

THE PREPAREDNESS REPORT

The Center for Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Response

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ELEVATED THREAT LEVEL

Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Marks 5th Annual National Preparedness Month

This September: **New**



On July 2, 2008, DHS announced that more than 1,200 national, regional, state and local businesses and

organizations have pledged their support and joined the 2008 National Preparedness Month Coalition. Sponsored by the department's Ready Campaign, National Preparedness Month helps to raise awareness and promote action by Americans, businesses and communities on emergency preparedness. "As we approach our fifth National Preparedness Month, I want to thank the hundreds of coalition members who are making a difference in their communities by helping raise the basic level of preparedness in our country," said Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff. "Individual preparedness is the cornerstone of emergency preparedness. Experience shows that if Americans take steps ahead of time, they stand a much better chance of coming through an emergency unharmed and recovering more quickly." To read this article in full, please visit

http://www.dhs.gov/xnews/releases/pr_1215023457413.shtm.

HHS Releases Project BioShield Annual Report to Congress: **New**



On July 9, 2008, HHS issued a report stating its progress in implementing Project

BioShield. HHS has used Project BioShield authorities to support, facilitate and expedite the research, development, acquisition and availability of medical countermeasures to respond to the adverse effects of public health emergencies involving chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear threats. "Emergency preparedness and response is a responsibility we all share as individuals, as family members, and as citizens of our communities," said Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR) W. Craig Vanderwagen. "Our goal is to foster involvement by private and public stakeholders in the emergency preparedness process, working to make the process transparent while safeguarding national security. This report reflects our progress in that regard not only as an agency but also as a nation." For more information on this report, please visit

<http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2008pres/07/20080709b.html>.

Avian Influenza: **New**

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), the cumulative number of confirmed cases of avian influenza H5N1 as of June 19, 2008, is 385 cases and 243 deaths. (Statistics last updated on June 19, 2008, by WHO)



On July 9, 2008, the Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy (CIDRAP) reported that a recent study from Indiana reveals a

long list of problems hampering county-level planning for pandemic influenza, ranging from misunderstanding of the threat and lack of coordination and resources, to rivalry between hospital systems. Interviews with health officials in 11 Indiana counties showed recent progress in pandemic planning but also pointed out difficulties, according to the report in the *Journal of Homeland Security and Emergency Management*. To learn more about the details of this report, please visit <http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/cidrap/content/influenza/panflu/news/jul0908counties.html>.

- On June 30, 2008, CIDRAP reported that after the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, officials in some of Minnesota's largest public health departments identified a big gap in their communications strategy. They found that they had few options for getting important health and safety information to diverse state residents who speak limited English. A coalition of communications officials from state, county and local health and service agencies came together to form the Emergency and Community Health Outreach (ECHO), with the goal of reaching limited-English-proficiency (LEP) groups with vital health and safety information. By September 2004, ECHO had forged a partnership with Minnesota's public television system to produce and air a series of 20-minute programs in languages that reflect Minnesota's unique cultural landscape: Hmong, Khmer, Lao, Somali, Spanish, Vietnamese and English. For more information on the topics such as pandemic influenza covered in these programs as well as the impact of ECHO, please visit <http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/cidrap/content/influenza/panflu/news/jun3008pecho.html>.

YNH-CEPDR Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Training: **New**



On April 22, 2008, regional education specialists from the YNH-CEPDR San Mateo, CA office began offering pandemic influenza training to employees of Santa Clara Valley Medical Center, the regional hospital for Santa Clara County, CA, which will run through July 25. Approximately 7,000 employees have been trained to

date in both clinical and non-clinical aspects of understanding, preparing for and responding to a pandemic influenza based on both county and hospital plans for response. Custom workshops were prepared by YNH-CEPDR for the hospital, its six clinics and several ancillary departments. Thousands of employees were trained through classes facilitated by experienced YNH-CEPDR educational specialists. Santa Clara student and administrator comments continue to be very positive on the quality of the course design and its delivery in meeting the needs of preparing staff for a pandemic influenza. For more information on how your organization can benefit from a custom training solution, please contact Mark Schneider, Program Manager, Education and Training, mark.schneider@ynhh.org or 203-688-2577.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

2 HHS Announces New Programs

2 CDC Releases Formaldehyde Reports

3 FEMA Warns: Health Hazards Following Floods

3 Disasters around the World

4 Education and Training Courses

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:

PPE First Responder Guidance
<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/2008-132/pdfs/2008-132.pdf>

Hurricane of 1938, New England
<http://www.archive.org/details/ShockTro1938>

Disaster Recovery and Environmental Health. National Library of Medicine. (Listing of resources for environmental health issues related to emergency response)
<http://sis.nlm.nih.gov/enviro/disasterrecovery.html>

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>

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.

HHS Announces New International Programs to Enhance Drug and Food Safety: **New**



HHS Secretary Mike Leavitt
Credit: HHS

Summit in Washington. He described the twin initiatives as the latest steps in a fundamental, government-wide shift to implement the Interagency Import Safety Action Plan finalized in November 2007. To learn more about these new initiatives, please visit <http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2008pres/07/20080709a.html>.

