

Office of Emergency Preparedness

Southern Tier Briefing

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ELEVATED

Volume 2, Issue 38

Threat Level

September 17, 2004

As part of Connecticut's ongoing emergency preparedness activities and until notified otherwise by the State of Connecticut Department of Public Health, southern tier hospitals are encouraged to report their hospital bed capacity twice daily via the BT website. Weekly testing of the MEDSAT communications system has resumed to every Thursday at 10:00 a.m.

Training/Education

- Currently 15,408 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.
- Registrations are still being accepted for Connecticut's inaugural National Disaster Life Support training program to be held from September 28 – October 1, 2004. Physicians, nurses and paramedics that register for the 4-day ADLS instructor course will be requested to serve as trainers for future courses held in Connecticut. Those interested in attending should contact their supervisors and register as soon as possible as space is limited. Physicians, physician assistants and paramedics will receive 6.5 Category 1 credits for completion of the BDL course and 13.0 Category 1 credits for completion of the 2-day ADLS course. Registered nurses and APRNs will receive the same number of Category 1 credits which can be used toward the educational requirements for recertification. For additional information, please contact David Burich at (203) 688-3721 or david.burich@ynhh.org as seats are filling quickly.

National Preparedness Month

- On September 9, 2004, the U. S. Department of Homeland Security launched National Preparedness Month. Senators Susan Collins, R-ME, and Joseph Lieberman, D-CT, and Representatives Christopher Cox, R-CA, and Jane Harman, D-CA, joined DHS Secretary Tom Ridge in thanking participating individuals and organizations for their efforts to make the nation more prepared. "National Preparedness Month will give everyone an opportunity to work toward a better prepared America," said Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge. "This broad coalition and vast number of activities and events will allow us to reach millions of individuals and inform them about ways they can prepare for emergencies in their homes, businesses and schools." To encourage and assist YNHHS employees and their families with the development of their own preparedness plans, YNHHS OEP has developed a checklist and an informational brochure that guide the individual through the planning process. Employees may contact their supervisor or OEP at (203) 688-3224 to obtain the YNHHS "PEACE of Mind" Preparedness Plan which will be available September 23, 2004.

Chem Pack Letter to the CEOs

- State of Connecticut Department of Public Health Commissioner Galvin has sent a letter to the CEOs of the acute care hospitals identified as primary sites for the Chem Pack pharmaceutical caches asking for their support in storing and monitoring these CDC assets. Responses have been requested by September 15, 2004 in order to expedite implementation of this program in Connecticut. Any hospital having questions should contact Jim Paturas at (203) 688-3496.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

- Additional orders for Powered Air Purifying Respirators (PAPRs) for the acute care hospitals have been placed by the State of Connecticut Department of Public Health with delivery expected shortly. Please notify Jim Paturas at (203) 688-3496 as to the number of additional units your facility receives. Recommendations for replacement parts to have available are under development by DPH and will be distributed shortly.

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HEPA Bond Funding Update

- State of Connecticut Department of Public Health Commissioner Galvin has sent a letter to Connecticut's 32 acute care hospitals regarding the bond funding approved by the Connecticut General Assembly, a portion of which is earmarked for the enhancement of isolation rooms at each of the 32 acute care facilities. Funding will be provided through DPH and will allow each institution to "finance physical plant modifications and renovations to isolate patients in the case of a smallpox event," an example of which would be the upgrade of negative pressure isolation rooms to be HEPA compliant. Requests for funding are due to the State of Connecticut Department of Public Health by September 17, 2004. Each institution will be reimbursed up to 50% or to a maximum of \$25,000 for the HEPA system upgrade. Hospitals with questions should contact Jim Paturas at (203) 688-3496.

Medical Reserve Corps

- The Medical Reserve Corps held its first orientation and training session at the Yale University School of Medicine for 44 new medical student volunteers. Emergency Management 102 (EM 102) replaces Emergency Management 101 (EM 101) as the foundational curriculum for the program. EM 102 will prepare these volunteers to address the emotional needs of the worried well, victims, families, healthcare professionals and other volunteers. A second orientation and training session is scheduled for September 22, 2004

Emergency Credentialing Program

- Plans to expand the current emergency credentialing program to include nurses, respiratory therapists, radiographers, laboratorians, paramedics, pharmacists and behavioral health professionals have been developed with recruitment activities to begin shortly. Presentations on the emergency credentialing process for each of the allied health disciplines are taking place at their respective Connecticut Hospital Association work group meetings during September and recruitment brochures are expected to be sent out in October. For more information, or to schedule an emergency credentialing program presentation at your hospital, please contact Elaine Forte at (203) 688-3391 or elaine.forte@ynhh.org.

Smallpox Planning

- The State of Connecticut Department of Public Health has developed two important tools that hospitals and local health departments can use to prepare for mass smallpox vaccination clinics. Connecticut PVS (CTPVS) is a web-based database that makes it possible for hospitals to maintain vaccination team contact information, role assignments and vaccination status. CTPVS links to the State's web-based public health and clinical learning management system, TRAINConnecticut, which will be used to maintain records of required training of smallpox vaccination and clinical care team members. All southern tier members are encouraged to register now on TRAINConnecticut at <http://ct.train.org>. In addition, training and demonstration versions and the database users manual is now available on CTPVS at <https://ctpvstrain.uchc.edu>. Use "trainac" as both the password and username to access this secure website. Each hospital should identify at least two staff persons who will be trained on CTPVS and given passwords and instructions on managing current vaccination team data in the CTPVS database.

Syndromic Surveillance

- Funding is available through the end of September to assist interested hospitals with implementing ED Syndromic Surveillance, a tool to allow the State of Connecticut Department of Public Health to potentially identify an emerging public health threat as early as possible. Any southern tier hospital that is not yet participating, but would like more information, should contact Elaine Forte at (203) 688-3391 or elaine.forte@ynhh.org.

Hurricane Charley Update

- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued a report presenting preliminary data from Florida medical examiners (MEs), which indicated that 31 deaths were associated with Hurricane Charley. Deaths might be reduced through coordinated hurricane planning, focused evacuations, and advance communication to the public regarding the environmental hazards after a natural disaster. Detailed information can be downloaded from the CDC website at: <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5336a1.htm>.

UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

<u>EVENT</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
MASH MTG	9/20/04	9:00 AM	OPM
MASH MTG	9/27/04	9:00 AM	OPM
NATIONAL DISASTER LIFE SUPPORT TRAINING PROGRAM	9/28-10/1/04	8:00 AM DAILY	NEW HAVEN LAWN CLUB & NORTH BRANFORD FIRE DEPARTMENT
SOUTHERN CT HOSP BT PLANNING COMM	10/21/04	8:30 AM	CHA

ONGOING TRAINING & EDUCATION

<u>EVENT</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
RADIOLOGICAL WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION SEMINAR LYNDA NGUYEN (860) 947-1101	9/27/04	8:30 AM	CENTRAL CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY
RADIOLOGICAL WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION SEMINAR LYNDA NGUYEN (860) 947-1101	9/28/04	8:30 AM	WATER'S EDGE RESORT WESTBROOK, CT
NATIONAL DISASTER LIFE SUPPORT TRAINING PROGRAM	9/28-10/1/04	8:00 AM	NEW HAVEN LAWN CLUB & NORTH BRANFORD FIRE DEPARTMENT

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

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