



EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS MONTHLY Maine Edition

August 2008

In this edition:

- [Trainings/Exercises](#)
- [Webcasts](#)
- [Research](#)
- [News/Resources](#)
- [Conference](#)

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.

Trainings/Exercises:



[Maine's Elders and Emergencies: Working for the Future](#)

Overview: "The Maine Center for Public Health, the Maine Office of Elder Services and the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention, the Maine Emergency Management Agency and the Harvard School of Public Health Center for Public Health Preparedness is pleased to present an online course intended to improve emergency preparedness planning for and among the elderly population. Harvard School of Public Health, Center for Public Health Preparedness has made this online training course available:

Maine's Elders and Emergencies: Working for the Future

This course is designed for city and state officials, representatives of community-based organizations and other service providers, adult caregivers, first responders, elder adults and any individual who wants to participate in promoting emergency preparedness for elder community needs. This course will provide you with the tools and knowledge necessary to prepare and respond to elders in an emergency. It is professionally narrated and has non-graded quizzes that will allow one to test their responses, it has printable facts and other downloadable information. We also encourage you to share this online course with anyone involved in emergency preparedness or other groups/individuals who may benefit from it."

* * Win one of five \$50.00 gift certificates when you complete the course evaluation * *

TO ENROLL IN THE COURSE

Visit: www.cphp.sph.harvard.edu

User name: Elder

Password: Elder

Please note, the above user name and password are case-sensitive*

Certificates of completion will be sent via us mail 4-6 weeks from time of course completion.

Contact: Joshua C. Frances, 207-662-5143

US Coast Guard Frontier Sentinel Full Scale Exercise

Date: August 2, 2008

Location: Maine / New Hampshire Piscataqua River

Overview: "Federal Exercise developed by the US Coast Guard and involves Local, County, State, Federal and International level participation. This will utilize the Piscataqua River and a terrorist type scenario."

Contact: Michael. K. Sams (Michael.K.Sams@uscg.mil), 207-899-6268

Workshop in Emergency Management TTT (G250) -- Somerset County

Date: August 21, 2008

Time: 6:00 PM

Location: Somerset County EMA, 8 County Drive, Skowhegan , Maine

Overview: "The Maine Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) will be conducting a training seminar on the new Statewide Emergency Communications System: Concept of Operations (CONOPS). These workshops will be designed to brief local emergency response personnel on CONOPS and provide them with instructional materials easily delivered at the Regional and Local municipal level by the attendees of the workshop."

Contact: Bob Higgins (EmergencyManagement@somersetcounty-me.org), 207-474-6788

Workshop in Emergency Management TTT (G250) -- York County

Date: August 26, 2008

Time: 6:00 PM

Location: York County EMA, 5 Swetts Bridge Road, Alfred , Maine

Overview: "The Maine Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) will be conducting a training seminar on the new Statewide Emergency Communications System: Concept of Operations (CONOPS). These workshops will be designed to brief local emergency response personnel on CONOPS and provide them with instructional materials easily delivered at the Regional and Local municipal level by the attendees of the workshop."

Contact: Bob Bohlmann (ema@co.york.me.us), 207-324-1578

Webcasts:



Mass Antibiotic Dispensing: Engaging At-risk Populations

When: August 14, 2008,

Time: 1:00 - 2:30 PM (ET)

Overview: "The capacity to reach every person in the community is the goal of emergency preparedness planning. This will be especially important during a public health emergency that requires mass antibiotic dispensing to the entire population within the Cities Readiness Initiative goal of 48 hours. In order to reach everyone in the community, planners must know what subgroups make up their populations, where the people in these groups live and work, and how they best receive information. Research indicates that many jurisdictions have not defined or located their at-risk populations. At-risk populations include groups whose needs are not fully addressed by traditional service providers or people who feel they cannot comfortably or safely use the standard resources offered in disaster preparedness, relief, and recovery. Such people may be physically or mentally disabled, have limited language skills, or be geographically or culturally isolated. This broadcast will focus on defining, locating, and reaching at-risk populations for a mass antibiotic dispensing campaign. Experts in the process of defining, locating, and reaching at-risk populations as well as state and local public health professionals who have used this process will share their experiences. The broadcast will include a live question and answer session in which viewers are encouraged to participate."

Research:



Community Health Centers and Emergency Preparedness: An Assessment of Competencies and Training Needs

Elizabeth Ablah, Annie M. Tinius, Leslie Horn, Chris Williams, Kristine M. Gebbie

J Community Health (2008) 33:241-247

Overview: "Community health centers (CHCs) provide care to a large number of medically underserved Americans. As primary care providers and trusted members of their communities, CHCs need to be prepared to respond to emergency and disaster situations, as they may be relied upon for medical care and other support services. Focus groups were conducted with CHC medical directors and administrators from New York City. Participants discussed previous emergency preparedness training, future training needs, applicability of competencies, and usefulness of two training programs. Participants indicated that they had more experience with preparedness training than many of their colleagues, although participants still reported further training needs. In particular, emergency roles and responsibilities, decontamination and containment, and personal preparedness were given as needed training topics for staff. The training resources were reported to be useful and beneficial. Participants also reported that most of the competencies were appropriate for CHC clinicians. During an emergency, people want to receive care from their normal provider, and for many, that provider is a CHC. This and other research suggests that the emergency preparedness needs facing CHCs are significant and should be addressed."

