

THE PREPAREDNESS REPORT

The Center for Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Response

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ELEVATED THREAT LEVEL

Change in Nation's Threat Level for the Aviation Sector: **New**



The Department of Homeland Security is taking immediate steps to increase security measures in the aviation sector in coordination with heightened security precautions in the United Kingdom. Early Thursday morning, British officials arrested a number of extremists engaged in a substantial plot to destroy multiple passenger aircraft flying from the United Kingdom to the United States. There is currently no indication of plotting of such attacks originating in the

United States. While the arrests have significantly disrupted the threat, authorities cannot be certain that the threat has been entirely eliminated or the plot thwarted. As a result, the United States Government has raised the nation's threat level to **Severe or Red** for the commercial flights originating in the United Kingdom bound for the United States. In addition the threat level for commercial flights operating in or destined for the United States, has been raised to **High or Orange**. Due to the nature of the threat, the government is prohibiting any liquids from being carried on airplanes. Further information can be found at www.dhs.gov.

Pandemic Influenza COCA Conference Call – August 21, 2006: **Updated**

On Monday, August 21, 2006 Dr. Michael Doney will discuss quarantine issues and avian influenza. This call will take place from 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. EST. For more information about these calls, please visit <http://www.bt.cdc.gov/coca/callinfo.asp>.

Avian Influenza: **New**



According to the World Health Organization (WHO), the cumulative number of confirmed cases of avian influenza H5N1 as of August 8, 2006, is 235 cases and 137 deaths.

Click on map for an enlarged view.
Map courtesy of www.who.int

- OFFLU, the OIE/FAO joint network of expertise on avian influenza, will systematically make avian influenza virus sequences accessible to the entire scientific community. With this gesture, OFFLU reiterates its call to the world scientists, international organizations and countries for a global sharing of virus strains and sequences. Sharing virus strains, samples and sequences is a critical part of the global work on the surveillance and control of the highly pathogenic H5N1 virus, and supports the preparation of human vaccines. For more information, please visit http://www.oie.int/eng/press/en_060801.htm.

Pandemic Influenza Summit – September 14, 2006: **Updated**



On September 14, 2006, the Office of Yale New Haven Center for Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Response and the State of Connecticut Department of Public Health will host a *Pandemic Influenza Summit* on alternative delivery models for healthcare organizations. The summit will provide a forum for healthcare delivery organizations and agencies in Connecticut (hospitals, EMS, community health centers, nursing homes, home health agencies, physician groups and urgent

care centers) to meet and discuss the coordination of healthcare delivery through alternative systems during a pandemic influenza event. It will also provide a focus for planning and launch ongoing workgroups which will report progress to the Statewide Inter-hospital Working Group Meetings at CHA (formerly the Northern Tier and Southern Tier Hospital meetings), leading to specific recommendations in each of the topic areas to guide consistent, strategic and integrated pandemic policies and protocols.

The summit will feature Anna Likos, MD, MPH as the keynote speaker. Dr. Likos joined the Influenza Division of the CDC as a medical epidemiologist in July. Her current position in the Influenza Division is focused on the international aspect of influenza, especially influenza A, H5N1, infections in humans and she has had the opportunity to provide technical assistance to countries in Asia, Eastern Europe and Africa. The summit is offered by invitation only. For more information, please contact Eugenie Schwartz at eugenie.schwartz@ynhh.org or (203) 688-3224.

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Health Experiences of Hurricane Katrina

Survivors: **New**



The Kaiser Family Foundation interviewed low-income victims of Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans, Baton Rouge and Huston five to six months after the storm and found

that many continue to experience gaps in health care, have difficulty accessing mental health services, lack transportation to needed health care and can not afford basic necessities or healthcare. The survey attributed a sharp reduction in charity care and lack of insurance to these lasting effects. A detailed report can be viewed at <http://www.kff.org/uninsured/7538.cfm>.

September is National Preparedness Month : **New**

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 2006 is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. The goal of the month is to increase public awareness about the importance of preparing for emergencies and to encourage individuals to take action. Throughout September, Homeland Security will work with a wide variety of organizations, including local, state and federal government agencies and the private sector, to highlight the importance of family emergency preparedness and promote individual involvement through events and activities across the nation. This year's theme is "Get Prepared, Get Involved". Details on how you can participate in National Preparedness Month activities are located at www.ready.gov.

