

Center of Excellence for Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response

Emergency Preparedness Briefing

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ELEVATED

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Threat Level

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Yale New Haven International Congress on Disaster Medicine and Emergency Management: **New**

- The Yale New Haven International Congress on Disaster Medicine and Emergency Management co-sponsored by the Yale New Haven Health System, Yale University School of Medicine, the Pan American Health Organization/ World Health Organization and the World Association for Disaster and Emergency Medicine was held in New Haven on September 12 and 13, 2005. Nearly 300 people from around the world attended the congress. The program featured national and international experts in the field of emergency management and disaster medicine. The opening ceremony keynote address featured a presentation by Dr. P.K. Carlton entitled "The Battle of New Orleans 2005: The Medical Perspective." Dr. Carlton had just returned from the field treating patients in New Orleans and energized the audience with his experiences and lessons learned. Other presentations featured information on hospital preparedness, federal programs to support preparedness and respond to disasters, training and education programs and addressing the needs of vulnerable populations.



An Introduction to the Nature of Disasters and a Framework for Research and Evaluation: **New**

- The Southern Tier Hospital Emergency and Terrorism Preparedness Committee held September 15, 2005 at CHA in Wallingford featured presentations by Dr. Marvin Birnbaum, President of the World Association for Disaster and Emergency Medicine (WADEM) and Dr. Jeffery Arnold, Medical Director for the YNHHS CoE. The presentations addressed 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 improve response in the future. Further information on the presentation content can be requested by contacting center@ynhh.org.

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

- Federal support to state and local officials and volunteer organizations continues around the clock in an effort to save lives, sustain life, and assist with law enforcement operations in areas affected by Hurricane Katrina. Nearly 250,000 people have been evacuated and over 112,000 people are currently housed in shelters in 22 states and the District of Columbia. More than 30,000 volunteer medical personnel have registered with Health and Human Services to assist in recovery efforts. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has deployed more than 87 National Disaster Medical System Teams and 28 urban search and rescue teams with nearly 7,000 personnel to save lives and render medical assistance. The Department of Health and Human Services has declared a public health emergency for Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas. This action allows the Department to waive certain Medicare, Medicaid, State Child Health Insurance Program and HIPAA requirements as well as make grants and enter into contracts more expeditiously during this emergency. Further information can be found at <http://www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/>.

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

- The State of Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH) Office of Emergency Preparedness conducted a Hurricane Drill on September 15, 2005. The drill scenario involved a hurricane that affected the shoreline. During this exercise both the State Emergency Operations Center and the DPH Emergency Command Center were operational. Communications among DPH and hospitals was one of the primary functions evaluated through the drill. Results of the drill will be shared with the hospitals after completion of the after action report.

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>. New guidelines posted this week include a personal medical information form, infection control guidance for community shelters, management of vibrio vulnificus wound infections and acute diarrhea as well as an updated hurricane evacuee medical intake form. 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. The CDC website also includes key facts about infectious disease associated with the hurricane <http://www.bt.cdc.gov/disasters/hurricanes/infectiousdisease.asp> and environmental concerns after a hurricane <http://www.bt.cdc.gov/disasters/hurricanes/environmental.asp>.

Emergency Credentialing Program: **Updated**

- At Governor Rell's request, hospitals were asked last week to provide a preliminary list of their staff members who were willing to travel to the Gulf region to volunteer and could be released from their hospitals for service up to two weeks in length. The timely response to this request from the leadership in Connecticut's hospitals along with the compassion of our hospitals' staff has resulted in a preliminary list of over 400 volunteers. To date, no formal request for assistance via the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) has been received. In anticipation of a formal EMAC request made to Governor Rell in the weeks or month's to come, please finalize and forward your preliminary volunteer lists to Carol Luddy, Emergency Credentialing Program Coordinator at carol.luddy@ynhh.org. EMAC protocols have been used to deploy more than 35,000 emergency responders to Katrina impacted states. These protocols were established to serve the interest of both requesting and assisting states. Connecticut's response to Hurricane Katrina will continue to be coordinated through the Governor's Office. Healthcare professionals are encouraged to work with the State of Connecticut Emergency Credentialing Program (ECP) <http://yalenewhavenhealth.org/emergency/progsvcs/capacitybuilding> to offer their assistance as volunteers.
- 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/capacitybuilding.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.*

September is National Preparedness Month:

- 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/>.

Training/Education: Updated

- Twenty nine thousand six hundred and twenty two (29,622) 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.
- Introduction to Emergency Management (EM 103) is due to be launched October 1, 2005 on both the YNHHS OEP learning management system as well as HealthStream. 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 is expected to be available in 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.

**CDC Radiological Terrorism: Just in Time
Training for Hospital Clinicians: New**

- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has released a brief 17 minute video covering key radiation principles and radiological procedures. The video includes demonstrations on application of these principles and procedures in several patient care scenarios in an emergency setting. The CDC Emergency Preparedness and Response website <http://www.bt.cdc.gov/radiation/justintime.asp> has information on obtaining the video.

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

UPCOMING TRAINING & EDUCATION

| <u>EVENT</u> | <u>DATE</u> | <u>TIME</u> | <u>LOCATION</u> |
|---|-------------------------------|---------------------------|---|
| INTRODUCTION TO PUBLIC HEALTH HTTP://CT.TRAIN.ORG | 9/26/05 11/1/05 11/9/05 | 8:30 A.M TO 3:30 P.M. | CT HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION WESTERN CT STATE UNIV. KENSINGTON GARDEN, SOUTHURY |
| INFECTIOUS DISEASE AFTER NATURAL DISASTERS | 9/20/05 | 3:00 P.M. TO 4:00 P.M. | WWW.UCTV.TV/CALPEN |
| LIVE RESPONSE – WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION EXERCISES | 9/28/05 | 2:00 P.M. TO 3:00 P.M. | HTTP://DLNETS.COM/NTPI_28SEP05. HTM |
| 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 |

UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

| <u>EVENT</u> | <u>DATE</u> | <u>TIME</u> | <u>LOCATION</u> |
|---|----------------|-------------------------|--|
| 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 |
| PUBLIC HEALTH PREPAREDNESS EXPO | 9/22/05 | 9:00 A.M. TO 12:30 P.M. | HB COMMUNICATIONS 60 DODGE AVE., NORTH HAVEN, CT REGISTER BY EMAIL EVENTS@HBCOMMUNICATIONS.COM |
| NATIONAL CONFERENCE FOR HOSPITAL-BASED FIRST RECEIVERS | 10/6 – 10/7/05 | | WASHINGTON, DC |

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

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