

## Center of Excellence for Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response

*Emergency Preparedness Briefing*1 Church Street, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor · New Haven, CT 06510 · (203) 688-3224 · FAX (203) 688-4618 · [Center@ynhh.org](mailto:Center@ynhh.org)**ELEVATED**

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Threat Level

July 15, 2005

U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
Announces Six-Point Agenda

- On July 13 Secretary Michael Chertoff announced a six-point agenda for the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) designed to ensure that the Department's policies, operations and structures are aligned in the best way to address the present and future threats that face our nation. The six-point agenda will guide DHS in the near term and result in changes that will: 1) increase overall preparedness, 2) create better transportation security systems, 3) strengthen border security and interior enforcement and reform the immigration processes, 4) enhance information sharing, 5) improve DHS financial management and human resource development and 6) realign the DHS organization to maximize mission performance. More information can be found on the DHS website at [http://www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/interapp/press\\_release/press\\_release\\_0703.xml](http://www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/interapp/press_release/press_release_0703.xml).

## Spanish Power Plant Attacks

- Four explosions struck a new, soon-to-be-operational electrical power plant in northern Spain on Tuesday July 13, 2005 and appear to be linked to the Basque Separatist Group ETA, not Al Qaeda. While a threat exists to Americans visiting Spain, the attacks have not affected U.S. infrastructure and there is no immediate related threat to Connecticut power infrastructure at this time.

New Connecticut Department of Emergency  
Management and Homeland Security  
Newsletter

- The Connecticut Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DEMHS) has launched a newsletter "The DEMHS Advisor". According to DEMHS Commissioner James M. Thomas, the DEMHS Advisor is designed to provide readers with the latest grant and funding news, training opportunities, drills and exercise schedules and information on federal, state and local initiatives. Access the DEMHS Advisor online at <http://www.ct.gov/demhs/cwp/view.asp?Q=296154&A=11>.

Southern Tier Hospital Emergency &  
Terrorism Preparedness Committee August  
Meeting Cancelled

- The Southern Tier Hospital Emergency and Terrorism Preparedness Committee meeting scheduled for August 11, 2005 has been cancelled. The Committee will reconvene on September 8, 2005.

Threat Level Change Targeted to Mass  
Transit Sector

- In light of the July 7, 2005 terrorist attacks in London, U. S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) threat level remains at Code Orange – or High – for only the mass transit portion of the transportation sector. This includes regional and inter-city passenger rail, subways and metropolitan bus systems. DHS is asking for increased vigilance in other transportation systems and has indicated that the United States has no specific, credible information suggesting an imminent attack in the United States. More information is available on the DHS website at: <http://www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/>.

International Congress on Disaster Medicine  
and Emergency Management

- Register now for the Yale New Haven International Congress on Disaster Medicine and Emergency Management to be held September 12-13, 2005 at the Omni New Haven Hotel, 155 Temple St., New Haven, CT. A pre-conference workshop, *Health Disaster Management Guidelines for Evaluation and Research*, and a post-conference National Disaster Life Support (NDLS) course will also be offered for an additional fee. Online registration and forms can be accessed at <http://yalenewhavenhealth.org/emergency/commu/natconf.html>

Final Call for Congress Abstract  
Submissions

- The Yale New Haven International Congress on Disaster Medicine and Emergency Management invites individuals or organizations to submit one or more written abstracts describing their unique approach or innovation for oral presentation. The abstract submission deadline is today, July 15, 2005. Abstracts will be peer-reviewed and those accepted will be published in an upcoming issue of Prehospital and Disaster Medicine, the official journal of the World Association for Disaster and Emergency Medicine. For more information and to access the abstract submission form, visit: [http://yalenewhavenhealth.org/emergency/commu/call\\_abstracts.html](http://yalenewhavenhealth.org/emergency/commu/call_abstracts.html).

