bush authorized the assistance under a major disaster declaration signed after a review of FEMA's analysis of the state's request.

BioShield Shortcomings Subject of Industry Conference

USA Today, June 9, 2004

Despite the approval of \$5.6 billion in Federal funding for vaccines and treatments to fend off or respond to a bioterror attack, and efforts to streamline the approval process for those drugs, many companies are reluctant to enter the market, biotech industry executives and observers say.

THE CONGRESS

Progress Made in Countering Bioterror Threats; Chairman Cox Opening Statement

US House of Representatives, June 2004

The Select Committee on Homeland Security held a hearing to examine the nation's biodefense strategy. It contains Chairman Christopher Cox's opening statement: The serious and continuing threat to our citizens is real. The President's and Congress's commitment to reducing these threats are today greater than ever and helped by such initiatives.

HEARINGS

➤ **Senate Committee on the Judiciary**

Hearing on activities of the Department of Homeland Security, focusing on terrorism and other related topics (SD-226), June 9, 2004

STATE AND LOCAL ACTIVITIES

Eight Ohio Counties Hit by Storms to Get Aid

Cleveland Plain Dealer, June 5, 2004

The Federal Emergency Management Agency will begin taking applications today for Federal assistance from residents in eight Ohio counties that were battered by storms last month. President Bush's office announced Friday that the eight counties were Federal disaster areas,

making loans and grants available to homeowners and businesses damaged by a series of storms that began May 18.

Kentucky Storm Damage Estimate in Works: Tally is \$15 Million and Still Counting

Lexington Herald-Leader, June 5, 2004

Recent thunderstorms caused an estimated \$15 million in damage in Kentucky with 16 of the 36 counties that have declared a state of emergency -- including Fayette -- yet to be assessed. Kentucky Emergency Management completed a joint assessment of the 20 counties with the Federal Emergency Management Agency yesterday. Fayette County officials estimate the May 27 tornado that ripped through several neighborhoods in northeast Lexington caused more than \$7 million in structural damage.

➤ **Nearly 2,000 Applications For Federal Disaster Assistance Are Filed in One County**

WKYT.com, June 9, 2004

Just one week after devastating floods hit Floyd County, the Emergency Management Office there says they can't believe how many people need help. Nearly two thousand applications for Federal disaster assistance have been filed in one eastern Kentucky county.

Volunteers Sought to Help Prepare: Citizens will Bolster Emergency Management Corps in Each Town

North Bergen Reporter, June 6, 2004

Town officials from all over New Jersey are looking to residents to pull their share as the volunteer-based Citizen Corps emergency response initiatives become active in municipalities. Personal responsibility, training, and volunteer service are the cornerstone of the civilian emergency preparedness initiative put forth by the Federal Department of Homeland Security. Police, fire, and emergency service leaders, as well as town officials, gathered for an organizational meeting at Secaucus Public Library and Business Resource Center recently, where they were briefed on the structure and purpose of Citizen Corps.

Since Isabel, Hyde County Government Still Conducted in Trailers

Winston-Salem Journal, June 7, 2004

Eight months after Hurricane Isabel struck, Hyde County continues to conduct government business from temporary trailers in the county seat. The county has signed a \$20,700 contract with an architectural firm to determine what to do about the now-abandoned historic courthouse and county office complex. FEMA also agreed recently to pay the rents for another six months on the temporary trailers being used for office space, Davenport said.

8 Counties to be Examined for Disaster Relief after Rains

Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel, June 7, 2004

With last month's storms and flooding causing hundreds of thousands of dollars in damage to homes and businesses, and public-sector losses of \$4.63 million, Gov. Jim Doyle on Monday asked the Federal Emergency Management Agency to conduct damage assessments in eight Wisconsin counties to help determine whether the state will seek Federal disaster relief. FEMA was asked to assess the damage to homes and businesses in Ozaukee, Kenosha, Columbia, Crawford, Fond du Lac, Grant, Jefferson and Vernon counties.

Columbiana County Declared Disaster Area

Morning Journal, June 7, 2004

Individuals, some small businesses and local government entities affected by the flooding about two weeks ago could all receive assistance, as both the state government and Federal government have stepped forward to offer aid. Jay Carter of the local Emergency Management Agency said his office received word Friday residents and some small businesses will be able to receive Federal help after the county was declared a Federal disaster area by President George Bush. However, Carter said the overall damage was not sufficient to obtain the Federal disaster aid for municipalities and other government bodies.

RELATED INFORMATION

OPINION

- [The Heritage Report on Homeland Security](#), *Heritage.org*, June 7, 2004
- [The Role of the Department of Homeland Security Overseas](#), *Heritage.org*, June 7, 2004
- [Send Retroactive Relief](#), *Palm Beach Recorder*, June 9, 2004

SPOTLIGHT WEBSITE

- [Hurricane Season](#), *CNN.com*, June 8, 2004

REPORTS

- [Aviation Security: Further Steps Needed to Strengthen the Security of Commercial Airport Perimeters and Access Controls](#), *GAO-04-728*, June 4, 2004
- [Aviation Security \(GAO-04-728\) Highlights](#), *GAO.gov*, June 4, 2004

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.