

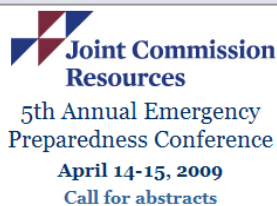
THE PREPAREDNESS REPORT

The Center for Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Response

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ELEVATED THREAT LEVEL

Call for Abstracts – The Joint Commission Resources 5th Annual Emergency Preparedness Conference: **New**



The Joint Commission Resources (JCR) 5th Annual Emergency Preparedness conference will take place on April 14-15, 2009 in Washington, DC. JCR and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), in collaboration with

the Yale New Haven Center for Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Response (YNH-CEPDR), invite interested participants to submit one or more abstracts for exhibit in the poster presentations track of the conference. YNH-CEPDR will provide the coordination for this track on behalf of the conference. Abstracts must be submitted by October 17, 2008, and will be peer-reviewed for their quality, originality and relevance to the conference. By submitting an abstract, the author(s) agree in advance that, if accepted, at least one author will register for the conference to present the poster as scheduled. To download a form, please visit <http://ynhhs.org/emergency/disasterconference/index.html>. Abstracts may be submitted via e-mail at center@ynhh.org with the subject line abstract submission. Notification of acceptance for poster presentation will be made via e-mail by November 7, 2008. For more information about the conference, please visit <http://www.jcrinc.com/29669/>.

Seasonal Influenza: **New**

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) today announced that it has approved this year's seasonal influenza vaccines that include new strains of the virus likely to cause flu in the United States during the 2008-2009 season. This season's vaccines contain three strains of the influenza virus that disease experts expect to be the most likely cause of the flu in the United States. These include an A/Brisbane/59/2007 (H1N1)-like virus, an A/Brisbane/10/2007 (H3N2)-like virus and a B/Florida/4/2006-like virus. This news brief can be read by going to <http://74.125.45.104/search?q=cache:http://fda.gov/bbs/topics/news/2008/new01872.html>. The FDA changed all three strains for this year's influenza vaccine, an unusual occurrence, as usually only one or two strains are updated from year to year. A list of the strains included in the 2008-2009 vaccine can be found at <http://www.fda.gov/cber/flu/flu2008.htm>.

Avian Influenza: **New**

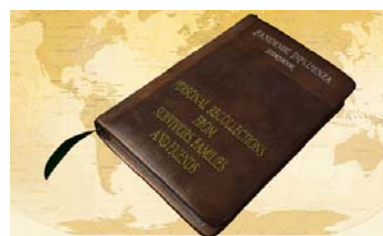
According to the World Health Organization (WHO), the cumulative number of confirmed cases of avian influenza H5N1 as of June 19, 2008, is 385 cases and 243 deaths. (Statistics last updated on June 19, 2008, by WHO). This is associated with a case fatality ratio of 63%.



WHO reported an increased incidence of Oseltamivir (Tamiflu) resistant H1N1 in Southern Hemisphere healthcare facilities over the past year. South Africa currently has identified 139 patients with Influenza A (H1N1), of which 107 demonstrated

resistance to Oseltamivir. Similar reports of significant resistance have come from Australia and Chile. Oseltamivir presently is the first-line antiviral for highly pathogenic avian influenza (H5N1). To read the entire report, please visit:

http://www.who.int/csr/disease/influenza/H1N1webupdate20082008_kf.pdf.



Credit: CDC

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has released an online storybook containing narratives from survivors, families and friends about one of the largest scourges ever on human kind – the 1918 influenza pandemic that killed millions of people around the world. The storybook provides valuable insight for public health officials preparing for the possibility of another pandemic some time in our future. This year marks the 90th anniversary of the 1918 influenza pandemic.

The Internet storybook contains about 50 stories from individuals from 24 states around the country as well as photos and narrative videos from the storytellers. Readers also have availability to post their personal recollections of the 1918, 1957 and 1968 pandemics. To view the storybook, please visit:

<http://www.pandemicflu.gov/storybook/index.html>.



The Center for Law and the Public's Health examined and characterized patterns in states' legal authority to close schools during non-emergencies and declared emergencies in response to pandemic influenza or other public health emergencies. Schools play a critical role in protecting the health of their students, staff and the community from highly contagious, infectious diseases such as seasonal or pandemic influenza. Modeling and analyses conducted by the CDC and

others suggest that community-wide school closures may mitigate the incidence of pandemic influenza, thereby reducing its impact on individuals, groups, healthcare providers, public health systems and the economy. The public health premise, consistent with social distancing theories, is that timely closing of schools may limit the spread of influenza (or other communicable conditions). The efficacy of social distancing measures for reducing the morbidity and mortality of pandemic influenza has been shown historically. To view the report and its conclusions, please visit: <http://www2a.cdc.gov/php/docs/Legal%20Preparedness%20for%20School%20Closure%20in%20Response%20to%20Pandemic%20Influenza.pdf>.

