



## March 2009

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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:



#### [Lincoln County CART \(County Animal Response Team\) Team Meeting and Training](#)

**Date:** Thursday, March 12, 2009

**Time:** 6:30 PM

**Location:** Lincoln County Communications Center, 34 Bath Road, Wiscasset, Maine

**Contact:** Kimberley Kaiser, Lincoln County Deputy EMA Director ([kim902@co.lincoln.me.us](mailto:kim902@co.lincoln.me.us)), 207-882-7559

#### [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](http://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

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## Webcasts:



### **Public Health Law 101: Law of Public Health Surveillance, Investigations, and Emergencies**

**Date:** Tuesday, March 10, 2009

**Time:** 9:00-10:30 a.m. (Central Time) -- 10:00-11:30 a.m. (Eastern) -- 8:00-9:30 a.m. (Mountain)

7:00-8:30 a.m. (Pacific)

**Overview:** "An emerging disease is sweeping through cities mainly affecting children. The disease has a rapid onset, lasts two weeks and has a 10% mortality rate. Can the health officer set up a reporting system without going to the legislature? When the disease is found to be carried by ticks on domestic dogs, does the health officer have the power to seize and destroy the suspected animals? Can the federal government investigate this as a possible bioterrorism event? For hundreds of years, laws have been created and used to define the parameters of what people and organizations can and can not do. Often times though, people don't truly familiarize themselves with the various laws and procedures until it's too late - a phrase most health professionals deem unacceptable. In the last 20 years public health agencies have been brushing up on their "legal preparedness," realizing the essential role law plays in protecting the public's health. The answer to the question, "Who can provide supplies, surveillance or control during an outbreak," need to be known now, not later. This program is the first of three that will explore the legal issues involved in public health epidemiological interventions. What are the laws? What can you, as a public health professional, legally do to help protect the public's health during a crisis? How do you get assistance and who do you turn to when it's needed? Those are just a few questions we should all know the answers to, because at this point it's not a matter of if a disease outbreak will happen, but when. **The core material to be presented in these three programs has been adapted from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's recently released program: Public Health Law 101: A Fundamental Course for Public Health Practitioners.** These three programs are being produced for Alabama professionals and are specific to Alabama laws and regulations. Other participants are invited to view these programs, knowing the laws of their respective jurisdictions would apply."

**Contact:** ([alphtn@adph.state.al.us](mailto:alphtn@adph.state.al.us)), 334-206-5618

### **A Safe Home Environment: What's That I Smell?**

**Date:** 03/11/2009

**Time:** 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM (ET)

**Overview:** "When patients are no longer able to properly keep up their home, the usual safe havens can turn into an unsafe breeding ground for waste, insects, and disease. Discover how you can provide a safer, healthier and cleaner home environment for your patients."

**Contact:** Alabama Public Health Training Network ([Email ALPHTN](mailto:Email ALPHTN)), 334-206-5618

### **Alternate Standards of Care in Disasters**

**Date:** Thursday, March 26, 2009

**Time:** 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM (ET) Deadline to Register is 3/19/2009

**Overview:** "Emergency events often limit the amount of public health services that are available. See how implementing alternative standards of care can not only simplify the medical process, but also save

lives."

Contact: Alabama Public Health Training Network ([Email ALPHTN](mailto:ALPHTN)), 334-206-5618

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## Research:



### **Lessons Learned From Chicago's Emergency Response to Mass Evacuations Caused by Hurricane Katrina.**

**Broz D, Levin EC, Mucha AP, Pelzel D, Wong W, Persky VW, Hershow RC**

*American Journal of Public Health. 2009; 99(8):page 1-9*

**Overview:** "We analyzed the response of the Chicago Department of Public Health with respect to its effectiveness in providing health care to Hurricane Katrina evacuees arriving in the city. Methods. Between September 12 and October 21, 2005, we conducted a real-time qualitative assessment of a medical unit in Chicago's Hurricane Victim Welcome and Relief Center. A semi-structured guide was used to interview 33 emergency responders in an effort to identify key operational successes and failures. The medical unit functioned at a relatively high level, primarily as a result of the flexibility, creativity, and dedication of its staff and the presence of strong leadership. Chronic health care services and prescription refills were the most commonly mentioned services provided, and collaboration with a national pharmacy proved instrumental in reconstructing medication histories. The lack of a comprehensive and well-communicated emergency response plan resulted in several preventable inefficiencies. Our findings highlight the need for improved planning for care of evacuee populations after a major emergency event and the importance of ensuring continuity of care for the most vulnerable. We provide an emergency response preparedness checklist for local public health departments."

