

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS MONTHLY



February 2008, Issue 34 *Maine Edition*

Welcome to the latest issue of Emergency Preparedness Monthly! The [Maine Training Committee for Medical, Behavioral and Public Health Emergency Preparedness](#), the [Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention](#) (formerly the Maine Bureau of Health), the [Maine Center for Public Health](#), and the [Harvard School of Public Health Center for Public Health Preparedness](#) have partnered to bring you regular updates on emergency preparedness news and activities in Maine and beyond. This free monthly newsletter is designed to be a resource for a regional audience of public health, healthcare, public safety, and emergency response practitioners throughout Maine, as well as state and local leaders interested in protecting the public's health. It includes a digest of select news stories and commentaries, links to relevant resources, and a listing of upcoming preparedness-related trainings and events. The goal of this publication is to provide a central forum for disseminating useful, current, and succinct preparedness information to busy professionals. We welcome your comments and suggestions, and can be reached by contacting epmonthly@hsph.harvard.edu.

****SAVE THE DATE****

Trainings/Exercises:

[Advanced Clinical Training: All Hazards Medical Response](#)

Date: March 12, 2008, 7:30 AM -- 3:00 PM

Location: Spectacular Event Center, 395 Griffin Road, Bangor, Maine

Overview: "This training is intended to provide hospital-based health care providers detailed clinical information to diagnose and treat illness and injury resulting from exposure to potential weapons of mass destruction. The training will cover differential diagnoses, treatment protocols, and personal protection strategies for a range of biological, chemical, radiological, and blast exposures."

Contact: Jill Lathan (jlathan@emh.org), 207-973-9548

[Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program \(HSEEP\) Course](#)

Date: March 14, 2008 -- March 15, 2008, 9:00 AM -- 4:00 PM

Location: MEMA Classroom, 45 Commerce Drive, Augusta, Maine

Overview: "The HSEEP Training Course is an interactive course that allows participants

to share personal lessons learned and best practices while gaining practical experience. In addition to the instructor led course presentations, the course includes small group activities, videos, group discussions, and introductions to HSEEP and related initiatives such as technology (e.g., HSEEP Toolkit) and capabilities-based planning (e.g., TCL and UTL). This blended approach will give participants hands-on experience that readily translates to real-world exercise responsibilities. Activities include creating exercise documentation, conducting exercise planning conferences and briefings, and practicing exercise evaluation.”

Contact: Mark Belserene (mark.belserene@maine.gov), 800-452-8735 or 207-624-4443

Advanced Clinical Aspects of Emergency Preparedness

Date: April 18, 2008, 7:30 AM -- 12:00 PM

Location: Clarion Hotel (formerly Doubletree), 1230 Congress Street Portland, Maine

Overview: "This training is intended to provide hospital-based healthcare providers detailed clinical information to diagnose and treat illness and injury resulting from exposure to potential weapons of mass destruction. The training will cover differential diagnoses, treatment protocols and personal protection strategies for a range of biological, chemical, radiological, and blast exposures."

Contact: Penny Hudson (hudsop@mmc.org), 207-662-5142

Know the Response: Disaster Management and Communication for the Health Care Provider

Date: April 30, 2008, 5:30 PM

Location: Massachusetts Medical Society at Waltham Woods 860 Winter Street Waltham, Massachusetts

Overview: "Over the past several years, health care providers have responded to disasters such as terrorist attacks, tsunamis, hurricanes, earthquakes, and threats of pandemic disease. While those responding to these events had great intentions and made well-meaning efforts, many organizers and volunteers were frustrated by the lack of a fully coordinated and communicated response. The key factors of a successful preparedness plan are communication and coordination. Delivering information to the appropriate individuals in an effective format is vital to disaster response. Poor understanding of emergency response roles and expectations can result in inefficiency and, at times, panic. This program addresses disaster management communication systems and outlines the kinds of clinical challenges that typically present in an emergency situation. Participants will gain a greater comprehension of incident command and what to expect when they volunteer to assist in an emergency."

Contact: Massachusetts Medical Society, 800-843-6356

Webcasts:

National Response Framework Webcast (Live)

Date: March 5, 2008, 1:30 -- 2:30 PM

Overview: "The National Response Plan has been replaced by the National Response Framework. As a result, and in order to begin implementation of the Framework, FEMA will be conducting a Webcast on March 5th that will explain specific elements of the Framework. There is also an Independent Study course through FEMA/EMI that has been released (course IS-800b) that you can take that goes further into detail on the new Framework. Since this new document outlines how the nation will respond to a major emergency I would encourage you all to either view the Webcast or complete the IS-800b course, but with that said, as of right now this is not a requirement for Public Health for NIMS compliance."

