

THE PREPAREDNESS REPORT

The Center for Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Response

Volume 6, Issue 21 | June 13, 2008

ELEVATED THREAT LEVEL

US Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to Upgrade Homeland Security Information Network: **New**



Credit: CBS/AP

On June 6, 2008, DHS announced that it is taking steps to enhance its Homeland Security Information Network (HSIN).

Known as HSIN Next Generation (NextGen), the enhancement will provide a secure and trusted national platform for Sensitive But Unclassified (SBU) information

that promote sharing and collaboration between federal, state, local, tribal, territorial, private sector and international partners. HSIN Next Generation will update the current HSIN technology to better enable Homeland Security to meet the requirements of a trusted and secure environment, combined with enhanced capabilities in many areas. HSIN NextGen will provide DHS, our partners and stakeholders with information management capabilities and services including a portal, search, collaboration, enterprise content management and Service Oriented Architecture-based information integration and analysis functions to facilitate their collaboration and information sharing needs for SBU data. For more information, please visit http://www.dhs.gov/xnews/releases/pr_1212787226112.shtm.

DHS Announces Customer Service Improvements to Entry Process for International Travelers: **New**

On June 6, 2008, DHS announced the launch of three initiatives, the Global Entry pilot program, the Passenger Service Program, and an expanded Model Ports Initiative, intended to strengthen customer service at US ports of entry. "Perhaps the single criticism we hear most from international travelers is frustration with the entry process," said Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff. "We're committed to a more welcoming environment for the roughly one million foreign travelers arriving at our ports each day. These initiatives will reduce much of the frustration and anxiety we encounter, and make it easier on our frontline personnel to focus even more on actual security and criminal risks." To learn more about these initiatives, please visit http://www.dhs.gov/xnews/releases/pr_1212775979905.shtm.

Avian Influenza: **New**

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), the cumulative number of confirmed cases of avian influenza H5N1 as of May 28, 2008, is 383 cases and 241 deaths. (Statistics last updated on May 28, 2008 by WHO)



On June 10, 2008 the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announced that they have recently released the results of a study suggesting that some North American avian influenza A H7 virus strains have properties that might enhance their potential to infect humans as well as their potential to spread from human to human. The study was recently published in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences USA*. Avian influenza A H7 viruses are fairly common in birds, but rarely infect humans. Most cases of avian influenza infection in humans have resulted from contact with infected poultry or contaminated surfaces. "We know that influenza viruses are constantly changing and that is why it's so important to watch them carefully. In this study, we discovered that some recently identified avian

influenza A H7 viruses have some properties that could enhance their potential to infect people and possibly spread among people," explained Dr. Jessica Belsler, CDC lead author on the project. To learn more about the study findings, please visit <http://www.cdc.gov/media/pressrel/2008/r080610a.htm>.



Credit: CDC

On June 3, 2008 the the Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy (CIDRAP) reported that proposed pandemic preparedness guidance released by the federal government recommends that people wear face masks if they have to go into crowds during an influenza pandemic and that critical infrastructure businesses should consider stockpiling antiviral drugs, among various other suggestions. The guidance from the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) also spells out a role for preventive use of antiviral drugs in a pandemic but says that antivirals used preventively will have to come mainly from private stockpiles, because government stockpiles will be used primarily for treating the sick. For more information on these proposed guidelines, please visit <http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/cidrap/content/influenza/panflu/news/jun0308guidance-jw.html>.

HHS Awards Hospital Preparedness Funding: **New**

On June 3, 2008, HHS Secretary Mike Leavitt announced that the department has made available nearly \$1.1 billion to continue assisting public health departments, hospitals and other health care organizations to strengthen their ability to respond to public health and medical emergencies as a result of a terrorism attack or naturally occurring event. The Hospital Preparedness Program funds, which totaled approximately \$398 million, will support interoperable communication systems, systems to track available hospital beds, advance registration of volunteer health professionals, processes for hospital evacuations and facility management and community partnerships. The funding went to states, territories and four metropolitan areas: New York, Chicago, Los Angeles County and Washington. HHS also awarded \$704.8 million in grants to support public health readiness. To read this article in full, please visit <http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2008pres/06/20080603a.html>.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 2 2008 ICMDMMR Panel Meeting
- 2 Disasters around the World

