

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS MONTHLY



April 2008, Issue 36
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:

Western Maine Regional Functional Exercise

Date: May 3, 2008, 12:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Location: Canton, Maine

Overview: "Regional Functional Exercise with Oxford, Franklin and Androscoggin Counties. This will be a weapon of mass destruction scenario that will test law enforcement, fire/rescue, EMS, HAZMAT, ICS, EMA and other areas of a disaster response."

Contact: Oxford County EMA (oxctyema@megalink.net), 207-743-6336

Penobscot County / Bangor International Airport Full Scale Exercise

Date: May 3, 2008

Location: Bangor International Airport

Overview: "Full Scale Exercise involving a plane crash and Mass Casualty Incident scenario at Bangor International Airport. This is an FAA required exercise that will include regional response resources."

Contact: Robert Jarvis, Airport Administration (bjarvis@flybangor.com), 207-992-4602

Hazardous Materials Safety Officer Training

Date: May 6, 2008 -- May 8, 2008, 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM

Location: Florian Hall, Central Maine Commerce Center, Commerce Drive off Route 27, Augusta, Maine

Overview: "The Maine Emergency Management Agency will be conducting a Hazardous Materials Safety Officer course for first responders who serve as or may become the hazardous materials branch officer or branch safety officer. This 3-day course is designed for a multidiscipline audience of persons who would likely serve as supervisors in an ICS structure. Topics include analyzing the incident, planning the response, implementing the planned response, evaluating the progress and terminating the incident. The course includes group activities, scenario based exercises, and a final exam. This program is intended for experienced members of recognized HAZMAT/WMD teams."

Contact: Mike Grant or Robert Gardner, MEMA, 800- 452-8735 or 207-624-4400.

Workshop: Including the Elderly and Persons with Disabilities in Emergency Preparedness

Date: May 7, 2008, 12:30 PM - 5:00 PM

Location: Skowhegan Community Center, Poulin Street, Skowhegan, Maine

Overview: "Emergencies and disasters take a huge toll on vulnerable populations. Preparedness improves the ability to cope with, respond to and recover from them. The Maine Emergency Management Agency invites you to participate in a Regional Workshop aimed at improving the emergency preparedness of people with disabilities, the elderly and the communities in which they live."

Contact: Rayna Leibowitz, MEMA (rayna.b.leibowitz@maine.gov), 800-452-8735 (voice) /207-624-4437 (TTY) (MEMA) 207-474-6788 (Somerset EMA) or the Somerset County EMA Office (EmergencyManagement@somersetcounty-me.org),

Rumford Valley Tabletop Exercise

Date: May 8, 2008, 8:30 AM - 11:30 AM

Location: Rumford Power Associates, Rumford, Maine

Overview: "Tabletop Exercise with a hazardous chemical spill scenario."

Contact: Teresa Inman, Oxford County EMA (oxctyema@megalink.net), 207-743-6336

Webcasts:

[Standards, Accreditation, and Improvement -- Raising the Bar of Public Health Performance](#)

Date: May 29, 2008, 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM ET

Overview: "What is the relationship between public health agency performance and health status? How does a local or state jurisdiction assess its current services and activities and achieve better health outcomes for the public it serves? Why is there so much attention to quality improvement and accreditation in public health these days and does it really matter? How do these efforts connect with other longstanding efforts such as the CDC National Public Health Performance Standards Program (NPHPSP)?"

Research:

[Regionalization of Local Public Health Systems in the Era of Preparedness](#)

Howard K. Koh, Loris J. Elqura, Christine M. Judge, Michael A. Stoto

ANNU. REV. PUBLIC. HEALTH. 2008;29:205-218.

Summary: "Post-9/11, preparedness planning has catalyzed intrastate regionalization of local public health resources throughout the United States. Investigating this trend unveils several regionalization themes, relevant in other sectors of government, which are applicable to local public health. In this review article, we begin by briefly examining the lessons learned from regionalization for police and fire services, drawing comparisons to public health. Then we provide a brief history of the accelerating regionalization of local public health services sparked by the current attention to emergency preparedness. In particular, we offer case studies from Massachusetts and the National Capital Region to highlight examples of regionalization outcomes related to networking, coordination, standardization, and centralization of public health services. The impact of social capital on preparedness is also explored. Finally, we summarize research needs for the future."

[Collaborative Emergency Management: Better Community Organizing, Better Public Preparedness and Response](#)

Naim Kapucu

OVERSEAS DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE, 2008

Summary: "Mass chaos ensued in New Orleans, Louisiana, when Hurricane Katrina breached the city's levees in late August 2005, filling it with water and leaving any remaining citizens stranded. Tens of thousands of people, along with city and state officials, were without resources for nearly five days (Dyson, 2006). These unexpected results exemplify the inherently social nature of disasters and emergencies. The ability to respond is largely determined by the social structures and processes in place when a community suffers a man-made or natural disaster (Schneider, 1995; Pellig, 2003; Kreps, 1989). Unlike the bedlam that followed Hurricane Katrina, the state of Florida dealt with

the eventful 2004 hurricane season with relative control and composure. Four hurricanes hit the Florida peninsula in six weeks and each time one approached, the National Hurricane Center established watches and issued warnings to the general public for the purpose of preparedness. Yet even in a location with a history of hurricanes and with disaster management and planning protocols in situ, citizens -- professionals and laypersons alike -- were still surprised by the extent and the ferocity of the disasters that occurred. The repeated threats posed by Hurricanes Charley, Frances, Ivan, and Jeanne provided a unique opportunity to research the state of public preparedness and community coordination strategies in order to improve preparedness in the state of Florida."

News/Resources:

[The ReadyMoms Toolkit as presented at the recent Public Health Preparedness Summit in Atlanta](#)

"This toolkit includes brochures, posters, a complete list for a 2-week stockpile of food for a family of 4, lists and display signs for non-food preparedness items, explanatory notes and supporting handouts. All items are formatted and printer-ready - all you need to do is click the print button!!

For a more comprehensive description and discussion on the toolkit and the ReadyMoms approach, [visit this link](#).

ReadyMoms Alliance is a grassroots non-profit organization. Everything we do including the Toolkit is free. If you find our materials useful, please consider how you can support our work."

National Events:

[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)

If your agency/organization is sponsoring an upcoming event related to emergency preparedness that you would like listed in a future issue of *Emergency Preparedness Monthly*, please send an email to epmonthly@hsph.harvard.edu with "event" in the subject line, and your name, title, organization/agency, contact information, and event details in the body of the message. (Note that publication of events is subject to approval by the *Emergency Preparedness Monthly* editorial staff.)

If this newsletter was forwarded to you by a colleague and you would like to subscribe, please send an email to [mailto:epmonthly@hsph.harvard.edu?Subject=Subscribe&body=Please include your name, title, organization/agency, and email address in the body of this message](mailto:epmonthly@hsph.harvard.edu?Subject=Subscribe&body=Please%20include%20your%20name,%20title,%20organization/agency,%20and%20email%20address%20in%20the%20body%20of%20this%20message). with your name, title, organization/agency, and email address in the body of the message. We urge you to sign up for this exciting new resource available to our Maine partners.

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