

## Office of Emergency Preparedness

### Southern Tier Briefing

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**ELEVATED**

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Threat Level

August 13, 2004

**Due to the elevated threat level in New York City, southern tier hospitals are encouraged to review their hazard vulnerability assessment checklists as a precautionary measure. Thank you for your continued support of the State of Connecticut Department of Public Health's request for twice daily bed capacity reporting as well as daily MEDSAT phone testing. Information provided is reviewed by the State of Connecticut Department of Public Health Commissioner Galvin and shared with the Governor's Office as part of Connecticut's emergency preparedness activities.**

#### Training & Education

- Currently 13,412 healthcare personnel have completed EM 101 as part of their emergency preparedness efforts. 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.
- Connecticut's inaugural National Disaster Life Support training program will be held from September 28 – October 1, 2004. The program will include Basic Disaster Life Support (BDLS), Advanced Disaster Life Support (ADLS), and the ADLS Instructor course. Physicians, nurses, and paramedics will be selected from hospitals and EMS agencies throughout the state. The entire cost of this 4-day program will be funded by a grant from HRSA, and brochures will be distributed during the next few weeks. For additional information, please contact David Burich at (203) 688-3721 or [david.burich@ynhh.org](mailto:david.burich@ynhh.org).
- The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has published a draft document entitled *OSHA Best Practices for Hospital-Based First Receivers of Victims from Mass Casualty of Hazardous Substances*. This document provides practical information for hospitals to address employee protection and training as part of emergency planning for mass casualty incidents involving hazardous substances and is attached to this briefing.

#### Syndromic Surveillance

- In response to the State of Connecticut Department of Public Health's request for participation, four southern tier hospitals have transmitted test ED Syndromic Surveillance data to DPH and will implement automated extraction and transmission protocols shortly. The data provided will allow DPH to monitor any public health threats emerging in New York City with the potential to spread to Connecticut via our extensive commuter population.

#### Smallpox Planning Template

- Those hospitals that have not yet completed their Hospital Smallpox Vaccination Template are encouraged to do so as soon as possible. Completed templates and Appendices A through D should be sent by August 19, 2004 to Christopher Cannon, OEP, 1 Church Street, 5th Floor, New Haven, CT 06510.

#### Bioterrorism Specimen Collection Kit Training

- In collaboration with the State of Connecticut Department of Public Health, YNHHS OEP will be facilitating refresher training on use of the BT specimen collection kit at each of Connecticut's 32 acute care hospitals. Please contact Elaine Forte at (203) 688-3391 or [elaine.forte@ynhh.org](mailto:elaine.forte@ynhh.org) to schedule a training session.

#### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 2 Biodosimetry Lab
- 2 Identifying and Measuring Chemical Agents in Humans
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### Biodosimetry Lab

- Eight laboratories in Connecticut, representing 7 of the 10 public health preparedness planning regions have been trained to provide specimen processing support to the State of Connecticut Biodosimetry lab during a radiation disaster. Please contact Dr. Joe Albanese at (203) 688-3316 to schedule a training session at your laboratory.

### UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

<u>EVENT</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
BT MEETING	8/16/04	1:00 PM	CHA

### Identifying and Measuring Chemical Agents in Humans

- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Journal of Analytical Toxicology have collaborated on a special edition of the journal devoted to assessing human exposure to chemical agents. The journal highlights new methods using state-of-the-art instruments to measure low-level exposure to chemicals, including those that might be used by terrorists such as nerve agents, sulfur mustard agents, and cyanide compounds. For more details, please visit the CDC website at <http://www.cdc.gov/od/oc/media/pressrel/r040728.htm>.

### ONGOING TRAINING & EDUCATION

<u>EVENT</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
AN INTRODUCTION TO THE NATIONAL INCIDENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (NIMS)	8/19/04	9:00 AM	CHA
EMERGENCY LIFTS, DRAGS, AND CARRIES FOR TRANSPORTING PATIENTS RHONDA BATES (203) 294-7267	8/24/04	8:00 AM	CHA
FULL HOSPITAL EVALUATION PLANS RHONDA BATES (203) 294-7267	8/25/04	9:00 AM	CHA
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EMERGENCY LIFTS, DRAGS, AND CARRIES FOR TRANSPORTING PATIENTS RHONDA BATES (203) 294-7267	8/24/04	8:00 AM	CHA

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