

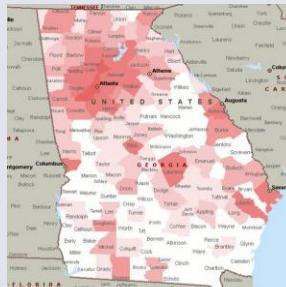
THE PREPAREDNESS REPORT

The Center for Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Response

Volume 6, Issue 30 | October 16, 2008

ELEVATED THREAT LEVEL

Pandemic Flu Models Help Determine Food Distribution and School Closing Strategies: **New**



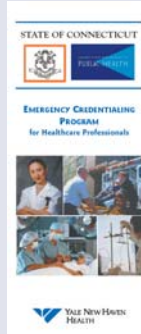
Credit: Piner Keskinocak

While it is difficult to predict when the next influenza pandemic will occur or how severe it will be, researchers at the Georgia Institute of Technology have developed models to help organizations like the American Red Cross and Georgia Department of Education prepare emergency response plans. Knowing how many people will need food, how many

food distribution facilities will be necessary, where the facilities should be located and how the resources should be allocated among the facilities are addressed in this model. School closures and their impact on vital emergency workers are also addressed. For more information about the project, please visit

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2008/10/081012164443.htm>.

Looking for a Few Good Men and Women: **New**



Just like the Marine Corps, we are looking for a "few good men and women" to become volunteers in the State of Connecticut Emergency Credentialing Program for Healthcare Professionals. Professionals in Medicine, Nursing, Radiology, Physical Therapy, Behavioral Health, Respiratory Therapy as well as many others are needed. This is a program of both pre-credentialed and 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.

Avian Influenza: **New**

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), the cumulative number of confirmed cases of avian influenza H5N1 as of September 10, 2008, is 387 cases and 245 deaths. This is associated with a case fatality rate of 63%. Indonesia and Viet Nam report the largest number of cases. To see a breakdown by country, please visit http://www.who.int/csr/disease/avian_influenza/country/cases_table_2008_09_10/en/index.html.



U.S. Food and Drug Administration
Protecting and Promoting Your Health

The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) today cleared a new test developed by The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to diagnose human influenza infections and the highly pathogenic influenza A (H5N1) viruses. The device, called the Human Influenza Virus Real-Time RT-PCR Detection and Characterization Panel (rRT-PCR Flu Panel) can detect and identify commonly circulating human influenza viruses as well as influenza A (H5N1) viruses. Results can be available within four hours, and the system can test multiple samples at once. To read the press release, please visit <http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2008pres/09/20080930a.html>.



Researchers at Rockefeller University's Aaron Diamond AIDS Research Center, together with colleagues at Taiwan's Academia Sinica, have built a vaccine that stimulates immunity to a broad range of H5N1 viruses in mice by using DNA rather than dead virus particles grown in eggs. Such a vaccine, which consists of plasmid DNA that has been genetically modified to elicit specific immune responses, is much easier to rapidly modify and produce critical advantages when racing to prevent an epidemic. To read about this promising research, please visit

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2008/10/081002210914.htm>.

- The CDC has awarded a \$16.9 million contract to American Type Culture Collection (ATCC) of Manassas, VA to implement the CDC Influenza Reagent Resource (CDC-IRR), a secure, web-based system that will improve access to influenza viruses, test kits and other reagents for approved laboratories. The system will allow researchers, developers and public health officials improved access to a repository of influenza viruses, including influenza viruses that could pose a pandemic risk, as well as kits and reagents (certain substances used in the testing process) through a secure Internet web portal for approved users. To read the press release, please visit <http://www.cdc.gov/media/pressrel/2008/r081008.htm>.
- An international study led by University of Leicester researchers has determined that vaccination will be the best way to protect people in the event of the next influenza pandemic – but that each person would need two doses. The results also indicated that regardless of which avian strain individuals are originally primed with, they are quickly protected against a broad range of avian strains following their booster vaccine, even strains they were not initially inoculated against. To read the entire study, which was published in the *New England Journal of Medicine*, please visit <http://content.nejm.org/cgi/reprint/359/15/1631.pdf>.
- The CDC has awarded \$24 million to fund 55 projects in 29 state and local public health departments that could serve as innovative approaches for influenza pandemic preparedness. "What is learned from these projects can benefit everyone because it could improve national, regional and local public health detection and response to a pandemic involving influenza," according to CDC officials. The CDC intends for the recipients to implement promising practices or to develop effective approaches and models that can be replicated nationally. To view the press release, please visit <http://www.cdc.gov/media/pressrel/2008/r080924.htm>.

