



Preparedness News and Information

From FEMA's Preparedness Division

June 18, 2004

NATIONAL NEWS

[FEMA Opens Aid Center in Clark, but Few Seek Help](#)

The Louisville Courier-Journal, June 15, 2004

The doors were opened yesterday to the fourth federal disaster recovery center in Indiana, but few people came. As of late afternoon, only eight people had stopped by — and at least two of those were from Louisville. The center is in Building 87 on the campus of the Census Bureau on 10th Street in Jeffersonville. People looking for help must wind their way past parking lots and other buildings to find the center, which has a blue banner hanging by the door to identify it.

[Cell-Tower Detectives Fight Static](#)

Washington Post, June 17, 2004

First responders are on the front lines of the national conflict between public safety communications systems and ever-increasing mobile phone traffic.

[HHS Awards \\$849 Million to Improve Public Health Preparedness](#)

U.S. Newswire, June 17, 2004

HHS Secretary Tommy G. Thompson announced an additional \$849 million in awards to states, territories, and four major metropolitan areas to strengthen the ability of government and public health agencies to respond to bioterror attacks, infectious diseases and natural disasters.

[Homeland Security Leverages NOAA All-Hazards Network for Alerts and Warnings - Alert and Warning Resources Supplemented by NOAA Capability](#)

DHS.gov, June 17, 2004

DHS and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) signed an agreement that allows Homeland Security to send critical all-hazards alerts and warnings directly through the NOAA All-Hazards Network.

[Study Addresses Responder Safety in Terrorist Attacks And Disasters](#)

Firehouse.com, June 17, 2004

Better planning, training, coordination and management procedures are needed to protect emergency responders at the scene of terrorist attacks and disasters, according to a [study](#) issued today by the RAND Corporation and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH).

[Akamai: Internet Attack Had Little Impact](#)

New York Times, June 17, 2004

A purported Internet attack that affected some of the world's most popular Web sites was "large scale" and "sophisticated" yet had only minimal impact, according to the targeted company.

THE CONGRESS

[House Votes to Keep Homeland Security in Washington](#)

GovExec.com, June 15, 2004

The House passed a bill Monday that will require the Homeland Security Department to keep its headquarters in Washington, where it was first established a little more than a year ago. The legislation directs DHS officials to make their permanent home in the existing temporary headquarters at the Nebraska Avenue Naval Complex. The new bill does allow the agency some wiggle room on its final location, calling for the DHS headquarters to remain in place "for so long

as the secretary determines that the Nebraska Avenue Complex is appropriate for such purposes, or until otherwise provided by law," according to the legislation.

Senate Panel Passes Homeland Security Spending Bill

GovExec.com, June 16, 2004

The Senate Homeland Security Appropriations Subcommittee approved its fiscal 2005 spending bill Wednesday, marking the first Senate action on appropriations bills.

HEARINGS

- [To markup proposed legislation making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005](#), Senate Appropriations Committee, June 17, 2004.
- [To hold hearings to examine aviation security](#), Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee, June 22, 2004.
- [To hold hearings to examine the use of subpoena authority and pretrial detention of terrorists in fighting terrorism](#), Judiciary Committee, Terrorism, Technology and Homeland Security Subcommittee, June 22, 2004.
- [To hold hearings to examine security screening options for airports](#), Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee, Aviation Subcommittee, June 24, 2004.
- [To hold hearings to examine H.R.2608, to reauthorize the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program](#), Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee, Science, Technology, and Space Subcommittee, June 24, 2004.

STATE AND LOCAL ACTIVITIES

Emergency Drill Helps Prepare for Real Thing

Times Herald, June 15, 2004

About 70 emergency management officials from St. Clair County and its communities are spending this week in Anniston, Ala., for specialized training by the Federal Emergency Management Administration. "These (plans) are things that need to be planned well in advance, not during an incident," said Phillip Moore, a training specialist with the Federal Emergency Management Administration. "There's always a chance of having an attack. The idea is to reduce our vulnerabilities. We do that by improving our people through training."

Plan to Define Agencies' Roles in Emergencies Is Criticized

New York Times, June 16, 2004

The Bloomberg administration's new plan to establish the roles of the Police and Fire Departments at emergencies - from terror attacks to stuck elevators - has sowed confusion and will cause more problems than it solves, fire union officials, City Council members and a public safety analyst said yesterday. The criticism came at a joint session of the Council's Public Safety and Fire and Criminal Justice Committees. Most of the complaints centered on the Police Department's primacy under the new protocols in responding to emergencies involving hazardous materials. This area, which includes chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear incidents -had long been the domain of the Fire Department.

Amateur Radio Enthusiasts Stress Emergency Preparedness

Needham Times, June 16, 2004

Members of the Wellesley and Needham Amateur Radio clubs will put emergency communications skills to the test when they participate in the annual Field Day 2004 exercises.

[Anti-Terrorism Drill To Test South Florida Preparedness](#)

NBC6.net, June 17, 2004

A drill to determine if law enforcement agencies can prevent terrorists from entering South Florida and how well they can handle the aftermath of an attack should it happen is now under way off the Florida Keys.

[Cuts Raise Questions About Attack Preparedness](#)

Braintree Forum, June 16, 2004

Layoffs and attrition have cost local fire and police departments 798 firefighters and 945 officers since the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, according to a May report of the Massachusetts Senate's Post Audit and Oversight Committee.

RELATED INFORMATION

REPORTS

- [Protecting Emergency Responders: Volume 3: Safety Management in Disaster and Terrorism Response](#), Rand/NIOSH, June 17, 2004.

SPOTLIGHT WEBSITE

- [911 Commission on Threat](#)

INTERNATIONAL

- [Are We Truly Prepared?](#), June 17, 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.