

THE PREPAREDNESS REPORT

The Center for Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Response

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ELEVATED THREAT LEVEL

FEMA National Level Exercise Begins in May: **New**



FEMA

On April 24, 2008, FEMA announced that its National Exercise Program (NEP) will conduct National Level

Exercise 2-08 (NLE 2-08) a combined functional and full scale exercise from May 1 through May 8. NLE 2-08 will merge the objectives of US Northern Command's (NORTHCOM) Ardent Sentry 2008 exercise, FEMA National Continuity Program's (NCP) Eagle Horizon 2008 exercise (formerly known as Forward Challenge) and FEMA Disaster Operation's Hurricane Preparedness Exercise (HPE). The purpose of NLE 2-08 is to exercise national capabilities to prepare and respond to multiple incidents including both natural disasters and terrorist incidents. The exercise was designed to include scenario elements addressing hurricane preparedness and response, national continuity capabilities and Defense Support to Civil Authorities coordination in response to weapons of mass destruction terrorist attacks. The exercise venues involve a Category 4 hurricane impacting the Mid Atlantic Coast and the National Capitol Region and multiple terrorist attacks in Washington State. To learn more, please visit <http://www.fema.gov/news/newsrelease.fema?id=43299>.

DHS Working to Improve Air Passenger Experience: **New**



Credit: TSA

On April 28, 2008, DHS announced improvements aimed at strengthening aviation security while streamlining procedures for travelers. Among the key improvements is providing airlines more flexibility to allow passengers with names similar to someone on a watch list to check in remotely. DHS also unveiled the Checkpoint Evolution prototype at Baltimore-Washington International Airport (BWI). Airlines will be able to create systems to verify and store date of birth information to clear up watch list misidentifications. Under this voluntary system, travelers who were previously inconvenienced on every trip can check-in online or at remote kiosks. "Thousands of passengers are inconvenienced each day, and this change should provide a way to eliminate the vast majority of these situations," said Secretary Michael Chertoff. For more information, please visit http://www.dhs.gov/xnews/releases/pr_1209396910434.shtm.

Avian Influenza: **New**

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), the cumulative number of confirmed cases of avian influenza H5N1 as of April 30, 2008, is 382 cases and 241 deaths.



Indonesian Bird Flu
Credit: REUTERS/Stringer

On April 30, 2008, the Ministry of Health of Indonesia announced a new case of human infection of avian influenza H5N1. A 3-year-old male from Wonogiri District, Central Java Province, developed symptoms on April 14, was hospitalized on April 21 and died on April 23. Investigations into the source of his infection indicate exposure to sick and dead poultry. Of the 133 cases confirmed to date in Indonesia, 108 have been fatal. For more information on the situation in Indonesia, please visit http://www.who.int/csr/don/2008_04_30/en/index.html.



Avian Influenza Vaccine
Credit: Inside Indiana Business

On April 29, 2008, CIDRAP reported that the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has accepted the first batch of avian influenza H5N1 vaccine based on the H5N1 variant known as clade 2.2, which has spread most widely across Asia, Europe, and Africa. Sanofi Pasteur announced yesterday that HHS is paying \$192.5 million for the vaccine, which is being shipped in bulk form. The number of doses it represents will depend on the final formulation of the vaccine, but the amount could be used to make from 6.4 million to 38.5 million doses or more, the company said. "This acceptance represents the US government's latest effort to diversify the vaccine stockpile program to include new strains of the H5N1 virus," Sanofi said in a news release. The vaccine is based on H5N1 clade 2.2, the variant that caused the outbreak in bar-headed geese and other birds at China's Quinghai Lake in 2005, the statement said. It was made at Sanofi's plant in Swiftwater, Pa. For more information, please visit <http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/cidrap/content/influenza/panflu/news/apr2908sanofi.html>.

- On April 25, 2008, CIDRAP reported that the US government will need to expand its stockpile of antiviral drugs if the goal is to have enough doses to treat all patients and provide preventive treatment for some others at risk in an influenza pandemic, according to a report by the Institute of Medicine (IOM). An IOM committee of experts asserts that the government needs to clarify its goals concerning antiviral use in a pandemic, because current planning documents are fuzzy on prophylactic use of the drugs. The report states that the nation currently has about 71 million treatment courses of antivirals in federal and state stockpiles, with a goal of 81 million courses. But in a pandemic, it might take more than twice that amount to treat sick patients and offer preventive doses to people at risk for exposure on the job. To learn more about key recommendations included in the report, please visit <http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/cidrap/content/influenza/panflu/news/apr2508iom.html>.

