

THE PREPAREDNESS REPORT

The Center for Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Response

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ELEVATED THREAT LEVEL

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Awards Louisiana \$96.5 Million to Elevate Homes: **New**



Home Elevation
Credit: DPW/T

On May 14, 2008, FEMA reported that Louisiana will undertake the largest single home elevation project in American history, thanks to grant money to help homeowners pay for measures to make their homes safer and stronger. FEMA approved the use of more than \$96.5 million in

Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) funding to elevate nearly 3,000 homes devastated by hurricanes Katrina and Rita. FEMA made the announcement in conjunction with the Louisiana Recovery Authority (LRA), the Louisiana Office of Community Development (OCD) and the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP). This grant is one of the largest, single HMGP project obligations and is the first "batch" of grants in a series that will be made available to the state. The goal of this mitigation funding is to elevate or reconstruct more than 20,000 flood-prone structures throughout Louisiana. OCD has requested \$750 million in federal funds to elevate these homes. To learn more about this initiative, please visit <http://www.fema.gov/news/newsrelease.fema?id=43444>.

Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Realigns TWIC Compliance Date: **New**

On May 2, 2008, DHS announced that final compliance date for the Transportation Worker Identification Credential (TWIC) program will be April 15, 2009, which reflects a realignment of the Sept. 25, 2008, compliance date set in the final rule. The seven-month extension is a direct result of collaboration with port officials and industry, and realigns the enrollment period with the original intent of the TWIC final rule. TWIC was established in the Maritime Transportation Security Act and the SAFE Port Act to serve as an identification program for all Coast Guard credentialed mariners and personnel requiring unescorted access to secure areas within a port. The program is on track to complete enrollment for a substantial number of jurisdictions by the end of 2008, and several ports will be required to comply with TWIC regulations this year. To read this article in full, please visit http://www.dhs.gov/xnews/releases/pr_1209745179774.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.



Credit: NSF

On May 13, 2008, CIDRAP reported that anticipating that a terrorist attack, influenza pandemic or natural disaster will someday exhaust regional or national critical care systems, an expert task force recently issued a comprehensive series of reports that takes stock of current capabilities and recommends a surge framework that would care for as many patients as possible but would necessarily exclude some. The series, from the Critical Care Collaborative Initiative's January 2007 Mass Critical Care Summit, appeared recently in a May supplement issue of the journal *Chest*. The five articles from the 37-member task force of American and Canadian experts include an executive summary and individual papers on current capabilities, a framework to optimize surge capacity, medical resource guidance and recommendations for allocating scarce critical care resources in a mass critical care setting. To learn more about these proposed recommendations, please visit <http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/cidrap/content/influenza/panflu/news/may1308chest.html>.

- On May 6, 2008, CIDRAP reported that WHO kicked off a 4-day meeting in Geneva to begin revising pandemic preparedness guidance for countries, amid warnings that the risk of an influenza pandemic has not waned since the last update. The new guidance will reflect important advances since the last guidance was issued in 2005, WHO said in a recent statement. For example, several companies are working on or have developed H5N1 vaccines, clinicians now have more experience treating patients who are infected with the virus, and the new International Health Regulations specify how member nations and WHO should respond to pandemic influenza threats. For more information, please visit <http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/cidrap/content/influenza/panflu/news/may0608meeting.html>.
- On May 2, 2008, CIDRAP reported that an H5N1 influenza vaccine based on a weakened adenovirus was successfully tested in mice and may offer advantages as a tool for combating a human flu pandemic, according to researchers from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Purdue University. The vaccine is grown in mammalian cell cultures and therefore can be produced faster than egg-based vaccines, and it has the potential to provide broad protection against H5N1 viruses, say the researchers. "This approach may prevent severe illness and death or shorten the course of future infection with H5N1 virus strains that are antigenically distinct from currently circulating strains, and it may offer stockpiling advantages that overcome the limitations associated with storage of egg-derived vaccines," the report says. To read this article in full, please visit <http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/cidrap/content/influenza/panflu/news/may0208advax.html>.
- On May 1, 2008, the Clinician's Biosecurity Network reported that Indonesia conducted a 3-day full-scale exercise of their pandemic influenza national response plan. A small rural village in Bali spent months preparing to participate in what the Jakarta Post described as Indonesia's first massive pandemic influenza exercise. Indonesia has good reason to exercise on a large scale: 107 people have died from H5N1 avian influenza there, a number that represents close to fifty percent of the world's total human deaths from H5N1, and the virus is endemic in bird populations in most of the country. Indonesia's scripted exercise, which cost \$500,000 and was funded by the CDC, began the morning of Friday, April 25, and ran through Sunday, April 27. With 1,000 participants, this exercise involved local village residents, 20 institutions ranging from the armed forces to healthcare organizations to foreign and trade ministries and more than 50 foreigners, including many diplomats; it was covered by more than 50 local and international journalists. The purpose was to test the Indonesian government's readiness and response to a pandemic, as outlined in its *National Strategic Plan for Avian Influenza Control and Pandemic Influenza Preparedness*. To learn more about this exercise and subsequent exercises planned throughout this year, please visit http://www.upmc-cbn.org/report_archive/2008/05_May_2008/cbnreport_05012008.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 2 Disasters around the World
- 2 Pictogram-Based Signs for EP

