

## Office of Emergency Preparedness Southern Tier Briefing

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**ELEVATED**

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Threat Level

March 11, 2005

### JCAHO Warns of Survey Imposters

- The Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations issued a warning last week to be on the lookout for bogus JCAHO surveyors. This follows recent reports that individuals posing as surveyors had arrived at two hospitals - one on the East Coast and one on the West Coast - at around 3 a.m. and asked to survey different areas of the hospital. In both instances, hospital staff questioned the imposters, who then left. JCAHO is urging hospitals that experience a similar situation or have any questions about whether an individual is a surveyor to contact their account representative or JCAHO's vice president of accreditation field operations, Joe Cappiello, at (630) 792-5757. The organization said hospitals always should request to see the surveyor ID badge.

### Biodosimetry Functional Drill

- The first statewide biodosimetry functional drill was completed on March 4<sup>th</sup>. Nineteen of 20 clinical laboratories trained in preparing samples for biodosimetric analysis participated and all successfully demonstrated the ability to perform the lymphocyte isolation procedure. The Biodosimetry Laboratory staff will provide feedback to each participating laboratory regarding overall success across the hospitals in Connecticut, as well as individual laboratory drill performance. Completed evaluation forms detailing difficulties encountered by clinical technologists during the drill and any suggested exercise and procedural improvements should be emailed to Virginia Kristie at [Virginia.kristie@ynhh.org](mailto:Virginia.kristie@ynhh.org) by Friday, March 11, 2005. For further information regarding the drill or other biodosimetric issues, please contact Dr. Joe Albanese at (203) 688-3316 or [joseph.albanese@ynhh.org](mailto:joseph.albanese@ynhh.org).

### Pandemic Influenza Update

- The United States Department of Health and Human Services has developed annexes specifically related to pandemic influenza. Annex 2: Planning Guidance for Health Care System is available for download at: <http://www.dhhs.gov/nvpo/pandemicplan/annex2.pdf>. In addition, Annex H: Resource Management Guidelines for Health Care Facilities During an Influenza Pandemic from the Canadian Pandemic Influenza Plan can be viewed at: <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/cpip-pclcpi/pdf-cpip-03/cpip-appendix-h.pdf>.
- The Ministry of Health in Viet Nam has confirmed an additional four cases of human infection with H5N1 avian influenza. The World Health Organization (WHO) continues to work closely with the Vietnamese Ministry of Health to further investigate additional cases which may have occurred since February 2, 2005.
- Dr. Matt Cartter discussed the State of Connecticut Department of Public Health's pandemic influenza preparedness process at the Southern Tier Hospital Bioterrorism Committee meeting and the need to develop hospital-based pandemic plans.

### Recruitment

- OEP is recruiting for the following positions: Training and Evaluation Specialist, Instructor Trainer, Training and Education Supervisor and Grant Reporting Specialist. Job descriptions are available for viewing at: [http://yalenewhavenhealth.org/s\\_info/jobs.html](http://yalenewhavenhealth.org/s_info/jobs.html) or questions can be directed to Scott Selig at (203) 688-2587 or [scott.selig@ynhh.org](mailto:scott.selig@ynhh.org).

### Training and Education

- Thirteen thousand and seventy-seven (13,077) personnel representing other healthcare delivery agencies in the southern tier of Connecticut have completed EM 101 or EM 102 as part of their emergency preparedness efforts.
- Incident Command Systems for the Healthcare, an introductory level course, will be available through the YNHHS online learning management system in early April. Please contact Scott Selig at (203) 688-2587 or [scott.selig@ynhh.org](mailto:scott.selig@ynhh.org) for more information.

### Emergency Credentialing Program

- On February 18, 2005, approximately 97,000 Emergency Credentialing Program recruitment brochures were mailed to licensed healthcare professionals in Connecticut. To date, three hundred and seventeen (317) reply cards have been returned. For more information about the program or to arrange a presentation to management staff, please contact Carol Luddy at [carol.luddy@ynhh.org](mailto:carol.luddy@ynhh.org) or (203) 688-5544.