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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:

Highlighted Resources: **New**

Treatment Guide: *"Hazardous Materials Exposure Guide: A step-by-step Medical Response Guide"*. Minnesota Department of Health. 2008.
<http://health.state.mn.us/divs/ph/labep/hazmat/hazmatguide.pdf>

Disaster Recovery: Past Experiences Offer Insights for Recovering from Hurricanes Ike and Gustav and Other Recent Natural Disasters
<http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d081120high.pdf>

Emergency Management and Medical Web Sites
http://www.ynhhs.org/emergency/US_DHHS_web_sites.pdf

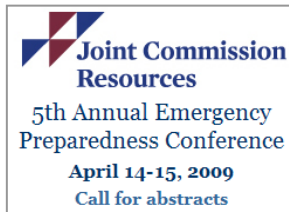
Hurricane Related Information: **New**



While the federal government provides significant financial assistance after major disasters, state and local governments play the lead role in disaster recovery. As affected jurisdictions recover from the recent hurricanes and floods, experiences from past disasters can provide insights into potential good practices. Drawing on experiences from six major disasters that occurred from 1989 to 2005, the General Accounting Office identified selected insights based on past experiences with natural disasters in a report to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, US. Senate. To view the entire report, please visit <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d081120.pdf>.

- The effects of a disaster, whether it be a natural disaster, terrorist attack or other public health emergency can be long-lasting, and the resulting trauma can impact even those not directly affected by the disaster. The following site from the CDC provides general strategies for promoting mental health and resilience. These strategies were developed by various organizations based on experiences in prior disasters. List of resources: <http://emergency.cdc.gov/mentalhealth/>.
- The CDC is directly involved in recovery efforts in Louisiana, Tennessee, Texas and Haiti. The agency has deployed medical doctors, key emergency management officials and environmental health professionals to work with state and local officials, HHS and FEMA in those places to address critical health threats. In Texas, The CDC and partners are operating four Federal Medical Stations, which provide medical and pharmaceutical care to evacuees. More information: <http://emergency.cdc.gov/disasters/hurricanes2008/22sep2008.asp>.

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



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 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**



* This map indicates geographic spread and does not measure the severity of influenza activity.



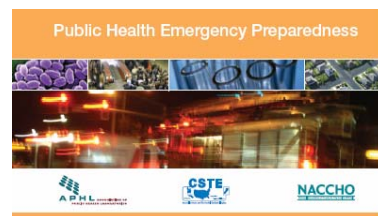
As of October 4th, sporadic seasonal influenza has been reported in New York, Connecticut, Florida, Colorado, Idaho and California. This report, which is submitted to the CDC by state and territorial epidemiologists may be found at: <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/>.

The CDC has announced the week of December 8-14, 2008, as National Influenza Vaccination Week. This event is



designed to highlight the importance of continuing influenza (flu) vaccination, as well as foster greater use of flu vaccine through the months of November, December and beyond. For media resources, a list of scheduled events and a flu clinic locator, please visit <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/NIVW/index.htm>

Preparedness: **New**



Since the 2001 anthrax and 9/11 terrorist attacks, the United States has developed a much more robust and effective public health infrastructure, with many measurable accomplishments at the state, territorial and local levels. These enhancements have improved not only public health emergency preparedness, but also the daily capacity of state and local agencies to monitor and respond to more routine infectious disease,

environmental and injury-related concerns. America is now more prepared than ever to deal with public health emergencies. A report detailing these advances is available from The Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO). To view the entire report, please visit <http://www.astho.org/pubs/PHEPPartnersReport.pdf>.



