

Office of Emergency Preparedness Southern Tier Briefing

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ELEVATED

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Threat Level

April 29, 2005

TOPOFF3 Update

- OEP would like to thank everyone for their hard work and dedication in the preparation and execution of the TOPOFF 3 National Exercise. Any acute care hospital TOPOFF 3 controllers that have not yet done so are requested to submit their after-action reports (AARs) using the State of Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH) AAR template attached to this briefing. Please email the AAR to DPH Drill Coordinator Jon Bergeson at jon.bergeson@po.state.ct.us and to Mukesh Roy at mukesh.roy@ynhh.org. Controllers should also ensure collection of data collector/evaluator logs used during TOPOFF 3 and send all completed logs to Mukesh Roy for submission to TOPOFF 3 officials. Once all information is received more specific after action plans will be developed for review and determination of next steps.

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. A pre-conference workshop, *Health Disaster Management Guidelines for Evaluation and Research in the Utstein Style*, and a post-conference National Disaster Life Support (NDLS) course will also be offered. Registration is now open and forms can be accessed at <http://yalenewhavenhealth.org/emergency/commu/natlconf.html>. Abstracts are being accepted until June 15, 2005 at http://yalenewhavenhealth.org/emergency/commu/call_abstracts.html. YNHHS personnel are encouraged to submit abstracts for inclusion in the conference. 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).

MEDSAT Phone Check

- The State of Connecticut Department of Public Health has advised that several "Check 13" error messages were reported prior to and during the weekly roll call. There is a concern that other facilities may be experiencing this issue but have not become aware of it. Please check the status of the MEDSAT phone at your facility and report any issues to Rick Kleindienst, Sr., at (203) 688-3912 or richard.kleindienst.sr@ynhh.org.

DHS Information Bulletin for Hospitals

- A Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Information Bulletin regarding false hospital inspections was sent out through the American Hospital Association on April 25, 2005 and is attached to this briefing. The bulletin provides information regarding several cases of individuals falsely representing the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO), federal or regulatory agencies requesting information about hospital facilities, operations, capacity, services and distribution points for antidote medicines. Suspicious individuals entered the hospitals during the early morning hours and when challenged by hospital personnel left the facilities. A summary of the DHS Information Bulletin Suggested Protective Measures section includes the following actions:
 - Enforce access control through badging and other methods of identification of all hospital employees and any contract personnel
 - Maintain control over all entry and exit points through monitoring by security presence and closed circuit TV
 - Maintain vigilance regarding unannounced or suspicious visitors and those posing as representing federal, regulatory or accrediting bodies
 - Pay attention to suspicious packages left in public or unoccupied areas and vehicles left for extended periods of time
 - Ensure that areas such as the pharmacy, laboratory, mechanical floor, computer mainframe area, telecommunications and the operating rooms are secure.

Your assistance in providing the DHS Information Bulletin to your leadership team including facilities, security, laboratory, pharmacy, information services, telecommunications, the Emergency Department, materials management and others you deem appropriate is appreciated. Please call (203) 688-3224 for more information.

Statewide Laboratory Conference

- A day-long statewide laboratory conference, *Emergency Preparedness: A Conference for Laboratory Professionals*, has been scheduled for June 23, 2005 at CHA in Wallingford. Presentations will include: *The Role of the Sentinel Laboratory in a WMD Response*, *Safety in the BSL-2,3 Laboratory*, *Chemical Terror and the Poison Control Center*, *Food Safety*, and *A Hospital's Perspective on Emergency Planning*. As with last year, there will be no charge to attendees. Please contact Virginia Kristie, Laboratory Program Advisor, for more information at (203) 688-2594 or virginia.kristie@ynhh.org.

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Training/Education

- Thirteen thousand eight hundred fifty four (13,854) 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.
- A CHEMPACK Cache Site Managers workshop will be conducted on May 5, 2005, from 11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Radisson Hotel and Conference Center in Cromwell, Connecticut. A working lunch will be served promptly at noon. Registration is limited to two representatives per CHEMPACK site (i.e., individuals who will be responsible for the management of and/or planning for CHEMPACK caches). Registration for the workshop begins on April 25, 2005 and must be completed online at the CT TRAIN website: <https://ct.train.org/DesktopShell.aspx>. Registration closes on May 3, 2005. Directions to the Radisson can be found at <http://www.radisson.com/cromwellct>. Please contact Joseph G. Marino at the State of Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH) at (860) 509-8103 or Jim Paturas at OEP at (203) 688-3496 if you have any questions.
- *Disaster Preparedness for School Nurses-Independent Study Course*, an awareness level course for school-based nurses, was developed as a collaborative effort between the Yale New Haven Health System Center of Excellence (CoE), Yale University School of Public Health, the Connecticut Partnership for Workforce Development and the National Association of School Nurses. This course will be piloted from April 25, 2005 through May 25, 2005 with 30 Connecticut-based school nurses and nurse supervisors. For more information, please contact Scott Selig at (203) 688-2587 or scott.selig@ynhh.org.
- Emergency Management 140, Incident Command Systems for Healthcare, an introductory level course, will be available through the YNHHS OEP online learning management system in early May. The course provides: 1) a 30-minute overview of the Incident Command System (ICS)/Hospital Emergency Incident Command System (HEICS); and 2) optional in-depth discussions of ICS/HEICS including downloadable action sheets and other forms that can assist in building a facility command structure. Please contact Scott Selig at scott.selig@ynhh.org or (203) 688-2587 for more information.

