



February 2009

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:



[Emergency Planning Community Right-to-Know Act \(EPCRA\) Reporting Workshop -- Augusta](#)

Date: Wednesday, February 4, 2009

Time: 8:30 AM - 11:30 AM

Location: Quality Inn, 65 Whitten Road, Augusta, Maine

Overview: "This 3-hour workshop is for facilities that are required to report extremely hazardous substances and/or hazardous materials above reporting quantities.

If you attend this workshop, you will have an understanding of:

- EPCRA Federal Law Public Law 99-499, October 17, 1986: 42 U.S.C. 11001 et seq.
- EPCRA Maine Law Public Law 464, Title 37-B, M.R.S.A., Chapter 13
- What chemicals do or do not need to be reported and why
- How to use Tier 2 Submit to complete and submit chemical inventory reports
- How to fill out the Fee Worksheets
- Use the List of Lists
- Updates in the program
- Questions about EPCRA answered

Please take advantage of this training and register early or at least 5 business days prior to the scheduled date."

Contact: Robert Gardner (maine.serc@maine.gov), 207-624-4400 or 800-452-8735

Emergency Planning Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA) Reporting Workshop -- Portland

Date: Tuesday, February 10, 2009

Time: 8:30 AM - 11:30 AM

Location: Verrillo's Restaurant & Banquet Center, 155 Riverside Street, Portland, Maine

Overview: "This 3-hour workshop is for facilities that are required to report extremely hazardous substances and/or hazardous materials above reporting quantities.

If you attend this workshop, you will have an understanding of:

- EPCRA Federal Law Public Law 99-499, October 17, 1986: 42 U.S.C. 11001 et seq.
- EPCRA Maine Law Public Law 464, Title 37-B, M.R.S.A., Chapter 13
- What chemicals do or do not need to be reported and why
- How to use Tier 2 Submit to complete and submit chemical inventory reports
- How to fill out the Fee Worksheets
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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 (HSPH-CPHP) are pleased to present an online course intended to improve emergency preparedness planning for and among the elderly population titled: "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 as well as printable facts and other downloadable information. We 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 * ***

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

Webcasts:



Public Health Emergency Preparedness: Planning and Practicing for a Disaster

Date: Monday, February 9, 2009

Time: 1:00 PM ET

Overview: "In a natural or manmade disaster, a sudden surge of patients with diverse medical needs may cause health care facilities to reach capacity quickly and, in some cases, deplete available resources. To effectively manage mass medical care, health care facilities must allocate resources appropriately and, as necessary, evacuate patients. First, facilities must develop a plan and practice it. AHRQ has developed a range of emergency preparedness planning tools, including free, interactive computer models. To showcase a few of the newer tools and their uses, AHRQ will host a

February Webcast, Public Health Emergency Preparedness: Planning and Practicing for a Disaster. This event will feature tool demonstrations by developers and insights from users. Presenters will offer diverse perspectives on emergency planning and the use of:

- Hospital Surge Model
- Tool for Evaluating Core Elements of Hospital Disaster Drills
- Mass Evacuation Transportation Model

Plus, Webcast viewers will get a preview of the National Mass Patient and Evacuee Movement, Regulating, and Tracking System: Recommendations. This Webcast bundles three AHRQ emergency preparedness tools together to show participants how they can complement each other when developing plans.

Emergency preparedness planners, as well as Federal, State, and local community health planners, providers, and first responders are invited to attend."

Contact: (emergencypreparedness@academyhealth.org)

Maine Health Alert Network (HAN)

Date: [Friday, February 6, 2009](#)

Time: 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM EST

Date: [Wednesday, February 11, 2009](#)

Time: 12:00 PM - 12:45 PM EST

Date: [Tuesday, February 17, 2009](#)

Time: 10:30 AM - 11:15 AM EST

Date: [Thursday, February 26, 2009](#)

Time: 2:30 PM - 3:15 PM EST

Overview: "The Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention's emergency alerting and notification system uses software called Response Manager (RM). Response Manager is a web-based application that is able to send public health alerts, advisories, and updates to key public health officials statewide. User's can opt to receive alert-related messages from Maine CDC using multiple devices, such as: landline telephone, cellular telephone, facsimile, email, pagers (alpha and numeric), and BlackBerry, Smartphone and I-phone devices. The Response Manager Alerting (level) license provides access to users in the HAN who need to receive alerts only. Users receiving alerts can:

- View news & announcements on the home page
- Receive and view alerts
- Add and update their user profile information

The Alert-Only training module can be accomplished in 60-90 minutes and will provide students with detailed instruction on how to access the portal page using a internet web browser, how to set-up and complete your profile, how to confirm receipt of the alert-related information, and how to navigate the portal home page.

