



PREPAREDNESS NEWS AND INFORMATION

From FEMA's Preparedness Division

July 9, 2004

NATIONAL NEWS

[Security Intensifies for Political Conventions: Events in N.Y., Boston Seen as Terror Targets](#)

Washington Post, July 6, 2004

Convinced that terrorists are determined to disrupt the presidential election by attacking the United States, the government is mounting a massive homeland security effort as the run-up to the two presidential nominating conventions begins.

[University of Minnesota Studies Terrorism at Your Table](#)

Star Tribune, July 6, 2004

Federal officials are homing in on the possible threat to the nation's food supply, to the tune of a three-year, \$15 million grant to the University of Minnesota for a national Center for Food Protection and Defense. A campus visit today by federal Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge and Agriculture Secretary Ann Veneman will officially launch the program that was announced in April.

- [University Takes on Terror Threat to Food](#), July 7, 2004

[Last Air Marshals Graduate in South Jersey](#)

Courier-Post, Saturday, July 3, 2004

The final class of federal air marshals received their diplomas Friday at the William J. Hughes Technical Center. With the new class, the program has reached the level sought in the wake of the 9/11 terrorist attacks. Before the attacks, only 33 marshals worked undercover on airlines. While officials declined to specify the total, the program added thousands of air marshals since 2001.

[Homeland Security Issues COOP Guidance for Federal Departments and Agencies](#)

FEMA, July 2, 2004

The Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency has updated the five-year old Federal Preparedness Guide 65, Federal Executive Branch Continuity of Operations, and released a new FPC 65 for use at all levels of Federal Executive Branch organizations. With the new guide, continuity of operations planning has been expanded to reflect new COOP procedures since 9/11.

[Locke, FEMA Tout Washington's Disaster Plan](#)

Seattle P-I, July 7, 2004

Washington has become the first state to earn federal approval of a sweeping, detailed guidebook for preventing and dealing with the devastation that natural disasters can bring. Gov. Gary Locke and the Bush Administration's top Federal Emergency Management Agency representative in the region said it's no surprise that Washington is the first to secure federal approval.

[Asa Hutchinson, Under Secretary for Border and Transportation Security With the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, to Speak at GOVSEC](#)

PRNewswire, July 7 2004

Asa Hutchinson will provide the final keynote address at GOVSEC, The Government Security Expo and Conference, to be held at the Washington Convention Center July 28-29, 2004, in Washington, D.C. Hutchinson will speak on Thursday, July 29, 2004, from 1:00-2:00 p.m. in a joint session addressing attendees of GOVSEC and two related events, the U.S. Law

Enforcement Conference and Exposition (U.S. LAW), and READY. The Emergency Preparedness and Response Conference and Exposition.

[System Planning Corporation Names Former Kentucky State Official Director of Center for Crisis and Emergency Preparedness](#)

PRNewswire, July 7, 2004

System Planning Corporation (SPC) announced that former Kentucky Homeland Security official Ray Nelson has been named the Director of its Center for Crisis and Emergency Preparedness.

[FEMA Reminds Iowans to Seek Disaster Assistance](#)

KTVO News, July 8, 2004

It's still not too late to get disaster aid in Iowa, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency is encouraging people to call them before the deadline is up. Thirteen additional counties in Iowa became eligible for disaster aid late last week after Federal inspectors surveyed damage in the state.

THE CONGRESS

[Draft Homeland Security Bill Directs Management Changes](#)

Govexec.com, July 6, 2004

The House Homeland Security Committee's first-ever authorization bill for the Homeland Security Department includes a myriad of provisions to bolster homeland security activities between federal agencies as well as state and local officials.

[Lawmakers Back Full Funding for Data-Sharing Center](#)

Govexec.com, July 1, 2004

The House and Senate have proposed matching President Bush's request for \$35 million to fund the Homeland Security Operations Center in fiscal 2005. The House passed its bill, H.R. 4567, on June 18 by a vote of 400-5; the Senate measure, S. 2537, is awaiting floor action.

HEARINGS

[Commerce, Science, and Transportation:](#) Hearing to examine S.2411, to amend the *Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974*, July 8, 2004

STATE AND LOCAL ACTIVITIES

[Cost Estimates from May Storms are in from FEMA](#)

Evansville, IN WTVW, July 6, 2004

FEMA expects the last batch of storms that moved through over Memorial Day to cost close to \$5 million. Tornadoes touched down in Darmstadt and Newburgh, both suburbs of Evansville, and left major flooding in parts of Orange and Washington Counties.