Providing Shelter to Nursing Home Evacuees in Disasters: Lessons From Hurricane Katrina

Sarah B. Laditka, James N. Laditka, Sudha Xirasagar, Carol B. Cornman, Courtney B. Davis, Jane V. E. Richter

Am J Public Health, 2008;98:1288-1293.

Overview: "We examined nursing home preparedness needs by studying the experiences of nursing homes that sheltered evacuees from Hurricane Katrina. METHODS: Five weeks after Hurricane Katrina, and again 15 weeks later, we conducted interviews with administrators of 14 nursing homes that sheltered 458 evacuees in 4 states. Nine weeks after Katrina, we conducted site visits to 4 nursing homes and interviewed 4 administrators and 38 staff members. We used grounded theory analysis to identify major themes and thematic analysis to organize content. RESULTS: Although most sheltering facilities were well prepared for emergency triage and treatment, we identified some major preparedness shortcomings. Nursing homes were not included in community planning or recognized as community health care resources. Supplies and medications were inadequate, and there was insufficient communication and information about evacuees provided by evacuating nursing homes to sheltering nursing homes. Residents and staff had notable mental health-related needs after 5 months, and maintaining adequate staffing was a challenge. CONCLUSIONS: Nursing homes should develop and practice procedures to shelter and provide long-term access to mental health services following a disaster. Nursing homes should be integrated into community disaster planning and be classified in an emergency priority category similar to hospitals."

Enhancing Public Health Preparedness for a Terrorist Attack Involving Cyanide

Marc Eckstein

The Journal of Emergency Medicine, Vol. 35, No. 1, pp. 59-65, 2008

Overview: "The US government considers cyanide to be among the most likely agents of chemical terrorism. Cyanide differs from many other biological or chemical agents for which little or no defense is available because its individual and public health effects are largely remediable through appropriate preparedness and response. Because the toxicity of the cyanide antidote currently available in the United States renders it ill-suited for use in terrorist incidents and other situations requiring rapid out-of-hospital treatment, hydroxocobalamin-an effective and safe cyanide antidote being used in other countries-has been introduced in the United States. Unlike the other available cyanide antidote, hydroxocobalamin can

be administered at the scene of a cyanide disaster, and it need not be reserved for cases of confirmed cyanide poisoning but can be administered in cases of suspected poisoning. Both of these attributes facilitate the rapid intervention necessary for saving lives. To realize the potential benefits of hydroxocobalamin, progress also needs to be realized in other aspects of readiness, including but not limited to developing plans for ensuring local and regional availability of antidote, educating emergency responders and health care professionals in the recognition and management of cyanide poisoning, and raising public awareness of the potential for a chemical weapons attack and of how to respond."

News/Resources:



[Health Map](#)

"HealthMap brings together disparate data sources to achieve a unified and comprehensive view of the current global state of infectious diseases and their effect on human and animal health. This freely available Web site integrates outbreak data of varying reliability, ranging from news sources (such as Google News) to curated personal accounts (such as ProMED) to validated official alerts (such as World Health Organization). Through an automated text processing system, the data is aggregated by disease and displayed by location for user-friendly access to the original alert. HealthMap provides a jumping-off point for real-time information on emerging infectious diseases and has particular interest for public health officials and international travelers."

Conference:



[ASTHO-NACCHO 2008](#)

Date: September 9 - 12, 2008

Location: Sacramento Convention Center Hyatt Regency, Sacramento Sheraton Grand Sacramento, Sacramento, California

Overview: "The goal of the ASTHO-NACCHO 2008 Joint Conference is to enhance the ability of participants to help create a 21st century health system necessary for the United States to become the healthiest nation in the world. ASTHO-NACCHO 2008 will achieve this goal by providing sessions that enable attendees to:

- Describe policies that promote health value and equity to help the U.S become the healthiest nation in the world
- Outline strategies, resources, and tools for accountability and performance improvement to help the U.S. become the healthiest nation in the world
- Identify practices and policies designed to strengthen cooperation between state and local public health agencies to help the U.S. become the healthiest nation in the world
- Demonstrate best practices for collaboration and the alignment of resources among public and private sector key stakeholders to help the U.S become the healthiest nation in the world
- Examine innovations in policy, legal decisions, and investments to help the U.S. become the healthiest nation in the world."

Contact: National Association of County and City Health Officials (info@naccho.org), 202-783-5550

You may notice in this version of EP Monthly, and going forward, that pdf documents of full articles are not available. However, links to access these articles are embedded. If you need assistance in accessing a referenced article, please do not hesitate to contact us by email at epmonthly@hsph.harvard.edu.

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