

Center of Excellence for Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response

*Emergency Preparedness Briefing*1 Church Street, 5th Floor · New Haven, CT 06510 · (203) 688-3224 · FAX (203) 688-4618 · OEPEWEB@ynhh.org**ELEVATED**

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Threat Level

September 9, 2005

State of Connecticut Department of Public Health Hurricane Drill September 15, 2005: **New**

- The State of Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH) Office of Emergency Preparedness has announced that all state agencies and multiple state preparedness planning partners will be expected to participate in a Hurricane Drill Thursday September 15, 2005 from 9 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.. During this exercise both the State Emergency Operations Center and the DPH Emergency Command Center will be staffed. The drill scenario will involve a hurricane that strikes the shoreline (location to be determined). The focus of this exercise is centered on the recovery phase of testing communications systems, and it is anticipated that only notional play in those affected area(s) will be involved. Communications with hospitals will be one of the primary functions evaluated by DPH. Hospitals should be prepared to send and receive messaging utilizing the Mednet System and the satellite phones. Additionally, hospitals may be requested to provide bed status updates. Further information will be disseminated from DPH as the date approaches.

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

- The federal effort to save lives, sustain life and support recovery and law enforcement operations in areas affected by Hurricane Katrina continues around the clock. Nearly 50,000 lives have been saved through rescues. There are over 750 shelters with more than 235,400 evacuees housed. Seven thousand five hundred Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) representatives including 61 National Disaster Medical System Teams and 28 urban search and rescue teams have responded in addition to 4,000 U.S. Coast Guard personnel, 41,500 National Guard personnel and 17,000 Active Duty Military persons. More than 12 million meals and 21 million liters of water have been provided to the affected areas. All patients and staff from the 11 top priority hospitals in the New Orleans area have been fully evacuated. Three other hospitals in the area are fully functioning with fuel and power and have no need to evacuate. The Office of the Surgeon General and the Office of Public Health Emergency Preparedness are in the process of mobilizing and identifying healthcare professionals and relief personnel to assist in Hurricane Katrina relief efforts. They have registered more than 17,000 medical volunteers to assist in recovery measures. The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is establishing a network of up to 40 medical shelters staffed by 4,000 medical personnel and with the collective capacity of 10,000 beds. HHS has identified 2,600 beds in hospitals in the immediate area and 40,000 beds nationwide should they be needed. Public health professionals deployed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to the affected communities continue to do rapid assessments for public health and medical concerns and respond to specific public health needs. Infection control, mosquito abatement and injury prevention for persons returning to communities and response workers is the top priority. Further information can be found at <http://www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/>.

Hurricane Katrina Response and Guidance for Health-Care Providers from the CDC: **New**

- The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has provided multiple sets of guidelines, available at <http://www.bt.cdc.gov/disasters/hurricanes/index.asp>. These include guidelines of particular interest to healthcare providers, relief workers and shelter operators. *Hurricane-Related Information for Health-Care Professionals* (<http://www.bt.cdc.gov/disasters/hurricanes/hcp.asp>) includes guidelines for managing acute diarrhea and guidance related to immunizations and vaccine storage. *Worker Safety During Hurricane Cleanup* (<http://www.bt.cdc.gov/disasters/hurricanes/workers.asp>) includes health recommendations for relief workers and guidance on worker safety during a power outage. *Hurricane Katrina Information for Shelters* (<http://www.bt.cdc.gov/disasters/hurricanes/katrina/shelters.asp>) includes guidance on infection control for community shelters and key facts regarding infectious diseases. In addition, a new compilation, *Natural Disasters*, has been added to the *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR)* website (<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr>). This guide provides Internet links to previously published *MMWR* reports regarding assessment of health needs and surveillance of morbidity and mortality after hurricanes, floods and the December 26, 2004 tsunami.

Yale New Haven International Congress on Disaster Medicine and Emergency Management

- The Yale New Haven International Congress on Disaster Medicine and Emergency Management will be held at the Omni Hotel in New Haven, Connecticut, on September 12 and 13, 2005. On-site registrations will be available. The program will reflect lessons learned from previous disasters, the current response to Hurricane Katrina and preparation for future disasters.

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Special Meeting of Southern Tier Emergency & Terrorism Preparedness Committee Scheduled for September 15

- The Southern Tier Hospital Emergency and Terrorism Preparedness Committee meeting will be held September 15, 2005, 8:30 – 10:00 a.m. at CHA in Wallingford. Dr. Marvin Birnbaum, President of the World Association for Disaster and Emergency Medicine (WADDEM) and 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.

CDC Clinician Outreach and Communication Activity Conference Call: Hurricane Relevant Issues: **New**

- J. Todd Weber, MD, Deputy Assistant for the National Center for Infectious Disease and Team Leader for the Clinical Care Team for the CDC Hurricane Katrina response will lead a conference call Tuesday September 13, 2005 at 1 p.m. EST regarding hurricane relevant issues. The objective for the call is a review of clinically relevant issues related to the hurricane affected areas and populations. Information and presentation resources will be posted at the following site prior to the call <http://www.bt.cdc.gov/coca/callsummary.asp>. The dial in number for the call is 800-779-1416 and the password is "hurricane".

September is National Preparedness Month: **Updated**

- The United States Department of Homeland Security and the American Red Cross are co-sponsors of National Preparedness Month, a nationwide effort to encourage Americans to prepare for emergencies. The DHS website features "30 Tips for Emergency Preparedness" at <http://www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/>. The Office of Emergency Preparedness has planned activities that will focus attention on the need to prepare and provide helpful information on how to prepare to YNHHS staff, patients and visitors. A graphic display, depicting the theme "How Will You Respond" will be set up at each of the delivery network hospitals for the following days in September: Yale-New Haven Hospital September 19, 20 and 21, Bridgeport Hospital September 26, 27 and 28 and Greenwich Hospital September 29 and 30. Please stop by the display to receive information on the Peace of Mind plan, the Connecticut Emergency Credentialing program, preparedness kits and emergency preparedness coloring books for children.