[Feds Declare Disaster Area: Dane County Residents can Get Storm Help](#)

The Capital Times, July 3, 2004

The Federal Emergency Management Agency has declared Dane County a federal disaster zone. Friday's declaration comes in the wake of severe storms June 23 that included a tornado touchdown in Madison and left a swath of destruction and debris across Wisconsin. Thirty-seven counties made the list for assistance from the June 23 storms. Also on the list are Green, Rock, Lafayette, Iowa, Sauk, Waukesha, and Milwaukee counties.

Boston Democratic Convention a Challenge for New Hampshire Too

Associated Press, July 3, 2004

Democrats aren't the only New Hampshire residents heading to Boston for their party convention this month. A contingent of state troopers will join a law enforcement army around the city, as state emergency officials, hospitals, and even tow truck drivers stay on alert back home.

Storms Leave Many without Power

Pittsburg, KS Morning Sun, July 5, 2004

No damage or injuries were reported in Crawford County, according to the Pittsburg Police Department and the Crawford County Sheriff's Department, but power was out in areas of Pittsburg. Labette County, mainly the towns of Oswego and Labette City, also reported heavy damage and power outages.

Plague 'Victims' Needed for Drill

The Herald-Sun, July 5, 2004

Early next month, a plague will hit the UNC area. *Yersinia pestis*, pneumonic plague, will hit first at UNC's married student housing complex, Odum Village. The outbreak, scheduled for August 10, is the result of a "bioterrorism incident," when a "terrorist tries to introduce pneumonic plague, which is easily spread, into the community," said Eric Griffin, emergency management specialist for the county.

Disaster Office Opening Today in Fort Wayne

Decatur Daily Democrat, July 6, 2004

Officials of the Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) and state officials announced that a Disaster Recovery Center was opening in Fort Wayne today to serve this area for flood and/or tornado damage sustained during from May 27 through June 25.

Differing Numbers in Earthquake Damage

KSBY News, July 7, 2004

San Luis Obispo County was declared a federal disaster area after last year's San Simeon earthquake; since then, there've been discrepancies on how much damage was done to the area. The San Luis Obispo County Office of Emergency Services says their numbers show just over \$239 million in damage countywide, however FEMA shows less.

FEMA in Adams County to Help Tornado Victims

WAOW News, July 6, 2004

The Federal Government has approved Wisconsin's request to name additional counties as disaster areas. FEMA now has the ability to give victims of the violent weather the means to recover.

Testing Area Preparedness for Disaster

Dispatch Tribune, July 7, 2004

On June 23, Kemper Arena served as the fictional target of a bioterrorism incident. Health departments from Platte County, Kansas City, Independence, Johnson County and Wyandotte County tested the "agencies' ability to dispense medication to a significant population," Hoskins said. Each of the five health departments set up an operation to distribute medicine to prevent spread of the plague.

Waukon Fire Department Uses FEMA Grant to Purchase Multi-Purpose Vehicle

Waukon Standard, July 8, 2004

The Waukon Fire Department has added a new rig to its fleet of firefighting equipment in an effort to better protect the community it serves, making use of a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) grant designed for just that purpose. The FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant, in the amount of \$45,000, was used by the department to meet a need for an overall utility vehicle.

[Westfield District Gets \\$150,000 FEMA Grant](#)

Middletown Press, July 8, 2004

The Westfield Fire District has received just over \$150,000 in grant money from the Federal Emergency Management Agency to use for buying new breathing systems. "This money is a great help. We will replace and upgrade all our breathing apparatuses," said Fire Chief Burt Hale.

RELATED INFORMATION

RECENT REPORTS

[Ports Associated with Known Vulnerabilities and Exploits \(US-CERT\)](#), July 6, 2004

SPOTLIGHT WEBSITES

[Department of Homeland Security - US-CERT](#), July 8, 2004

[Center for Disease Control EP&R](#), July 9, 2004

[Environmental Protection Agency EP&R](#), July 9, 2004

OPINION

[Political Sniping Doesn't Protect Americans, Rural or Urban](#), July 6, 2004

[FEMA Flood Aid Welcome in Michigan: For 19 counties, Washington's Assistance Comes as a Relief](#), July 7, 2004

[FEMA Buyouts Not the Last Hope for Fort Wayne](#), July 8, 2004

[THE ISSUE: Water Emergency: South Caroline should Prep for Water Emergency](#), July 8, 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.