



PREPAREDNESS NEWS AND INFORMATION

From FEMA's Preparedness Division

October 15, 2004

NATIONAL NEWS

[Cyber-Security To Get Higher-Profile Leader](#)

The Washington Post, October 13, 2004

Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge said yesterday that the role of overseeing computer security and the Internet should have a higher profile at the agency, in the face of increasing concern from technology executives and experts that cyber-security is getting inadequate attention.

[New DHS Budget Marks \\$650M For FIRE Act](#)

Firehouse.com, October 13, 2004

Over the Columbus Day weekend, Congress passed the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) appropriations bill for fiscal year 2005. Congress provided \$650 million in funding for the FIRE Act.

[Pre-Election Terror Fears Downplayed](#)

Rocky Mountain News, October 14, 2004

The head of Northern Command, which runs the defense of North America, said Wednesday there has been no increase in "actionable intelligence" despite warnings of a possible terrorist attack before the election or the inauguration.

[FEMA Application Deadline Extended](#)

The Sun-Herald, October 12, 2004

Registering was supposed to end today, about 60 days after Hurricane Charley struck Southwest Florida, but FEMA officials, at the request of Governor Jeb Bush, decided to allow people more time in the wake of three additional hurricanes striking the state.

[Security Grants Still Streaming To Rural States](#)

The New York Times, October 10, 2004

In the nationwide scramble for domestic security dollars, officials in Alaska are in a predicament that would be the envy of most other states. They must figure out how to spend \$2 million in federal money.

[NYC Mayor Slams Fed Terror Funding](#)

New York Newsday, October 12, 2004

Mayor Michael Bloomberg has taken his shots at Wyoming and American Samoa for getting more than their fair share of homeland security funding -- and now he's fixing an icy glare on Alaska.

[Former Police Chief Targets Crime On National Scale](#)

The Times Leader, October 12, 2004

From weapons to confiscated books, Martins Ferry Police Chief Bill Patsche's new office is proof that terrorism continues to be a constant threat to the United States.

[Homeland Security Dominates Election](#)

The Mercury News, October 13, 2004

For the first time in U.S. history, voters in the presidential election Nov. 2 will carry to the polls a vivid image of America's vulnerability to shadowy terrorists: twin towers in flames, the smoke spreading over the Manhattan skyline.

[Mold Growth After Flooding Poses Health Hazard](#)

FEMA, October 14, 2004

A major health concern after storms that cause flooding is the growth of molds and bacteria. Concerns relating to mold growth and exposure, which can occur inside your home following heavy rains or flooding, should be addressed quickly in order to prevent illness.

[New Website Helps Residents Find Licensed Contractors Online](#)

FEMA, October 14, 2004

Residents who are repairing and/or rebuilding their homes after the recent hurricanes and flooding have a new tool at their disposal to make their construction decisions much easier.

[U.S. Schools Review Security](#)

The Washington Times, October 8, 2004

U.S. education officials in six states have reviewed their security after a computer disk was found in Iraq with diagrams and photographs of some schools.

THE CONGRESS

[9/11 Reforms: Senate Reorganizes Committees](#)

The Union Leader, October 11, 2004

On a 79-6 vote, the Senate created a new Homeland Security Committee, made a new subcommittee under the existing Appropriations Committee and strengthened the Intelligence Committee.

[Homeland Security Spending Bill Bogged Down By Disputes](#)

GovExec.com, October 8, 2004

A variety of unrelated issues threaten to drag completion of the fiscal 2005 Homeland Security appropriations bill into next week, as negotiations continue over dairy price subsidies, drought aid and a natural gas pipeline project in Alaska.

[Congress Passes DHS Spending Bill](#)

FCW.com, October 11, 2004

As expected, the Senate approved a conference report today by voice vote authorizing \$32 billion in discretionary spending for the Homeland Security Department for fiscal 2005, which began October 1.

[Frist Uncertain On Timetable For Intelligence Bill](#)

The Washington Times, October 12, 2004

Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist said yesterday he will decide in the next two days whether there is a realistic chance that Congress can get the September 11 intelligence-reorganization bill completed before Election Day.

[9/11 Report Is National Book Award Finalist](#)

The New York Times, October 14, 2004

The final report of the 9/11 Commission, the eminently readable government account of the events surrounding the devastating terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, was selected as a finalist for the National Book Award in nonfiction yesterday, one of 20 finalists named in four categories.

STATE AND LOCAL ACTIVITIES

[Bi-National First Responder Training Scheduled For October](#)

Casa Grande Valley Newspapers, October 14, 2004

The International Association of Fire Fighters in conjunction with the Arizona Office of Homeland Security have partnered to provide training and training materials for a Bi-National First Responder Train-the-Trainer series that will begin in October for border communities in Arizona.

CIOs: State And Local Homeland Security IT Needs More Federal Guidance

GCN.com, October 14, 2004

State and local homeland security IT programs would be more effective if the federal government provided firmer standards and practices, senior federal officials said today.

Post Office Gets Devices For Anthrax

San Francisco Chronicle, October 8, 2004

Each new week in post-9/11 America brings another anti-terrorism plan, but perhaps none is more important than the high-tech gadgetry that one of the nation's largest employers is now using.

Terrorism Training Fires Up Participants

Bonner County Daily Bee, October 14, 2004

They didn't torch eight rooms in the venerable Lakeside Inn, sending walls of flames and thick coils of black smoke over the Sandpoint Marina yesterday for fun and games.

FEMA Working With Locals To Help Rebuild Economy

The Herald Tribune, October 13, 2004

Two months after Hurricane Charley hit Southwest Florida, the Federal Emergency Management Agency is helping to plan for Charlotte County's future.

Local Firemen: Florida Hurricane Destruction 'Beyond Description'

Porterville Recorder, October 12

Two local firemen recently returned from Florida with a first-hand account of the aftermath of the four hurricanes that left Florida with billions of dollars in damage.

Mobile Command Post Bolsters Nebraska Homeland Security

Southwest Nebraska News, October 14, 2004

The Nebraska State Patrol unveiled its new Mobile Command Post (MCP), a \$500,000 vehicle, equipped with the latest state-of-the-art technology. The unit was purchased using federal Homeland Security funds designated for Nebraska.

Disaster Recovery Center Update

FEMA, October 14, 2004

The days and hours of operation for the Disaster Recovery Centers in Trenton and Phillipsburg have changed, state and federal disaster recovery officials announced today.

RELATED INFORMATION

SPOTLIGHT WEBSITES

- [Disaster Contractors Network](http://www.dcnonline.com), www.dcnonline.com
- [Rural Homeland Security Technology Expo](#)

OPINION

- [We Will Make U.S. Safer](#), *USA Today*, October 11, 2004
- [Security Spending Over A Barrel](#), *The Christian Science Monitor*, October 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.