



National Council on Readiness and Preparedness

Public/Private Partnerships to Strengthen Homeland Security

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March 24, 2009

epn essential public network

New compact disaster shelter | Rescue team trains to help

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Today's Top News

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Social networks set tone for community information during LA fires

November 17 '08: As wildfires **destroy homes in Southern California**, social networking sites have been used by community first responders and citizens to spread important information, updates and maps in real-time. The fires have burned more than 1,000 homes, forced tens of thousands of residents to evacuate and have claimed over 20,000 acres in the past four days, **Reuters** reported. **CNN** reported Monday that at least one of the fires has been linked to human activity.

Researchers announcement advancements in disaster communications

November 10 '08: Researchers working on disaster response communication technologies have announced new advancements in understanding how radio frequencies behave in difficult areas such as collapsed buildings, mine shafts and tunnels, **CNN** reported. Researchers at the **National Institute of Standards and Technology** told the cable news channel that a "sweet spot" frequency has been found which allows radio communication to travel the farthest.

State and local governments to get federal information sharing guideline suggestions

November 3 '08: According to **Washington**

Today's Security Update ... [click here]

Private organization works to help respond in the first 72 hours

JC | 06.20.2008 | 08:57:581601 |

June 20 '08: The **First Response Team of America** is a privately run organization to help communities respond and recover in the first days after a disaster. On its **website**, the organization said it helps local, state and federal first responders "by removing the initial obstacles that local emergency and government officials encounter when dealing with a natural or manmade disaster."

CNN interviewed the organization's founder Tad Skylar Agolia: "The most critical phase of a disaster is the first few days. ... That's when you have to find the people that are in desperate need of medical attention, food, water." Agolia began The First Response Team after working in disaster recovery after hurricane Katrina, **CNN** reported.

Agolia told the cable news network that he saw local response and recovery operations hampered by a lack of resources, and an inability to access the areas affected. Currently, "The First Response Team consists of more than \$1 million in specialized machinery able to adapt to the various challenges of disaster sites," **CNN** reported.

According to the First Response Team, the organization can "Open critical roadways blocked by debris and power lines; Help restart and mobilize critical service centers such as hospitals, ambulance companies, fire departments, state troopers barracks and nursing homes; Provide temporary power solutions using industrial generators; Connect first responders through satellite technology (phones, internet, GPS locators); Perform water rescues using specialized watercraft; [and] Supply commercial water pumps to empty out low-lying areas of cities."

"Our mission is to provide pre-positioned specialized heavy equipment and advanced technological communications systems for the purpose of being an immediate source of help and hope to communities and their leaders," the organization's website said.

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NCORP and the Kennedy School of Government Collaborate on the National Blueprint for Secure Communities



Working in partnership with the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard

University, the ReadyCommunities Partnership is reaching out to first responders, local officials, the private sector and citizens throughout the nation to develop the **National Blueprint for Secure Communities**. The Blueprint will be the focus of the first National Congress for Secure Communities in November and serve as a roadmap for any community striving for resiliency during the first hours of a national or large-scale crisis. **Click Here to read more...**

National Press Club Briefing on National Blueprint June 20th



In partnership with the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University and it's non-profit, government and corporate partners,

NCORP is reaching out to first responders, local officials, the private sector and citizens throughout the nation to develop a **National Blueprint for Secure Communities**. The Blueprint is a project under the **ReadyAmerica Initiative**, and was the focus of the **National Press Club briefing** at 11:30 a.m. on June 20, 2006. The Blueprint will serve as a roadmap for any community working to reach a level of excellence in their preparedness.

Preliminary Report from Midwest Summit



The Midwest Summit Police Chiefs Association met May 3rd and 4th in LaCrosse,

Technology, the federal government is making preparations for the release of updated information sharing guidelines for state and local governments to help "achieve baseline capabilities necessary to share terrorism and law enforcement data." The guideline suggestions, which include increased partnership and participation with the private sector, will be published in a report titled "Baseline Capabilities for State and Major Urban Area Fusion Centers."

Other Top Stories:

Report finds nonprofits underprepared in DC area

Disaster response accountability group

International Strategy for Disaster Reduction Day

Hurricane Ike wrap-up

Hurricane Ike heads toward Houston

Myspace and DHS announce hurricane awareness partnership

As Gustav heads toward Gulf Coast, partnerships help to build information portals for community members and response organizations

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Wisconsin to develop public/private partnerships that augment and multiply community preparedness, response and recovery capabilities. NCORP joined the Summit to incorporate the output of the May 3rd Summit sessions into the National Blueprint for Secure Communities. [Click Here](#) to download the draft preliminary report of the Summit.

More Press Items:

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[ReadyAmerica: The First 72 Hours](#)

[Photographs of the November 16th Meeting](#)

[Draft Transcript of Preparedness Congress](#)

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