

Center of Excellence for Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response

Emergency Preparedness Briefing

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ELEVATED

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Threat Level

September 23, 2005

Preparations Under Way for Hurricane Rita:

New

- The Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), in conjunction with other federal agencies, continues to prepare for Hurricane Rita. Hurricane Rita has the potential to track through the Gulf region with the potential for significant impact on the Texas Gulf Coast. Residents of Southeastern Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama have been advised that the storm could influence areas already damaged by Hurricane Katrina. Further information is available at http://www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/interapp/press_release/press_release_0758.xml.
- The Centers for Disease Prevention and Control (CDC), including its 161 deployed professionals, continues to support the public health response to Hurricane Katrina. CDC continues to find no unexpected health concerns. While response to Hurricane Katrina continues, CDC is prepared to respond to Hurricane Rita's landfall with both medical supplies and public health rapid response teams. CDC's Hurricane Katrina New Orleans team is exploring critical health issues and consulting with local, state and federal officials about issues related to the return of residents and business owners to New Orleans. At this time, the city's condition presents a number of potential health hazards to returning residents, including challenges regarding future evacuations. For more information visit the CDC Hurricane Katrina Update site <http://www.cdc.gov/od/katrina>.

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/>.

National Disaster Life Support Program: **New**

- More than 60 students participated in a Basic Disaster Life Support training program held in New Haven September 14. An additional 65 students completed Advanced Disaster Life Support training as well as the Advanced Disaster Life Support Instructor course held September 15 to 17. The program is designed to better prepare hospital and pre-hospital medical providers and allied health staff including physicians, physician assistants, nurse practitioners, nurses, paramedics, emergency medical technicians, respiratory therapists, pharmacists and others for emergency response. The NDLS courses emphasize a comprehensive all-hazards approach to deal with catastrophic emergencies from acts of terrorism as well as natural disasters, explosions, fires and public health emergencies resulting from infectious disease outbreaks. Future courses are scheduled to be held in Connecticut in November. For further information visit http://yalenewhavenhealth.org/emergency/commu/ndls_events.html or contact David Burich at 203-688-3721 or david.burich@ynhh.org.

"PEACE of Mind" Personal/Family Preparedness Plan Now Available in Spanish:

New

- The "PEACE of Mind" personal/family preparedness plan is now available in Spanish. The "PEACE of Mind" plan is a simple tool that can be displayed in a prominent location in your home or office to serve as an ongoing reminder of the need for preparedness. Both the English and Spanish versions of the plan can be customized with your facility's logo. For more information or to receive copies of the "PEACE of Mind" plan contact Elizabeth Rivera at 203-688-2656 or Elizabeth.rivera@ynhh.org.

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Emergency Credentialing Program: Updated

- Over 3,605 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.

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

Training and Education Program: Updated

- Twenty nine thousand seven hundred and fifteen (29,715) 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

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
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
NATIONAL CONFERENCE FOR HOSPITAL-BASED FIRST RECEIVERS	10/6 – 10/7/05		WASHINGTON, DC

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

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