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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: **New**

Immunization Recommendations for First Responders (CDC)

<http://www.bt.cdc.gov/disasters/disease/responderimmun.asp>

Fire Department Preparedness for Extreme Weather Emergencies and Natural Disasters (U.S. Fire Administration)

http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/downloads/pdf/publications/tr_162.pdf

Tool for Evaluating Core Elements of Hospital Disaster Drills (AHRQ)

<http://www.ahrq.gov/prep/drillelements>

Emergency Management and Medical Web Sites

http://www.ynhhs.org/emergency/US_DHHS_web_sites.pdf

CDC to Launch Training Program for Veterinarians: **New**



Credit: MailOnline

In an effort to help address a national shortage of veterinarians certified to work with laboratory animals, the CDC has begun a new residency program in laboratory animal medicine in cooperation with Emory University's Robert W. Woodruff Health Sciences Center. This program will prepare experienced veterinarians who are

qualified and interested in laboratory animal medicine to work in high-containment laboratories (Biosafety Levels 3 and 4) being constructed across the country. The hope is that this will be a step in the right direction to filling the need for well-trained veterinarians who can perform vital research to help protect the public's health. For a further description of this program, please visit <http://cdc.gov/media/pressrel/2008/r080829.htm>.

Don't Gamble on Preparedness: **New**

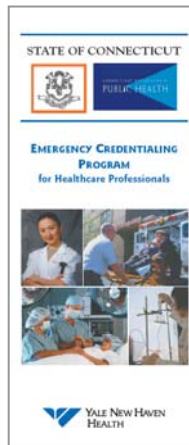


Credit: Weather.com

September 1st marks the beginning of National Preparedness Month, and the Gulf Coast was again hit by a significant hurricane. As we track the ongoing response to Gustav and the threat of Hurricane Hanna and other storms, it is important for all of us to focus our attention on being proactive. We all know that preparedness helps to make a community resilient. The better able a community is to respond, the better and faster they are able to rebound. Now is time to get prepared. If not now, when?

Many people are looking for information about the activities of MRC units in response to Hurricane Gustav (and in preparation for Hanna). The national MRC headquarters has compiled a report of MRC activities during this storm. You may also check the "Did you know...?" section on the MRC home page (www.medicalreservecorps.gov) for up-to-date information on response activities. If you would like to schedule a talk on personal and family preparedness, contact eugenie.schwartz@ynhh.org, or call at 203-688-2659. We will come to you to provide training.

Now is the time to think proactively: **New**



Just read the news....Hurricane Gustav appeared in the Caribbean just a week ago and five days later was battering the Gulf Coast, threatening to put New Orleans and Biloxi under 10-12 feet of water for the second time in three years. Planning proactively prevented mistakes made during Hurricane Katrina from being repeated. Damage in the Gulf states was estimated to exceed seven billion dollars and seven people were killed during the storm. There are now three additional tropical storms stretched across the Atlantic and one, Hanna, is forecast to come ashore in South Carolina and move up the coast, affecting southern New England over the coming weekend. Southern New England is long overdue for a catastrophic hurricane, and although Hanna may not be the one, we will eventually have to deal with such a storm. Even the best planning comes up short when dealing with unexpected events of this magnitude. Extra resources are always needed as this type of unexpected event can happen anywhere.

One resource that can answer the call is the State of Connecticut Emergency Credentialing Program for Healthcare Professionals. This is a program of pre-credentialed hospital disaster volunteers from

many disciplines who have offered to respond when a natural or manmade event overwhelms a facility, region or state. Volunteers who agree to assist are given facility and event specific "just-in time" training to assist them to function in their new setting and volunteers are covered for liability and workers' compensation.

Please visit our web site at www.ct-esar-vhp.org to see if this program is for you. Enrollment is done online, 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.

September is National Preparedness Month: **Updated**



September is National Preparedness Month. Get a kit, share your plans, and be prepared.

National Preparedness Month is a nationwide effort held each September to encourage citizens to take steps to prepare for emergencies. The goal of the program is to increase public and staff awareness about the importance of preparing for emergencies

and public health events and to encourage individuals to be proactive as opposed to reactive. Throughout September, YNH-CEPDR, working with the Yale New Haven Health System delivery network hospitals, will highlight the importance of personal and family emergency preparedness, promote individual involvement and develop a culture of preparedness. For more information, please contact Eugenie Schwartz at center@ynhh.org.

YNH-CEPDR will sponsor a two-day event at each of these hospitals:

- September 8-9: Bridgeport Hospital 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
- September 11-12: Greenwich Hospital 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
- September 24-25: Yale-New Haven Hospital 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

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

Hurricanes Related

Hazards: **New**



Damaging winds, flooding rains, devastating coastal flooding and tornadoes all wrapped in one storm system? Those are the hazards tropical storms and hurricanes can bring.

