

## Office of Emergency Preparedness Southern Tier Briefing

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**ELEVATED**

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Threat Level

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### Suspicious Activities in Hospitals

- Over the past month, a number of hospitals have reported suspicious activities occurring at their facilities. A hospital in Los Angeles and one in Boston reported individuals posing as JCAHO surveyors arriving unannounced at approximately 3:00 a.m. asking to tour different areas of the hospitals. JCAHO has verified that in both cases the individuals were neither affiliated with them nor had any inspections been scheduled at either site. In both instances, the individuals posing as JCAHO surveyors were wearing what appeared to be genuine JCAHO surveyor identification badges. New Jersey has also reported a number of suspicious events in the past year that appear unrelated. They included irregular inquiries, incidents of surveillance and suspicious employees and patients. Based on these recent and past events, as well as concerns that terrorist organizations may attempt to target the United States medical infrastructure, it is important that each hospital remain vigilant in its security initiatives and emergency preparedness efforts.

### Avian Influenza A (H5N1) Update

- According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), an additional 10 cases of Avian Influenza A (H5N1) have been confirmed by the Ministry of Health in Vietnam and three of the cases were fatal. CDC is in communication with the World Health Organization (WHO) and continues to closely monitor the H5N1 situation in Asia. CDC has not recommended that the general public avoid travel to any of the countries affected by H5N1. For more information, visit the CDC website at: [http://www.cdc.gov/travel/other/avian\\_flu\\_ah5n1\\_031605.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/travel/other/avian_flu_ah5n1_031605.htm).

### Update on Possible Anthrax Exposure at Defense Department

- Two weeks ago, routine samples from an air sampling device at the Pentagon Remote Delivery Facility indicated the possibility of the presence of *Bacillus anthracis*. Later that week, an alarm at a separate defense office in the Skyline complex indicated the presence of a biohazard. Test results from the Skyline complex found no indications of anthrax. While the affected area of the complex remains restricted pending further investigation, the remainder of the facility reopened on March 17. The remote facility remains closed pending final test results, expected on March 17, 2005.

### 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-pclpci/pdf-cpip-03/cpip-appendix-h.pdf>. Connecticut hospitals are encouraged to use these documents as references as they begin to develop their own pandemic flu plans.

### Revised DHS Memorandum of Understanding

- The State of Connecticut Department of Public Health sent a letter to hospital disaster coordinators regarding a revised Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) from the State of Connecticut Department of Public Safety outlining the provision of grant funds available to acute care hospitals for the acquisition of pharmaceuticals for the protection of First Responders. Hospitals that had previously signed the MOU will receive an updated letter from DHS outlining changes to be followed. The letter is attached to this briefing. Please contact Jim Paturas at (203) 688-3496 or [james.paturas@ynhh.org](mailto:james.paturas@ynhh.org) if you have any questions.

### Signal Test Dates for VNN and TOPOFF

- 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 conducting signal tests on the following dates:

- March 28, 2005: 10:00– 11:00 a.m. & 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.
- March 29, 2005: 10:00– 11:00 a.m. & 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.
- April 3, 2005: 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. & 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.

VNN LIVE will be on air 4/4 (11 a.m. -6 p.m.); 4/5 (8 a.m.-4 p.m.); 4/6 (9 a.m.-5 p.m.); 4/7 (9 a.m.-5 p.m.); and 4/8 (9 a.m.-1 p.m.). VNN.COM will be available March 30, 2005 and continue through April 8, 2005. In addition to text, VNN.COM will carry streaming audio of VNN LIVE. Streaming audio will only occur during the hours of VNN LIVE, however, the site will be available for viewing 24 hours a day during that period. The link to VNN.COM will be clearly identified on the homepage of [www.llis.gov](http://www.llis.gov). Visit this home page to link to VNN.COM to check this site for updates. For any questions or additional information contact Mukesh Roy at (203) 688-2563 [mukesh.roy@ynhh.org](mailto:mukesh.roy@ynhh.org).

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### International Congress on Disaster Medicine and Emergency Management

- The first Yale New Haven International Congress on Disaster Medicine and Emergency Management will be held September 12-13, 2005 at the Omni New Haven Hotel, 155 Temple St., New Haven, CT. The conference will provide hospital, pre-hospital, public safety, public health and emergency management professionals with information about: best practices in health emergency management, including healthcare and public health organizations; recent progress in clinical disaster medicine; lessons learned from recent international and national disasters; and latest research and development in disaster medicine and emergency management. Registration opens on April 15, 2005 and forms can be accessed at <http://yalenewhavenhealth.org/emergency/commu/natlconf.html>. Abstracts are being accepted until June 1, 2005 at [http://yalenewhavenhealth.org/emergency/commu/call\\_abstract\\_s.html](http://yalenewhavenhealth.org/emergency/commu/call_abstract_s.html). The conference is co-sponsored by the Yale New Haven Health System Center of Excellence for Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response, Yale University School of Medicine, the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and the World Association for Disaster and Emergency Medicine (WADDEM) and the Save the Date card is attached to this briefing.

