

## Office of Emergency Preparedness Southern Tier Briefing

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**ELEVATED**

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Threat Level

January 14, 2005

**The United States Department of Homeland Security recommends that while the Nation is under threat level yellow, Americans should continue to be vigilant, take notice of their surroundings, and report suspicions items or activities to local authorities immediately.**

### Training/Education

- Ten thousand eight hundred forty six (10,846) personnel representing other healthcare delivery agencies in the southern tier of Connecticut have completed EM 101 as part of their emergency preparedness efforts.
- Ugur Sanliturk, MD, representing the Provincial Health Directorate of Adana, Turkey, completed an international fellowship in Hospital Emergency Management at the Yale New Haven Center for Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Response on January 14 2005. Under the guidance of Dr. Jeffrey Arnold, OEP Medical Director, Dr. Sanlitur, a general practitioner interested in disaster and emergency medicine, developed a Turkish version of EM 102 for implementation in Turkey.
- Additional versions of EM 102, including a CD with narration, are under development and will be shared with the southern tier hospitals when available.

### Connecticut's New Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security

- Governor M. Jodi Rell announced that the newly established state Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DEMHS) is up and running. Created by the General Assembly during the 2004 legislative session, DEMHS combines and expands on responsibilities previously shared by the Office of Emergency Management (OEM) and the Office of Homeland Security (DHS). Governor Rell named James M. "Skip" Thomas to be commissioner of the new agency; he will be responsible for coordinating with state and local governments and private sector groups to ensure they have the right equipment and provide adequate planning and training to meet homeland security needs. DEMHS will be responsible for coordinating homeland security communications systems in the state and for distributing information and security warnings. The agency is also charged with establishing standards and protocols for use of any intelligence information.

### DPH List of Regional Vaccination Clinics

- With the expansion of groups receiving influenza vaccinations this season, the State of Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH) has provided a list of "regional" vaccination clinics. According to DPH, these sites will provide influenza vaccinations for any Connecticut resident who is in a recommended group. The list of recommended groups can be downloaded from <http://www.dph.state.ct.us> and the list of vaccination clinics is attached to this briefing.

### HHS Maintains Lead Federal Role in Emergency Public Health, Medical Response

- Under a new National Response Plan released by the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Health and Human Services will continue to lead the federal government in providing public health and medical services during major disasters and emergencies. According to Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson, "HHS will continue to work closely with all our partners to protect the health of the American public." More information on the National Response Plan is available at: [http://www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/interapp/editorial/editorial\\_0566.xml](http://www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/interapp/editorial/editorial_0566.xml).

### Report Recommends National Standards for Public Health Preparedness

- According to the American Hospital Association (AHA), a report issued by the Century Foundation recommends the federal government more clearly define public health preparedness and the standards for achieving it to ensure the best use of bioterrorism funding. "Without such defined goals and standards, there is no assurance that the federal money is well spent and a basic level of preparedness for all communities achieved." More information is available from: <http://www.tcf.org/4L/4LMain.asp?SubjectID=1&ArticleID=504>.

### MaSH Update

- While details on the MaSH facility footprint and requirements for water, electrical, and sewage are not yet available, hospitals are asked to begin considering if and how they would utilize a 25-bed configuration MaSH to address a need for surge capacity in an emergency situation. Additional information will be forthcoming.

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### JCAHO Update

- YNHHS OEP is continuing to work with the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO) to define standards for identifying, training and utilizing disaster volunteers, both hospital and non-hospital based, within accredited facilities during an emergency event. The latest draft of these recommendations is attached to this briefing.

### CDC Influenza Updates

- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has updated influenza-related links on their website to reflect the new Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommendations. Visit <http://www.cdc.gov/flu> for more information.

### Smallpox Update

- The State of Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH) is currently reviewing the smallpox planning templates completed by all of the acute care hospitals.
- DPH is in the process of training local health departments on the maintenance and use of the pre-event vaccination system database. Hospitals are asked to identify an individual who will enter information on small vaccination response team members into the database, and an individual who will need to review and manipulate the data to manage these teams during an event. These hospital-based individuals will receive training from DPH once local health department training is completed.
- DPH is considering a smallpox exercise to occur after TOPOFF3 focused on statewide communication and notification processes.

### TOPOFF3 Update

- Brian Donnelly, FBI Special Agent, gave a presentation to the Southern Tier Hospital BT Advisory Committee on January 13, 2005 on emergency department evidence considerations in preparation for TOPOFF3. While treatment of victims is always paramount, hospitals are asked to consider their role in collecting and documenting evidence and facilitating law enforcement access to victims and evidence prior to an event occurring. The FBI is considering developing a course for emergency department personnel around this topic and will notify the Centers of Excellence should any training dates be scheduled.
- A mandatory 1-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. Mukesh Roy will distribute registration forms to the individuals previously identified by the hospitals when they become available. Hospital funding for TOPOFF3 participation may be used to reimburse costs associated with attendance at this training.

### Emergency Credentialing Program Update

- Letters were sent on Thursday, January 13, 2005 to all acute care hospital CEOs regarding the emergency credentialing program expansion. Attached is a copy of the participating hospital protocol with discipline-specific appendices for physician and mid-level practitioner, diagnostic imaging, nursing, respiratory therapy, pharmacy, behavioral health and laboratory professionals. A copy of the proposed appendix for paramedics and the recruitment brochure were also enclosed for review. An agreement addendum is under development and will address participation of paramedics during an emergency event. Volunteer recruitment brochures will be sent to the more than 100,000 Connecticut licensed healthcare professionals by the end of January.

## ONGOING TRAINING & EDUCATION

<u>EVENT</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
COMPUTER-AIDED MANAGEMENT OF EMERGENCY OPERATIONS (CAMEO)- OPERATIONS LEVEL (PER-224) DONNA LEE CAMPBELL (860) 566-1188	1/25-27/05	8:00 AM	NORWALK COMMUNITY COLLEGE
"LIVE RESPONSE: A WMD INTERACTIVE DISCUSSION PROGRAM: MANAGE AND COORDINATE A LARGE SCALE INCIDENT WHILE MAINTAINING ROUTINE OPERATIONS <a href="http://www.dlnets.com/NTP1_26JAN05.HTM">HTTP://WWW.DLNETS.COM/NTP1_26JAN05.HTM</a>	1/26/05	2:00 PM EST	NATIONAL TERRORISM PREPAREDNESS INSTITUTE (NTP1) BROADCAST

## CURRENT DISASTER & EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT LITERATURE

**ASAI Y, YOSHIDA M, KURIMOTO Y, ARNOLD J L. CASE REPORT: PENETRATING CARDIAC INJURY SECONDARY TO A TERRORISM-RELATED NAIL BOMB EXPLOSION. PREHOSPITAL AND DISASTER MEDICINE 2003; 18(3): 249-252.**

**HALPERN P, TSAI M C, ARNOLD J L, STOK E, ERSOY G. MASS CASUALTY, TERRORISM BOMBINGS: IMPLICATIONS FOR EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT AND HOSPITAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE (PART II). PREHOSPITAL AND DISASTER MEDICINE 2003; 18(3): 235-241.**

**UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS**

<u>EVENT</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
OEP EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE	1/20/05	10:00 AM	Y-NHH CB 1052A
STATE DPH WEEKLY CONFERENCE CALL	1/21/05	1:00 PM	1-800-857-7419 PASSCODE 78406
MASH MTG	1/21/05	3:00 PM	CHA

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