White Powder Incidents



In response to two recent white powder incidents, one in Tennessee and the other in Connecticut, the State of Connecticut Public Health Laboratory has published a brochure that outlines several types of scenarios of white powder incidents and the correct and safe responses to each type. Please visit <http://www.ynhhs.org/emergency/commu/FirstResponder.pdf> for this brochure.

Call for Strengthening Efforts to Develop Pandemic Vaccines: **New**

Responding to the pandemic flu plan released by the White House in May, the Infectious Disease Society of America and Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America have called for federal guidance to foster a consistent, unified approach to pandemic preparedness and response. Both organizations have recommended a focus on strengthening efforts to develop pandemic vaccines and the development of strong working relationships with other countries for early detection of flu viruses. The full content of their response may be found at <http://www.idsociety.org/Template.cfm?Section=Home&Template=/ContentManagement/ContentDisplay.cfm&ContentID=16612>.

New Research Method to Study Spread of Hybrid Avian Influenza

Researchers at the CDC have developed a new research method that may help identify the types of genetic changes necessary for the avian influenza virus (H5N1) to be more easily transmitted among people. Significant genetic changes in the H5N1 bird flu virus likely would be needed to create a strain that could cause a pandemic. A series of experiments were recently completed in which genes from a common human flu virus were added to genes from a 1997 H5N1 virus to create new hybrid viruses, which were tested in ferrets because their susceptibility to flu viruses is similar to that of humans. While the human viruses transmitted easily between the ferrets, the avian and hybrid viruses did not. Future CDC studies will examine whether combining genes from the human flu virus with more recent H5N1 strains makes the new virus more easily transmittable. To read further, please visit <http://www.cdc.gov/od/oc/media/pressrel/r060731.htm>.

Severe Weather around the World: **New**

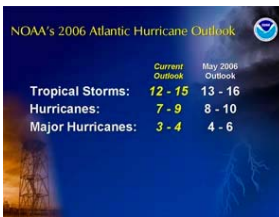


Photo Credit: NOAA

With the peak of the Atlantic hurricane season upon us, experts from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) are reiterating their prediction for an above-normal number of storms. NOAA scientists warn this year's relatively quiet start is not an indication of what the remainder of the season has in store. "This year's three named storms may pale in comparison to the record nine storms that formed through early August 2005, but conditions will be favorable for above-normal activity for the rest of this season—so we are not off the hook by any means," said retired Navy Vice Adm. Conrad C. Lautenbacher, Ph.D., undersecretary of commerce for oceans

and atmosphere and NOAA administrator. For the entire 2006 season, which ends November 30, NOAA is projecting a total of 12 to 15 named storms of which seven to nine will intensify to hurricanes, including three or four becoming major hurricanes—rated at Category 3 or higher. This forecast is slightly lower than the outlook issued in May, but remains above the seasonal average of 11 named storms, six hurricanes and two major hurricanes. Further information on the current hurricane season and potential threats can be found at <http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/index.shtml>

In light of the recent record heat in the nation, the Environmental Protection Agency has recently produced a document based on research conducted about excessive heat events. The Excessive Heat Events Guidebook contains guidance to assist communities in preparing for and responding to excessive heat events. The guidebook can be downloaded from <http://www.epa.gov/hiri/about/heatguidebook.html>.

HHS to Acquire Anthrax Immune Globulin for Stockpile : **New**

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) will purchase 10,000 therapeutic courses of treatment of Anthrax Immune Globulin (AIG) from Cangene Corporation. Deliveries of AIG to the Strategic National Stockpile are expected to begin in 2007. "Our first line of defense against anthrax is antibiotics," said HHS Assistant Secretary for Public Health Emergency Preparedness, RADM Craig Vanderwagen, M.D. "While additional studies are underway to determine its efficacy and ultimate role in treatment, AIG may have the potential to provide physicians with a source of human antibodies against the anthrax toxin that could improve the management of patients with the life-threatening toxemia associated with severe anthrax."

Medical Reserve Corps (MRC): Updated



The MRC-YNHCEPR has recruited healthcare students and volunteers from the community to increase personnel surge capacity in the event of a large-scale disaster. The MRC is actively recruiting volunteers from all disciplines including Biomedical Engineering, Materials Services, Patient Registration, Plant

Engineering, Plant Maintenance and Security Services and those with customer service skills, managerial skills and people to greet and assist in an event. The MRC is preparing for an influenza pandemic by teaching classes on personal and family preparedness to the MRC volunteers as well as community groups. For additional information about the MRC-YNHCEPR or to schedule a program presentation contact Eugenie Schwartz at (203) 688-3224 or by email at eugenie.schwartz@ynhh.org.

