

Office of Emergency Preparedness Southern Tier Briefing

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ELEVATED

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Threat Level

April 8, 2005

TOPOFF3 Update

- As part of TOPOFF 3, the largest federal terrorism preparedness exercise in our nation's history, participants in New Jersey, Connecticut, Canada, and Great Britain began conducting a planned scenario of events on April 4, 2005. Secretary of Homeland Security Michael Chertoff announced the participation of 10,000 participants from 27 federal agencies, and more than 200 government as well as private sector organizations. "This team that's participating in TOPOFF 3 includes everybody from cabinet secretaries, international partners, governors, mayors, city managers, local fire and police, search and rescue personnel, public health and public communications officials, and the private sector." The transcript of Secretary Chertoff's press conference is available for viewing on the Department of Homeland Security website at: http://www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/interapp/press_release/press_release_0650.xml.
- An after-action critique, or "hot wash" was held at the Coast Guard Academy on April 7 from 2-4 p.m. to review the entire exercise and provide recommendations.



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.

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DHS Releases Interim National Preparedness Goal

- The U. S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) announced the publication of the Interim National Preparedness Goal ("Goal"). The Goal will guide federal departments and agencies, state, territorial, local and tribal officials, the private sector, non-government organizations and the public in determining how to most effectively strengthen preparedness for terrorist attacks, major disasters, and other emergencies. The Goal addresses a requirement of Homeland Security Presidential Directive 8, *National Preparedness*, to define "standards for preparedness assessments and strategies, and a system for assessing the Nation's overall preparedness to respond to major events, especially those involving acts of terrorism" and can be downloaded from the DHS website at: <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/odp/assessments/hspd8.htm>.

CT DPH Influenza Update

- The State of Connecticut Department of Public Health reports that although influenza activity continues to decline in Connecticut, DPH still received a total of 108 laboratory confirmed influenza tests during the week ending March 19, 2005. A reduced number of influenza cases and outbreaks were reported in long-term care facilities (LTCF) located in Connecticut. According to DPH, these reduced LTCF reports, combined with the declining laboratory-confirmed test data, supported a change in Connecticut influenza activity classification from "widespread" to "regional" for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) week 11. A summary of this activity is attached to this briefing. Questions or comments regarding the data can be forwarded to Alan Siniscalchi, MPH, MS at alan.siniscalchi@po.state.ct.us.

Avian Influenza A (H5N1) Update

- According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), as of March 31, 2005, there have been 74 cases of avian influenza A (H5N1) in Vietnam (55), Thailand (17), and Cambodia (2) resulting in 49 deaths. The CDC reports that avian influenza A (H5N1) epizootic outbreak in Asia is not expected to diminish significantly in the short term and it is likely that H5N1 infection among birds has become endemic to the region and that human infections will continue to occur. So far, no sustained human-to-human transmission of the H5N1 virus has been identified, and no evidence for genetic reassortment between human and avian influenza virus genes has been found; however, the CDC suggests that the epizootic outbreak in Asia poses an important public health threat. More information is available on the CDC website at: <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/avian/outbreaks/asia.htm>.

International Congress on Disaster Medicine and Emergency Management

- The 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). A Save the Date card is attached to this briefing.

Recruitment

- OEP is recruiting for the following positions: Training and Evaluation Specialist, Instructor Trainer, Training and Education Supervisor, Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) Coordinator and Grant Reporting Specialist. Job descriptions are available for viewing at: http://yalenewhavenhealth.org/s_info/jobs.html or questions can be directed to Scott Selig at (203) 688-25878 or scott.selig@ynhh.org.

Training/Education

- Thirteen thousand four hundred fifty five (13,455) 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.
- Thirty-four (34) clinicians attended a one day course on *Chemical Agents of Opportunity for Terrorism: The Medical and Psychological Consequences of TICs (Toxic Industrial Chemicals) and TIMs (Toxic Industrial Materials)* offered on March 31, 2005 at the Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA). This course provided awareness level training on a variety of toxic syndromes likely to be encountered following exposure to TICs and TIMs and other chemical agents of opportunity.
- 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.

ONGOING TRAINING & EDUCATION

<u>EVENT</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
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
EMERGENCY RESPONSE TO DOMESTIC BIOLOGICAL INCIDENTS-OPERATIONS LEVEL (PER-220) DONNA LEE CAMPBELL (860) 566-1133	5/17-19/05	8:00 AM	NEW HAVEN REGIONAL FIRE TRAINING ACADEMY, NEW HAVEN
BASIC DISASTER LIFE SUPPORT (BDLS) DAVID BURICH (203) 688-3721	5/25/05	8:00 AM	NEW HAVEN AREA

UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

<u>EVENT</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
SOUTHERN TIER HOSPITAL EMERGENCY & TERRORISM PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE	4/14/05	8:30 AM	CHA
YALE NEW HAVEN INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON DISASTER MEDICINE AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT	9/12-13/05		OMNI HOTEL, NEW HAVEN

CURRENT DISASTER & EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT LITERATURE

CHIU W T, ARNOLD J, SHIH Y T, HSIUNG K H, CHI H Y, CHIU C H, TSAI W C, HUANG W C. A SURVEY OF INTERNATIONAL URBAN SEARCH-AND-RESCUE TEAMS FOLLOWING THE JI JI EARTHQUAKE. DISASTERS, 2002, 26(1): 85-94.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

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