



# PREPAREDNESS NEWS AND INFORMATION

From FEMA's Preparedness Division

August 27, 2004

## NATIONAL NEWS

### [With Hurricane Charley, Federal Emergency Agency Gets A New Chance To Prove Itself](#)

*The New York Times*, August 26, 2004

When Hurricane Charley hit the Florida Coast, the disaster posed the biggest challenge for the Federal Emergency Management Agency since the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, and the first test of the agency's ability since it was absorbed by the Department of Homeland Security.

### [Hurricane Charley Requires Largest Ever Deployment Of State Mutual Aid](#)

*National Emergency Management Association*, August 23, 2004

Figures released today by the National Emergency Management Association show a massive assistance effort under way for the victims of Hurricane Charley through the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC).

### [Agencies Prepare For The Worst: Homeland Security Urges Local Preparedness](#)

*The White County News Telegraph*, August 19, 2004

U.S. Homeland Security has issued uniform guidelines for disaster response in all communities, called the National Incident Management System (NIMS). NIMS provides a consistent nationwide template to enable all government, private-sector and nongovernmental organizations to work together during domestic incidents.

### [Significant Drop In American Public's Confidence In The U.S. Government's Ability To Protect Against And Respond To A Terror Attack](#)

*Yahoo! Finance*, August 24, 2004

A new study by The National Center for Disaster Preparedness at Columbia's Mailman School of Public Health and The Children's Health Fund calls for new measures to address the decline in confidence and refocus preparedness efforts.

### [U.S. Department Of Homeland Security Selects Teams For Final Prototype Phase Of Anti-Missile Devices to Protect Commercial Aircraft](#)

*DHS Press Release*, August 25, 2004

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Science and Technology directorate today announced that teams led by BAE Systems and Northrop Grumman have been selected for agreement negotiations to begin Phase II of the Counter Man-Portable Air Defense Systems (MANPADS) System Development and Demonstration Program.

### [Homeland Security CIO Needs More Influence To Be Effective](#)

*GovTech.net*, August 2004

Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Inspector General released a report criticizing the authority and responsibilities of the DHS Chief Information Officer (CIO).

### [Federal Fire Safety Campaign Aimed At Population Over Age 50](#)

*Grand Island Independent*, August 25, 2004

The fire death rate for Americans age 65 and older is more than three times the national average, and the rate increases with a person's age. According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency, people ages 65 to 74 are nearly twice as likely to die in a home fire than the rest of the population.

### [Department Of Homeland Security Announces Assistance To Firefighters Grants To Aid 125 Departments](#)

*Firehouse.com*, August 20, 2004

The grants will ultimately total approximately 8,000 awards worth nearly \$750 million in direct assistance to firefighters throughout the country, demonstrating Homeland Security's commitment to ensuring that America's firefighters have the resources they need to protect their communities.

### **Critical Decision Institute Finds A Novel Way To Train Senior Public Officials And Business Leaders To Make Better Decisions In Disaster Scenarios**

*GovTech.net*, August 2004

Training for a disaster typically means attending stuffy lectures on response protocols and slogging through role-playing in boring tabletop exercises. That's hardly a recipe for rapt attention, nor does it cultivate leaders' abilities to make insightful decisions under duress.

### **Colleges Embrace Homeland Security Curriculum**

*USA Today*, August 24, 2004

Homeland security has become a hot topic in American culture, and higher education has been jumping on the bandwagon. Hundreds of community colleges, four-year universities and postgraduate programs have begun offering degrees and certificates in emergency preparedness, counterterrorism and security.

### **Border Officials Say They Are Unprepared To Protect Nation**

*GovExec.com*, August 20, 2004

Although the 9/11 commission cited the need for increased border security, the majority of the nation's customs and border officials say they are ill-equipped to prevent another terrorist attack, according to a survey planned for release on Monday.

## **THE CONGRESS**

### **Clinton, Schumer To Serve On 9/11 Group**

*Finger Lakes Times*, August 26, 2004

Senators Charles Schumer and Hillary Rodham Clinton, both Democrats from New York, will serve on a bipartisan Senate work group charged with improving intelligence oversight.

## **STATE AND LOCAL ACTIVITIES**

### **New York Hospitals See Lack Of Preparedness For Disaster**

*The New York Times*, August 24, 2004

Nearly three years after Sept. 11, and with New York bracing for the Republican National Convention, hospital officials across the city say they still lack much of the important protective clothing, decontamination facilities and essential drug supplies that could be needed to respond to a biological, chemical or nuclear strike.

#### **Preparing For The Worst**

### **New York Ambulance Companies On Alert For Suspiciously Interested Strangers**

*WABC 7 NY*, August 20, 2004

New concerns about a possible terrorist threat involving ambulances rushing to help following a terrorist attack. Suspicious activity around area rescue squads suggests those ambulances could be turned into bombs -- dealing a second blow to rescuers.

### **New Jersey Asks U.S. To Help Pay Its Costs For Convention Security**

*The New York Times*, August 25, 2004

The federal government should help pay for New Jersey's increased costs of maintaining security during the Republican National Convention, the state's attorney general said at a news conference here on Tuesday.