Diagnostic Shipping and Packaging Seminar - August 16, 2006:

Updated



The Connecticut Department of Public Health Division of Laboratory Services and Hartford Hospital are co-sponsoring a training seminar on the packaging

and shipping of diagnostic specimens (Category B). Current regulations require that individuals preparing items for shipment need to be trained only in the type of shipping they are conducting. The seminar will take place on August 16, 2006 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Connecticut Hospital Association. Space is limited. For more information about the seminar, please visit

<http://www.ynhhs.org/emergency/commu/July2006CT-LRN.2.pdf>. To register please contact Virginia Kristie, Laboratory Program Advisor, at vkristie@harthosp.org.

Questions or Comments

Questions, comments or suggestions should be forwarded by fax to (203) 688-4618 or by e-mail to center@ynhh.org www.yalenehavenhealth.org/emergency

JCR/OSHA/Red Cross 2nd Annual Emergency Preparedness Conference: Poster Abstracts

Needed: New



Joint Commission Resources, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), and the American Red Cross (ARC) - leaders in patient safety, workplace safety and emergency response - have joined forces for the 2nd Annual Emergency Preparedness Conference, Disaster Readiness on the Home Front. This conference, scheduled for October 19-20, 2006, in Washington, DC, will examine the threat of

potential natural disasters and pandemic flu and help you formulate a practical response plan that allows for peak performance during an emergency.

In preparation for this timely event, individuals are invited to submit one or more abstracts for exhibit in the conference poster presentations, coordinated by the YNHHS Office of Yale New Haven Center for Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Response. Abstracts must be submitted by September 1, 2006, and will be peer-reviewed for their quality, originality and relevance to the conference. At least one of the abstract's authors must attend to present the poster. A selection of accepted presentations will also qualify for publication in the Conference resource materials. For information about abstract submission, please visit

<http://www.ynhhs.org/emergency/disasterconference/index.html>. For more information or to register for this conference, call JCR Customer Service at (877) 223-6866 or visit

<http://jcrinc.co.mansellgroup.net/UM/T.asp?A2557.25634.1808.1.113544>

Smallpox Train the Trainer Sessions: New

The Connecticut Department of Public Health is offering several smallpox vaccination train the trainer programs. These training sessions are designed to prepare licensed healthcare professionals who can administer vaccines to become smallpox vaccinator trainers. The training contains two parts; Part A is on-line and is a prerequisite to register for Part B hands-on workshop. Upon completion of the entire training, trainers will be prepared to plan and deliver their own Smallpox Vaccinator training sessions within their jurisdictional mass dispensing area or hospital. Part B trainings are scheduled for August 16, 2006 (Meriden), August 23, 2006 (Branford) and August 24, 2006 (Westport). Registration through the TRAIN Connecticut website is required <https://ct.train.org>. For additional information contact: Monica S. Rak RN Lead Trainer, Mass Dispensing Program (860) 509-7995.

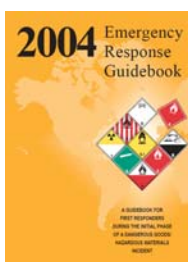
CDC Findings on Mental Health of People in Tsunami-Affected Areas: New



On August 8, 2006, two Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) studies were published in the Journal of the American Medical Association dealing with the mental health of people affected by the December 2004 South Asia tsunami. One study examined the effects of

posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and depression among children in tsunami affected areas while the other looked at mental health problems among adults in the same tsunami affected areas. Children from affected villages were more than two times as likely to report PTSD symptoms as those from unaffected villages and the rates of these symptoms had not decreased significantly nine months after the tsunami. While elevated rates of PTSD were found in adults two months after the disaster, the rates of these symptoms were still elevated, but decreased nine months after the disaster. More information about mental health needs in a disaster can be found on the CDC website at <http://www.bt.cdc.gov/mentalhealth/>.

The Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA)



The Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) is soliciting comments on the development of the 2008 Emergency Response Guidebook (ERG2008). PHMSA developed the Emergency Response Guidebook (ERG) for use by emergency service personnel to provide guidance for initial response to hazardous materials incidents. Since 1976, it has been the goal of PHMSA for all public emergency response vehicles, including fire, police and rescue squad vehicles to carry a copy of the ERG. PHMSA is soliciting comments on the experiences emergency responders have had obtaining emergency response information during the incident. The development of ERG2008 is a joint effort involving transportation agencies in the United States,

Canada and Mexico. Any comments must be received by September 18, 2006. Please visit <http://www.dem.state.az.us/azserc/PDF%20Documents/ERG2008FR.pdf> for details.