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### TOPOFF3 Update

- The Virtual News Network (VNN), the official news network of the National Exercise program and the TOPOFF exercise series, consists of two key elements: VNN LIVE and VNN.COM. VNN Live will be on air on Wednesday, March 30, 2005 from 11:00 a. m. -6 p.m. VNN Live will broadcast via KU and C band satellite downlink to all participants. VNN will be conducting signal tests on the following dates:
  - March 28, 2005 from 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. & from 1:00 p.m. – 2 p.m.
  - March 29, 2005 from 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. & from 1:00 p.m. – 2 p.m.
  - April 3, 2005 from 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. & from 1:00 p. m. – 2 p. m.

Hospitals interested in receiving satellite downlink equipment should contact Mukesh Roy at (203) 688-2563 [mukesh.roy@ynhh.org](mailto:mukesh.roy@ynhh.org) .

- A mandatory ½ -day training program for TOPOFF3 **controllers** and **evaluators** will be held at the Coast Guard Academy during the week of March 28 – April 1, 2005. Please find attached the registration form, which must be completed and returned **no later than March 14, 2005 to [T3FSERegistration@amti.net](mailto:T3FSERegistration@amti.net)**. **Hospital Controllers are requested to ensure all hospital evaluators have submitted the registration information as required.** Hospital funding for TOPOFF3 participation may be used to reimburse costs associated with attendance at this training. Please contact Mukesh Roy at (203) 688-2563 or [mukesh.roy@ynhh.org](mailto:mukesh.roy@ynhh.org) if you have questions.
- On Monday April 4, 2005, the 32 acute care hospitals in Connecticut will be participating in the federal exercise TOPOFF3. The level of participation may vary from hospital to hospital, however each hospital will need to report bed availability, as they are currently doing on a daily basis, using the BT website ([www.biotprep.com](http://www.biotprep.com)). In addition, other capacity information will be obtained using standard telephones. The items that will be requested are listed below. This is information that is being reported weekly through the Yale New Haven Health System Center of Excellence (YNHHS CoE) and is forwarded to the Connecticut Department of Public Health every Thursday.
  - Clean water and electricity
  - Pharmaceutical and Medical Supplies
  - Blood Supplies
  - Staffing (sufficient for incident)
  - Security (sufficient for incident)
  - Equipment (i.e. monitors, ventilators, IV pumps, etc)

All of the above responses will be based upon current capacities as well as the number of patients included in the TOPOFF 3 exercise. All of our Southern Tier hospital partners will need to insure that this information will be available for reporting purposes. The YNHHS CoE will be in contact with the hospital Liaison Officer in your Emergency Operations Center, in order to gather the information which will then be provided to the Connecticut Department of Public Health.

- An after-action critique, or "hot wash" will be held at the Coast Guard Academy on April 7 from 2-4 p.m. Any interested participants may attend.

### Training/Education

- The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) offers self-paced on-line courses on the National Response Plan (NRP), National Incident Management System (NIMS) and Incident Command System (ICS). The preferred method to register for the FEMA on-line courses is through CT TRAIN. CT Train is a learning management system set up by the State of Connecticut Department of Health (DPH). First Responders, First Providers, Local Health Directors, Emergency Management Directors, Chief Elected Officials and their staffs are encouraged to take all of the FEMA-sponsored NRP, NIMS and ICS on-line courses offered through the CT TRAIN system. The courses presently offered are NRP Awareness (IS-800), NIMS Awareness IS-700), ICS Awareness (IS-100) and ICS intermediate (IS-200). Individuals can access these courses by going to <http://ct.train.org>. Please contact Kristin Sullivan at [Kristin.sullivan@po.state.ct.us](mailto:Kristin.sullivan@po.state.ct.us) or at (860) 509-7126 for more information.
- There will be a National Incident Management System (NIMS) Orientation Class for Senior Management at the Tolland Fire Department Training Center in Tolland on Friday, April 8, 2005 from 8:00 a.m. - 12 Noon. Please fill out and fax the attached registration form to Donna Lee Campbell at (860) 566-1188 by Monday, March 21, 2005. Only 75 seats are available and registration is on a first come, first serve basis.
- The American College of Medical Toxicology (ACMT) in conjunction with the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and the OEP Yale New Haven Health System are pleased to offer a 1-day course on: Chemical Agents of Opportunity for Terrorism: The Medical and Psychological Consequences of TICs (Toxic Industrial Chemicals) and TIMs (Toxic Industrial Materials). This course will provide awareness-level training on a variety of toxic syndromes likely to be encountered following exposures to TICs and TIMs and other chemical agents of opportunity. The course will focus on the medical and psychological issues pertaining to TICs, TIMs as well as other important non-volatile chemical exposures. The program will be held from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on March 31, 2005 at the Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA). To register see the attached conference brochure or contact Scott Selig at 203-688-2587 or [scott.selig@ynhh.org](mailto:scott.selig@ynhh.org)
- National Disaster Life Support courses have been scheduled for the New Haven area. The schedule includes the 4-hour Core Disaster Life Support ( CDLS ), the 8-hour Basic Disaster Life Support (BDLS), the 16-hour Advanced Disaster Life Support (ADLS ) and the 6-hour National Disaster Life Support-Instructors (NDLS-I) courses. The courses were developed by the University of Texas and the Medical College of Georgia and have been adopted by the American Medical Association who provides CMEs to graduates of the programs. The courses were also recently endorsed by the American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP). Additional information and a downloadable version of the brochure will soon be available on the YNHHS OEP website. Or, contact David Burich, MSN, APRN-BC, NDLS Program Coordinator at (203) 688-3721 or [david.burich@ynhh.org](mailto:david.burich@ynhh.org).