Credit: AP/Wide World

The federal government needs a strong vaccine with at least a two-year shelf life to quickly inoculate the entire nation against anthrax in case of a terrorist attack. To develop better anthrax vaccine, a genetically modified version that produces robust immunity in fewer shots with lessened side effects is being developed. Two companies are developing the new vaccines as a replacement for **BioThrax**, the first and only anthrax vaccine, licensed in 1970. Funding will come from the Bush administration's \$5.6 billion Project BioShield, a program established in 2004 to stockpile an emergency reserve of critical drugs to protect Americans from bioterrorism. To read the article, which appeared in the Washington Post, please visit <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/10/05/AR2008100501933.html?sub=AR>.

Preparedness: **New** (Continued)

JOHNS HOPKINS BERMAN INSTITUTE
OF BIOETHICS

Not only are doctors, nurses and firefighters essential during a severe pandemic influenza outbreak. So, too, are truck drivers, communications personnel and utility workers. In a study conducted by the Johns Hopkins Berman Institute of Bioethics provides ethical guidance for pandemic planning that ensures a skeletal infrastructure remains intact at all times to support a public who may have limited or no access to food, water, sewage systems, fuel and communications. These secondary consequences may cause greater sickness death and social breakdown than the virus itself. To read the press release and report, please visit <http://www.liebertonline.com/doi/abs/10.1089/bsp.2008.0020>.

- Federal health officials announced a plan to supply mail carriers with antibiotics so they will be protected and prepared to deliver the drugs to others in case of an anthrax attack. By providing advance protection to letter carriers who volunteer to deliver antibiotics in an affected community, the Postal Service hopes to get much needed medicine to those who need it quickly. The program will start with a \$500,000 pilot project involving carriers in Minneapolis and St. Paul, MN. For more information, please visit <http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/cidrap/content/bt/anthrax/news/oct0208anthrax.html>.



FEMA's Ready Campaign joined with more than 3,200 National Preparedness Month coalition members in the month of September to educate individuals, families and communities on the importance of emergency preparedness. This year's coalition of national, regional, state and local organizations was the largest in the five-year history of National Preparedness Month, representing a 4,000 percent increase in participation to date. This year, National Preparedness Month coalition members coordinated more than 420 events and activities across the country, ranging from seminars and fairs to community outreach events, workshops, webinars and training. To read more, please visit http://www.dhs.gov/xnews/releases/pr_12229735_45857.shtm.

- Individuals with disabilities are especially vulnerable during times of emergency, and the US Department of Labor's Office of Disability Employment Policy, in partnership with 21 other federal agencies, has established an online resource for information on emergency preparedness, particularly as it relates to weather. To access this resource, please visit <http://www.disabilityinfo.gov/digov-public/public/DisplayPage.do?parentFolderId=213>.

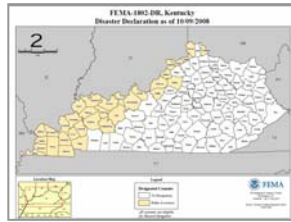
Disasters around the World: **New**



Hurricane Omar
Credit: NOAA/Reuters

Late into the Atlantic hurricane season, two tropical depressions continue to swirl in the open ocean. Tropical Depression Nana remains in the far eastern Atlantic Ocean, southwest of the Cape Verde Islands and is expected to dissipate today. A tropical depression, which formed on October 13, became Hurricane Omar after hitting the Lesser Antilles. The current track of this system will take it over Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands and then into the North Atlantic after passing southeast of Bermuda. For further details, please visit <http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/index.shtml>.

