

Office of Emergency Preparedness Southern Tier Briefing

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ELEVATED

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Threat Level

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TOPOFF3 Update

- 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). 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 the BT website and 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.

SARS Vaccine Now in Clinical Trials

- *Infectious Disease News* (www.infectiousdiseaseneews.com) reports that investigators are working to develop an effective vaccine against severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS). Clinical trials of two SARS vaccine candidates are underway in China “using an inactivated SARS virus vaccine development through conventional vaccine technology and one in the United States using the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID)-developed DNA-based vaccine.” More information is available at: <http://www.infectiousdiseaseneews.com/200503/sars.asp>.

Signal Test Dates for VNN and TOPOFF3

- 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. 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.



MEDSAT Telephone Directory

- The State of Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH) is distributing a listing of all direct dial telephone numbers for the MEDSAT satellite telephones. Italicized facilities indicate southern tier units and the Centers of Excellence are indicated in bold print. DPH thanks each facility for their cooperation in helping complete this directory and asks that it be placed near the MEDSAT console. The listing is attached to this briefing.

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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_abstracts.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 (WADEM) and the Save the Date card is attached to this briefing.

Training/Education

- National Disaster Life Support (NDLS) courses have been scheduled for the New Haven area. Upcoming dates and times for all courses are included in the Ongoing Training & Education section 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.
- 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.

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

Mass Decontamination Mobilization Plan

- The most recent version (10 March 2005) of the *State of Connecticut Mass Decontamination Mobilization Plan* is now available for viewing or download on the OEM webpage at: http://www.ct.gov/oem/lib/oem/docsuploaded/domprep/mass_decon_mobilization_plan_10_mar_05.pdf and is attached to this briefing. If an Incident Commander has need for a decontamination trailer, it is expected that the plan will be activated to the appropriate degree. The main focus is the mobilization of the 34 decontamination trailers that have been purchased using federal grants and distributed to state and local first responder organizations. All "owners" of the decontamination trailers should contact the Statewide Decontamination Trailer Distribution Center (SDTDC) and report the status of the trailer immediately. Please contact Chuck Beck at the Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security at (860) 493-2728 or charles.beck@po.state.ct.us for more information.

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. Please contact Jim Paturas at (203) 688-3496 or james.paturas@ynhh.org if you have any questions.

Emergency Credentialing Program

- One thousand twelve (1,012) 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 2,658. 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 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.

UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

EVENT	DATE	TIME	LOCATION
SEPC	4/6/05	8:30 AM	BH EDUC CONF ROOM
SCAC	4/7/05	2:00 PM	OEP
MASH MEETING	4/11/05	11:00 AM	OEP

ONGOING TRAINING & EDUCATION

<u>EVENT</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
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
PUBLIC SAFETY WMD RESPONSE-SAMPLING TECHNIQUES AND GUIDELINES(PER-222) DONNA LEE CAMPBELL (860) 566-1133	5/3-5/05	8:00 AM	HOMELAND SECURITY EDUCATION CENTER
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
NDLS INSTRUCTORS' COURSE DAVID BURICH (203) 688-3721	5/28/05	10:00 AM	NEW HAVEN AREA

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

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JEFF ARNOLD, MD	OEP MEDICAL DIRECTOR	(203) 688-2535	JEFFREY.ARNOLD@YNHH.ORG
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MUKESH ROY	REGIONAL PLANNING COORDINATOR	(203) 688-2563	MUKESH.ROY@YNHH.ORG
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