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US DHHS Region I (New England) Emergency Planning Office (Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response – ASPR)

The following resources are identified to assist your preparedness activities:

New/Highlighted Resources:

Individual Preparedness Guide: "Are You Ready: Guidelines for Navy Family Emergency Preparedness," Naval Services Family Line January 2008 (ady0308.pdf)
http://www.lifelines.navy.mil/LifeLines/MilitaryLife/LIFE_005186

IAEM Discussion Group: Behavior and Needs of Professionals in Emergency Preparedness and Management
<http://is.njit.edu/turoff>

Federal Stafford Act Disaster Assistance: Presidential Declarations, Eligible Activities, and Funding, January 28, 2008
<http://opencrs.com/document/RL33053>

Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) use for public health and medical emergency response and recovery operations
<http://www.bt.cdc.gov/planning/emac>

Public Health Emergency Law and Forensic Epidemiology CD-ROM, Version 3
To learn more about the courses or to order a free CD-ROM, visit
<http://www2a.cdc.gov/phlp/phel.asp>

Preparedness Report to Be Published Bi-Weekly: **New**



As of May 2, 2008, YNH-CEPDR will change its Preparedness Report from a weekly to a bi-weekly publication. The format will remain the same, and the bi-weekly shift will allow the report to continue to include the most up-to-date preparedness information. For questions or comments, please contact us at (203) 688-3224 or center@ynhh.org.

Positions Available at YNH-CEPDR

YNH-CEPDR has openings for an Evaluation Specialist and a Network Development Specialist. Please contact YNH-CEPDR at (203) 688-3224 or center@ynhh.org for more information, or apply online at <http://www.ynhhscareers.org/>.

Seasonal Influenza: **New**



Credit: National Institutes of Health

On April 18, 2008, The New York Times reported that the current flu season has been more severe than the last three, with more doctor visits and more deaths from flu and pneumonia. The season peaked in February, when flulike illnesses accounted for 5.9 percent of doctor visits. Doctors visits and death related to flu and pneumonia were higher than usual for 13 consecutive weeks; at the worst point, in March, the illnesses were listed as underlying or contributing causes of death in 9.1 percent of deaths. Any rate over 6.9 percent is considered unusually high. To read this article in full, please visit

<http://www.nytimes.com/2008/04/18/health/research/18flu.html>.

Disasters around the World: **New**



Grand Canyon Wildfire
Credit: AP

On April 30, 2008, the Associated Press (AP) reported that lighter wind and higher humidity during the night helped crews make progress against a wildfire feeding on ponderosa pine forest near Grand Canyon National Park. However, the break in the weather in northern Arizona was expected to be brief. "They're expecting winds to be 45 miles an hour this afternoon, and yesterday they were also high," said Kaibab National Forest spokeswoman Susan Brown. "They're just hoping all the work they did over the evening helps. It's laid down pretty nicely." For more information, please visit <http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/W/WILDFIRES?SITE=SCCHA&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT>.



Maine Flooding
Credit: AP Photo/ Shawn Patrick Ouellette

On April 30, 2008, the AP reported that residents evacuated their homes and businesses in Fort Kent, ME, as this Canadian border town at the northern tip of Maine was threatened with its worst flooding in nearly 30 years. At least three inches of rain in 24 hours combined with melting of the heavy winter snow accumulation caused the St. John River to rise to 28.2 feet - more than three feet above flood stage - and the river is expected to continue to rise. To learn more about flooding in this area, please visit <http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/F/FLOODING?SITE=SCCHA&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT>.

Severe Storm Preparedness: **New**



Credit: Accuweather, Inc.

