



## EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS MONTHLY

Maine Edition

September 2009

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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-September to the October 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:



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

**Date:** Thursday, September 10, 2009

**Time:** 6:30 PM

**Location:** [Lincoln County Communications Center, 34 Bath Road, Wiscasset, Maine](#)

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

#### [Final Planning Conference for the 24 hour Functional EOC Exercise](#)

**Date:** Thursday, September 24, 2009

**Time:** 12:00 PM - 4:00 PM

**Location:** [MEMA Classroom, 45 Commerce Drive, Suite 2, Augusta, Maine](#)

**Contact:** Jeremy Damren ([jeremy.damren@maine.gov](mailto:jeremy.damren@maine.gov)), 207-624-4410

### **Biosafety and Biosecurity: Minimizing the Risks in the Laboratory**

**Date:** Friday, September 25, 2009

**Time:** 8:00 AM-2:30 PM

**Overview:** In this era of natural and human-made biological emergencies, from terrorism to pandemic influenza, it is essential that laboratories be safe and secure. The biosafety sessions of this program will identify key concerns of laboratory biosafety, focusing on biosafety level 3 (BSL3) practices in a BSL2 environment, proper use of personal protection equipment (PPE), biological safety cabinets (BSCs), and conducting risk assessments. The biosecurity session will present laboratory security principles described in the 5th edition of Biosafety in Microbiological and Biomedical Laboratories (BMBL). You will learn to conduct vulnerability assessments and develop a biosecurity plan. Apply these principles and concepts to the clinical laboratory.

Location: MMC Training Facility, 995 Congress Street, Portland, ME

### **Van Buren Full Scale Exercise**

**Date:** Saturday, September 26, 2009

**Time:** 8:00 AM - 1:00 PM

**Overview:** "Aroostook County EMA will host a Full Scale Exercises on 9/26/09 in Van Buren. This exercise will test the response of police, fire, EMS, Hazmat, and hospital capabilities."

**Contact:** Vern Ouellette, 207-493-4328

### **Alternate Care Full Scale Exercise**

**Date:** Sunday, September 27, 2009

**Time:** 8:00 AM - 3:00 PM

**Location:** [Oxford Hills High School, 256 Main Street, South Paris, Maine](#)

**Contact:** Scott Parker ([oxctyema@megalink.net](mailto:oxctyema@megalink.net)) 207-743-6336

### **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

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## Webcasts:



### [Public Health Law 101: Infectious Diseases](#)

**Date:** Tuesday September 8, 2009

**Time:** 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM (ET)

**Overview:** "The third of three broadcast. 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."

### [Live Response: The National Domestic Preparedness Consortium -Planning Innovative Training to Keep America Safe](#)

**Date:** Wednesday, September 23, 2009

**Time:** 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (ET)

**Overview:** From explosives experts to scientists conducting research monitoring natural hazards, the National Domestic Preparedness Consortium (NDPC) offers innovative training to first responders nationwide. With a distinguished group of seven members, the NDPC is a professional alliance sponsored through the Dept. of Homeland Security & FEMA National Preparedness Directorate. These members include the Center for Domestic Preparedness; Energetic Materials Research & Testing Center; National Center for Biomedical Research & Training; National Emergency Response & Rescue Training Center; Counter Terrorism Operations Support; Transportation Technology Center, Inc.; & National Disaster Preparedness Training Center. In this edition, we'll look at each of these organizations to define how they are working to prepare America to respond to terrorism, WMD incidents, natural disasters & other events. Since 1998, this alliance has trained more than 1 million first responders across America.

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## News/Resources:



### [H1N1 vaccine urged at conference](#)

**Overview:** "AUGUSTA, Maine - About 1,400 people thronged the Augusta Civic Center on Thursday, answering the state's call to prepare for an anticipated resurgence in the number and severity of H1N1 swine flu cases this fall and winter. Gov. John Baldacci opened the daylong conference, cautioning that although most H1N1 cases so far have been relatively mild "it is better to err on the side of caution and safety."

**By:** Meg Haskell, Bangor Daily News Staff

### [Updated Federal Guidelines to Fight 2009 H1N1 Influenza Offer Many Options to Schools](#)

**Overview:** Updated federal guidelines offer state and local public health and school officials a range of options for responding to 2009 H1N1 influenza in schools, depending on how severe the flu may be in their communities. The guidance says officials should balance the risk of flu in their communities with the disruption that school dismissals will cause in education and the wider

community.

**Contact:** DHS Press Office, 202-282-8010

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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 August 2009, Vol 99, No. 8*

**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 semistructured guide was used to interview 33 emergency responders in an effort to identify key operational successes and failures. **RESULTS:** 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. **CONCLUSIONS:** 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.

### **Disaster Preparedness of Households with Special Needs in Southeastern Pennsylvania**

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

*American Journal of Preventive Medicine, doi: 10.1016/j.amepre.2009.04.028*

**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.

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

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