



October 2009

In this edition:

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

Welcome to the latest issue of Emergency Preparedness Monthly! [The Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention](#) (formerly the Maine Bureau of Health), [the Regional Resource Centers](#), 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.

Please submit your events by mid-October to the November, 2009 edition of EP Monthly through the following [online form](#). We would love to share our resources and opportunities with the growing New England EP Monthly community.

Trainings/Exercises:



[Knox EMA Windjammer Full Scale Exercise](#)

Date: Saturday, October 17, 2009

Time: 8:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Location: [Camden Hills Regional High School, 25 Keelson Dr, Rockport, Maine](#)

Overview: "Knox EMA will hold the Windjammer Full Scale Exercise at Camden Hills Regional High School. This exercise will test the school's emergency plan, mass casualty incident response, tactical entry and control, hazardous material response, and incident command system."

Contact: Ray Sisk, 207-594-5155

[Responder Full Scale Exercise](#)

Date: Sunday, October 18, 2009

Time: 8:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Location: [Oxford Speedway Route, 26 Speedway Ln, Oxford, Maine](#)

Contact: Scott Parker (oxctyema@megalink.net) 207-743-6336

[EOC Functional Exercise](#)

Date: October 29, 2009 through October 30, 2009

Time: 7:00 AM - 7:00 AM

Location: [MEMA, 45 Commerce Street, Suite 2, Augusta, Maine](#)

Contact: Jeremy Damren (jeremy.damren@maine.gov), 207-624-4400

[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."

*** Become eligible for a \$50.00 gift certificate when you complete the course evaluation ***

Visit: <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: Rubim Rwakabuba, 617-384-9696

Webcasts:



[Mass Antibiotic Dispensing: Legal Ease](#)

Date: Thursday, October 22, 2009

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

Overview: "The federal government has passed multiple pieces of legislation related to the distribution and dispensing of medical countermeasures during an emergency response in an effort to ensure that countermeasures are distributed and used legally, that dispensers and recipients have the correct information on countermeasure usage, and that liability protections are in place. However, the legislation has created many questions for state and local Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) planners. Many planners have asked how an emergency use authorization (EUA) will affect the dispensing of state caches of medications and whether or not the Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness (PREP) Act will protect volunteers working in points of dispensing (PODs). This broadcast will explore some of the legal issues facing state and local SNS planners as they prepare for a mass antibiotic dispensing campaign. Experts from federal and state agencies will discuss current legal issues and how planners can use the laws in place to assist them in their dispensing plans. The broadcast will include a live question-and-answer session, and viewers are encouraged to participate."

News/Resources:



[Harvard School of Public Health Center for Public Health Preparedness \(HSPH-CPHP\) 2009-2010 Speaker Series](#)

Overview: "This lecture series, now in its fifth year running, aims to provide insight into current preparedness issues for an audience comprised of HSPH students, faculty, staff,

and our public health practice partners. This year, the Center is planning a series of focused discussions on H1N1, where we invite an academician and a practitioner to discuss about the various issues related to the H1N1 outbreak."

Article

Contact: Giulia Del Guercio Green (gdelguer@hsph.harvard.edu), 617-496-0714

Research:



Public health emergency preparedness at the local level: results of a national survey

Savoia E, Rodday AM, Stoto MA.

HSR: Health Services Research 44:5, Part II (October 2009)

Overview: "To study the relationship between elements of public health infrastructure and local public health emergency preparedness (PHEP). DATA SOURCES/STUDY SETTING: National Association of County and City Health Officials 2005 National Profile of Local Health Departments (LHDs). STUDY DESIGN: Cross-sectional. PRINCIPAL FINDINGS: LHDs serving larger populations are more likely to have staff, capacities, and activities in place for an emergency. Adjusting for population size, the presence of a local board of health and the LHDs' experience in organizing PHEP coalitions were associated with better outcomes. CONCLUSIONS: The results of this study suggest that more research should be conducted to investigate the benefit of merging small health departments into coalitions to overcome the inverse relationship between preparedness and population size of the jurisdiction served by the LHD."

Disaster preparedness of households with special needs in southeastern Pennsylvania

Uscher-Pines L, Hausman AJ, Powell S, DeMara P, Heake G, Hagen MG.

Am J Prev Med 2009;37(3)

Overview: Individuals with disabilities are disproportionately vulnerable in evacuation emergencies, and they face numerous challenges accessing resources for response and recovery. PURPOSE: The aim of this study was to compare the preparedness behaviors of households with and without special-needs members. METHODS: A random-digit-dial telephone survey was conducted of 501 adults in southeastern Pennsylvania in 2008. The survey instrument gathered data on sociodemographic characteristics, disability status/functional limitations, and preparedness behaviors related to an evacuation emergency. Analyses were conducted in 2009 and included multiple logistic regressions. Data were weighted to correct for unequal probabilities of selection and response. RESULTS: Nineteen percent (n=95) of respondents reported living in a household in which someone had a transportation-related special need requiring assistance in case of an emergency. Households with a special-needs member had greater odds of having arranged a place to meet (OR=2.2; 95% CI=1.26, 3.88); located a shelter (OR=1.8; 95% CI=1.05, 3.24); or packed a bag (OR=1.8; 95% CI=1.02, 3.21). No significant differences were identified with respect to awareness of evacuation routes, purchasing of food and water, or creation of an emergency plan to guide evacuation decision-making. CONCLUSIONS: Despite both greater vulnerability to disaster and numerous messages by governmental and nongovernmental organizations, households with special-needs members are not more likely to engage in time-consuming preparedness behaviors such as planning and buying. Understanding the motivations and behaviors of special-needs groups is critical to designing informed risk-communication messages and interventions to bolster the preparedness of the most vulnerable populations.

Conference:



Disaster Preparedness Summit

Date: Thursday, October 22, 2009 - Thursday, October 22, 2009

Time: 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Location: [Courtyard Marriott, 21 N Juniper St., Philadelphia, PA](#)

Overview: "The Disaster Preparedness Summit will discuss issues such as Business

Continuity Plans, risk analysis, and environmental issues following a disaster."

Contact: The Disaster Preparedness Summit, (310) 377-0862

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 <https://apps.sph.harvard.edu/publisher/epmonthly@hsph.harvard.edu>.

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