April 27-May 3, 2008, is Severe Storm Awareness Week in New England. Severe regional storms just this week have included: extreme flooding in the town of Fort Kent in rural northern Maine, inundated with 30 feet of water after torrential rains; as well as recent tornados in Virginia, one of which directly impacted the Sentara Obici Hospital in the town of Suffolk. The unexpected can happen at any time, and therefore there is always the possibility of a public health crisis that may tax the resources of an institution or even an

entire region, particularly the human resources involved in the care and welfare of the public. Becoming a volunteer in the State of Connecticut Emergency Credentialing Program for Health Care Professionals is a wonderful way to prepare for this potential crisis. Professionals in Medicine, Nursing, Radiology, Physical Therapy, Behavioral Health, Respiratory Therapy and Laboratory Medicine, as well as many others are needed. This is a program of credentialed hospital disaster volunteers from many disciplines who have offered to respond when a natural or man-made event overwhelms a facility, region or state. Volunteers are given facility and event specific "just-in time" training to assist them to function in their new setting and they are covered for liability and workers' compensation. Please visit our web site, www.ct-esar-vhp.org, if you are interested. Enrollment is performed on-line and basic disaster related education is provided. If you have any questions, please contact us at ecp@ynhh.org, or call Joseph Filakovsky, DNP, APRN, Emergency Credentialing Program Coordinator, at (203) 688-4468.



Questions, Comments, Suggestions or to Subscribe

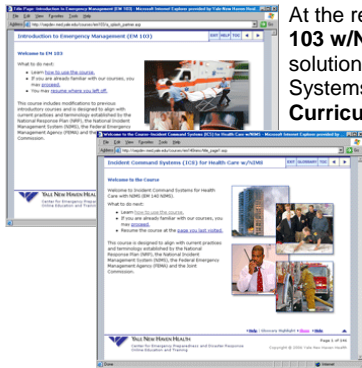
For questions, comments, suggestions or to subscribe to the Preparedness Report, please e-mail us at center@ynhh.org. www.yalenewhavenhealth.org/emergency

Protecting the Healthcare Workforce



Ensuring that all of your staff know how to protect themselves during a disaster in which they may be exposed to a chemical, biological or radiological substance is an important factor in their decision to come to work and fulfill their role in a disaster and to your facility's ability to provide ongoing healthcare services. OSHA requires that employees performing certain functions complete training programs that prepare them to don and doff appropriate levels of personal protective equipment (PPE) and recognize when such precautions may be necessary. YNH-CEPDR has developed a comprehensive suite of courses that addresses these OSHA requirements and provides an effective method to train your staff in proper PPE procedures. Whether your need is for fit testing N95 respirators or operations-level PPE and decontamination training for your decontamination team, YNH-CEPDR has a solution for your organization. For more information, please contact center@ynhh.org.

Education and Training Courses



At the request of the Bioterrorism Training and Curriculum Development Program of DHHS, the YNH-CEPDR **EM 103 w/NIMS and EM 140 w/NIMS** courses were reviewed by the NIMS Integration Center. These courses provide a solution to address elements 9 through 11 of the NIMS Implementation Activities for Hospitals and Healthcare Systems. **These courses meet all of the required objectives defined by the NIMS National Standard Curriculum Training Guidance, as demonstrated on the YNH-CEPDR NIMS Competency Crosswalk, which may be accessed at http://www.ynhhs.com/emergency/YNH_CEPDR_NIMS_CompetencyCrosswalk.pdf. EM 103 w/NIMS and EM 140 w/NIMS were approved as being NIMS compliant for healthcare education and training requirements by the State of Connecticut Department of Public Health and the State of Connecticut Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security.** To download a brochure, please visit http://www.ynhhs.org/emergency/NIMS_Brochure-Final.pdf. For more information, please contact us at (203) 688-3224 or center@ynhh.org.



EM 120: Best Practices for the Protection of Hospital-Based First Receivers. Information topics include: special threats from specific agents; levels of biological, chemical and radiological protection and isolation; various levels of respiratory protection; principles of decontamination; decontamination procedures; mental health concerns regarding decontamination; and personal safety issues regarding decontamination. For more information, please contact us at (203) 688-3224 or center@ynhh.org.



EM 121: N95 Respirator and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Training for Healthcare Workers. Information topics include: reasons for respirator and personal protective equipment (PPE) use; proper methods for inspecting, donning and doffing a respirator and PPE; the effective use of a respirator and PPE; and common errors made in PPE and N95 respirator use. For more information, please contact us at (203) 688-3224 or center@ynhh.org.