### [Keeping The Bay Bridge Safe From Terrorism](#)

*The Baltimore Sun*, August 25, 2004

Nearly 140,000 vehicles cross the Bay Bridge every day, and more than 3,000 ships pass beneath it in a year. Its twin spans climb more than 30 stories into the sky to link Maryland's eastern and western shores.

### [Governor Ehrlich Lauds Homeland Security Measure](#)

*Maryland Department of Natural Resources*, August 23, 2004

Governor Robert L. Ehrlich Jr. today lauded a homeland security measure President Bush signed into law that enables the Maryland Natural Resources Police greater authority to enforce U.S. Coast Guard security zones around the Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Power Plant and the Cove Point Liquefied Natural Gas facility on the Chesapeake Bay in southern Maryland.

### [Hurricane Charley Is Breaking Records](#)

*Sun-Herald.com*, August 23

Here's a breakdown of other astonishing numbers in light of Hurricane Charley...

### [County Looking For Housing Sites](#)

*HeraldTribune.com*, August 24, 2004

County staff has identified 300 acres of open land that could be used for temporary housing sites, but federal officials have released no timeline for choosing the sites or moving people in.

### [Thousands Left Homeless By Storm Face Housing Shortage](#)

*The New York Times*, August 24, 2004

With experts predicting that it will take at least months and probably well over a year for southwest and central Florida to recover from Hurricane Charley, disaster relief agencies are beginning to confront one of their most difficult problems: finding long-term housing for thousands of displaced residents.

### [In Torn Florida Towns, A Weary Calm After The Storm](#)

### [Airport Will Be Scene Of Mock Terrorist Crisis](#)

*The Jackson Citizen Patriot*, August 26, 2004

On Wednesday, Jackson County Emergency Management Division will conduct a simulated terrorist scenario at Jackson County Airport. The idea is to hone the county crisis-handling skills such as communication and coordination in case of an actual terrorist act.

### [Emergency Services Pass Preparedness Simulation](#)

*The Allegan County News*, August 25, 2004

Allegan County met all its criteria for its part in a radiological preparedness exercise Tuesday, Aug. 17. The exercise simulated a release of radiation from the Palisades nuclear power plant in Van Buren County.

### [Emergency Responders Flocking To Anniston, Alabama For Terrorism Training](#)

*Firehouse.com*, August 24, 2004

Countless Americans who pull people from burning buildings, investigate homicides, or issue parking tickets for a living have heard by now of the Center for Domestic Preparedness — that heavily guarded hulk of a building hunkering down on the old Fort McClellan.

### [Guinn Names Vanderhoof As Nevada Homeland Security Chief](#)

*San Francisco Chronicle*, August 25, 2004

Gov. Kenny Guinn on Wednesday named Giles Vanderhoof, commander of the Nevada National Guard, as Nevada's new homeland security chief. The governor also named Dr. Dale Carrison as chairman of the state Homeland Security Commission.

### [Guinn Names New Homeland Security Chief](#)

### [New Command Center Adds Comprehensive Security To Port](#)

*The Pasadena Citizen*, August 24, 2004

Another layer of Homeland Security is in place now that the new coordination center at the Port of Houston is completed. Port officials, along with national and local elected officials, formally opened the new command center Monday.

#### **First Joint Federal And Local Emergency Operations Center In U.S.**

*GovTech.net*, August 2004

The Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico selected Intergraph to provide an emergency dispatch system to be shared with the local city and county governments.

#### **City Of Santa Paula Launches Disaster Mitigation Planning Effort**

*Santa Paula Times*, August 25, 2004

The City of Santa Paula, in cooperation with the Ventura County Office of Emergency Services (OES) and seven of the county's cities and over 25 special districts, is assessing risks posed by natural disaster and identifying ways to reduce those risks.

#### **City To Conduct Security Drill**

*Huntsville Item*, August 24, 2004

Today and Wednesday, a bioterrorism drill will be conducted, sending out the message over police scanners that a smallpox outbreak has occurred.

#### **Local Officials Meet With Homeland Security Representative**

*Silver City Daily Press*, August 23, 2004

Representatives of Gov. Bill Richardson's Office of Homeland Security met with county and town officials and state police Friday to discuss needs for the program's services.

#### **Grant Will Help Fight Agriculture Terrorism**

*The Davis Enterprise*, August 23, 2004

UC Davis was presented today with a \$4.7 million grant from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to help protect the country's food supply against acts of terrorism.

## **RELATED INFORMATION**

### **RECENT REPORTS**

- **Improvements Needed To DHS' Information Technology Management Structure**, July 2004

### **SPOTLIGHT WEBSITES**

**United States Department Of Health And Human Services: Hurricane Preparedness Tips**, <http://www.hhs.gov/disasters/hurricane.html>

- **State-By-State Findings Of Fire Department Needs And Response Capabilities**, NFPA Online
- **NYC Office Of Emergency Management**, [www.nyc.gov](http://www.nyc.gov)

### **OPINION**

- **Give New York Its Fair Share Of Homeland Money**, *The New York Times*

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.