EMR-ISAC
Emergency Management & Response-Information Sharing & Analysis Center

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For information regarding the EMR-ISAC visit **www.usfa.dhs.gov/emr-isac** or contact the EMR-ISAC office at: **(301) 447-1325 and/or emr-isac@fema.dhs.gov.**

Seismic Activity Increasing Around "Ring of Fire"

Fifteen earthquakes 6.5 on the Richter scale or higher occurred since the beginning of the year in and around the Pacific Ocean's "Ring of Fire," leading various geological agencies to ponder the potential of a major earthquake on the West Coast. After a fairly active period between 1980 and 1999 with many earthquakes magnitude 6.5 or more, California's last strong tremor was in 2003. The populace, politicians, and, likely, the emergency management community have all gotten used to the lack of strong seismic activity.

Earthquakes may get the most attention but they are not the only hazard facing those in the volatile region of the Pacific Rim. The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) announced last week they've observed swarms of small earthquakes under Mount St. Helens, which may indicate the volcano is recharging with magma. Over 130 mini-earthquakes were detected since March. Although there is no indication of an imminent eruption, these findings may indicate future activity.

Tsunamis pose a serious risk since they can cause extensive damage to coastal areas hundreds or thousands of miles away from where the earthquake occurred. From an emergency management perspective, this means monitoring a much larger geographical area for a potential threat that can happen at any time. However, unlike many natural disasters, tsunamis often provide a significant warning period in which to notify and evacuate the area affected.

Communities at risk for disasters that have no set "season," like earthquakes, require regular public information campaigns, reminding citizens of the risk and prompting them to make emergency plans. It is also important to ensure emergency plans are up-to-date and take into account any technological updates that may be available now but weren't during the last seismic event, such as social media-based public relations and early warning systems.

(Source: USGS)

Law Enforcement Uses for UASs

A new JUSTNET video, "Eye in the Sky," takes a look at how law enforcement agencies can utilize unmanned aircraft systems (UAS), also known as "drones," to process crime scenes and traffic incidents efficiently and inexpensively. A UAS can image a crash scene in minutes, for example, greatly reducing the time an intersection would be shut down. Other uses include search and rescue, SWAT team sup-

port, hostage or barricade situations, and more.

The video also discusses Fourth Amendment rights and how to manage public reaction and privacy concerns. A well-prepared public safety campaign can help with this, as can open meetings with the public in order to answer questions and even demonstrate capabilities.

Finally, the video explains the steps agencies must take to get approval from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). This includes reviewing local and state statutes, defining what you will be using the UAS for, and the approval process with the FAA.

(Source: JUSTNET)

DHS Fellows Program Looks for SLTT Partners

The Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Office of Intelligence and Analysis (I&A) is currently accepting applications from state, local, tribal, and territorial (SLTT) partners for the updated and expanded Fellows Program.

The Fellows Program provides a unique opportunity for SLTT law enforcement, fire, public health, and EMS partners to collaborate with DHS and the Intelligence Community to ensure threat information is most effectively shared between all levels of government. Fellows are expected to collaborate with federal counterparts and SLTT customers through a variety of intelligence functions such as joint analysis and production, collection and reporting, and watchlisting.

Fellows have the opportunity to participate in the program through three paths:

- DHS I&A;
- National Counterterrorism Center (NCTC) Joint Counterterrorism Assessment Team (JCAT);
- Terrorist Screening Center (TSC).

For details on eligibility, duration, and accommodations and reimbursement, see the Fellows Program flyer and application (PDF, 650 Kb). Please direct questions related to the fellowship program to Gabrielle Parada at gabrielle.parada@hq.dhs.gov.

(Source: DHS I&A)

Zika Preparedness Webinar for Public Health

As part of their Hot Topics series, the Northwest Center for Public Health Preparedness (NWCPHP) is hosting the webinar "Zika Preparedness: Lessons for the U.S. Public Health System." This free, one-hour webinar targets local, state, tribal, and territorial public health practitioners and emergency managers.

Even though the Pacific Northwest is not in the "hot zone" when it comes to expected Zika activity, the situation provides an opportunity to educate public health agencies on preparedness and response vulnerabilities and gaps within their systems. The factors and features of Zika and its spread can be applied to other situations and crises public health may encounter in their own region.

Those interested should register and plan on attending the webinar on Tuesday, May 17th from 12:00 p.m. to 1 p.m. Pacific Time.

(Source: NWCPHP)

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