



November 2008

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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:



[Seabrook Station Nuclear Plant Full Scale Exercise](#)

Date: Wednesday, November 5, 2008

Location: Seabrook Station / IFO Newington, NH

Overview: "Full Scale Exercise involving a radiological release at Seabrook Station."

Contact: Robert Gardner/MEMA (robert.s.gardner@maine.gov) 207-624-4440 Sagadahoc County

[Common Ground Workshop](#)

Date: Thursday, November 13, 2008

Location: Hilton Garden Inn, Freeport, ME

Contact: Tammy McLaughlin (tmclaughlin@neias.com) 207-626-3615, TTY: 207-623-0830

More Info: [Flyer](#)

[Tabletop Exercise](#)

Date: Friday, November 14, 2008

Location: Sagadahoc County (exact location TBD)

Overview: "Tabletop Exercise in Sagadahoc County Scenario information is TBD. This is a response exercise geared for first responders."

Contact: Sagadahoc EMA Staff (sagema@sagcounty.com) 207-443-8210

[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:



Lessons Learned From the Field of Emergency Preparedness

Date: November 6, 2008

Time: 12:00 -1:30 PM EST

Overview: "In the event of a natural or man-made disaster, health care facilities may have a sudden surge of patients with diverse medical needs. This influx may cause them to reach capacity quickly and, in some cases, deplete available resources. In order to effectively manage mass medical care, communities must identify additional treatment sites and allocate resources appropriately. To support community emergency preparedness planning, the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) has developed a range of tools. To help communities use these tools, AHRQ will host a Webcast entitled, *Lessons from the Field of Emergency Preparedness*. This event will feature stories from three communities representing different regions with distinct populations, geographies, and threats. Presenters will offer diverse perspectives on emergency planning and the use of available tools in order to enhance:

- * surge capacity;
- * medical supply allocation planning;
- * resource inventories reporting systems.

Participants will receive key insight on customizing tools in order to address the distinct needs of their communities. Emergency preparedness planners as well as federal, state and local community health planners."

Contact: emergencypreparedness@academyhealth.org

Research:



Communicating With the Public About Emerging Health Threats: Lessons From the Pre-Event Message Development Project

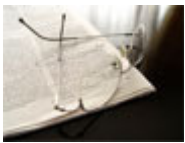
Wray RJ, Becker SM, Henderson N, Glik D, Jupka K, Middleton S, Henderson C, Drury A, Mitchell EW.

Saint Louis University School of Public Health, December 2008, Vol 98, No. 12

Overview: "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/Resources:



[Community Health Status Indicators](#)

The Department of Health and Human Services recently released its searchable, web-based version of the Community Health Status Index (CHSI 2008). CHSI provides county-level health profiles for all 3141 U.S. counties, and provides easy-to-understand reports that convey a wide range of public health and socioeconomic needs and assets. In addition to the web pages, community profiles can be displayed on maps or downloaded into a brochure. Its mapping capability allows users to visually compare similar ("peer") counties as well as adjacent counties with their county. The website can serve as a starting point for assessing community needs, quantifying vulnerable populations, and measuring preventable diseases, disabilities, and deaths. The CHSI report is accompanied by "Data Sources, Definitions, and Notes" which gives detailed descriptions on data estimations, definitions, caveats, methodology, and sources.

[University of Maine's disaster plans](#)

By Emma Thieme

Maine Campus Online

Overview: "When disaster strikes, the University of Maine relies on the Safety and Environmental Management (SEM) department to lead the way to safety. The SEM department manages laboratories, oversees training programs and teaches classes on environmental health and safety. Students with jobs on campus usually receive required training from this department."

[Preparing for the worst](#)

[Responders stage mock accident involving whale watching boat](#)

By Liz Gotthelf

Staff Writer, Biddeford Journal Tribune

Overview: "BIDDEFORD - If a major boating accident should occur in nearby waters, boaters can rest assured that local emergency responders are ready. On Saturday, several emergency management agencies joined together for their first-ever maritime mass casualty training exercise, giving them a chance to experience the challenges and needs that would arise in a large-scale marine emergency."

Conference:



[Maine Public Health Association's Annual Meeting](#)

Date: Monday, November 3, 2008, 7:45 AM to 4:00 PM

Location: Augusta Civic Center, Augusta, ME

Overview: Provide and exchange information on research, policies, and practices that address the political determinants of health. Explore the effect of politics in public health and how it impacts policy and environmental change. Offer a forum for professionals to network and

develop strategies to coordinate efforts. Recognize outstanding efforts by Maine public health professionals through MPHA awards.

Contact: www.mcdregistration.org

Vermont Emergency Preparedness Conference

Date: Thursday, November 6, 2008, 7:30 AM to 4:00 PM

Location: Lake Morey Inn, Fairlee, VT

Overview: "These sessions will address many different aspects of preparedness, including communities, schools, weather, special needs populations, and individuals. And since preparedness results in overall community resiliency, best practices are to be shared from model communities. Participants will have the chance to look at the many resources available in Vermont and interact with the members of those groups. Representatives from the S&T Interagency Programs office will be on hand to discuss their role in helping communities and individuals prepare for emergency situations."

Contact: Erica Dodge, Vermont Emergency Management, 1-800-347-0488

More Info: [Flyer for Vermont Emergency Preparedness Conference](#)

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