On July 9, 2008, HHS Secretary Mike Leavitt announced two groundbreaking programs designed to enhance the safety of food and medical products exported to the United States. "These programs will significantly increase our collaboration with international and private sector partners to enhance the safety of imported food and medical products," Secretary Leavitt said. "Working together, we intend to offer expedited access to those products shown to meet our standards and to focus more of our resources on those products that present higher risks." Secretary Leavitt made the announcement in a speech to hundreds of industry leaders at an Import Safety

CDC Releases Reports on Formaldehyde in Trailers: **New**



FEMA Trailers
Credit: Liz Condo

Division of Environmental Health Hazards at the CDC. "But the findings are only applicable to those trailers distributed by FEMA in the Gulf Coast Region; they do not apply to other trailers in use elsewhere in the country. However, taken together, the two studies indicate that manufacturers of travel trailers and the government agencies that influence their design, should consider using construction materials that emit lower levels of formaldehyde as well as designs that increase outside air ventilation." McGeehin noted that, as the CDC previously recommended, families that include children, the elderly and those with chronic diseases such as asthma should make relocating to permanent housing a priority. For more information, please visit <http://www.cdc.gov/media/pressrel/2008/r080702.htm>.

On July 2, 2008, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) posted two reports from its work related to assessing the levels of formaldehyde in the indoor air of travel trailers used by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for emergency housing of Gulf Coast residents. One report, the results of which were previously reported, assessed indoor formaldehyde levels. The other looked at emissions from specific travel trailer components and construction materials. "These two studies provide much helpful information," said Michael McGeehin, director of the

National Personal Protective Technology Laboratory (NPPTL) Releasing Document for Public Review and Comment: **New**



On July 2, 2008, NPPTL announced that they are currently seeking stakeholder input regarding a request from the Department of Defense (DoD). The request is for a proposed modification to the CBRN APR Statement of Standard to allow for mechanical connectors other than the specified single 40-mm thread connector. The DoD is seeking modification of the standard to allow DoD first responders to use a newly developed respirator, the Joint Service General Protective Mask (JSGPM), for respiratory protection on military installations in the US or when called upon to support civil authorities. The JSGPM uses a bayonet mounted, dual filter design instead of the single standard 40-mm screw mounted canister. DoD's request is to supplement the existing NIOSH standard with an alternate design for DoD application. To learn more about this request, please visit <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/review/public/139/>.

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.ynhhscareers.org/>.

House Committee:
Nation's Hospitals
Unprepared for
Catastrophies: **New**



In the July 2008 issue of *Industry Beat*, published by the National Safety Council, they reported that a congressional committee concluded that US hospitals are ill-prepared to handle emergencies stemming from terrorist attacks and natural disasters. The House Oversight and Government Reform Committee held a two-day hearing into the lack of emergency surge capacity at hospitals. The hearing was specifically related to the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) issuing Medicaid regulations that will reduce federal aid to public hospitals. To read this article in full, please visit www.nsc.org.

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.

**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

FEMA Warns of Health Hazards Following
Flooding: **New**



On July 9, 2008, FEMA and the State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA) warned residents of northeastern Missouri to be aware of potential health and safety risks when returning home as the floodwaters recede. "People are anxious to get on with their lives after a flood," said Federal Coordinating Officer Michael Karl, FEMA's top official for the Missouri recovery efforts, "but if you had floodwaters in your home, there are certain cautions you should exercise when beginning the recovery process."

Potential health/safety hazards after a disaster include carbon monoxide poisoning from generators used to power homes or clean-up equipment; electrocution from stepping into water charged by live electric wires; infections in cuts or scrapes that come into contact with surfaces contaminated by floodwaters; respiratory and heat-related illnesses; and the worsening of chronic illness from overexertion. To learn more about potential health hazards and how to properly clean up after a major flood, please visit <http://www.fema.gov/news/newsrelease.fema?id=44970>.

Disasters around the World: **New**



California wildfires rage
Credit: Inland News Today

On July 10, 2008, MSNBC reported that a wildfire raging in the Sierra Nevada foothills turned residents into refugees as firefighters worked overnight to keep flames from destroying more homes. Farther south, National Guard troops were deployed with bulldozers to a fire near Santa Barbara, the first military ground troops used in California against a fire in 30 years. In Northern California, thousands spent another night away from home after fire officials ordered evacuations Tuesday and Wednesday ahead of wind-whipped flames bearing down on the town of Paradise for the second time in just a few weeks. For more information, please visit <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/25581653/>.



Tornado in Rolla, N.D.
Credit: AP Photo/Sherie Zupan

On July 8, 2008, MSNBC reported that a tornado touched down in Rolla, ND, destroying six homes. Officials said besides destroying the six homes, the tornado damaged about 10 other buildings including an apartment complex in the community of about 1,500 people. A firefighter was treated for minor injuries, and a man injured by falling bricks in nearby Belcourt was taken to a hospital in Minot. The injured man's condition was not released. To learn more about the severe storms in this area, please visit <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/25587543/>.

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.

Education and Training Courses (*continued*):



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.

Upcoming Training and Education

DATE	TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
07.24.08	3:00 to 5:00 PM (EST)	Bridge the Gap: Community Surge and Resiliency <i>Sponsored by the Alabama Department of Public Health</i>	Satellite Broadcast For more information, please visit http://www.adph.org/alphtrn/589flyer.pdf .

Upcoming Meetings and Events

DATE	TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
07.21.08 to 07.23.08	Save the Date	Louisiana Hospital Association Annual Meeting & Summer Conference <i>Sponsored by Louisiana Hospital Association</i>	Perdido Beach Resort Orange Beach, LA For more information, please visit http://www.lhaonline.org/cde.cfm?event=147717 .
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 .
08.15.08 To 08.16.08	Save the Date	South Carolina AHEC: Emergency and Disaster Medicine Summit <i>Sponsored by South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control</i>	Charleston Area Convention Center North Charleston, SC For more information, please visit http://www.scahec.net/prepares/summit/#host .

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