

Office of Emergency Preparedness Southern Tier Briefing

1 Church Street, 5th Floor · New Haven, CT 06510 · (203) 688-3224 · FAX (203) 688-4618 · Center@ynhh.org

ELEVATED

Volume 3, Issue 7

Threat Level

February 18, 2005

On February 15, 2005, Judge Michael Chertoff was sworn in as the second Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security. Chertoff formerly served as United States Circuit Judge for the Third Circuit Court of Appeals. Secretary Chertoff was previously confirmed by the Senate to serve in the Bush Administration as Assistant Attorney General for the Criminal Division at the Department of Justice. As Assistant Attorney General, he helped trace the 9/11 terrorist attacks to the al-Qaeda network, and worked to increase information sharing within the FBI and with state and local officials.

Training/Education

- Twelve thousand two hundred and ninety seven (12,297) 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.
- Evaluation of EM 201: Bioterrorism Preparedness for Clinicians, the intervention portion of an Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) agreement led by Dr. Louise Dembry, has been extended to the end of February to encourage additional physician participation. Physicians completing the pilot will receive 1.0 CME. Please contact David Burich at (203) 688-3721 or david.burich@ynhh.org with questions or comments.
- 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.
- Additional courses under development include Incident Command Systems for the Healthcare Industry, Principles of Decontamination and PPE, and an intermediate level mental health program. For more information on any of these courses, please contact Scott Selig at (203) 688-2587 or scott.selig@ynhh.org.

TOPOFF3 Senior Officials Exercise

- In coordination with the State of Connecticut Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DEMHS), the federal Office of Domestic Preparedness (ODP) facilitated a TOPOFF3 Senior Officials Exercise on Thursday, February 17, 2005 at the State Armory. This exercise was a pre-TOPOFF3 exercise that included State of Connecticut representatives and the two Hospital Centers of Excellence. The objectives for the Senior Officials Exercise included implementation of the Homeland Security Advisory System and identification of appropriate protective measures at all levels within the United States, Connecticut and in concert with other countries. It also focused on the local ability of information and intelligence-sharing mechanisms to coordinate the response to a rapidly expanding crisis and the identification of the coordination actions required to assure a cohesive and appropriate local, domestic and international public notification campaign.

CDC Influenza Vaccination Coverage Report

- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued an update of 2004-2005 influenza vaccination coverage based on results from the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) survey. The January 2005 data suggest that vaccination continued to occur during the month of December and was concentrated among persons in priority groups. The report is available for download from the CDC website at: <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/vaccination/brfss0405seas.on.htm>.

Biodosimetry Functional Drill

- The Statewide Biodosimetry Laboratory operated by YNHHS is coordinating a lymphocyte isolation functional drill scheduled for late February. An analysis of the drill results will provide the Statewide Biodosimetry Laboratory with an opportunity to assess the effectiveness of the training provided to Level A laboratories participating in the biodosimetry initiative. All hospitals are requested to participate and contribute to fulfillment of the drills and exercise commitment to DPH. Please contact Dr. Joe Albanese at (203) 688-3316 or joseph.albanese@ynhh.org for more information.

Emergency Credentialing Program Expansion

- Recruitment brochures for the voluntary Connecticut Emergency Credentialing Program will be mailed by February 18, 2005 to 96,000 practitioners who are licensed by the State of Connecticut. To reach those who may not receive a program brochure by direct mail, a supply of recruitment information posters will be mailed to hospital-designated contacts for distribution to internal departments. If hospitals haven't done so already, please forward contact information for the hospital designated contact person to Carol Luddy at (203) 688-5544 or carol.luddy@ynhh.org. In order to help prepare hospital managers for questions about the program that may be raised by their staff, a press release is being drafted for discretionary inclusion in hospital employee newsletters. In addition to the press release, Carol Luddy, RN, Emergency Credentialing Coordinator, is available for program-related questions or to provide a brief onsite presentation to managers or staff. Carol Luddy is available to meet at hospitals to discuss the program.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 2 Additional TOPOFF3 Updates

TOPOFF3 Update

- A meeting of the TOPOFF3 public information officer working group will be held on February 23, 2005 at 9:00 a.m. at the Mystic Hilton. Hospitals interested in submitting specific injects to test their organizations public information response must send an appropriate public information representative to that meeting; an information sheet is attached to this briefing.
- A TOPOFF3 controller meeting will be held on February 24, 2005, from 9:00 a. m. -11:00 a. m. at the Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) in Wallingford. All southern tier TOPOFF3 controllers are requested to attend to discuss their roles, responsibilities, and expectations during the April 4, 2005 TOPOFF3 drill.
- 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 on air on Monday, April 4, 2005 from 11:00 a. m. -6 p.m. VNN Live will broadcast via KU and C band satellite downlink to all participants. Information regarding registration for VNN Live and VNN.COM is attached to this briefing. Please ensure your hospital has the downlink capability to view the live program during TOPOFF3. VNN will also be conducting signal tests on the following dates:
 - March 28, 2005 from 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. & from 1:00 p.m. – 2 p.m.
 - March 29, 2005 from 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. & from 1:00 p.m. – 2 p.m.
 - April 3, 2005 from 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. & from 1:00 p. m. – 2 p. m.
- 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. Registration forms will be sent by TOPOFF3 planners directly to the individuals previously identified by the southern tier hospitals. Hospital funding for TOPOFF3 participation may be used to reimburse costs associated with attendance at this training. Please notify Mukesh Roy at (203) 688-2563 or Mukesh.roy@ynhh.org if your controllers and evaluators do not receive registration materials by March 1, 2005.

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

UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

<u>EVENT</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
SEPC	3/2/05	8:30 AM	BH EDUC CONF ROOM

ONGOING TRAINING & EDUCATION

<u>EVENT</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
EMERGENCY RESPONSE TO DOMESTIC BIOLOGICAL INCIDENTS- OPERATIONS LEVEL (PER-220)	2/22-23/05	8:00 AM	DHS/BRAINARD FIELD
DONNA LEE CAMPBELL (860) 566-1188			
SENIOR OFFICIALS WORKSHOP FOR WMD AND TERRORISM INCIDENT PREPAREDNESS (MGT-312)	2/24/05	9:00 AM	CLINTON POLICE DEPARTMENT
DONNA LEE CAMPBELL (860) 566-1188			
MEDICAL ASPECTS OF CONSEQUENCE MANAGEMENT	2/24-25/05	8:25 AM	WASHINGTON, DC
HTTP://WWW.MARKET ACCESS.ORG/EVENT CONSMGMT.ASP			

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

CHRISTOPHER CANNON	OEP SYSTEM DIRECTOR	(203) 688-3229	CHRISTOPHER.CANNON@YNHH.ORG
JIM PATURAS	OEP SYSTEM MANAGER	(203) 688-3496	JAMES.PATURAS@YNHH.ORG
JEFF ARNOLD, MD	OEP MEDICAL DIRECTOR	(203) 688-2535	JEFFREY.ARNOLD@YNHH.ORG
ELAINE FORTE	PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT MANAGER	(203) 688-3391	ELAINE.FORTE@YNHH.ORG