



EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS MONTHLY

Maine Edition

September 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:



[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 is pleased to present an online course intended to improve emergency preparedness planning for and among the elderly population. Harvard School of Public Health, Center for Public Health Preparedness has made this online training course available:

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, it has printable facts and other downloadable information. We also 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 * *

TO ENROLL IN THE COURSE

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

Special Interest Terrorism and Clandestine Labs

Date: Wednesday, September 10, 2008

Time: From 2:00 PM-5:00 PM

Location: Holiday Inn Express, 352 North Street, Saco, ME 04072

Overview: This free presentation will explore: Animal Liberation Activists, Eco-Terrorists, Anti-Abortion Extremists-How far can a citizen go before he/she becomes a "terrorist?"; Clandestine Labs: Methamphetamine, TATP, Biological Agents-Do you know the difference?; and How would you project yourself and other responders? The target audience includes first responders, state and local emergency management agencies, fire, law enforcement, neighborhood watch teams, emergency room managers, emergency preparedness committee members, educational services and anyone interested in disaster preparedness. Presented by Bill Schaubel and sponsored by CMRRC, FEMA, MAINE CDC.

Contact: Kris Gammon, 207-795-2962, gammonkr@cmhc.org, [Flyer](#), registration is on 2nd page of flyer

Additional date: Tuesday, September 9, 2008, from 9:00 AM-12:00 PM, Augusta Civic Center, 76 Community Drive in Augusta, ME 04330

IS 100 Part I (Oxford County)

Date: Thursday, September 18, 2008

Time: 5:30 PM - 9:00 PM

Location: Paris Fire Department, Paris, ME

IS 100 Part II (Oxford County)

Date: Thursday, September 25, 2008

Time: 5:30 PM - 9:00 PM

Location: Paris Fire Department, Paris, ME

Overview: As an introduction to the Incident Command System (ICS), this course provides the foundation for higher level ICS training. This course describes the history, features and principles, and organizational structure of the Incident Command System. It also explains the relationship between ICS and the National Incident Management System (NIMS).

Contact: Teresa Inman, Oxford County EMA, 207-743-6336, oxctyema@megalink.net

Workshop in Emergency Management TTT (G250): Sagadahoc County

Date: Thursday, September 18, 2008

Time: 1:00 PM

Location: West Bath Fire Station, Route 1 West Bath, ME

Overview: Statewide Emergency Communications: Concept of Operations (CONOPS) The Maine Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) will be conducting a training seminar on the new Statewide Emergency Communications System: Concept of Operations (CONOPS). These workshops will be designed to brief local emergency response personnel on CONOPS and provide them with instructional materials easily delivered at the Regional and Local municipal level by the attendees of the workshop.

The 2.5 hour workshop will introduce the attendees to rationale for CONOPS, communications systems, and interoperability initiatives. Attendees will learn how to describe the six radio frequencies assigned to CONOPS, how to request the use of the channels from State governing bodies, and duties of the Communications Unit in assigning frequencies used in CONOPS and the application of the ICS205 and ICS205 (ME) radio communications planning forms. Participants will also engage in a round of tabletop exercises designed to test the applicability of CONOPS in State based emergency scenarios. Participants should have completed ICS 300 Intermediate training.

Training materials will be provided at the end of the workshop for further outreach and educational purposes. The training is targeted at Federal, State, County and Local emergency response personnel at the Middle and Command and Management level with instructional or policy implementation responsibilities. MEMA and the working group of State agency communications interoperability will conduct the workshops.

Contact: Misty Green, Sagadahoc County EMA Director, 207-443-8210, sagma@sagcounty.com

York/Cumberland Regional Full Scale Exercise

Date: Friday, September 19, 2008 through Saturday, September 20, 2008

Location: Several Locations in York and Cumberland Counties, ME

Overview: This is a Regional Full Scale Exercise utilizing a WMD/HAZMAT situation that will involve several locations in York and Cumberland Counties. This will also involve an intelligence and Maritime component.

Contact: Jeff Temple, South Portland EMA, 207-799-3315 (ext. 337), jtemple@southportland.org

Central Maine Regional Full Scale Exercise

Date: Wednesday, September 24, 2008

Time: 9:00 AM

Location: Augusta/Fairfield, ME

Overview: A regional exercise involving locations in Augusta and Fairfield requiring multiple regional responses will be conducted.

Contact: Kelly Amoroso/Bob Higgins, 207-623-8407, kaamoroso@kennebeccounty-me.gov

Webcasts:



Mass Antibiotic Dispensing: Engaging At-risk Populations

Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) and Public Health Training Network Satellite Broadcast and Webcast, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Date: Tuesday, October 16, 2008

Time: 1:00 - 2:30 PM ET (broadcast time, webcast to follow conclusion of broadcast)

Overview: The capacity to reach every person in the community is the goal of emergency preparedness planning. This will be especially important during a public health emergency that requires mass antibiotic dispensing to the entire population within the Cities Readiness Initiative goal of 48 hours. In order to reach everyone in the community, planners must know what subgroups make up their populations, where the people in these groups live and work, and how they best receive information. Research indicates that many jurisdictions have not defined or located their at-risk populations. At-risk populations include groups whose needs are not fully addressed by traditional service providers or people who feel they cannot comfortably or safely use the standard resources offered in disaster preparedness, relief, and recovery. Such people may be physically or mentally disabled, have limited language skills, or be geographically or culturally isolated. This broadcast will focus on defining, locating, and reaching at-risk populations for a mass antibiotic dispensing campaign. Experts in the process of defining, locating, and reaching at-risk populations as well as state and local public health professionals who have used this process will share their experiences. The broadcast will include a live question and answer session in which viewers are encouraged to participate.