CDC Radiological Terrorism: Emergency Management Pocket Guide for Clinicians: **New**

- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has released a pocket guide designed as a supplement to the CDC training program Radiological Terrorism: Just in Time Training for Hospital Clinicians. The pocket guide is designed as a quick reference for clinicians, including physicians, nurses and other health care professionals, who will provide emergency care in a hospital setting following a radiological terrorism incident. The guide can be found at <http://www.bt.cdc.gov/radiation/pocket.asp>.

Emergency Credentialing Program: **Updated**

- At the request of Governor Rell, hospitals were asked last week to provide a preliminary list of staff members who were willing to travel to the Gulf region and could be released from their hospitals for service up to two weeks in length. Over 200 volunteers representing all hospitals and professional disciplines are already included on the master volunteer list. The Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security have indicated that Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) requests for volunteer healthcare resource support appear to be decreasing. Connecticut's response to Hurricane Katrina will continue to be coordinated through the Governor's Office and proper EMAC channels. No formal request for volunteer resource support has been received by Governor Rell. However, in anticipation of a future request for support, the YNHHS ECP Coordinator will continue to compile lists of volunteers and ensure that volunteers are enrolled in the State of Connecticut Emergency Credentialing Program (ECP). If you have not done so already, please forward the name of your hospital's ECP program coordinator to Carol Luddy, RN at (203) 688-5544 or carol.luddy@ynhh.org. Potential volunteers can now access ECP recruitment information through the YNHHS CoE website at <http://yalenewhavenhealth.org/emergency/progsvcs/capacitybuildng.html>.
- Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) representatives have received countless offers to provide assistance to the states impacted by Hurricane Katrina. EMAC has actively promoted these resources by forwarding offers to the impacted states. However, due to the enormous scope of this response, replies to these offers are often delayed. Louisiana and Mississippi have a finite capacity to support incoming assistance. Requests for assistance are carefully planned so that this capacity is not exceeded. Self-deployments and unsolicited offers of assistance have compromised these efforts. Healthcare professionals and other support staff are strongly encouraged to work with the state Emergency Credentialing Program (<http://yalenewhavenhealth.org/emergency/progsvcs/capacitybuildng.html>) to communicate offers of assistance. EMAC protocols have been used to deploy more than 35,000 emergency responders to the states impacted by Hurricane Katrina. *These protocols were established to serve the interests of both requesting and assisting states. It is critical that all mutual aid participants respect this process and wait for assistance to be requested before taking action.*

Fixed Satellite Telephone Systems: **New**

- As part of the Yale New Haven Health System commitment to its delivery network hospital's communications systems, satellite telephone systems have been installed at Bridgeport Hospital and the Shoreline Medical Center. Installations at Yale-New Haven and Greenwich Hospitals are in the process of being scheduled with completion by the end of September 2005. The satellite telephone systems work through the existing hospital internal telephones and are not dependent upon landline or cellular telephone systems. Four pre-assigned telephone numbers can be used on any internal telephone, protected by code access, to dial any telephone locally or worldwide via satellite access. For further information on the satellite telephone systems please contact Richard.Kleindienst.Sr@ynhh.org at 203-688-3912.

Training/Education: Updated

- Twenty nine five hundred and seventy seven (29,577) 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 October 1, 2005 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.
- EM 120, an on-line PPE/decontamination course aligned with OSHA-defined competencies for first responder awareness level, has undergone review by subject matter experts and was approved by the Emergency Preparedness Education and Training Subcommittee with an anticipated release date of mid-November. An advanced decontamination operations level course to be delivered in concert with an instructor-led practicum is under development for release next year. Questions regarding the course may be directed to Mark Schneider at (203) 688-2577, mark.schneider@ynhh.org.

Weekly MedSat Test: New

- The State of Connecticut Department of Public Health conducts a test of the MedSat radio system every Thursday morning at 10 a.m. As evidenced in the recent disastrous events that unfolded in the wake of Katrina, our ability to communicate is an essential tool in management of disaster situations. All hospitals need to participate in these weekly tests to ensure that this valuable tool will enable us to communicate statewide in the event of a complete communications failure. The MedSat system utilizes satellite technology and therefore is not dependent on landlines which may fail in a disaster. For further information on the MedSat system please contact Richard.Kleindienst.Sr@ynhh.org at 203-688-3912.

CHEMPACK Project: New

- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) conducted site visits during the month of August at Connecticut hospitals that have agreed to store a CHEMPACK container. All three delivery network hospitals have agreed to store a container and were visited by the CDC advance team to ensure the areas identified meet the requirements to store the container. Some of those requirements include security, 24/7 monitoring, physical space, environmental needs and the installation of a telephone line. The phone line enables the CDC in Atlanta to monitor the CHEMPACK remotely and ensure it remains intact. The target date for delivery of the containers is mid October 2005 and any required modifications identified by the CDC visit will need to be completed in advance of that delivery. Questions regarding the CHEMPACK project should be referred to Richard.Kleindienst.Sr@ynhh.org at 203-688-3912.

UPCOMING TRAINING & EDUCATION

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

Questions, comments or suggestions should be forwarded by FAX to (203) 688-4618 or by e-mail to:
Center@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
PET PREPAREDNESS SEMINARS: SPONSORED BY THE NAUGATUCK VALLEY HEALTH DISTRICT.			DATES LOCATION AND TIMES AVAILABLE AT WWW.VALLEYHEALTHDISTRICT.ORG OR BY CALLING JASON BASHURA AT 203-881-3255

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

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