### **Medical response to a radiologic/nuclear event: integrated plan from the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response, Department of Health and Human Services.**

**Coleman CN, Hrdina C, Bader JL, Norwood A, Hayhurst R, Forsha J, Yeskey K, Knebel A**

*Annals of Emergency Medicine. 2009; 53(2): page 213-221*

**Overview:** "The end of the Cold War led to a reduced concern for a major nuclear event. However, the current threats from terrorism make a radiologic (dispersal or use of radioactive material) or nuclear (improvised nuclear device) event a possibility. The specter and enormity of the catastrophe resulting from a state-sponsored nuclear attack and a sense of nihilism about the effectiveness of a response were such that there had been limited civilian medical response planning. Although the consequences of a radiologic dispersal device are substantial, and the detonation of a modest-sized (10 kiloton) improvised nuclear device is catastrophic, it is both possible and imperative that a medical response be planned. To meet this need, the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response in the Department of Health and Human Services, in collaboration within government and with nongovernment partners, has developed a scientifically based comprehensive planning framework and Web-based "just-in-time" medical response information called Radiation Event Medical Management (available at <http://www.remm.nlm.gov>). The response plan includes (1) underpinnings from basic radiation biology, (2) tailored medical responses, (3) delivery of medical countermeasures for postevent mitigation and treatment, (4) referral to expert centers for acute treatment, and (5) long-term follow-up. Although continuing to evolve and increase in scope and capacity, current response planning is sufficiently mature that planners and responders should be aware of the basic premises, tools, and resources available. An effective response will require coordination, communication, and cooperation at an unprecedented level. The logic behind and components of this response are presented to allow for active collaboration among emergency planners and responders and federal, state, local, and tribal governments."

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## News



### **Maine Learns Preparedness Lessons From Minneapolis**



## NEWS CENTER

Augusta Maine emergency management officials are learning how to better prepare for a disaster from the emergency preparedness director for Minneapolis, Minnesota. Rocco Forte was in charge of the Emergency Operations Center after the collapse of the I-35 bridge in Minneapolis in August 2007. That bridge collapse has led to a lot of criticism about the safety of roads and bridges across the country, but the rescue and recovery effort in Minneapolis has been praised. Forte said Minnesota invested a lot of money in both communications equipment and emergency training between 2002 and 2007, after a drill showed big gaps in the state's preparedness. He said the key to a successful emergency response after the bridge collapse was lots and lots of training exercises with emergency responders from different towns and counties. Maine's Emergency Management Director, Robert McAleer, said the talk has him thinking about whether it would be worth it to invest in certain equipment, and about different ways to train emergency responders to make the command structure more effective.

[Play Video](#)

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## Conference:



### **2009 Integrated Medical, Public Health, Preparedness and Response**

**Date:** Saturday, April 04, 2009 to Wednesday, April 08, 2009

**Location:** Sheraton Suites Market Center Dallas 2101 Stemmons Freeway Dallas, Texas

**Overview:** The Training Summit will enhance the knowledge, skills, and abilities of participants, which in turn will improve their competency to deliver public health and medical care services during disasters of any origin. Expert faculty will present on key topics such as clinical care, leadership skills, volunteer management practices, and response team issues. Networking with these expert faculty members and fellow participants, many of whom are the nation's leaders in the area of public health emergencies, will give access to the latest in emergency response and coordination capabilities.

**Contact:** ([hhstrainingsummit@chepinc.org](mailto:hhstrainingsummit@chepinc.org)), 410-642-1857

### **1st Annual Maine Partners in Emergency Preparedness Conference**

**Date:** Thursday, April 30 - Friday, May 1, 2009 Augusta, Civic Center 76 Community Drive, Augusta, Maine

**Time:** Thursday, April 30, 2009, 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM; Friday, May 1, 2009, 7:00 AM - 4:00 PM

**Overview:** "The conference will focus on an array of emergency preparedness topics ranging from hazardous materials (which includes the 10th Annual HAZMAT team challenge), to topics important to individuals and homes, schools and communities, as well as business and social service organizations. This conference will not only be informative and educational, but will also serve as a superb networking opportunity. This conference will offer you an excellent opportunity to promote and maximize the visibility of your product, service, or information to the leading experts in emergency preparedness in Maine, municipal decision makers, and many others seeking to improve the emergency preparedness of their homes, schools, communities, businesses, and organizations. We encourage exhibitors to attend or visit conference activities in order to expand the opportunities to interact with attendees and assess their concerns and needs."

**Contact:** Dwane Hubert, MEMA 207-624-4400

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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](mailto:epmonthly@hsph.harvard.edu).

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