- There presently is no significant tropical activity noted in the Western Pacific, Southern Pacific and Indian Ocean areas. For further forecasts and other information, please visit <http://metocph.nmci.navy.mil/jtwc.php>.



Kentucky has been declared a federal disaster area due to the effects of a severe windstorm associated with Tropical Depression Ike. North Carolina was also declared a federal disaster area due to damage sustained from Tropical Storm Hanna. Due to severe storms, tornadoes and flooding during the period of September 12-16, 2008, Oklahoma has also been declared a federal disaster area. For more information on these events, please visit FEMA at <http://www.fema.gov/news/event.fema?id=10729> (Kentucky), <http://www.fema.gov/news/event.fema?id=10728> (North Carolina), and <http://www.fema.gov/news/event.fema?id=10730> (Oklahoma).



A magnitude 6.1 earthquake was detected on Sunday, October 11, 2008, at 6:40 a.m. (EDT) with an epicenter 59 miles NNW of Tortola, British Virgin Islands. No ocean-wide tsunami was predicted, but smaller localized ones could occur due to local underwater landslides. For further information, please visit <http://earthquake.usgs.gov/eqcenter/recenteqsww/Quakes/prp0828504.php>.

- As reported in *AHA News Now (9/30/08)*, hospitals devastated by the recent hurricanes in Louisiana and Texas will be exempt from submitting certain outpatient quality data to receive a full Medicare payment update, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services announced today. The waiver applies to hospital outpatient clinical process measures for second-quarter 2008 for all hospitals in counties designated as directly affected by the storms. To receive the data submission waiver, hospitals must submit a disaster waiver form. There is no data validation required for second-quarter outpatient data, so no validation waiver is required. Hospitals in counties not designated as directly affected by the storms can request an outpatient data submission waiver from the CMS Regional Division of Quality Improvement.

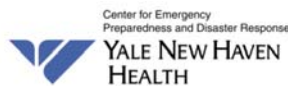
Protecting the Healthcare Workforce



Ensuring that all of your staff knows 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 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 Emergency Management Specialist. Please contact YNH-CEPDR at (203) 688-3224 or center@ynhh.org for more information, or apply online at <http://www.ynhscareers.org/>.

Education and Training Courses: Updated



The Yale New Haven Center for Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Response (YNH-CEPDR) is pleased to announce that our National Incident Management System (NIMS) courses will be available shortly. YNH-CEPDR is committed to ensuring that our courses remain current with applicable federal and accrediting agency requirements. The current course update, will meet the requirements outlined in the FEMA February 2008 National Incident Management System (NIMS): Five-Year NIMS Training Plan. The updated courses (**New**). Offer a health care focused, effective and NIMS compliant alternative to FEMA IS-100, IS-200, and IS-700 courses. YNH-CEPDR has developed a detailed course-mapping matrix to demonstrate strict compliance with FEMA/NIMS objectives and sub-objectives.