**ONGOING TRAINING & EDUCATION**

<u>EVENT</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
WMD THREAT & RISK ASSESSMENT (MGT-310) DONNA LEE CAMPBELL (860) 566-1188	3/8-10/05	8:00 AM DAILY	DHS, BRAINARD FIELD
"LIVE RESPONSE" A WMD INTERACTIVE DISCUSSION PROGRAM: THE NATIONAL INCIDENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM <a href="http://www.phppo.cdc.gov/PHTN/CALENDAR.ASP">HTTP://WWW.PHPPO.CDC.GOV/PHTN/CALENDAR.ASP</a>	3/23/05	2:00 PM ET	CDC BROADCAST
RECOGNITION OF CHEMICAL ASSOCIATED GASTROINTESTINAL FOODBORNE ILLNESS <a href="http://www.phppo.cdc.gov/PHTN/GASTRO-05/DEFAULT.ASP">HTTP://WWW.PHPPO.CDC.GOV/PHTN/GASTRO-05/DEFAULT.ASP</a>	3/30/05	12:00 PM ET	CDC WEBCAST
CHEMICAL AGENTS OF OPPORTUNITY FOR TERRORISM	3/31/05	8 AM	CT HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION (CHA)
NATIONAL INCIDENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (NIMS) ORIENTATION CLASS DONNA LEE CAMPBELL (860) 566-1133	4/8/05	8 AM	TOLLAND FIRE DEPT. TRAINING CENTER
CAMEO TRAIN-THE-TRAINER TRAINING (MGT 320-1) DONNA LEE CAMPBELL (860) 566-1133	4/12-14/05	8:30 AM	EAST HARTFORD PUBLIC SAFETY COMPLEX

## FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

CHRISTOPHER CANNON	OEP SYSTEM DIRECTOR	(203) 688-3229	<a href="mailto:CHRISTOPHER.CANNON@YNHH.ORG">CHRISTOPHER.CANNON@YNHH.ORG</a>
JIM PATURAS	OEP SYSTEM MANAGER	(203) 688-3496	<a href="mailto:JAMES.PATURAS@YNHH.ORG">JAMES.PATURAS@YNHH.ORG</a>
JEFF ARNOLD, MD	OEP MEDICAL DIRECTOR	(203) 688-2535	<a href="mailto:JEFFREY.ARNOLD@YNHH.ORG">JEFFREY.ARNOLD@YNHH.ORG</a>
ELAINE FORTE	PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT MANAGER	(203) 688-3391	<a href="mailto:ELAINE.FORTE@YNHH.ORG">ELAINE.FORTE@YNHH.ORG</a>
SCOTT SELIG	EDUCATION & TRAINING COORDINATOR	(203) 688-2587	<a href="mailto:SCOTT.SELIG@YNHH.ORG">SCOTT.SELIG@YNHH.ORG</a>
RICHARD KLEINDIENST, SR.	MEDICAL RESERVE CORPS COORDINATOR	(203) 688-3912	<a href="mailto:RICHARD.KLEINDIENST.SR@YNHH.ORG">RICHARD.KLEINDIENST.SR@YNHH.ORG</a>
MUKESH ROY	REGIONAL PLANNING COORDINATOR	(203) 688-2563	<a href="mailto:MUKESH.ROY@YNHH.ORG">MUKESH.ROY@YNHH.ORG</a>