- 3 Education and Training Courses
- 3 Protecting the Healthcare Workforce

- 4 Upcoming Training and Meetings
- 5 Contacts 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:

Hospitals Safe From Disasters, Project and Web Site, Pan-American Health Organization/World Health Organization
<http://www.safehospitals.info/>

Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Guidance on Workplace Stockpiling of Respirators and Facemasks for Pandemic Influenza
<http://www.osha.gov/dsg/guidance/stockpiling-facemasks-respirators.html>

Extensively Drug-Resistant Tuberculosis (XDR-TB): Emerging Public Health Threats and Quarantine and Isolation
http://assets.opencrs.com/rpts/RL34144_20080401.pdf

IAEM Discussion Group: United Kingdom (UK) Department of Health 2008 Heat Wave Plan
http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_084670

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Supports States in Aftermath of Storms: **New**



On June 6, 2008, FEMA reported that FEMA Region VIII has activated its Regional Response

Coordination Center as a result of widespread flooding in South Dakota and will deploy a state support team to the state emergency operations center (EOC). In West Virginia, after initial assessments and at the state's request, FEMA Region III will support joint federal/state preliminary damage assessment teams in the impacted counties. In response to severe weather in Iowa, the FEMA Region VII Regional Response Coordination Center is operating at a 24-hour status and is in communication with the state EOC. Throughout the nation, FEMA continues to monitor severe weather and assess the impact to states and local communities. For more information on FEMA's response, please visit
<http://www.fema.gov/news/newsrelease.fema?id=43731>.

2008 ICMDDMR Working Panel Meeting: **New**

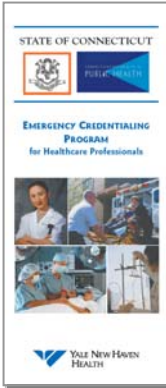


The Yale New Haven Center for Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Response (YNH-CEPDR) and the United States Northern Command (USNORTHCOM)



will be hosting the National Center for Integrated Civilian-Military Domestic Disaster Medical Response Working Panel meeting this June. The Working Panel Meeting will take place on Monday June 23, 2008, from 8:00am to 4:00pm at the Omni Hotel in New Haven, CT. For more information, please contact center@ynhh.org, or (203) 688-2668.

Expect the Unexpected: **New**



Recent tornadoes and record flooding in the Midwest, and heat waves across the East Coast have highlighted the need for preparedness. With the unexpected, there is the chance that a public health crisis will tax the resources of an institution, or even an entire region, particularly the human resources involved in the care and welfare of the public. A great way to prepare for potential crisis is to become a volunteer in the State of Connecticut Emergency Credentialing Program for Health Care Professionals. Physicians, nurses, radiologists, physical therapists, behavioral health specialists, respiratory therapists and many others are needed. This is a program of credentialed hospital disaster volunteers from various disciplines who have offered to respond when a natural or human-made event overwhelms a facility, region or state. Volunteers are given facility and event-specific "just-in-time" training to assist them in their new setting. Volunteers are also covered for liability insurance and worker's compensation. Please visit our website, www.ct-esar-vhp.org to learn more. Enrollment is performed on-line and basic disaster-related education is provided. If you have any questions, please contact Joseph Filakovsky, DNP, APRN, Emergency Credentialing Coordinator, (203) 688-4468, or e-mail ecp@ynhh.org.

Disasters around the World: **New**

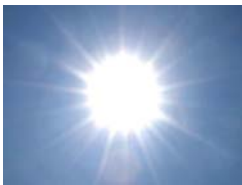


Tornado kills four Boy Scouts
Credit: AP

On June 12, 2008, MSNBC news reported that four Boy Scouts were killed when a tornado tore through a camp in the remote hills of western Iowa. The tornado touched down late in the afternoon on June 11, and at least 48 people were injured. The boys had been split into two groups to engage in activities. One group managed to take shelter, while the other was out hiking. "All four of the young men who were killed were Scouts," Governor Chet Culver said. "The devastation was massive through the campgrounds." To read this article in full, please visit

<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/25107608?GT1=43001>.