- 3 Free Training for ECP/MRC Volunteers
- 3 Education and Training Courses

- 4 Meetings, Events, Education and Training
- 5 Contact Index

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:

Guide to Developing a Food Defense Plan for Warehouse and Distribution Centers, US Department of Agriculture, January 2008
http://www.fsis.usda.gov/PDF/Guidance_Document_Warehouses.pdf

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://openrcs.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>

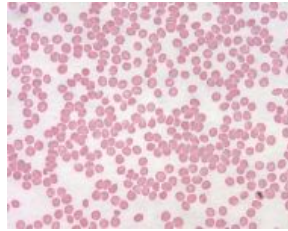
Public Health Emergency Law and Forensic Epidemiology CD-ROM, Version 3
To learn more about the courses or to order a free CD-ROM, visit
<http://www2a.cdc.gov/phlp/phel.asp>



Positions Available at YNH-CEPDR

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

Seasonal Influenza: **New**



Flu Antibodies
Credit: Knight Science Journalism

On May 2, 2008, CIDRAP reported that technical barriers have prevented the widespread use of human monoclonal antibodies as potent diagnostic and treatment tools, but scientists now say they have found a way to produce antibodies against seasonal influenza much faster than was previously possible. The researchers, from Emory University in Atlanta and the Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation (OMRF) in Oklahoma City, produced influenza-specific monoclonal antibodies in about a month, rather than the typical 2 to 3 months, using blood from volunteers who had received a seasonal influenza vaccine. They said the new technique could be used to rapidly create monoclonal antibodies for a range of infectious diseases, including pandemic influenza and anthrax. For more information, please visit <http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/cidrap/content/influenza/panflu/news/may0208monoclonal.html>.

Disasters around the World: **New**



China's Earthquake
Credit: Chen Xie/Xinhua/AP

On May 15, 2008, CNN reported that China's state TV has said that the death toll from Monday's massive earthquake could reach 50,000. The official death toll in southwestern China has now topped 22,000, Sichuan provincial government officials said. But casualty figures from various cities indicate a higher number of dead. The state-run Xinhua news agency has provided death tolls for eight communities in Sichuan province alone that added up to nearly 20,000, including roughly 7,700 who perished in the town of Yingxiu, near the earthquake's epicenter. More than 4.3 million homes have now collapsed or sustained damage from the 7.9 magnitude quake, according to the Chinese Embassy in Washington. To read this article in full, please visit <http://www.cnn.com/2008/WORLD/asiapcf/05/15/quake.thursday/index.html?iref=newssearch>.



Credit: AP

On May 15, 2008, CNN reported that the death toll from the killer cyclone in Myanmar could be "in the region of 100,000 or even more," the chief of the United Nations Humanitarian Affairs has said. John Holmes, UN under-secretary general for humanitarian affairs, said that his organization had already confirmed 38,491 deaths, much more than the 22,000 figure from Myanmar's government. Aid agencies have struggled to gain access to the country from the secretive military junta that rules Myanmar, though some relief flights arrived this week. The regime has indicated that it would like supplies but not international aid workers. For more information, please visit <http://www.cnn.com/2008/WORLD/asiapcf/05/15/myanmar/index.html>.



Credit: WHO

On May 14, 2008, WHO reported that the UN Central Emergency Response Fund has provided them with \$1.8 million to meet the priority health needs of people in cyclone-affected areas of Myanmar. The money will help buy equipment and supplies and provide manpower to assist in relief efforts. Surgical masks, examination gloves, and 100 fogging machines to help prevent vector-borne diseases have been dispatched to Myanmar's southern delta region. To learn more about WHO's relief efforts, please visit <http://www.who.int/en/>.

