Are you familiar with the Emergency #Hashtag List?

In a case of an emergency, we want to make sure we are able to be a part of the online conversations.

Twitter #hashtags can be used to connect and share information about emergency response and prevention activities taking place at home and around the world.

As a guide, Emergency Info BC has compiled a quick list of evolving, trending and most-used emergency hashtags in British Columbia. Their partners at the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure have also created a list of the most popular hashtags for B.C. communities.

**Preparedness Campaigns**

#AvalancheAwareness
#BurnAwareness
#BCFlood
#ValentinesDay #Preparedness
#EPWeek (Emergency Preparedness Week)
#Zombie #Preparedness (Zombie Preparedness Week)
#Volunteer or #NVW (National Volunteer Week)
#ShakeOutBC (ShakeOut BC)

If you have any others you think you be added or any comments about these, you can contact @EmergencyPrepBC

**SURVEY**


Our friends at Continuity Insights are inviting Continuity Central readers to participate in the 2013-2014 Continuity Insights and KPMG LLP Global Business Continuity Management Benchmarking Study.

All study participants will receive upon request a complimentary copy of the study results. To view a copy of the past 2011-2012 BCM Study.

The study looks into today's most critical business continuity challenges such as BCM performance measurements; adoption and implementation of global regulations and standards; budget status/development/allocation; supply chain issues; and more.

https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/ContinuityInsightsandKP
OLYMPIC NEWS!

Sochi Winter Olympics' All-Out Effort to Keep Games Secure

By: David Wharton, McClatchy

In a few days, Dan Richards will hit the ground in Sochi to begin final preparations for the Winter Olympics.

As head of a Boston-based crisis management and response company, Richards has been hired to help protect the U.S. ski and snowboard teams while they compete in Russia.

He hopes for an uneventful few weeks, but with recent news of terrorist bombings in the region and Islamist militants threatening further attacks, his job could prove difficult.

"I think there is a high degree of concern and nervousness," the chief executive of Global Rescue said. "I don't think that's inappropriate."

The Russian government has been on alert since a string of recent suicide bombings killed 34 people in Volgograd, about 400 miles away. They have flooded Sochi with tens of thousands of police, troops and security personnel.

As of late Wednesday, authorities were still searching for several potential bombers said to be in the vicinity, including one woman who might be in the city itself.

Though experts on global terrorism have been impressed by the level of security instituted by the Russians, they stop short of guaranteeing a safe and secure Games.

"No one really knows," said Angela Stent, director of the Center for Eurasian, Russian and Eastern European Studies at Georgetown University. "This is probably one of the more dangerous environments for holding an Olympics."

Sochi is considered vulnerable because of its proximity to the bloody insurgency in the North Caucasus.

The national Olympic committees in several nations -- including the U.S. -- have received messages warning them not to bring athletes to Russia in February.

Though officials said Wednesday that the letters and emails lack credibility, there have been other ominous signs.

Last summer, Chechen rebel leader Doku Umarov encouraged attacks on what he characterized as a sporting event held on "the bones of our ancestors, on the bones of many, many dead Muslims buried on our land by the Black Sea."

A group claiming responsibility for the Volgograd bombings issued similar threats in another video.

Olympic officials and organizers have insisted all along that they can keep athletes and spectators safe when the competition begins early next month. This a pet project for President Vladimir Putin, who has cut no corners in spending an estimated $50 billion on the Games and surrounding infrastructure.

In addition to mustering a large security force, the government has restricted travel in the area, allowing only cars with Sochi registrations or Olympic passes to drive on city streets.
Rep. Michael McCaul (R-Texas), chairman of the House Committee on Homeland Security, is touring the city this week and told CNN the venues are "quite fortified," calling Russian security efforts the "most impressive" in Olympic history.

Richards has heard similar reports from his employees already in Sochi.

"The measures that the Russians have taken are, by all accounts, extraordinary," he said. "The resources they have brought to bear are all that you would hope for."

The crisis management expert and others like him believe the possibility of a large-scale incident at an Olympic venue remains slight.

"To disrupt the Games and do something systemic takes a lot of resources and a level of competency we have yet to see in any of these [militants]," he said.

Terrorists are more likely to attack on the periphery, in nearby cities or in regional transport hubs where fans are passing through on their way to Sochi.

Nevertheless, the U.S. military announced this week that it will keep warships and aircraft at the ready should American athletes and officials require emergency evacuation.

The Americans have also offered to help with security. That assistance could include providing Russia with technology for countering improvised explosive devices, Army Gen. Martin E. Dempsey, who is the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, told the American Forces Press Service.

