

Chem-Bio News

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CB Daily Report

Chem-Bio News

[IS] LARGEST-EVER BIOLOGICAL ATTACK DRILL SET FOR JANUARY

By Yaakov Katz
The Jerusalem Post
August 30, 2009

"In preparation for a non-conventional attack on Israel, the National Emergency Authority will hold the largest-ever exercise to train security forces how to respond to a city-wide biological attack.

The drill will begin on January 1 and is being prepared by the NEA, a branch of the Defense Ministry established after the Second Lebanon War to coordinate between all of the civilian and military bodies that provide services during a nationwide emergency."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.jpost.com/servlet/Satellite?cid=1251145146679&pagename=JPost/JPArticle/ShowFull>

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FEMA ISSUES REPORT ON PERSONAL PREPAREDNESS IN AMERICA

Occupational Health & Safety

August 27, 2009

“The Federal Emergency Management Agency has released a new report titled Personal Preparedness in America: Findings from the 2009 Citizen Corps National Survey that offers data on the public’s thoughts, perceptions, and behaviors related to preparedness and community safety for multiple types of hazards. FEMA says the report's findings are particularly relevant as the nation prepares for a possible pandemic flu outbreak, hurricane season, and other hazards.

Results from the national survey have important implications for the development of more effective communication and outreach strategies to achieve greater levels of preparedness and participation, the agency says. For example, the results indicate that 30 percent of Americans have not prepared because they think that emergency responders will help them and that more than 60 percent expect to rely on emergency responders in the first 72 hours following a disaster. While government will execute its functions, communications to the public should convey a more realistic understanding of emergency response capacity and emphasize the importance of self-reliance. FEMA concludes that messaging should thus speak to a shared responsibility and stress that everyone has a role to play in preparedness and response.

The survey also found that many people who report being prepared have not completed important preparedness activities or do not have a sound understanding of community plans. Of those who perceived themselves to be prepared, 36 percent did not have a household plan, 78 percent had not conducted a home evacuation drill, and 58 percent did not know their community’s evacuation routes.”

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“The report notes that national leaders must be strong advocates for personal preparedness, but adds it is clear that messages specific to individual preparedness must include critical local information, such as information on local hazards, local alerts and warnings, and local community response protocols. Local social networks must also be used to support outreach and education on personal preparedness, such as neighborhoods, the workplace, schools, and faith communities. And the concepts of mutual support at the local, neighborhood level should be emphasized.”

The full article can be found at: <http://ohsonline.com/articles/2009/08/27/fema-on-personal-preparedness.aspx>

The original report can be found at: [http:// www.citizencorps.gov/ready/2009findings.shtm](http://www.citizencorps.gov/ready/2009findings.shtm).
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EMP THREATENS POWER SHUTDOWN FOR MONTHS

WorldNetDaily

August 20, 2009

“There's been a lot of talk about the potentially devastating impact of an electrical grid shutdown from the effects of an electro-magnetic pulse from the sun or from terrorism, but little action, says a prominent members of Congress.

But it's worse than a threat on the horizon, says Rep. Roscoe Bartlett, R-Maryland. It's an inevitability.

Bartlett told NPR that EMP is "an event we will not avoid" – and remediation after the fact will cost between \$1 trillion and \$2 trillion. Protection of the grid in advance of the disaster will cost \$100 million, he said.”

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"The more sophisticated we become, the more vulnerable we are," said Bartlett. "There's a huge concern about cyber-attacks on the grid. [Well] a really robust [nuclear] EMP lay-down means microelectronics across the country would be shut down [and] you have no power...there's one event that we will not avoid, and that is a solar electromagnetic interference, solar storm. If we have a big one like the one that occurred back in 1859, that would shut down the whole grid for quite a long while. ... It would cost about \$100 million to protect much of the grid, but if the grid went down, it would cost us between \$1 trillion and \$2 trillion in damages, and the loss of life could be horrendous if in fact you were without electricity for months at a time. There's a bill in the House, and ... it's got to go through the Energy and Commerce Committee."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.wnd.com/index.php?fa=PAGE.view&pageId=107367>
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SHOT AT NUCLEAR FUEL TRUCK TROUBLES WATCHDOG GROUP

By Tom Fowler
The Houston Chronicle
August 28, 2009

"Shotgun damage to a truck carrying uranium fuel rods to a Texas nuclear power plant last year posed little, if any, immediate radiation danger, but it highlights potential problems the industry could face, a nuclear power industry watchdog says.

The shotgun damage was discovered on the driver's side of the truck on the morning of Sept. 20, as it delivered eight uranium fuel rods to the South Texas Project nuclear power plant near Bay City, according to a safety report filed at the plant last year.

The driver of the truck, operated by the Utah firm EnergySolutions, said he heard what sounded like a tire blowout several hours earlier while driving through another state. He stopped the truck to check but didn't see the door damage.

The containers carrying the fuel rods nor other equipment on the truck appeared damaged, according to the report, and it was allowed into the plant.

Nuclear Regulatory Commission officials were notified and an investigation of the incident found no fuel transport rules were violated, said David Knox, a spokesman for NRG Energy, which has a stake in the plant."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/business/6592212.html>
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Chem-Demil News

JOHNSTON ATOLL SITE CLOSED

By John Norton
The Pueblo Chieftain
September 02, 2009

"The U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency said Tuesday that the Environmental Protection Agency had formally accepted the closure of its former Johnston Atoll Chemical Agent Disposal System, the first site where chemical weapons were incinerated on a large scale.

CMA Director Conrad F. Whyne said, "The official closing of JACADS has been a thorough and

meticulous process. As a program, we have benefited from the lessons learned from working with the EPA.

“This is our first (Resource Conservation and Recovery Act) permitted lethal agent incineration facility to close.”

The full article can be found at:

<http://www.chieftain.com/articles/2009/09/02/news/local/doc4a9e1ac1b5faf333567804.txt>

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PUEBLO CHEMICAL DEPOT - CHEM DEPOT COURT BATTLE HEATING UP

By Robert Boczkiewicz

The Pueblo Chieftain

September 02, 2009

“The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment on Tuesday escalated the court battle with the Army over the Pueblo Chemical Depot.

The health authorities asked for a court order they say is needed to prevent possible injury to the public in Pueblo from leaks of highly toxic mustard gas in the chemical weapons stored at the depot.

The department contends the order, known as a preliminary injunction, is necessary because the Army allegedly is ignoring a "compliance order" the department issued.

The order required the Army to submit a plan describing "detailed procedures and equipment used at the facility to sample, analyze and monitor" the weapons. A preliminary injunction "will serve the public interest by ensuring that (depot) employees and the public will not be exposed to releases of mustard agent and other hazardous waste," the authorities argued in a 21-page request.

The department stated that the Army objects to the requested court order.”

The full article can be found at:

<http://www.chieftain.com/articles/2009/09/02/news/local/doc4a9e1cf051d3b276844769.txt>

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