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Mid-Atlantic States Team up in *All Hazards Forum* for Coordinated Emergency Management and Homeland Security Readiness

Bethesda, MD -- This fall, emergency management personnel, state and county homeland security officials, and public sector practitioners from across the Mid-Atlantic will gather for a landmark regional homeland security and emergency management forum where they will make contacts with peers across jurisdictional lines, share best practices, discuss tactics and strategies for dealing with major incidents, discover new technologies available to them, and address new undertakings imposed by increased homeland-security concerns.

The second annual **2005 All Hazards Forum (AHF)** will be held **Tuesday, October 25 through Friday, October 28** at the **Baltimore Convention Center** in Baltimore, Maryland. Participating states include Maryland, Virginia, Delaware, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, North Carolina, New Jersey and Washington, D.C.

"The AHF is a great platform for the Mid Atlantic States to coordinate a regional approach to homeland security and all hazards preparedness," said John Contestabile, Director of Procurement, Maryland Department of Transportation and Chair of the 2005 All Hazards Forum. "It is also one of the few places where all levels of government, private sector participants and universities, can collaborate to improve security throughout the region."

Dedicated to ensuring the continued safety, readiness and growth of the Mid-Atlantic region, the 2005 All Hazards Forum is the only event that focuses on both natural and terrorist disaster management, fulfills the need for networking and information sharing across public and private sectors and provides a platform for regional business and economic development.

This state endorsed and backed annual event:

- Fills a regional void by providing valuable insights on available technologies and solutions to homeland security and emergency management planners and practitioners
- Attracts a broad regional audience including federal, state and local government, industry, education and nonprofit sectors
- Connects public and private sector stakeholders and enables coordinated planning and response among agencies and states within the region
- Facilitates strategic partnering between state and local government and industry professionals by showcasing new technology and solutions to pivotal all hazards concerns
- Provides an expansive forum for information exchange and networking to first-responder professionals including representatives from Fire and Rescue, Public Health, Public Safety, Law

Enforcement, EMS, Defense, Homeland Security, Search and Rescue, and associations representing these fields

According to Evalyn Fisher, Director for the Bureau of Plans for the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency, the 2005 AHF fills an extremely important role. “In my opinion, it is the single most important thing the region is doing for improved preparedness,” she said.

The 2005 AHF program offers timely and critical content through well-planned workshops, education and networking tracks, and presentations. Major highlights include:

Featured Pavilions:

- IT Solutions & Cyber Security
- First Responder Gear & Equipment
- Transportation
- Biodefense
- Communications & Interoperability

Project Briefings:

- In-depth briefings and interactive demonstrations of available services, technologies and products from major industry sponsors
- FREE Educational Seminars by top industry leaders

IT Vendor Forums:

- Demonstrations of latest solutions and technology by major IT industry suppliers
- Business development networking sessions with both small and large regional and national information technology companies

In addition to the above, this year’s AHF will feature a 20,500 square feet exhibit hall highlighting latest products and technologies designed to help first responders perform their jobs more effectively. Attendees will also be able to enjoy displays and demonstrations of latest emergency equipment, first-response products, services, and gear by trained professionals.

For additional information about the 2005 AHF, Forum topics, exhibiting opportunities, and to get latest updates, please visit www.allhazardsforum.com or contact Rabab Pettitt or Susan Muma at the numbers listed above.

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