Though the Federal Security Service of Russia has conferred with British intelligence officials, Stent said that cooperation with the U.S. has proved tricky in the past.

The Georgetown professor suggests that concerns surrounding these Winter Games should make people wonder why the International Olympic Committee chose Sochi in the first place.

"Given the neighborhood," she said, "you could question whether this was a wise decision."

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Reference for this story with attribution and a link

INTERESTING NEWS!

**Governor Cuomo Launches Citizen Preparedness Corps Training Program**

By Long Island News & PRs
Published: January 27 2014

Goal is to provide 100,000 citizens with the tools they need to be ready and able to help their families and neighbors during emergencies.

**Albany, NY - January 27, 2014** - Governor Andrew M. Cuomo will launch on February 1 the Citizen Preparedness Corps Training Program that will train 100,000 New Yorkers during 2014 in the proper preparation for emergencies or disasters. The program seeks to provide citizens with the tools and resources to prepare for emergencies and disasters, respond accordingly and recover as quickly as possible to pre-disaster conditions.

“Severe weather events are becoming more frequent and extreme and to make sure that our communities are safe, we need more New
Yorkers than ever to be prepared and trained to respond,” said Governor Cuomo. “The Citizen Preparedness Corps Training Program will train 100,000 citizens to help provide crucial and critical assistance in their own homes or in their own communities whenever disaster strikes.”

Citizen Preparedness Corps training will begin on Saturday, February 1st in Richmond and Suffolk Counties at:

Saturday, February 1st, 2014 - Richmond County
New Dorp High School, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
465 New Dorp Lane, Staten Island, NY 10306

Saturday, February 1st, 2014 - Suffolk County
Farmingdale State College, 12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Roosevelt Hall, Multipurpose Room
2350 Broadhollow Road, Farmingdale, NY 11735

Space is limited, so participants are required to register in advance. Pre-registration for the training session is available at: http://www.nyprepare.gov/aware-prepare/nysprepare/

Training sessions will be led by the New York National Guard, working with experts from the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services' Office of Emergency Management and Office of Fire Prevention and Control. All training sessions will be coordinated with local county emergency management personnel.

Major General Patrick A. Murphy, the Adjutant General NYS Division of Military and Naval Affairs said, “The men and women of the New York Army and Air National Guard understand the value of being prepared for any emergency, since our service members are always there to assist when disaster strikes. Our Soldiers and Airmen are proud to be part of the Governor's effort to better prepare New Yorkers to handle floods, hurricanes, tornados, snowstorms or whatever nature can throw at us. We look forward to engaging our fellow New Yorkers in this important emergency preparedness training.”

Jerome M. Hauer, Commissioner, NYS Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services said, “I applaud Governor Cuomo for taking an assertive and proactive approach on training citizens for any type of disaster. In times of emergency or extreme difficulty caused by a disaster, it is often citizens in their homes or on their residential blocks who are immediately faced with the need to respond. This training effort will better prepare them for the types of response activities they should engage in to safeguard themselves and their families and possibly their neighbors.”

The training course will provide an introduction to responding to a natural or man-made disaster. Participants will be advised on how to properly prepare for any disaster, including developing a family emergency plan and stocking up on emergency supplies. Proper preparation in the home will be emphasized with encouragement to ensure that smoke and carbon monoxide detectors, along with fire extinguishers, are all available and in proper working order. Trainers will supply information on what organizations can provide additional support; how to register for NY-Alert, the free statewide emergency alert system; and how to be aware of notifications from such sources as the Emergency Broadcast System. Participants will also be encouraged to get more involved in existing community-based emergency activities that may be organized through local schools, businesses or community-based organizations.
A key component of this training effort is the distribution of Citizen Preparedness Corps Response Kits that contain key items to assist individuals in the immediate aftermath of a disaster. As an individual, a family member, and member of their community, it is essential that citizens take a few basic steps to be prepared; their quality of life and their loved ones may depend on it. Often during an emergency, electricity, heat, air conditioning or telephone service may not work. Citizens should be prepared to make it on their own for at least 7-10 days, maybe longer. Click here for a photo of the kit.

Every training participant (one per family) will receive a free Citizen Preparedness Corps Response Starter Kit, which includes:

- Plastic drop cloth
- Light stick
- (2) D Batteries
- First Aid Kit
- Face mask
- Safety goggles
- AM/FM pocket radio with batteries
- (6) packs of drinking water
- (6) food bars
- Regular flashlight
- Emergency blanket
- Duct tape
- Work gloves
- Water bottle

As part of the training, participants will receive information about the other supplies and personal information that they should add to their personal Response Kit.