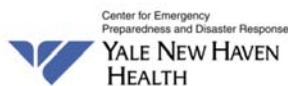


EM 122: N95 Respirator Fit Tester Training. Information topics include: identifying the need to conduct the N95 respirator fit test; conducting a fit test for N95 respirator use; and performing proper inspection and disposal of respirators. For more information, please contact us at (203) 688-3224 or center@ynhh.org.



EM 220: Best Practices for the Protection of Hospital-Based First Receivers, Operations Level. Information topics include: preparation for healthcare workers, such as emergency department clerks and clinicians who are assigned to work in the contaminant-free areas but who may need to identify possible risks associated with unannounced patients; preparation for healthcare workers with designated roles for contaminant removal or who will be working in areas that are considered to be contaminated (training includes proper use of protective equipment); and preparation for hazardous materials specialists, including radiation safety officers. For more information, please contact us at (203) 688-3224 or center@ynhh.org.

Programs and Services



YNH-CEPDR is committed to developing and delivering effective and scaleable services that advance healthcare planning, preparedness and response for emergencies and disasters. YNH-CEPDR offers the following services to hospitals, other healthcare delivery organizations, emergency management professionals, the business community and others.

- **ASSESSMENTS:** Hazard Vulnerability Analysis, Business Impact Analysis and Gap Analysis
- **PLANNING:** Emergency management plans, emergency operations plans and business continuity plans
- **EDUCATION and TRAINING:** Course development and course delivery in various modalities (including web-based)
- **DRILLS and EXERCISES:** Design, development, facilitation and evaluation

For additional information about these services, please contact us at (203) 688-3224 or center@ynhh.org.

UPCOMING

Upcoming Meetings and Events

DATE	TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
05.04.08 to 05.07.08	<i>Save the Date</i>	2008 VHA Leadership Conference <i>Sponsored by Abbott Laboratories, KCI, Siemens Healthcare Diagnostic and others</i>	Pennsylvania Convention Center Philadelphia, PA For more information, please visit www.vha.com .
05.08.08	<i>8am to 5pm</i>	Disaster Emergency Preparedness Summit <i>Sponsored by Paramount Disaster Recovery, Strategic BCP and others</i>	The Westin Michigan Avenue Chicago, IL For more information, please visit http://www.nationaldisastersummit.org .
05.12.08 to 05.13.08	<i>Save the Date</i>	2008 IEEE International Conference on Technologies for Homeland Security <i>Sponsored by IEEE Boston Section, Massport, Raytheon, SAIC and others</i>	Westin Hotel Waltham, MA For more information, please visit http://www.ieeehomelandsecurityconference.org/ .

UPCOMING

Upcoming Training and Education

DATE	TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
05.06.08 to 05.08.08	<i>Save the Date</i>	Hazardous Materials Officer Training <i>Training conference sponsored by the State of Maine Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management and the Maine Emergency Management Agency</i>	Central Maine Commerce Center Augusta, ME For more information, please visit http://www.smrrc.org/ .
05.06.08	<i>8:30am to 4:00pm</i>	Drinking Water Emergency Preparedness <i>Sponsored by the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Rhode Island Department of Health and New England Water Works Association (NEWWA)</i>	Union Fire District Training Facility Peace Dale, RI For more information, please contact NEWWA, (508) 893-7979 or clarson@newwa.org .
05.13.08 to 05.15.08	<i>Save the Date</i>	WMD Incident Management/Unified Command (MGT 313) <i>Sponsored by the Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency and conducted by the Texas Engineering and Extension Service Emergency Services Training Institute</i>	Radisson Airport Hotel Warwick, RI For more information, please contact Michelle SanSouci, (401) 946-9996.
05.28.08 to 05.30.08	<i>Save the Date</i>	Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP) Training Course <i>IS 120A is a required pre-requisite course before attending training</i>	Region 1 Federal Regional Center (FRC) Maynard, MA For more information, please contact Chris Lynch, (617) 832-4795 or christopher.lynch@dhs.gov .

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

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<p>Preparedness Report Archive: http://www.yalenehavenhealth.org/emergency/commu/archives.html</p>			
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