Contact: This broadcast will have a live webcast. The webcast also will be available through the Internet following the broadcast and can be found at <http://www2a.cdc.gov/phtn/webcast/atrisk>. For questions, please submit an email to sns_ppb@cdc.gov and place Broadcast Question in the subject line of emails or call 1-800-41-TRAIN.

Immunization Update 2008

Date: Thursday, August 28, 2008

Time: 12:00 - 2:00 PM ET

Overview: This webcast will provide up-to-date information on the rapidly changing field of

immunization. Anticipated topics include influenza and zoster vaccines, recently approved vaccines, and updates on vaccine supplies and vaccine safety. The two-hour webcast will occur from 12:00 noon to 2:00 pm (Eastern Time.)

Contact: The webcast will begin at 12 noon on August 28, 2008. To access the webcast, visit <http://www2a.cdc.gov/PHTN/webcast/immupdate2008/>. A replay of this program will be available through at same URL shortly after the August 28 webcast.

Research:



Identifying the Gaps Between Biodefense Researchers, Public Health, and Clinical Practice in a Rural Community

Jessica M. Van Fleet-Green, BS; Frederick M. Chen, MD, MPH; and Peter House, MHA.

J Rural Health (2008 Summer) 24(3):326-329.

Overview: "It is essential for health care professionals to be prepared for a bioterrorist attack or other public health emergency. We sought to determine how well biodefense and emerging infectious disease research information was being disseminated to rural health care providers, first responders, and public health officials. **METHODS:** Semi-structured interviews were conducted at a federally funded research institution and a rural community in Washington state with 10 subjects, including researchers, community physicians and other health care providers, first responders, and public health officials. **RESULTS:** The interviews suggest there is inadequate information dissemination regarding biodefense and emerging infectious disease research and an overall lack of preparedness for a bioterrorist event among rural clinicians and first responders. Additionally, a significant communication gap exists between public health and clinical practice regarding policies for bioterrorism and emerging infectious disease. There was, however, support and understanding for the research enterprise in bioterrorism. **CONCLUSIONS:** Biodefense preparedness and availability of information about emerging infectious diseases continues to be a problem. Methods for information dissemination and the relationships between public health officials and clinicians in rural communities need to be improved."

Promoting Regional Disaster Preparedness Among Rural Hospitals

Janine C. Edwards, PhD; JungEun Kang, MS; and Rasa Silenas, MD, FACS.

J Rural Health, (2008 Summer) 24(3):321-325

Overview: "Rural communities face substantial risks of natural disasters but rural hospitals face multiple obstacles to preparedness. The objective was to create and implement a simple and effective training and planning exercise to assist individual rural hospitals to improve disaster preparedness, as well as to enhance regional collaboration among these hospitals. **METHODS:** The exercise was offered to rural hospitals enrolled with the Rural and Community Health Institute of the Texas A&M University System Health Science Center, and 17 participated. A 3-hour tabletop exercise emphasizing regional issues in a pandemic avian influenza scenario followed by a 1-hour debriefing was implemented in 3 geographic clusters of hospitals. Trained emergency preparedness evaluators documented observations of the exercise on a standard form. Participants were debriefed after the exercise and provided written feedback. **RESULTS:** Observations included having insufficient staff for incident command, facility constraints, the need to further develop regional cooperation, and operational and ethical challenges in a pandemic. **CONCLUSIONS:** The tabletop exercise gave evidence of being a simple and acceptable tool for rural medical planners. It lends itself well to improving medical preparedness, analysis of weak spots, development of regional teamwork, and rapid response."

News/Resources:



CDC Shelter Assessment Tool



Overview: CDC has developed an Environmental Health Shelter Assessment Tool to assist environmental health practitioners in conducting a rapid assessment of shelter conditions during emergencies and disasters. The tool is an assessment form that covers 14 general areas of environmental health, ranging from basic food safety and water quality to pet (companion animal) wellness, and allows for the documentation of immediate needs in shelters. It can be easily modified to meet local needs.

Link: <http://emergency.cdc.gov/shelterassessment/>

Survey of Hurricane Preparedness Finds Those Who Experienced Katrina Most Worried About Drinking Water and Medical Care

The Harvard School of Public Health issued a press release on July 23, 2008 regarding those who experienced the effects of hurricane Katrina. Results indicate that those in high-risk areas are most concerned about not being able to purchase gasoline, and that a substantial number of chronically ill and disabled do not have help they need to evacuate. This data from this survey indicates surprising findings about vulnerable populations faced with a natural disaster.

Conference:



23rd Annual Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention Conference, 2008 Emerging Infectious Diseases in Maine: The Public Health Response

Date: Monday, October 29, 2008, 8:00 AM to 4: 00 PM

Location: Augusta Civic Center, Augusta, ME

Overview: Since 1983, the Maine Department of Health and Human Services, Center for Disease Control and Prevention, Division of Infectious Disease, has organized an annual infectious disease conference targeting public health issues of emerging concern to medical practitioners throughout the State. This year's meeting will continue this tradition, and is dedicated to a review of emerging issues in the field of infectious diseases, particularly as they impact the Maine medical community. Issues presented will include challenges in controlling infectious diseases, information on responding to new disease threats, and clinical updates and approaches. The target audience consists of physicians and allied health care professionals interested in emerging infectious diseases of public health significance. Applications will be made to obtain CME, nursing and pharmacy continuing medical education credit.

More detailed conference information and a registration brochure will be mailed in August or you can obtain registration information by contacting AdCare Educational Institute of Maine A registration fee of \$50 will cover conference materials, breakfast, lunch and breaks. The conference agenda, faculty and other details will be posted on the conference website.

Contact: 207-626-3615 or www.neias.org/mecdc/id08.html.

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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Coming soon: Archived editions of EP Monthly will be added to the web site this summer.