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### Emergency Credentialing Program

- Over 3,439 professionals licensed by the State and representing all disciplines have been recruited for the Emergency Credentialing Program (ECP). Potential volunteers can now access ECP recruitment information through the YNHHS CoE website at <http://yalenewhavenhealth.org/emergency/progsvcs/capacitybuilding.html>. Each hospital that has agreed to participate in the ECP should provide the name of a contact person who will be asked to support the program within their institution. Hospitals are encouraged to use part of their surge capacity budget to support the minimal resources needed at their institution for program recruitment and maintenance. If your facility has not already done so, please forward the name and contact information for your hospital designated Emergency Credentialing Program contact person to Carol Luddy, RN at (203) 688-5544 or [carol.luddy@ynhh.org](mailto:carol.luddy@ynhh.org).

### Laboratory Training

- All microbiology managers are encouraged to have members of their staff participate in training that is being offered by the Bioterrorism unit of the State of Connecticut Public Health Laboratory. Registrations are still being taken for the mini wet lab workshops at the State Laboratory in Hartford. These workshops are being offered throughout July and August on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 10 a.m. to noon or 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.. The training sessions have been developed based on the outcomes of bioterrorism drills and education and training survey requests. The wet lab will enable attendees to see the capabilities of the State laboratory and get invaluable hands-on experience with a few select agents. There will be a review of the CDC's Bioterrorism Response Guide Level A Protocol manual, personal protective equipment in a Level 3 lab and the sentinel lab checklist. For details and registration information please call Diane Barden, the Bioresponse Coordinator at the State of Connecticut Department of Public Health Laboratory at 860-509-8615 or Virginia Kristie, Laboratory Program Advisor at 203-688-2594.

Questions, comments or suggestions should be forwarded by FAX to (203) 688-4618 or by e-mail to: [Center@ynhh.org](mailto:Center@ynhh.org)

### Training/Education

- Twenty eight thousand two hundred and eighty two (28,282) personnel representing healthcare delivery agencies in the southern tier of Connecticut have completed EM 101 or EM 102 as part of their emergency preparedness efforts.

### Mandatory Connecticut Pre-Event Vaccination System Training

- The State of Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH) has required all acute care hospitals to maintain a minimum of two staff persons who are trained to use and access the CT-PVS database by August 30, 2005. In addition to the July 21 training date already scheduled, additional courses will be scheduled throughout August and September. Hospitals that have registered two individuals for training, whether that training has been completed by August 30 or not, will be considered to have met this contractual obligation. Individuals should enroll through <http://ct.train.org> as soon as possible. For questions, please contact Rory Angulo, MD, MBA, at the State of Connecticut Department of Public Health at (860) 509-7691.

### Mark I Kit Update

- The State of Connecticut Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DEMHS) and the State of Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH), along with the Connecticut State Legislature, recently approved the use of the Mark I Nerve Agent Antidote kits by first responders. The Centers of Excellence (CoE) at Yale New Haven Health System and Hartford Hospital have been tasked with providing Train-the-Trainer programs to instructors from participating towns. YNHHS CoE has scheduled nine Train-the-Trainer programs at four locations throughout the southern part of Connecticut. Once a community has completed the required training of their first responders and implemented a method of managing storage and quality control for the kits, the State will distribute Mark I kits to the community's point-of-contact. For additional information regarding the Mark I program, contact David Burich at (203) 688-3721 or [david.burich@ynhh.org](mailto:david.burich@ynhh.org).

### Smallpox Vaccination Clinic in August

- A smallpox vaccination clinic will be held on Monday, August 15, 2005 from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m., at the University of Connecticut Occupational/Environmental Health Clinic in Farmington. All volunteer or professional staff recruited for participation in smallpox vaccination clinics are eligible to be vaccinated including vaccinators, administrators and support staff. All those vaccinated are covered by federal compensation law should an adverse event occur related to receiving the smallpox vaccination. To make an appointment please call the UCONN Occupational/Environmental Health Call Center at (860) 679-1692. Questions regarding the smallpox vaccination program may be directed to Monica Rak, RN, BT Public Health Intervention Program Nurse Consultant at (860) 509-7995.

**UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS**

<u>EVENT</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
OEP EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE	7/21/05	10:00 AM	CB 1048
SOUTHERN TIER HOSPITAL EMERGENCY & TERRORISM PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE	8/11/05		<b>CANCELLED</b>
YALE NEW HAVEN INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON DISASTER MEDICINE AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT	9/12-13/05		OMNI NEW HAVEN HOTEL

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

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