

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS MONTHLY



May 2008, Issue 37 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:

Rumford Valley Drill

http://www.maine.gov/mema/mema_calendar_display.shtml?id=52102

Date: June 1, 2008, 8:00 AM -12:00 PM

Location: Rumford Power Associates, 43 Industrial Park Road, Rumford, Maine

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

Civil Support Team (CST) Based Full Scale Exercise with National Semi Conductor

http://www.maine.gov/mema/mema_calendar_display.shtml?id=48595

Date: June 2, 2008 -- June 6, 2008

Location: South Portland, Maine

Overview: "This is a National Guard-based weapon of mass destruction exercise involving CST Teams and the National Semi Conductor in South Portland."

Contact: Jeff Temple, South Portland EMA (JTEMPLE@southportland.org), 207-799-3315 x337

United States Coast Guard Frontier Sentinel Functional Exercise

http://www.maine.gov/mema/mema_calendar_display.shtml?id=48584

Date: June 9, 2008 – June 13, 2008, 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Location: New Hampshire and Maine on the Piscataqua River

Overview: "This functional federal exercise was developed by the U.S. Coast Guard and involves local, county, state, federal and international level participation. This will utilize the Piscataqua River and a terrorist type scenario."

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

Local Partnerships in Emergency Preparedness: A Tabletop Exercise for Sagadahoc County & Neighboring Communities

Date: July 8, 2008, 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Location: Mt. Ararat High School 73, Eagles Way, Topsham, Maine

Overview: "Weather-related emergencies and infectious disease disasters such as pandemic influenza will quickly overwhelm the resources of any size community. A coordinated, pre-planned response is critical to maximize your ability to preserve the health and safety of your citizens and responders. This program will help local agencies involved in emergency planning and response to assess and improve readiness for a public health emergency. Community members will work in interdisciplinary teams to:

- practice working together to respond to an emergency using unified command
- ensure effective use of community resources and partnerships
- assess connectivity within and across agencies
- identify issues and expectations of response coordination between state, local and community partners
- coordinate a unified approach to public information sharing"

This exercise is targeting the communities of Topsham, Bath, W. Bath, Bowdoin, Bowdoinham, Phippsburg, Woolwich, Georgetown, Arrowsic, Brunswick, Freeport and Harpswell.

Contact: Viki Wills, (vwills@mcph.org), 207-629-9272 x212

Webcasts:

A Nation Prepared: A Federal Perspective on Preparedness and Response Efforts for Emergency Support Function 8, Public Health, and Medical Services

http://webapps.sph.harvard.edu/content/PHP_MAY1,2008_2008-05-01_12-34-PM_files/flash_index.htm

Date: May 1, 2008

Speaker: Commander Patricia Pettis, Regional Emergency Coordinator - Region IV, Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)

Overview: "By the end of this session, participants will be able to:

- Describe the Organizational Structure of HHS's Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR) and the HHS/ASPR Regional Emergency Coordinator Program.
- Analyze HHS/ASPR roles and responsibilities under Emergency Support Function (ESF) #8: Public Health and Medical Services, and the impact of the Pandemic and All Hazards Preparedness Act (PAHPA) since its congressional passage in January 2007.
- Discuss ESF #8 assets as proven strategies to bolster public health and medical emergency preparedness and response efforts in the realm of all hazards planning."

Research:

Collaborative Emergency Management: Better Community Organizing, Better Public Preparedness and Response

Naim Kapucu

Journal compilation © Overseas Development Institute, 2008

Summary: "Community coordination requires communication and planning of precautions to take when faced with a severe threat of disaster. The unique case of the four Florida hurricanes of 2004—Charley, Frances, Ivan, and Jeanne—is used here to assess community responses to repeated threats of hurricanes. The paper examines how effectiveness in coordinating community disaster response efforts affects future public preparedness. The findings suggest that pre-season planning; open communication between emergency managers and elected officials, and the use of technology all had a significant impact on community responses. The repeated threat scenario indicates that emergency managers must work vigilantly to keep residents informed of the seriousness of a situation. The study describes how emergency managers in Florida countered public complacency during four hurricanes in six weeks. The strategies identified as useful by public managers in the context of hurricanes are applicable to other natural and man-made disasters."

Pediatric Epidemic Crisis: Lessons for Policy and Practice Development

David B. Nicholas, Robin E. Gearing, Donna Koller, Robyn Salter, Enid K. Selkirk

In press: Nicholas DB, et al., Pediatric epidemic crisis: Lessons for Policy and Practice Development Health Policy (2008), Journal of Health Policy and Management

Summary: "This research study addresses health policy and patient care considerations, and outlines policy and practice implications resulting from a crisis in a pediatric setting. This crisis, an epidemic outbreak of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS), dramatically impacted the delivery of health care in Canada. Despite the passage of time since the last diagnosed case of SARS in April 2004, researchers have warned the global community to be prepared for future outbreaks of SARS or other infectious diseases. Methods: Qualitative interviews were conducted with 23 participants representing key

stakeholder groups: (a) pediatric patients with probable or suspected SARS, (b) their parents, and (c) health care professionals providing direct care to SARS patients. Results: Participants conveyed key areas in which health policy and practice were affected. These included the development of communication strategies for responding to SARS; easing vulnerability among all stakeholders; and the rapid development of practice guidelines. Conclusion: Given the continuing threat of current and future airborne viruses with potential for epidemic spread and devastating. Outcomes, preparedness strategies are certainly needed. Effective strategies in pediatrics include practices that provide family centered care while minimizing disease transmission. Toward this end, lessons learned from previous outbreaks merit consideration and may inform future epidemics."

News:

[In Maine, a Losing Battle for Health: Struggling County Poses Harsh Reality for Women](#)

"STEUBEN, Maine -- Thelma MacLean doesn't know what caused the chronic respiratory illness that has sucked away her mobility, peace of mind and resilience. Maybe it was the cigarettes she smoked for 30 years, or the woodsmoke she inhaled from neighbors' stoves, or the home permanents she gladly gave her friends. Maybe it was all those things..."

[WHO Experts Review Influenza Pandemic Preparedness Guidance](http://www.infectioncontroltoday.com/hotnews/influenza-pandemic-preparedness-guidance.html)

"GENEVA, Switzerland -- With the ongoing threat of a global influenza pandemic demanding continued vigilance, 120 influenza and planning experts from World Health Organization (WHO) member states, research institutions and UN agencies around the globe are meeting in Geneva this week to review the current WHO pandemic preparedness guidance...."

[Ford Motor Co., MSU to Host Emergency Preparedness Competition](http://media-newswire.com/release_1066550.html)

"Emergency response teams representing Ford Motor Co.'s North American plant manufacturing operations will compete in six unrehearsed events the ranging from medical first response to water ball the designed to improve their ability to respond to potential industrial-related emergencies. An awards presentation will follow the competition..."

[U.S. Wary Of Small Boat Terrorism](http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2008/04/28/terror/main4049208.shtml)

<http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2008/04/28/terror/main4049208.shtml>

"As boating season approaches, the Bush administration wants to enlist America's 80 million recreational boaters to help reduce the chances that a small boat could deliver a nuclear or radiological bomb somewhere along the 95,000 miles of U.S. coastline and inland waterways. According to an April 23 intelligence assessment obtained by The Associated Press, "The use of a small boat as a weapon is likely to remain al Qaeda's weapon of choice..."