Training/Education: Updated

- **Introduction to Radiological Response (EM 110)** is a 30-minute introductory CD-ROM course which provides the learner with the basic principles of radiation, definitions of terms commonly encountered in radiological and nuclear incidents, a description of the health risks associated with radioactive material, recommendations for safeguarding personal safety during a radiological and nuclear incident and an outline of the strategies for addressing the psychological impact of radiological and nuclear incidents. This introductory course has been designed for nurses, doctors, radiology technicians, radiation oncologists, radiation safety officers, patient care associates, technical assistants, nuclear medicine workers, EMS workers and mental health professionals. A more advanced radiological preparedness course is under development and will be released later this year. For more information or a copy of the CD-ROM, please contact Mark Schneider at (203) 688-2577 or mark.schneider@ynhh.org.
- **Bioterrorism Preparedness for Clinicians (EM 201)** is a 50-minute course designed to prepare physicians and other clinicians for a bioterrorist event or other potential public health emergency. Now available at http://ynhhs.emergencyeducation.org/sign_in_em201.asp, EM 201 helps clinicians recognize bioterrorism agent disease syndromes, learn the precautions they should take and understand their roles in the event of a public health emergency. **This course is available in a Connecticut and a national version.** For more information, please contact Mark Schneider at (203) 688-2577 or mark.schneider@ynhh.org.
- **Mental Health Aspects of Emergencies and Disasters for Non-Mental Health Professionals (EM 230)** is now available at http://ynhhs.emergencyeducation.org/sign_in_em230.asp. This 50-minute course trains health professionals in the recognition, treatment and referral of patients exhibiting behavioral health consequences related to public health emergencies and incorporates brief video vignettes to enhance the learner experience. For more information, please contact Mark Schneider at (203) 688-2577 or mark.schneider@ynhh.org.

Emergency Credentialing Program (ECP): Updated



Hospital-based validation of volunteer skills, competencies and credentials is expected to begin in September. Each participating hospital must identify at least one individual who will be responsible for coordinating the validation process and for managing the information in the database during a large scale disaster or public health emergency. It's important to remember that this volunteer resource for hospital personnel surge capacity will contain confidential information offered by ECS volunteers. Like all personnel information, access to the information and the database should be made available only to those individuals who will be validating volunteer credentials or hold a recognized position in your hospital's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) organization structure. In addition to their unique UserID and Password, designated program contacts will receive information and training on this user-friendly database application. If you have not already done so, please forward the name and contact information for the person at your hospital who is the designated contact for the Emergency Credentialing Program or enroll at www.ct-esar-vhp.org. For additional information about the ECP or to schedule a program presentation at staff or management meetings, contact Carol Luddy at (203) 688-3224 or carol.luddy@ynhh.org.

Training/Education: Updated

- **Introduction to Emergency Management with NIMS (EM 103 w/NIMS)** is now available at http://ynhhs.emergencyeducation.org/sign_in_em103nims.asp. This course provides awareness-level emergency preparedness training for the healthcare delivery workforce. Based on the National Incident Management System (NIMS) objectives, EM 103 w/NIMS is designed to assist healthcare workers in understanding their role in providing continuous care for existing patients and additional patients in the event of an emergency or a terrorist event. This course meets the NIMS objectives for IS 100: An Introduction to ICS, IS 700: An Introduction to the National Incident Management System and parts of IS 800: Introduction to the National Response Plan for healthcare delivery organizations as described in the document *NIMS: National Standard Curriculum Training Development Guidance*, October 2005. For more information, please contact Mark Schneider at (203) 688-2577 or mark.schneider@ynhh.org.
- **Best Practices for the Protection of Hospital-Based First Receivers (EM 120)** is available at http://ynhhs.emergencyeducation.org/sign_in_em120.asp. EM120 is aligned with Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) required awareness-level competencies for first receivers. Job classifications that will be required to complete EM 120 in order to ensure compliance with OSHA standards include: (1) All employees who work in the emergency department (such as clinicians, housekeeping, security, patient registration, etc.); (2) All employees who are regularly scheduled to be on call for the emergency department; (3) Volunteers and residents assigned to the emergency department; (4) Employees involved in setting up, taking down or maintaining decontamination facilities, regardless of their primary job role and location; (5) Nursing leadership who function as potential nursing administrators on call; (6) All members of the hospital decontamination team. This course is a prerequisite to a series of operations-level courses currently under development.