- Category 1 hurricanes have sustained winds of 74 to 95 mph. At the top of the scale are rare category 5 storms with sustained winds over 155 mph. Hospitals need to prepare to cover windows, doors or other glass areas which can be exposed to high winds and flying debris. Evaluate how long your high profile vehicles such as ambulances or helicopters can operate safely. Remember that winds increase with height. Therefore, the higher a building, the more vulnerable it is to winds.
- Even the weakest of storms can create havoc due to heavy rain. In some places, over two feet of rain fell during Tropical Storm Fay. If your hospital has floors below ground, they should be specially reinforced, especially if you have generators for backup power placed in areas susceptible to flooding. Will your facility become an "island" surrounded by floodwaters making access and exit from your buildings impossible unless by boat? You should know if you are in a flood zone.
- For hospitals in coastal areas, another hazard is coastal flooding. The "storm surge," a large mound of water that forms to the right side of a land-falling hurricane, can completely destroy buildings along the beachfront. The winds on the right side of the storm blow toward the coast and can pile up water to incredible heights. Hurricane Katrina produced a storm surge close to 28 feet high along the Mississippi coast. If your facilities are vulnerable to storm surge, you may have to move sensitive equipment to upper floors and evacuate patients to other facilities.
- Tropical storms and hurricanes can spawn tornadoes well before the strongest winds from the storm reach the coast and are capable of serious damage. The same safety rules that apply to tornadoes in the Midwest pertain to those associated with tropical storms and hurricanes and include moving to an interior room and protecting yourself.
- The task of protecting your facility is much more daunting for hospitals, nursing homes, and other medical facilities where large numbers of people need constant care and are sometimes unable to walk. Therefore, it is even more important for these types of facilities to have plans in place to protect those who must stay and safely move those who need to leave. It is too late when a hurricane watch is issued to begin thinking about what to do. Hurricanes can bring serious life threatening conditions. We cannot wish them away, but we can plan for patient and employee safety, and quick recovery.

Preparedness: **New**



One commonly overlooked preparedness activity involves preparing your motor vehicle for a possible evacuation from a threatened area. Evacuees may be on the road for hours in stop and go gridlock traffic with what are likely to be scarce options to refuel along the route. Your survival and those of your loved ones may very well rest on having a mechanically sound, well stocked vehicle. The Connecticut Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security has created a list of steps to take to make your evacuation safe. It also discusses the safe storage of fuel containers. To read this article and other information on National Preparedness Month, please visit

http://www.ct.gov/demhs/lib/demhs/docsuploaded/demhs_newsletter/sept_2008.pdf.



Two national nonprofit health groups are offering local public health departments a shot in the arm for fall influenza vaccination efforts by helping them organize immunization clinics at or near polling places. The Vote and Vax program. is a collaboration between the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF), a healthcare philanthropy organization, and SPARC (Sickness Prevention Achieved through Regional Collaboration), a nonprofit organization focused on disease prevention, according to background materials posted on the initiative's

who typically vote in large numbers, Vote and Vax organizers say. Seniors are one of the CDC's priority groups for flu immunization. To read the article, please visit

<http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/cidrap/content/influenza/general/news/aug2208votevax.html> or

The Vote and Vax program. web site at <http://www.voteandvax.org>.



Hurricane Gustav
Credit: K. Djanssezian/AP

On Sunday, Health and Human Services Secretary Michael Leavitt declared a public health emergency in the states affected by Hurricane Gustav: Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas. As a result, healthcare providers and suppliers in the emergency area will not be responsible for complying with a host of regulations, including certain Medicare and Medicaid conditions of participation, certification requirements, program. participation or similar requirements or

pre-approval requirements; requirements that physicians or other healthcare professionals hold licenses in the state in which they provide services, if they have a license from another state; and certain HIPAA privacy regulations. For more information, go to

http://www.cms.hhs.gov/Emergency/02_Hurricanes.asp.



In anticipation of Tropical Storm Hanna making landfall along the Georgia-South Carolina border late this week, serious consideration is being given to evacuating the city of Savannah and the barrier islands prior to the storm. It has been 29 years since Savannah suffered a direct hit, but Georgia emergency officials are very concerned about a possible direct hit by Hanna on the Georgia coast south of Savannah late in the week with maximum sustained winds of up to

100 mph. Officials are considering starting to evacuate special needs residents as early as Wednesday. To read the latest news on this topic, please visit

<http://www.11alive.com/news/local/story.aspx?storyid=120571&catid=39>.