While there are no official prerequisites for RM training, it is vital for users to be competent and comfortable with general computer/browser/Internet skills, and the use of their own communication devices and services."

Contact: Southern Maine Regional Resource Center For Emergency Preparedness, 207-662-5142

Research:



Health effects of relocation following disaster: a systematic review of the literature

Lori Uscher-Pines

Disasters, 33(1): 1-22. 2009

Overview: This paper reviews the literature on the effects of post-disaster relocation on physical and mental health, and develops a conceptual framework to guide future research. Forty articles were selected for full-text review and incorporation into the conceptual framework. Twenty-four articles

were reviewed for results and methodology. These overwhelmingly tracked mental health outcomes. Only four (16 per cent) focused on physical health. Eight of ten showed an association between relocation and psychological morbidity. Certain outcomes (such as mortality, injury and cardiovascular disease risk factors) revealed inconsistent results, but these were rarely studied. Despite the frequency of post-disaster relocation and evidence of its effect on psychological morbidity, there is a relative paucity of studies; the few examples in the literature reveal weak study designs, inconsistent results, and inattention to physical health impacts and the challenges facing vulnerable populations. Further research guided by theory is needed to inform emergency preparedness and recovery policy.

Communicating with the public about emerging health threats: lessons from the Pre-Event Message Development Project

Wray RJ, Becker SM, Henderson N, Glik D, Jupka K, Middleton S, Henderson C, Drury A, Mitchell EW.

American Journal of Public Health | December 2008, Vol 98, No. 12

Overview: OBJECTIVES: We sought to better understand the challenges of communicating with the public about emerging health threats, particularly threats involving toxic chemicals, biological agents, and radioactive materials. METHODS: At the request of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, we formed an interdisciplinary consortium of investigative teams from 4 schools of public health. Over 2 years, the investigative teams conducted 79 focus group interviews with 884 participants and individual cognitive response interviews with 129 respondents, for a total sample of 1013 individuals. The investigative teams systematically compared their results with other published research in public health, risk communication, and emergency preparedness. RESULTS: We found limited public understanding of emerging biological, chemical, and radioactive materials threats and of the differences between them; demand for concrete, accurate, and consistent information about actions needed for protection of self and family; active information seeking from media, local authorities, and selected national sources; and areas in which current emergency messaging can be improved. CONCLUSIONS: The public will respond to a threat situation by seeking protective information and taking self-protective action, underlining the critical role of effective communication in public health emergencies.

News



Northeast a Focus for Urban Density

PRNewswire, Thursday, January 15

Wren, a provider of enterprise-class video surveillance solutions, today announced plans to focus its fourth School Security Research Series in the Northeast U.S. to survey schools on factors from emergency preparedness to their ability to combat campus threats. The survey will be conducted among school administrators and members of the National Association of School Resource Officers (NASRO) in nine Northeast states from Maine to Pennsylvania.

Contact: Kathy Cabrera, Carabiner Communications (kcabrera@carabinerPR.com), 770-569-8221

Conference:



2009 Public Health Preparedness Summit

Date: Wednesday, February 18, 2009 - Friday, February 20, 2009

Time: 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM (Pacific Time)

Location: Sheraton San Diego Hotel and Marina, 1380 Harbor Island Drive, San Diego, California

Overview: "The Summit is the largest conference for public health and emergency preparedness professionals offering a variety of plenary, panel, and poster presentations, round table discussions, and interactive workshops all focused on building, enhancing, and sustaining our nation's ability to plan for, respond to, and recover from disasters and other public health emergencies."

Why should you be at the Summit?

"Demonstrate your support of our nation's local, state, and federal public health preparedness

professionals by being an exhibitor or sponsor of the 2009 Public Health Preparedness Summit. There are various ways to feature your organization at the Summit and achieve maximum impact and exposure for your marketing investment. Your exhibit and sponsorship will show your organization's leadership in one of the most exciting public health events of the year and put you in front of more than 1,500 attendees from across the country including:

- Local and state public health department preparedness staff
- Federal agency staff working on public health preparedness issues, including CDC and HRSA
- Representatives from the academic community including Centers for Public Health Preparedness.
- Community health center, hospital, and emergency medical services staff
- Industry partners looking to learn from conference attendees and share new ideas and technologies.
- Emergency management agency and homeland security professionals and other personnel working with public health agencies to build preparedness capacity and competency at the local, state, and federal level."

Contact: Contact the Registration Department (phpreg@conferencemanagers.com), 703-964-1240

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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Please submit your events to the March edition of EP Monthly by mid-February through the following [online form](#). We would love to share our resources and opportunities with the growing New England EP Monthly community.