### Training/Education

- Thirteen thousand two hundred forty two (13,272) 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.
- 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 served basis.
- 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)* is being offered on March 31, 2005 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) by 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 Yale New Haven Health System Center of Excellence (YNHHS CoE). 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 conference brochure is attached to this briefing. For more information, please contact Scott Selig at (203) 688-2587 or [scott.selig@ynhh.org](mailto:scott.selig@ynhh.org).
- EM 140, Incident Command Systems for Healthcare, an introductory level course, will be available through the YNHHS OEP 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.

### TOPOFF3 Update

- A mandatory half -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. If you still need to register, please find attached the registration form, and submit it as soon as possible 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 TOPOFF 3. While the level of participation may vary from hospital to hospital, each will need to report their bed availability, as they are currently doing on a daily basis, using the BT website ([www.biotprep.com](http://www.biotprep.com)). The additional capacity information that is being reported weekly through the Yale New Haven Health System Center of Excellence (YNHHS CoE) and forwarded to the State of Connecticut Department of Public Health will be obtained via standard telephone and includes:
  - 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 (see attachment) 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 State of 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.

### Emergency Credentialing Program

- Nearly 1,000 new volunteers have been recruited for the Emergency Credentialing Program, bringing the total number of healthcare volunteers, which includes physicians, dentists and midlevel providers to 2,596. This number is expected to grow as individual hospital contacts for the program distribute program recruitment posters and brochures to diagnostic imaging and clinical laboratory managers and staff. If your facility has not already done so, please forward the name and contact information for your hospital designated ECP contact person to Carol Luddy, RN at [carol.luddy@ynhh.org](mailto:carol.luddy@ynhh.org) or (203) 688-5544. For more information about the program, the responsibilities of the contact person or to arrange a brief presentation to staff, please contact Carol Luddy.

### Training/Education

- First Responders, First Providers, Local Health Directors, Emergency Management Directors, Chief Elected Officials and their staffs are encouraged to take the following Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) self-paced on-line courses: National Response Plan (NRP) Awareness (IS-800), National Incident Management System (NIMS) Awareness (IS-700), Incident Command System (ICS) Awareness (IS-100) and ICS intermediate (IS-200). The preferred method of registration is via CT TRAIN, a learning management system set up by the State of Connecticut Department of Health (DPH). 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.
- National Disaster Life Support (NDLS) courses have been scheduled for the New Haven area. Dates and times for all courses are included in the Ongoing Training & Education calendar in this issue of the briefing. 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-Instructor (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, and NDLS Program Coordinator at (203) 688-3721 or [david.burich@ynhh.org](mailto:david.burich@ynhh.org).

### Emergency Notification System

- Installation of the System-wide emergency notification system is moving forward with a target implementation date of May 20, 2005. Once implemented, this communication tool will expedite notification of critical emergency response staff within and among the System delivery network hospitals of an evolving crisis situation. Please contact Jim Paturas at (203) 688-3496 or [james.paturas@ynhh.org](mailto:james.paturas@ynhh.org) with questions.

### UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

<u>EVENT</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
YALE NEW HAVEN INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON DISASTER MEDICINE AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT	9/12-13/05		OMNI HOTEL, NEW HAVEN

Questions, comments or suggestions should be forwarded by FAX to (203) 688-4618 or by e-mail to: [OEPWEB@ynhh.org](mailto:OEPWEB@ynhh.org)

### ONGOING TRAINING & EDUCATION

<u>EVENT</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
RECOGNITION OF CHEMICAL ASSOCIATED GASTROINTESTINAL FOODBORNE ILLNESS <a href="http://www.phpppo.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	8:00 AM	CHA
NATIONAL INCIDENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (NIMS) ORIENTATION CLASS DONNA LEE CAMPBELL (860) 566-1133	4/8/05	8:00 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
CORE DISASTER LIFE SUPPORT (CDLS) DAVID BURICH (203) 688-3721	4/18/05	9:00 AM	NEW HAVEN AREA
BASIC DISASTER LIFE SUPPORT (BDLS) DAVID BURICH (203) 688-3721	5/25/05	8:00 AM	NEW HAVEN AREA
ADVANCED DISASTER LIFE SUPPORT (ADLS) DAVID BURICH (203) 688-3721	5/26-27/05	8:00 AM	NEW HAVEN AREA

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

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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>
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