The largest earthquake drill in United States history will take place from November 12-16, 2008. The Great Southern California Shakeout was organized to inspire Southern Californians to get ready for big earthquakes and to prevent disasters from becoming catastrophes. The scenario is based on a potential magnitude 7.8 earthquake on the southern San Andreas Fault - approximately 5,000 times larger than the magnitude 5.4 earthquake that shook Southern California on July 29, 2008. To register or request more information, please visit

<http://www.shakeout.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.

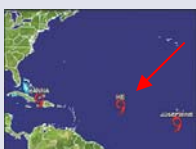
Disasters around the World: **New**



Credit: AP/Alan Diaz

New Orleans residents who were evacuated as Hurricane Gustav approached the northern Gulf of Mexico were being allowed back into the city when the ban was lifted at 10 a.m. Wednesday morning. The hurricane made landfall as a Category 2 storm in Cocodrie, LA, 70 miles to the west of New Orleans, leaving the city and Coastal Mississippi (Biloxi) relatively unscathed. As of Thursday, September 4th, there are still widespread power outages in the area and schools will not reopen before Monday, September 8th at the earliest. For complete coverage, please visit <http://www.nola.com/>.

- Tropical Storm Hanna began a slow move northward at 11a.m. Wednesday morning and was located about 95 miles east-southeast of Great Inagua Island in the Bahamas, according to the National Hurricane Center. After passing over the Bahamas, the storm is predicted to make a turn to the northwest and make landfall as a Category 1 or 2 hurricane between the Savannah, GA area and the Carolinas as soon as this Friday morning, September 5th. Depending on the exact track, Southern New England may experience the storm's remnants over the weekend. For further information, please visit <http://www.cnn.com/2008/WORLD/weather/09/03/hurricane.hanna/index.html>.



Credit: NOAA

Tropical Storm Ike was located about 740 miles east-northeast of the Leeward Islands at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, September 3rd. The storm is anticipated to gain hurricane strength today and move over the open waters of the west-central Atlantic over the next several days. Further to the east, Tropical Storm Josephine formed and was located this morning 300 miles west-southwest of the southernmost Cape Verde Islands. Current wind speed is 65 mph, and it is anticipated that she will weaken as she moves west-northwest over the next couple of days. Due to their positions, it is not possible to accurately estimate strike probabilities for either storm. Please visit the National Hurricane Center web page at <http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/index.shtml>.

- Areas of both Florida and Louisiana have experienced the effects of Hurricanes Faye and Gustav respectively, with significant flooding episodes and wind damage over the past two weeks, and have been declared federal disaster areas. For more information on these events, visit FEMA at <http://www.fema.gov/news/event.fema?id=10448> (Faye) or <http://www.fema.gov/news/event.fema?id=10489> (Gustav).

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_CompencyCrosswalk.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.

Positions Available at YNH-CEPDR



YNH-CEPDR has an opening for an Emergency Management 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/>.

Upcoming Meetings and Events

DATE	TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
9.8.08 to 9.9.09	9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.	National Preparedness Month Display <i>Sponsored by the Yale New Haven Center for Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Response</i>	Main Lobby Bridgeport Hospital Bridgeport, CT For more information, please e-mail center@ynhh.org
9.9.08 to 9.12.08	See web site	ASTHO-NACCHO Joint Conference <i>Sponsored by ASTHO and NACCHO</i>	Charleston Area Convention Center North Charleston, SC Sacramento Convention Center Sacramento, CA For more information, please visit http://www.astho.org/?template=2008_astho-naccho_meeting.html
9.11.08	8:00 p.m.	"On Watch:" Connecticut's Emergency Service Volunteers: A Local Lens Special <i>Presented by Connecticut Public Television and the Connecticut Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security</i>	Connecticut Public Television Channels Hartford: WEDH-24 Bridgeport: WEDW-49/ WEDW DT-52 Norwich: WEDN-53/ WEDN DT-45
9.11.08 to 9.12.09	9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.	National Preparedness Month Display <i>Sponsored by the Yale New Haven Center for Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Response</i>	Outside the cafeteria Greenwich Hospital Greenwich, CT For more information, please e-mail center@ynhh.org
9.11.08 To 9.16.08	See web site	North American Congress of Clinical Toxicology <i>Sponsored by the American Academy of Clinical Toxicology</i>	The Sheraton Center Toronto Hotel Toronto, Ontario, Canada For more information, please visit http://www.cforums.com/emails/819_meetingAnnoun.htm
9.23.08	See web site	Mental Health on College Campuses: A Growing Concern: The Governor's School and College Security Conference <i>Sponsored by the Connecticut Departments of Higher Education, Public Safety, Emergency Management and Homeland Security and U.S. Attorney's Office</i>	Rentschler Field East Hartford, CT For more information, please visit http://www.ctdhe.org
9.24.08 to 9.25.09	9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.	National Preparedness Month Display <i>Sponsored by the Yale New Haven Center for Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Response</i>	Atrium Yale-New Haven Hospital New Haven, CT For more information, please e-mail center@ynhh.org

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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