



PREPAREDNESS NEWS AND INFORMATION

From FEMA's Preparedness Division

July 16, 2004

NATIONAL NEWS

[Schools Get Funds for 'Safe Rooms'](#)

Courier News, July 12, 2004

While the U.S. House of Representatives passed bipartisan legislation Thursday to coordinate Federal efforts to reduce the loss of life and property from windstorms, many schools and a few communities throughout Arkansas, received more than \$25 million in funding this year to build rooms to keep people safe from such storms and the damage they create.

[Project Recovery Providing Help to Storm Victims](#)

News and Sentinel, July 10, 2004

Project Recovery workers are servicing area counties to address the needs of residents who were affected by severe storms and flooding in late May and early June. Project Recovery, a Federal Emergency Management Agency program administered by the State, assists residents affected by a man-made or natural disaster, said Ron Lee, project coordinator.

[Cities Get OK to Spend Homeland Security Dollars](#)

AP, July 10, 2004

After months of asking, State and local emergency officials have a green light to use homeland security grants to send people to special courses offered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Suzanne Mencer, head of the Department of Homeland Security's Office of State and Local Government Preparedness, said the courses in incident command training teach first responders the best way to react during an event and how to establish a chain of command.

[Flood Victims Turn to Feds](#)

Detroit News, July 11, 2004

Residents hit hard by flooding May 20-24 may be eligible for Federal financial assistance. The Federal Emergency Management Agency will arrange a free inspection of the property and give callers an application number. Property owners must be present during the inspections. On July 1, President Bush declared much of Southeast Michigan a disaster area, clearing the way for Federal grants low-interest loans to help hard-hit families and recover. Assistance also is available for businesses.

[FEMA Wants People to Consider Flood Insurance](#)

Times Recorder, July 13, 2004

After millions of dollars in flood damage hit Ohio counties this spring, Federal Emergency Management Agency officials are urging people to look into flood insurance options. The Federal government in 1968 determined that private insurance companies could not handle covering catastrophes like flooding. The National Flood Insurance Program was developed as a result.

[FEMA/ADEM Begin Organizing Storm Cleanup](#)

Hope Star, July 13, 2004

County and municipal officials in a 12-county area began the tedious process of organizing the cleanup Monday from storms which raked Southwest Arkansas in May and June in the first of a series of meetings with State and Federal disaster aid officials here.

[Emergency Declared, Roads Closed after Floods Force Hundreds from Homes](#)

AP, July 13, 2004

About 100 people remained homeless Tuesday evening after heavy rains flooded parts of Burlington County, damaging hundreds of houses and breaching a dozen small dams. New Jersey lawmakers asked President Bush to declare portions of southern New Jersey a Federal disaster area.

Doses of Antidotes Against Bioterror Rushed to Boston

Boston Globe, July 14, 2004

Shipments of antidotes that would counter chemical attacks have been expedited to Boston and New York to make sure both cities have the drugs before the start of national political conventions, Federal and local health authorities confirmed last night.

Federal Auditors Scrutinize Isabel Claims: Inspector General Probes Insurance Disputes; 'Potential Violations of ... Law'; Victims Charge that NFIP Mishandled Settlements

Baltimore Sun, July 14, 2004

Auditors from a Federal inspector general's office have begun an investigation of the National Flood Insurance Program's handling of claims from Tropical Storm Isabel, according to flood victims and Sen. Barbara A. Mikulski's office.

Governor Says Flooded Areas Being Assessed for Federal Aid

WCAX, July 16, 2004

Federal emergency officials are in Vermont to determine whether the areas damaged by flooding this week are eligible for Federal aid, Gov. James Douglas said Thursday.

Trespass Charges Dropped Against Bush Protesters

AP, July 16, 2004

Trespassing charges against two people, one a FEMA employee, who wore anti-Bush T-shirts to the president's July 4 rally at the West Virginia Capitol were dropped Thursday because a city ordinance did not cover trespassing on Statehouse grounds.

THE CONGRESS

Report Calls for More Change in Security Alert System

Orange County Register, July 12, 2004

A new congressional watchdog report calls on the Department of Homeland Security to give more specifics about possible terrorist threats, and House lawmakers in charge of overseeing the new department say they want Secretary Tom Ridge to better tailor his alerts to specific regions or industries.

