

Office of Emergency Preparedness Southern Tier Briefing

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ELEVATED

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Threat Level

January 21, 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

- Eleven thousand one hundred ninety three (11,193) personnel representing other healthcare delivery agencies in the southern tier of Connecticut have completed EM 101 as part of their emergency preparedness efforts.
- Additional versions of EM 102, including a CD with narration, are under development and will be shared with the southern tier hospitals when available.
- Work has begun on Emergency Management 103 (EM 103), a further enhancement of EM 102 that provides basic information on the disaster response needs of special populations, including the elderly, children, disabled and non-English speaking individuals.
- In light of the recently reported potential terrorist threat of a dirty bomb in Boston, it is increasingly important for the public health and healthcare delivery workforce to be familiar with the risks and consequences associated with a radiological event, so that they in turn can educate the general public with whom they have contact. OEP would like to invite interested healthcare professionals to its office in New Haven to view "The Role of Public Health in a Nuclear or Radiological Terrorist Incident" on February 3, 2005 at 1:00 p.m. If interested, please contact Virginia Kristie at (203) 688-2594 or virginia.kristie@ynhh.org.

CDC Update: Influenza Activity United States, 2004-2005 Season

- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has issued an influenza activity report for the 2004-2005 season in the United States. According to the CDC, influenza activity was low from October through early December but has increased steadily since mid-December; current surveillance indicators suggest that influenza activity for the season has not yet peaked. Additional information from the report can be downloaded from the CDC website at: <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5401a6.htm>.

Emergency Credentialing System Update

- Letters were sent on Thursday, January 13, 2005 to all acute care hospital CEOs regarding the emergency credentialing program expansion. 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. Please contact Carol Luddy, ECS Coordinator, at (203) 688-5544 or carol.luddy@ynhh.org with any questions.

Emergency Department Syndromic Surveillance

- Nine southern tier hospitals continue to provide the State of Connecticut Department of Public Health with daily reports of ED chief complaint data, a potentially important early warning of an emerging infectious disease or other exposure. DPH will continue to make \$2,000 available to any additional hospitals interested in participating through February 28, 2005. Please contact Elaine Forte at (203) 688-3392 or elaine.forte@ynhh.org for more information.

TOPOFF3 Update

- 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.

Standard Influenza Vaccine Available

- In response to a change announced by the State of Connecticut Department of Public Health, standard influenza vaccine is now available for all interested individuals, regardless of age or level of patient contact. As the flu season has not yet reached its peak, vaccination is still recommended and will provide protection. Call the DPH Influenza Hotline at (800) 830-9426 for more information.

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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 HTTP://WWW.DLNETS.COM/NTPI_26JAN05.HTM	1/26/05	2:00 PM EST	NATIONAL TERRORISM PREPAREDNESS INSTITUTE (NTPI) 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.](#)

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