Pictogram-Based Signs for Emergency

Preparedness: **New**



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During an emergency, service and process information within a point of distribution (POD) must be clearly communicated. Ensuring that information is accessible improves efficiency, decreases anxiety and expands usability by at-risk populations. The Cambridge Advanced Practice Center for Emergency Preparedness has developed pictogram-based signs in collaboration with local and state public health professionals and experts in universal design and accessibility. To learn more about this service, please contact Garrett Simonsen at gsimonsen@challiance.org or visit <http://www.cambridgepublichealth.org/services/emergency-preparedness/products.php>.

Be the Response: **New**



Fifty percent of Americans feel that the US is better prepared to cope with major disasters since Hurricane Katrina,

and the other fifty percent don't know if their local government has an emergency or disaster plan for their community. If you're not sure your town has a disaster plan, can you risk not making one yourself? Make a plan. Build a kit. Be Informed. In an emergency, every second counts. Have a family communication plan as well as an evacuation plan. Be ready with a "Go bag" containing water, non-perishable food, clothes, first aid kit, flashlights, battery powered radio, etc. A complete list is available by visiting our web site,

www.valenewhavenhealth/emergency.

Be informed and involved. Join the Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) and Emergency System for Advance Registration of Volunteer Health Professionals (ESAR-VHP) programs. By volunteering, you will be ensuring that your family, friends and neighbors have uninterrupted access to healthcare resources when they need them most. To schedule a discussion regarding personal and family preparedness, contact Eugenie Schwartz, Medical Reserve Corps Coordinator, at Eugenie.schwartz@ynhh.org or (203) 688-2659.

Free Training for ECP/MRC Volunteers Interested in Working in the Ottilie W. Lundgren Memorial Mobile Field Hospital (MFH): **New**



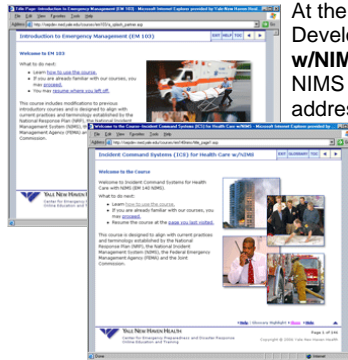
This 8-hour course provides an introduction and orientation to the medical equipment used in the Ottilie W. Lundgren Memorial Mobile Field Hospital (MFH). Topics include working in the austere environment of the MFH and the medical devices specific to the facility. This course will include didactic and hands-on training. Please visit TRAIN Connecticut to register for the training, <https://ct.train.org>. The course ID is 1013171, and the class title is Field Hospital Training. Please view the attached PDF file for training dates and sites, http://www.ct-esar-vhp.org/MFHInvite_2008.pdf.

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.

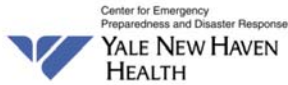


EM 122: N95 Respirator Fit Tester Training. Information topics include: identifying the need to conduct the N95 respirator fit test; conducting a fit test for N95 respirator use; and performing proper inspection and disposal of respirators. For more information, please contact us at (203) 688-3224 or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

DATE	TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
05.20.08 to 05.24.08	<i>Save the Date</i>	Northwest Regional Primary Care Association: Spring 2008 Primary Care Conference <i>Sponsored by 340B Prime Vendor Program, Bank of America, and others</i>	Red Lion Hotel at the Park Spokane, WA For more information, please visit https://www.nwrpca.org/onevent/details.php?id=1198 .
05.30.08 to 06.01.08	<i>Save the Date</i>	World Disaster Summit <i>Sponsored by URS, the American Red Cross and others</i>	Georgia World Conference Center Atlanta, GA For more information, please visit http://disastersolutions.bz/ .
06.17.08	<i>8:30am to 3:30pm</i>	Emergency Preparedness: A Conference for Laboratory Professionals <i>Sponsored by the State of Connecticut Department of Public Health Laboratory and Hartford Hospital Center of Excellence Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Program</i>	Connecticut Hospital Association Wallingford, CT For more information, please contact Virginia Kristie, (860) 545-1213 or vkristie@harthosp.org .

UPCOMING Training and Education

DATE	TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
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 .
05.31.08	<i>Save the Date</i>	Second Annual Diabetes Management During a Disaster Training <i>Sponsored by the Texas Diabetes Institute</i>	Texas Diabetes Institute San Antonio, TX For more information, please contact Maryanne Kridner, MSN, RN, CDE (210) 567-3846 or kridner@uthscsa.edu .

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Preparedness Report Archive: http://www.yalenewhavenhealth.org/emergency/commu/archives.html			
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