

Center of Excellence for Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response

Emergency Preparedness Briefing

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ELEVATED

Volume 3, Issue 35

Threat Level

September 1, 2005

Governor Rell Announces Coordinated Relief Effort to Assist Hurricane Katrina Victims: **New**

- Governor M. Jodi Rell has announced a coordinated Connecticut relief effort to assist victims of Hurricane Katrina, including collection centers set up at state National Guard Armories where donations of bottled water, ready-to-eat food, batteries and other supplies will be received, as well as possible additional actions by state agencies. The Connecticut Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security is in contact with its sister states through the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) to assess the situation and needs of impacted states. Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama are currently assessing the assistance they need. Once they articulate those needs, Connecticut stands ready to act.

Connecticut Department of Public Health Request for Names of Professionals Available for Deployment to Hurricane Affected Areas: **New**

- State of Connecticut Department of Public Health Commissioner Galvin has received an official request from Secretary Leavitt to supply names of professionals who would be available for deployment at "medically enhanced" shelters if requested by the Department of Health and Human Services. Connecticut, through its statewide emergency credentialing program, is prepared to offer assistance to Mississippi, Louisiana and Alabama as requests are received through the State of Connecticut Department of Public Health. All deployment of hospital-based healthcare professionals related to this disaster will be coordinated through the appropriate state agencies to ensure that these volunteers are placed when and where they are needed most, that the volunteers are appropriately screened and prepared for a prolonged hardship assignment and that they are afforded with appropriate legal and financial protections afforded through the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC). The Office of Emergency Preparedness encourages our delivery network hospitals to begin considering how they might lend support to this type of effort and will assist the Department of Public Health with coordinating requests for volunteers through the Emergency Credentialing System (ECS). Should you have any questions, please contact Carol Luddy, ECS Coordinator, Office of Emergency Preparedness at 688-5544 or Carol.Luddy@ynhh.org.

United States Government Response to the Aftermath of Hurricane Katrina: **New**

- President Bush has declared major disasters for areas of Louisiana, Mississippi, Florida and Alabama affected by Hurricane Katrina. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is actively managing federal assistance to these affected communities. The DHS has declared Hurricane Katrina an Incidence of National Significance, the first ever use of this designation under the new National Response Plan. This designation gives the DHS the lead responsibility to coordinate federal response and recovery efforts. The plan is designed to bring together all federal resources in order to expedite relief to those who need it most. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is currently in the region directing efforts under the National Response Plan. FEMA has deployed 57 Disaster Medical Assistance Teams, 28 Urban Search and Rescue task forces and two Incident Support Teams and is moving them into impacted areas. The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is making available all of their capabilities to help state and local officials provide care and assistance to the victims of this disaster. HHS efforts include deployment of mobile hospital beds and associated equipment, utilization of the National Disaster Medical System to identify available hospital beds and coordination of moving patients to these facilities and shipment of medical supplies from the Strategic National Stockpile to Louisiana state officials. The Department of Defense anticipates providing a 500 bed hospital to the region and is moving the hospital ship USNS Comfort to the Gulf region. An additional eight ships will provide medical support, humanitarian relief and transportation. The American Red Cross is providing a safe haven for nearly 46,000 evacuees in more than 230 Red Cross Shelters. Further information and resources regarding the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina can be found at www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/ and www.fema.gov/press/2005/resources_katrina.shtm#canhelp.

Final Chance to Register for the International Congress on Disaster Medicine and Emergency Management

- Online registration for the Yale New Haven International Congress on Disaster Medicine and Emergency Management being held in New Haven, Connecticut, on September 12 and 13, 2005 **will close today, Friday, September 2 at 4 p.m. EST.** However, a limited number of registrations is still available. If interested, please contact Lynette Lines at the Yale New Haven Center for Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Response, 203-688-2590 or lynette.lines@ynhh.org.

CDC Resources for Hurricane Recovery: **New**

- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has developed several new resources related to the hurricane at <http://www.bt.cdc.gov/disasters/hurricanes/>. These resources include "Keeping Food and Water Safe", "Electrical Hazards" and "Mental Health". The three new mental health primers: key principals, guidelines for responders and guidelines for states are attached to this briefing.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 2 Emergency Credentialing
- 2 National Preparedness Month
- 3 Upcoming Meetings, Events and Training

Special Meeting of Southern Tier Emergency & Terrorism Preparedness Committee Scheduled for September

- The Southern Tier Hospital Emergency and Terrorism Preparedness Committee meeting originally scheduled for September 8 has been rescheduled for September 15, 2005, 8:30 – 10:00 a.m. at CHA in Wallingford to give committee members an opportunity to meet with Dr. Marvin Birnbaum, President of the World Association for Disaster and Emergency Medicine (WADEM). Dr. Birnbaum, a world renowned expert in disaster medicine will discuss the nature of disasters and the need for a standardized vocabulary and framework for disaster evaluation and research. Such standardization is essential to ensure that lessons can be learned from disasters and applied to improved response in the future. We hope you will all be able to join us for an exciting and educational presentation.

