

Office of Emergency Preparedness

Southern Tier Briefing

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ELEVATED

Volume 2, Issue 22

Threat Level

May 28, 2004

Southern Tier Hospitals Special Meeting

- A special meeting for the southern tier hospitals is scheduled for June 10, 2004 from 8:00 am – 11:00 am at the Connecticut Hospital Association in Wallingford. The keynote speaker will be Eric Noji, MD, MPH, Special Assistant to the United States Surgeon General for Homeland Security and Disaster Medicine. Medical and administrative and clinical personnel from each of the southern tier acute care hospitals are encouraged to attend and invitations to the hospital CEOs are forthcoming. This meeting will take the place of the June southern tier hospital meeting. Please contact OEP at (203) 688-3224 to confirm attendance.



Emergency Credentialing System

- Twenty-eight of the 32 Connecticut acute care hospitals have signed participating hospital agreements, and 1,335 physicians have volunteered to be listed in the database. The statewide Emergency Credentialing System Committee continues to develop the policies and protocols for other healthcare disciplines such as nursing, radiography, and respiratory care.

Seeking Terrorism Information

- Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Director Robert Mueller and Attorney General John Ashcroft held a press conference on May 26, 2004 to call renewed attention to 7 individuals believed to pose a real and present danger to United States around the world, especially this summer and fall when high-profile public events are scheduled to occur. Director Mueller called upon the American people to support the efforts of the FBI by cooperating with agents, being aware of your surrounding and being on the lookout (BOLO) for the 7 suspects whose photos and descriptions can be downloaded from <http://www.fbi.gov/terrorinfo/terrorismsi.htm>.

Training & Education

- Currently 85% of healthcare personnel have completed EM 101. YNHHS continues to work with the southern tier hospitals, Hartford Hospital, and other healthcare delivery agencies such as nursing homes, home health, and others to expand the program statewide.
- A poster entitled, "Connecticut Healthcare Emergency Response Education and Training Delivery System" was developed by OEP Education and Training staff and presented at the National Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Bioterrorism Training Curriculum Development Program Awardee Conference on May 26, 2004.
- EM 101 versions specific to nursing homes, home health agencies, community health centers and urgent care centers are available on CD. Please contact Scott Selig, Education & Training Coordinator at (203) 688-2587 or scott.selig@ynhh.org.

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Laboratory Response Network

- A day-long statewide laboratory conference has been scheduled for June 3, 2004 at CHA in Wallingford. Presentations will include laboratory response to biological, chemical, and radiological threats, syndromic surveillance, and biodetection systems. Please contact Elaine Forte, Laboratory Program Advisor, for more information at (203) 688-3391.



CDC/HRSA Block Grants

- OEP has received copies of the guidance documents for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)/Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) state block grant guidance that will be submitted by the State of Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH) on July 1, 2004. Proposals to maintain and enhance initiatives related to healthcare emergency preparedness are being developed by OEP and will be presented to DPH shortly.

UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

<u>EVENT</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
STATEWIDE LABORATORY CONFERENCE	6/3/04	8:30 AM	CHA
SOUTHERN TIER HOSPITALS SPECIAL MEETING	6/10/04	8:30 AM	CHA

Emerging Infectious Diseases & Public Threats

Travel Health Guidance System

- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) implemented a new system for providing travelers with guidance regarding potential health hazards and the steps they can take to protect themselves when traveling abroad. Effective immediately, the system will replace previous travel alerts and advisories and is comprised of four levels: In the News, Outbreak Notice, Travel Health Precaution, and Travel Health Warning. A complete description of the definitions and criteria for issuing and removing travel notices can be found at www.cdc.gov/travel.

Drills & Exercises

- Region 7 hospitals (St. Mary's Hospital, Waterbury Hospital, and Griffin Hospital) will participate in the Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments tabletop drill on June 12, 2004.
- A tabletop exercise is scheduled for June 10, 2004 at Backus Hospital. The drill will include local public health, emergency medical services, police, fire, and the Office of Emergency Management (OEM). YNHHS has been participating in the planning and will serve as an evaluator.
- A tabletop exercise has been scheduled for Yale-New Haven Hospital (Y-NHH) on July 28, 2004. OEP will facilitate the exercise and individuals will be invited to participate through Y-NHH administration.
- Connecticut hospitals will be involved in the TOPOFF3 state, national, and international drill scheduled for April 18-22, 2005. Connecticut, New Jersey, the United Kingdom, and Canada will be involved in the exercise. Some of the goals to be implemented in Connecticut include testing the functionality of regional Emergency Operations Center (EOC), testing the functionality of mobile mass decontamination units, testing the National Incident Management Systems (NIMS) consistency, and testing the Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and Explosive (CBRNE) incident response and recovery plans.

Medical Reserve Corps

- The OEP Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) Coordinator made a presentation on the Yale New Haven Health System Medical Reserve Corps to the Second Annual New England Homeland Security Conference held at the United States Coast Guard Academy in New London, Connecticut on May 27, 2004.

ONGOING TRAINING & EDUCATION			
EVENT	DATE	TIME	LOCATION
BIOTERRORISM: THE CURRENT THREAT, IMPORTANT BIOLOGICAL AGENTS AND MEDICAL COUNTERMEASURES (860) 679-1510 OR MPH@NSO.UCHC.EDU	6/8/04	3:00 PM	LINK ROOM UCONN HEALTH CENTER
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE OPERATIONS & PLANNING FOR WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION	6/15-17/04	8:00 AM	CENTRAL CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY EMS ACADEMY
SELECTION & USE OF PERSONAL & RESPIRATORY PROTECTION FOR HEALTHCARE EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS: AN ALL-HAZARDS APPROACH	6/24/04	8:00 AM	CONNECTICUT HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION
AGROTERRORISM AND PUBLIC HEALTH: REESTABLISHING AN OLD RELATIONSHIP HTTP://WWW.ADPH.ORG/ALPHTN	6/24/04	1:00 PM EASTERN	SATELLITE BROADCAST

CURRENT DISASTER & EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT LITERATURE (WWW.SAFETYLIT.ORG)

GARCIA-CASTRILLO RIESGO L, GARCIA MERINO A. *TERRORISM IN SPAIN: EMERGENCY MEDICAL ASPECTS*. PREHOSPITAL DISASTER MED 2003; 18(2): 148-151. CORRESPONDENCE: L. GARCIA-CASTRILLO, EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT, "HOSPITAL UNIVERSITARIO MARQUES DE VALDECILLA", SANTANDER, SPAIN; (EMAIL: URGGRL@HUMV.ES). ABSTRACT: [HTTP://WWW.SAFETYLIT.ORG/WEEK/2004/040524.HTM](http://WWW.SAFETYLIT.ORG/WEEK/2004/040524.HTM)

PATOCKA J, FUSEK J. *CHEMICAL AGENTS AND CHEMICAL TERRORISM*. CENT EUR J PUBLIC HEALTH 2004; 12 SUPPL: s75-s77. CORRESPONDENCE: J. PATOCKA, DEPARTMENT OF TOXICOLOGY, PURKYNE MILITARY MEDICAL ACADEMY, HRADEC KRALOVE, CZECH REPUBLIC; (EMAIL: PATOCKA@PMFHK.CZ). ABSTRACT: [HTTP://WWW.SAFETYLIT.ORG/WEEK/2004/040524.HTM](http://WWW.SAFETYLIT.ORG/WEEK/2004/040524.HTM)

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