- **EM 106: Emergency Preparedness for Healthcare Professionals – At Work and At Home (New)** Emergency preparedness is the responsibility of every healthcare employee. Whether meeting The Joint Commission, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services requirements or ensuring that employees will come to work during a disaster, emergency preparedness training is essential. This awareness-level course will provide the information and action steps all employees can take to ensure a work environment prepared for disasters and is recommended for all hospital and healthcare employees. For more information, please contact us at (203) 688-3224 or center@ynhh.org.
- **EM 108 with NIMS: Emergency Preparedness for Healthcare Professionals (New)** Hospitals and many healthcare organizations are now required to implement the National Incident Management System (NIMS) education and training for appropriate personnel. YNH-CEPDR has developed Emergency Preparedness for Healthcare Professionals with NIMS (EM 108) as an equivalent IS 700 NIMS course. This course is time-efficient and relevant to public health, hospital and healthcare workers. The course provides information and action steps all employees can take to ensure a work environment prepared for disasters. 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 respirator and PPE 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 141: Role of the Medical or Technical Specialist During an Incident (New)** A course which explores the roles and responsibilities of medical and technical specialists when the ICS has been activated and includes an interactive case study. During a disaster, members of the command or general staff may require additional information about chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear (CBRN) emergencies, information technology or legal issues, which a designated medical or technical specialist can provide. For more information, please contact us at (203) 688-3224 or center@ynhh.org.
- **EM 142 with NIMS: Incident Command Systems for Healthcare (New)** This course is designed to help healthcare leaders understand their role in managing continuous care for patients in the event of an emergency or disaster and to meet the federal requirements for IS 100.HC, An Introduction to Incident Command System and IS 200.HC, Applying Incident Command System to Healthcare Organizations. EM 142 is designed for all those who may serve in a leadership role in a healthcare organization during an emergency or disaster. For more information, please contact us at (203) 688-3224 or center@ynhh.org.
- **EM 210: Advanced Radiological Emergency Preparedness for Clinicians (New)** This course is designed for clinicians with an interest in understanding radiation concepts, the medical effects of radiation on biological systems, radiation countermeasures and essential elements for dealing with radiological and nuclear emergencies in the health care environment. 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 health care 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 health care 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.
- **EM 250: Small Victims, Big Challenges: Pediatric Triage, Treatment and Recovery for Emergencies (New)** A course which introduces clinicians acting as first receivers to the unique challenges encountered with children in a disaster. Children represent a special subset of individuals at-risk as they have unique physiological and pharmacological considerations. The federal Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Act (PAHPA) encourages the Department of Health and Human Services to promote appropriate pre-disaster activities at the state and local levels to address the medical health needs of children. For more information, please contact us at (203) 688-3224 or center@ynhh.org.
- **EM 260: Geriatric Preparedness, Triage and Treatment in Disasters (New)** A course which introduces clinicians acting as first receivers to the unique challenges encountered with the elderly in a disaster. Senior citizens represent a special subset of individuals at-risk as they have unique physiological and pharmacological considerations. The federal Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Act (PAHPA) encourages the Department of Health and Human Services to promote appropriate pre-disaster activities at the state and local levels to address the medical health needs of the elderly. 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, or visit our web site at <http://www.yalenewhavenhealth.org/emergency/index.html>.

UPCOMING

Upcoming Meetings and Events

DATE	TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
10.21.08	1:00-2:00 p.m. (EST)	COCA Conference Call: Public Legal Preparedness <i>Sponsored by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention</i>	Materials to be available soon. Please check for updates at http://emergency.cdc.gov/coca/callinfo.asp .
10.27.08 to 10.28.08	See web site	Altered Standards of Care & Surge Capacity Conference: Mass Casualty Management in Times of Crisis <i>Sponsored by Government Horizons and Homeland Defense Journal in partnership with Martin, Blanck and Associates</i>	Capitol Hilton 1001 16 th Street, NW Washington, DC For more information, please visit http://www.governmenthorizons.org/SurgeCapacityConference/ .
11.06.08	12:00-1:30 p.m.(EST)	"Lessons Learned from the Field of Emergency Preparedness" – A free webcast <i>Sponsored by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality</i>	To register, please go to https://ahrq-kt.webex.com/mw03051/mywebex/default.do?nomenu=true&siteurl=ahrq-kt&service=6&main_url=https://ahrq-kt.webex.com/ec06001/eventcenter/event/eventAction.do?theAction=detail&confViewID=128670223&siteurl=ahrq-kt&& . <i>(Note: you will need to hit the "back" button on the screen to access the registration site.)</i>
11.16.08 to 11.19.08	See web site	International Conference on Rebuilding Sustainable Communities for Children and Their Families after Disasters <i>Sponsored by the College of Public and Community Service, University of Massachusetts at Boston</i>	University of Massachusetts Boston Campus Center Boston, MA For more information, please visit www.cpcs.umb.edu/rsc CFD .

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

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hhs.soc@hhs.gov • (202) 619-7800 • <http://www.hhs.gov/disasters/>