On June 11, 2008, MSNBC reported that cities and towns along the Cedar River in Iowa prepared for another night of waiting and watching to see if sandbags would hold back floodwaters slowly moving south and eventually into the Mississippi River. Hundreds of people in Cedar Rapids and small towns evacuated earlier Wednesday. With more rain falling upriver in parts of Iowa, crests at Missouri's Mississippi River towns could be higher than currently forecast, said weather service hydrologist Jim Krampner. To learn more about the flooding in the Midwest, please visit
<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/25020185/>.



East coast heat wave kills 17
Credit: KCBS

On June 11, 2008, the Associated Press reported that the heat wave that gripped the East Coast over the weekend and into Tuesday claimed the lives of 17 people, and most of the victims were elderly. The Philadelphia medical examiner's office said eight people there died of heat-related causes in the four days of scorching temperatures. A 65-year-old man also died of sunstroke in the Philadelphia suburb of Pottstown, while sunbathing. Six others died in New York City and two died in Maryland. For more information, please visit <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/25105715/>.

On June 10, 2008, MSNBC reported that at the relief operations center in China's mountainous Qingchuan county, government workers are still in emergency mode nearly a month after the devastating May 12 earthquake. Powerful aftershocks, heavy rains and dangerous "quake lakes" keep them from devoting all their attention to their primary task: getting the county's residents into tents. But even as they work to provide temporary shelter, officials are looking ahead to an even more formidable problem. When the ground stops shaking and the dust settles, this county alone will have 250,000 people who will need new homes. To read this article in full, please visit
<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/24993083>.

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



This 8-hour course provides an introduction and orientation to the medical equipment used in the Otilie W. Lundgren Memorial Mobile Field Hospital

(MFH). Topics include working in the austere environment of the MFH and using 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.

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.ynhhs-careers.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 Training and Education

DATE	TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
07.08.08	2:00pm EST	Homecare During an Influenza Pandemic <i>Sponsored by HHS</i>	Webinar For more information, please visit http://www.pandemicflu.gov/news/panflu_webinar.html .

Upcoming Meetings and Events

DATE	TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
06.17.08	8:30am to 3:30pm	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 .
06.23.08	8:00am to 4:00pm	2008 ICMDDMR Working Panel Meeting <i>Sponsored by YNH-CEPDR and USNORTHCOM</i>	Omni Hotel New Haven, CT For more information, please call (203) 688-2668, or visit center@ynhh.org .
07.28.08 to 07.30.08	Save the Date	Combating Bioterrorism/Pandemics: Implementing Policies for Biosecurity <i>Sponsored by Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)</i>	MIT Cambridge, MA For more information, please visit http://web.mit.edu/mitpep/pi/courses/combating_bioterrorism.html#right .

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

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<p>James Paturas Deputy Director, Clinical Services (203) 688-3496 james.paturas@ynhh.org</p>	<p>Patrick Ward Deputy Director, Network Development and Contracting (203) 688-4473 patrick.ward@ynhh.org</p>	<p>Louise-Marie Dembry, MD Associate Medical Director (203) 688-4634 louise-marie.dembry@ynhh.org</p>	<p>Mark Schneider Program Manager, Education and Training (203) 688-2577 mark.schneider@ynhh.org</p>
<p>YNH-CEPDR West Coast Office: Kevin M. Storm, NREMT-P (650) 312-1196 kevin.storm@ynhh.org</p>		<p>YNH-CEPDR Central Office: Deanna Bourgeault (214) 648-9450 deanna.bourgeault@ynhh.org</p>	
<p>Preparedness Report Archive: http://www.yalenehavenhealth.org/emergency/commu/archives.html</p>			
<p>One Church Street, 5th Floor • New Haven, CT 06510 • Tel. (203) 688-3224 • Fax (203) 688-4618 center@ynhh.org • www.yalenehavenhealth.org/emergency</p>			

US DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY
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FEMA Region One
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art.cleaves@dhs.gov

99 High Street • 6th Floor • Boston, MA 02110

<http://www.fema.gov/>

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