Humanitarian Myths: Twelve Myths and Misconceptions in Disaster Response

Date: December 17, 2007 (Archived)

Overview: "Humanitarian assistance, or the provision of emergency assistance to extremely vulnerable populations in times of war and disaster, is a dynamic and complex field. Relief organizations must also contend with several prevailing public myths and misconceptions about the way disasters affect vulnerable populations. This discussion will address twelve common myths in disaster response in war and large scale natural disaster, describe the origin and perpetuation of these misconceptions and provide some suggestions about how responders and organizations can move beyond these myths to provide timely, effective, appropriate humanitarian aid to the world's most vulnerable populations."

Research:

Pandemic Influenza Preparedness and Community Resiliency

John P. Muddaugh

JAMA. 2008;299(5):566-568.

Summary: "Weathering a future pandemic of influenza will be a challenge unlike anything experienced in the United States since 1918. A unique strength of the country has been the sharing of common goals and aspirations. Drawing on strong ethnic identities that celebrate diversity and respect for heritage, when faced with crises, individuals throughout the United States have protected each other because of this common bond. Responding to a future influenza pandemic will test loyalties to families, friends, neighborhoods, and communities. As planning for the national response to pandemic influenza continues, it is essential to protect against adverse, unintended consequences that could seriously threaten the fabric of US society. There has been a major shift in public health advice regarding influenza, and current national pandemic

influenza planning advocates that individuals will be able to prevent influenza infection by modifying personal behaviors. Decreased person-to-person contact is recommended as an effective strategy to prevent infection. This new advice is based on limited current scientific evidence and could have serious adverse unintended consequences for the social fabric of society and community resiliency.”

[TelEmergency: A Novel System for Delivering Emergency Care to Rural Hospitals](#)

Robert Galli, John C. Keith, Kendall McKenzie, Gregory S. Hall, Kristi Henderson
epub ahead of print, doi:10.1016/j.annemergmed.2007.04.025

Summary: "Providing rural emergency medical care is often difficult because of limited resources and a scarcity of medical providers, including physicians trained in emergency medicine. Telemedicine offers promise for improving the quality of care in rural areas, but previous models were not well designed to provide affordable care to unstable or potentially unstable patients. The TelEmergency program was developed to overcome these limitations by providing quality, affordable medical care to patients in rural emergency departments (EDs) using specially trained nurse practitioners linked in real time by telemedicine with their collaborating physicians at the University of Mississippi Medical Center Adult Emergency Department. Since its inception in October 2003, the TelEmergency program has evaluated and treated more than 40,000 patients in 11 rural EDs throughout Mississippi, with a high degree of satisfaction from patients and hospital administrators. This article details the development and implementation of this system and describes the patient population that has been evaluated."

News:

[Welcome to the Influenza Virus Tracking System \(interim\)](#)

Overview: The World Health Organization (WHO) is developing an electronic system to track influenza A(H5) viruses that have been shared by Member States with WHO through the Global Influenza Surveillance Network (GISN).

Contact: GISN@who.int

Local and National Events:

[Heroes of Disasters](#)

Date: April 15, 2008, 8:00 AM -- 3:30 PM

Location: Augusta Civic Center, 76 Community Drive, Augusta, Maine

Overview: "The Maine Center for Public Health in partnership with the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention and the Harvard School of Public Health Center for Public Health Preparedness has been planning a statewide conference focused on

volunteers in public health emergencies. National as well as Maine-based speakers will participate."

Contact: www.mcph.org/events.htm

Protecting Children in Emergencies

Date: April 29, 2008, 7:30 AM -- 11:30 AM

Location: Maine Medical Center's Dana Center, Portland, Maine

Overview: "George Foltin, MD, FAAP, FACEP a national expert on this issue from New York University and Bellvue Hospital will provide the keynote address. Drs Eric Gunnoe, Nate Mick, Deborah Hagler and Matt Sholl will also present, as will Steve Trockman, Director of the Southern Maine E.P. Regional Resource Center and Dr. Downing Lu from Children's Hospital in Boston. The program will include brief presentations on carbon monoxide poisoning, E-Coli, pandemic influenza, a multiple casualty incident, and relevant public health systems in Maine, and will conclude with a tabletop exercise. This program has been designed for physicians, physician assistants, nurse practitioners, nurses and others with clinical backgrounds who have responsibilities for children."

[Contact](#)

[Website](#)

2008 IEEE International Conference on Technologies for Homeland Security

Date: May 12, 2008 -- May 13, 2008

Location: Westin Hotel, 70 Third Avenue, Waltham, Massachusetts

Overview: "With Technical Assistance from the Department of Homeland Security, Science & Technology Directorate, the eighth annual IEEE International Conference on Technologies for Homeland Security will focus on novel and innovative technologies, which address the most pressing national security problems. The Conference will provide a forum for innovators to discuss ideas, concepts and findings to date. The conference will bring together innovators from leading universities, research laboratories, Homeland Security Centers of Excellence, small businesses, system integrators and the end user community. The IEEE Conferences has been identified as the key Homeland Security conference by the National Science and Technology Council, Nuclear Defense Research and Development Subcommittee to share with a broad community the interagency Nuclear Defense Research and Development Roadmap."

Contact: Robert Alongi (information@ieeehomelandsecurity2007.org)