Chairman Cox Opening Statement: HOMELAND SECURITY EXAMINES LESSONS LEARNED FROM TERRORISM EXERCISES

Select Committee on Homeland Security, July 8, 2004

Stratton, Others Receive FEMA Fire Fighting Grants

Southwest Nebraska News, July 15, 2004

Nebraska's Senator Ben Nelson announced today that this week, the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the U.S. Fire Administration will distribute the seventh round of the 2004 grants approved by DHS to a Nebraska fire department.

HEARINGS

Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee: Full committee hearing on the nomination of David Stone to be assistant secretary, Homeland Security Department, July 13, 2004

House Government Reform Committee: Hearing on 'Homeland Security Information Sharing', July 13, 2004

[Technology, Information Policy, Intergovernmental Relations, and the Census Subcommittee:](#) Hearing on "Facilitating an Enhanced Information Sharing Network that Links Law Enforcement and Homeland Security for Federal, State and Local Government," July 13, 2004

STATE AND LOCAL ACTIVITIES

[Day-Care Evacuation Bill Loses Supporters](#)

Patriot-News, July 11, 2004

A bill that would require day-care centers to have emergency plans for evacuating children in an emergency such as a nuclear accident or terrorist attack is on Gov. Ed Rendell's desk awaiting his signature.

[Almost \\$3 Million in Assistance Approved After Storms, Floods](#)

Channel 3000, July 12, 2004

Almost \$3 million in State and Federal disaster assistance has been approved to help Wisconsin residents and businesses recover from recent storms and flooding. The Federal Emergency Management Agency and Wisconsin Emergency Management approved the money. Roughly 95 percent of approved housing-assistance grants have been distributed to help people make home repairs, according to FEMA Federal coordinating officer Ron Sherman.

[Thousands in State are Seeking Disaster Aid](#)

Lexington Herald-Leader, July 10, 2004

Nearly 7,900 Kentucky households and businesses have applied for disaster assistance related to the storms and flooding that struck between May 26 and June 18. More than \$24.3 million in disaster aid has been approved, and that amount is expected to grow, according to Jeni Goeveling, a public information officer for the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

[Emergency Trainees Receive Certification](#)

Union-Democrat, July 12, 2004

A team of Tuolumne and Calaveras County volunteers are now prepared for a disaster, whether natural or caused by a fellow human. Twenty-four received Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) certification at the Sonora fire station on Saturday. This was the first time a CERT class has been offered in Tuolumne County.

[No Action Taken on Explorer Post](#)

Winchester, KY Sun, July 13, 2004

For the second consecutive meeting, the Clark County Fiscal Court on Monday declined to act on a request to have the county take over the local Explorer post. It has been run by the city in one form or another for at least 15 years. The Explorers gives boys and girls who have completed eighth grade and who are under 21 years old an opportunity to learn about firefighting as a career.

[Alabama Truckers Now Counter-Terrorism Spies](#)

WSFA TV, July 13, 2004

Law enforcement is turning to the trucking industry for help when it comes to tracking down terrorists. The Highway Watch program is administered by the National Transportation Security Administration.

[FEMA Tells City to Correct Flood Plain Violations](#)

LaCrosse Tribune, July 15, 2004

The Federal Emergency Management Agency has directed La Crosse to inventory violations of flood plain regulations, and take action to remedy them. In a letter received by Mayor John

Medinger on Monday, FEMA said the city must begin "a vigorous remedial action plan to remedy the violations."

[In the Heat of the Moment: Muscatine Fire Department's Training Exercise has Unexpected Consequences](#)

Muscatine Journal, July 15, 2004

A fire department training exercise at the corner of Ninth and Cypress streets July 2 had unexpected consequences for a house across the street. Muscatine Fire Chief Steve Dalbey confirmed Wednesday that excessive heat from a training fire melted and warped vinyl siding on a home located nearby.

RELATED INFORMATION

RECENT REPORTS

[DHS Financial Management Challenges: GAO-04-945T](#), July 8, 2004

[Communication Protocols and Risk Communication Principles Can Assist in Refining the Advisory System: GAO-04-682](#), July 13, 2004

SPOTLIGHT WEBSITES

[International Association of Fire Chiefs and Congressional Fire Services Institute Endorse First Responder Bill; 23 First Responder Groups Actively Supporting Passage](#), July 2004

[Students' Translation Project Spreads Awareness](#), July 14, 2004

OPINION

[FEMA Builds Beaches](#), July 13, 2004

[Only Cowards Cancel Elections](#), July 14, 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.