Influenza A (H2N2) Situation Updated

- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), U. S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), and the World Health Organization (WHO) are working with the College of American Pathologists (CAP) and other providers of proficiency testing panels to ensure that influenza A (H2N2) samples sent to laboratories in the U. S. and 17 other countries are destroyed immediately. According to Dr. Julie Gerberding, Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Administrator of the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), "we believe that at least 99 percent of all of the H2N2 influenza proficiency test kits that were distributed have been recovered and destroyed." The Influenza A (H2N2) samples sent out are similar to the A (H2N2) viruses that circulated in humans in 1957 at the beginning of the Asian influenza pandemic. More information is available at the CDC website at: <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/h2n2situation.htm>.

Emergency Credentialing Program

- One thousand one hundred fifty two (1,152) new volunteers representing all disciplines throughout the state have been recruited for the Emergency Credentialing Program (ECP), bringing the total number of healthcare volunteers, which includes physicians, dentists and midlevel practitioners to 3,097. Hospitals are encouraged to use part of their surge capacity budget to support the minimal resources needed at their institution for program recruitment and maintenance. In cooperation with JCAHO, a "Just In Time" training program template for hospital disaster volunteers is under development. The online training, "EM102: Introductory Course for Hospital Disaster Volunteers" is now available. Brief meetings are being scheduled with the designated ECP contact person at each participating hospital to explain more about the program. 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 (203) 688-5544 or carol.luddy@ynhh.org.

Update on State Bond Commission

- The April 29th meeting of the State Bond Commission has been canceled with no information on an upcoming meeting. This meeting was set to address when the allocation for the bond funds for the MaSH and HEPA initiatives was going to be presented. At this time, DPH is reminding hospitals not to move ahead with any HEPA projects until the approval process has been completed and DPH notifies facilities that they may proceed. According to the Office of Policy and Management (OPM), "The State Bond Commission will not approve allocations for reimbursements to recipients for work completed unless the bond act or state statutes allow for payment on a reimbursement basis or unless approval is obtained by the State Agency from OPM in advance of the start of work." Instructions from DPH regarding how to proceed are forthcoming. Please contact Jim Paturas for additional information at (203) 688-3496.

National Disaster Life Support (NDLS)

- 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, NDLS Program Coordinator at (203) 688-3721 or david.burich@ynhh.org.

EM102 on CD

- The narrated version of EM 102 on CD has been made available to YNHHS delivery network and southern tier hospitals. Please contact Scott Selig at scott.selig@ynhh.org or (203) 688-2587 for more information.

UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

<u>EVENT</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
SEPC	5/04/05	8:30 AM	BH EDUC CONF RM
SOUTHERN TIER HOSPITAL EMERGENCY & TERRORISM PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE	5/12/05	8:30 AM	CHA
SCAC	5/12/05	2:00 PM	OEP
EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS: A CONFERENCE FOR LABORATORY PROFESSIONALS	6/23/05	8:30 AM	CHA
YALE NEW HAVEN INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON DISASTER MEDICINE AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT	9/12-13/05		OMNI HOTEL, NEW HAVEN

ONGOING TRAINING & EDUCATION

<u>EVENT</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
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
CDC/DPH CHEMPACK WORKSHOP MARY DULEY (860) 566-1133	5/5/05	12:00 PM– 4:00 PM	RADISSON HOTEL, CROMWELL
WMD CRIME SCENE MANAGEMENT FOR EMERGENCY RESPONDERS (AWR-103) DONNA LEE CAMPBELL (860) 566-1133	5/9/05	8:00 AM– 5:00 PM	WESTPORT POLICE DEPARTMENT
WMD HAZMAT EVIDENCE COLLECTION (PER-201) DONNA LEE CAMPBELL (860) 566-1133	5/10-11/05	8:00 AM	WESTPORT POLICE DEPARTMENT
EMERGENCY RESPONSE TO DOMESTIC BIOLOGICAL INCIDENTS-OPS LEVEL (PER-220) DONNA LEE CAMPBELL (860) 566-1133	5/17-19/05	8:00 AM	REGIONAL FIRE TRAINING ACADEMY, NEW HAVEN
LIVE RESPONSE-THE NATIONAL RESPONSE PLAN NATIONAL TERRORISM PREPAREDNESS INSTITUTE HTTP://DLNETS.COM/NTPI_25MAY05.HTM ED KRONHOLM (877) 820-0395	5/25/05	2:00 PM EDT	SATELLITE BROADCAST

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

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ELAINE FORTE	PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT MANAGER	(203) 688-3391	ELAINE.FORTE@YNHH.ORG
SCOTT SELIG	EDUCATION & TRAINING COORDINATOR	(203) 688-2587	SCOTT.SELIG@YNHH.ORG
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