September is National Preparedness Month: Updated

- The Yale New Haven Health Center for Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Response has joined a coalition of more than 50 national organizations to engage Americans in emergency preparedness in September National Preparedness Month. National Preparedness Month is a nationwide effort held each September to encourage Americans to take simple steps to prepare for emergencies in their homes, businesses and schools. National Preparedness Month 2005 is being co-sponsored by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the American Red Cross. Throughout September, these organizations will work with a wide variety of groups - including local, state and federal government agencies and the private sector - to highlight the importance of emergency preparedness and promote individual involvement through events and activities across the nation. The DHS website features "30 Tips for Emergency Preparedness" at <http://www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/>.

Training/Education: Updated

- Twenty nine thousand four hundred and ninety eight (29,498) 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.
- Emergency Management 103 (EM 103) is due to be launched shortly on both the YNHHS OEP learning management system as well as Health Stream. This updated version of Emergency Management 102 provides helpful guidance to all healthcare workers on the needs of special populations, including children, the elderly, the disabled and non-English speakers. As with EM 102, the course is able to be completed within approximately 25 minutes and will also be made available on a narrated CD-ROM and as an instructor-led program. A Spanish version is also under development. Please contact Mark Schneider, OEP Education and Training Supervisor, at 203-688-2577 or mark.schneider@ynhh.org for more information on EM 103 or to discuss further ways in which we might be able to help you with your emergency preparedness education and training needs.

Emergency Credentialing Program: Updated

- The overwhelming impact of Hurricane Katrina underscores the importance of the ECS program as an effective emergency management response strategy available to those Connecticut hospitals that would be called upon to provide care to victims of a large scale disaster. A clinical skills and competencies self-assessment form is being mailed to each of the behavioral health, clinical lab, diagnostic imaging, nursing and pharmacy professionals who have volunteered to participate in the program. This information will be collected and entered into a database that will be forwarded to hospitals for validation. Meetings are being scheduled with individual hospital based ECS program contacts to describe the program in greater detail. If you have not done so already, please forward the name of your hospital's ECS program coordinator to Carol Luddy, RN at (203) 688-5544 or carol.luddy@ynhh.org. Three thousand four hundred and seventy four (3,474) health professionals have already volunteered to participate in the program. New volunteers can access ECS recruitment information through the YNHHS CoE website at <http://yalenewhavenhealth.org/emergency/progsvcs/capacitybuilding.html>.

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

Biodosimetry Laboratory: New

- The Biodosimetry Laboratory has purchased a 150-slide capacity motorized stage and one satellite station to upgrade the image analysis system currently used in the laboratory to estimate radiation dose. These system enhancements will increase throughput from 40 samples to 80 samples per day. The automated stage correctly positions slides from a 150-slide stack thus, allowing the technologist to evaluate samples without the interruption of having to manually exchange and reposition subsequent sample slides for analysis. The satellite station permits an additional technologist to analyze samples and evaluate radiation-induced DNA damage in injured cells that are identified by the imaging system. Questions regarding the Biodosimetry Laboratory should be referred to Joseph Albanese at 203-688-3316 or joseph.albanese@ynhh.org.

UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

<u>EVENT</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
YALE NEW HAVEN INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON DISASTER MEDICINE AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT	9/12-13/05		OMNI NEW HAVEN HOTEL
SOUTHERN TIER HOSPITAL EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE MTG	9/15/05	8:30 A.M.	CT HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION
NATIONAL CONFERENCE FOR HOSPITAL-BASED FIRST RECEIVERS	10/6-7/05		WASHINGTON, DC

UPCOMING TRAINING & EDUCATION

<u>EVENT</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
INTRODUCTION TO PUBLIC HEALTH	9/13/05 9/26/05	8:30 A.M. TO 3:30 P.M.	TOLLAND FIRE TRAINING CENTER CT HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION
EMS OPERATIONS AND PLANNING FOR WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION RHODE ISLAND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY	11/1/2005 – 11/3/2005	8:00 A.M. TO 5:00 P.M.	CONTACT MICHELLE SAN SOUCI, TRAINING OFFICER 401-462-7122 MICHELLE.SANSOUCI@RI.NGB.ARMY. MIL

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

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