The operations-level decontamination course will also align with the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) operations-level competencies and will be a prerequisite to a practical session designed for employees involved in setting up, taking down or maintaining decontamination facilities, and for employees responsible for performing decontamination procedures. For more information, please contact Mark Schneider at (203) 688-2577 or mark.schneider@ynhh.org.
- **Incident Command Systems (ICS) for Health Care with NIMS (EM 140 NIMS)** is a 40-minute course which offers an introduction to ICS for healthcare workers and is available at http://ynhhs.emergencyeducation.org/sign_in_em140nims.asp. This course describes the ways an ICS can provide a consistent approach to command, control and coordination of all efforts aimed at protecting life, preserving property, supporting the emergency response and stabilizing the operations of a healthcare site during an emergency or disaster. EM 140 NIMS meets the National Incident Management System objectives for IS 200: Basic ICS, IS 700: An Introduction to the National Incident Management System and IS 800: Introduction to the National Response Plan, for health care delivery organizations as described in the document *National Incident Management System: National Standard Curriculum Training Development Guidance*, October 2005. For more information, please contact Mark Schneider at (203) 688-2577 or mark.schneider@ynhh.org.

Training/Education: Updated

- There is space available in the September 21st -23rd National Disaster Life Support course to be held in New Haven. Basic Disaster Life Support is an eight-hour course that provides an in-depth overview of disasters for all healthcare and public health professionals. The Advanced Life Support course provides physicians, physician assistants, nurses and paramedics with two days of intensive training on mass casualty triage, decontamination and treatment. Individuals completing the BDLS and ADLS programs will receive CME credits and are eligible to take the instructor course, which prepares them to conduct a course at their own facility. Hospitals are encouraged to consider using some of their HRSA hospital preparedness education and training funds to send appropriate individuals to any or all of these courses. To download a brochure, please visit http://www.yaleneewhavenhealth.org/emergency/commu/NDLS_2006CourseShedule.pdf. For more information, please contact David Burich at (203) 688-3721 or david.burich@ynhh.org.
- YNH-CEPDR has developed a series of emergency preparedness courses and workshops designed to prepare healthcare workers in community health centers for their roles in disaster response. These instructor-led sessions combine didactic lecture and group exercises that address topics including triage, personal protective equipment, infection control, risk communications and incident command. The course objectives ensure compliance with NIMS training requirements. These courses may be further adapted to better meet the needs of other healthcare delivery organizations such as home health agencies and skilled nursing facilities. For more information, please contact Scott Selig at (203) 688-2587 or scott.selig@ynhh.org.

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UPCOMING

Upcoming Meetings

DATE	TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
9.14.06		Pandemic Influenza Summit	Invitation only: Contact Eugenie Schwartz at eugenie.schwartz@ynhh.org or (203) 688-3224
10.19.06 & 10.20.06		JCR/OSHA/Red Cross 2 nd Annual Emergency Preparedness Conference: Disaster Readiness on the Home Front	More information available at http://www.jcrinc.com/education.asp?durki=11641

UPCOMING

Upcoming Training and Education

DATE	TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
8.16.06	9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.	Diagnostic Shipping and Packaging Seminar	Connecticut Hospital Association For more information, please visit http://www.ynhhs.org/emergency/commu/July2006CT-LRN.2.pdf
8.16.06		Smallpox Vaccination Train the Trainer: Part B Hands on Workshop	Meriden, CT Registration required. Details available at https://ct.train.org
8.21.06	1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. EST	Quarantine Issues – Avian and Pandemic Influenza Conference Call	Dial-in Number: (888)-469-1571 Passcode: Pandemic Flu For more information, please visit http://www.bt.cdc.gov/coca/callinfo.asp
8.23.06		Smallpox Vaccination Train the Trainer: Part B Hands on Workshop	Branford, CT Registration required. Details available at https://ct.train.org
8.24.06		Smallpox Vaccination Train the Trainer: Part B Hands on Workshop	Westport, CT Registration required. Details available at https://ct.train.org
9.21.06	8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.	Basic Disaster Life Support Course	For more information contact David Burich at david.burich@ynhh.org or (203) 688-3721
9.22.06 & 9.23.06	8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.	Advanced Disaster Life Support Course	
9.24.06	8:00 a.m. to 2 p.m.	National Disaster Life Support Instructor Course	