



Preparedness and Planning

Uniform Emergency Volunteer Health Practitioners Act

As a result of the Gulf Coast Hurricanes of 2005, the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws drafted the [Uniform Emergency Volunteer Health Practitioners Act](#). The Act was drafted to remedy significant deficiencies in interstate and intrastate procedures used to authorize and regulate the deployment of public and private sector health practitioners to supplement the resources provided by state and local government employees and other first-responders. This Act (1) establishes a system for the use of volunteer health practitioners capable of functioning autonomously even when routine methods of communication are disrupted, (2) provides reasonable safeguards to assure that health practitioners are appropriately licensed and regulated to protect the public's health, and (3) allows states to regulate, direct and restrict the scope and extent of services provided by volunteer health practitioners to promote disaster recovery operations.

Public Comment Sought on Research Portfolio

The NIOSH Office of Emergency Preparedness and Response (EPR) is requesting comments on the Research Portfolio. Comments may be provided to the NIOSH docket office (Docket 126) or at the NIOSH Office of Emergency Preparedness and Response public meeting on March 25 in Arlington, Virginia. More information is available on the [EPR public town hall meeting's website](#).

Support for EMAC Website

The Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) can be used for public health and medical emergency response and recovery operations. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's [Support for EMAC website](#) provides a wealth of information on EMAC and other issues related to public health and medical mutual aid.

FEMA Transfer of Authority

Officials from the Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) announced the transfer of specific preparedness administrative and operational authority roles from FEMA Headquarters to the FEMA Regional Administrators. This transfer of responsibilities will significantly enhance FEMA's capability to develop a National preparedness system. This transfer of authority impacts personnel associated with the Radiological Emergency Preparedness Program, Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program, Community Preparedness, Assistance to Firefighters Grant program, Continuity of Operations, and Regional Investment Officers.

Disasters along the U.S./Mexican Border

U.S. and Mexican officials can improve their cooperation in coping with floods and other natural disasters that occur along their shared bor-

News

Homeland Security Conference

Hear nationally recognized speakers, and see the latest in homeland security and emergency preparedness and response related products and services. The registration fee is \$350 before April 1 or \$400 after April 1. See [page 8](#) for more information.

Ducks Best Predictor for H5N1

Recent research examined five key environmental variables - elevation, human population, chicken numbers, duck numbers, and rice cropping intensity - for three synchronous epidemic waves in Thailand and Vietnam. Results show duck numbers best predictor of highly pathogenic avian influenza. See [page 3](#) for full details.

Brits' National Security Strategy

British Prime Minister Gordon Brown has set out plans to deal with national emergencies such as terror, disease pandemics and flooding in their [National Security Strategy](#). See [page 6](#) for more information.

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Read the Next *Guardian* Issue:
April 11, 2008



der, according to the Good Neighbor Environmental Board, an independent presidential advisory committee managed by the Environmental Protection Agency. It recommends preventing or minimizing the impacts of natural disasters through zoning codes, building codes, landscape requirements, watershed management, and municipal strategic planning; building local, state, regional, and tribal capacity to manage natural disasters;

better integrating the preparedness and response management systems and exercises, and expanding domestic and bi-national agreements.

Pre-Positioning Antibiotics

Following an anthrax attack, many lives could be saved by timely distribution of antibiotics to exposed populations. All states have plans to receive, store, and distribute antibiotics from the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS). However, because of the enormous challenges that attend rapid mass distribution of antibiotics, few localities, if any, are prepared to manage such an undertaking within the required timeframe during an emergency. Attention has turned recently to pre-positioning a limited amount of antibiotics in advance of any event by providing antibiotic kits to households, private businesses, or a narrower group of first responders. The kits would be for use during an emergency under the direction of public health authorities. Pre-positioning would enable rapid access to antibiotics if needed, and would buy time for public health authorities to ramp up their distribution activities.

Mobile Pharmacies to Aid in Emergencies

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced it is deploying mobile pharmacies as part of its emergency management capabilities to provide critical medicine when patients are unable to fill their prescriptions. The VA also will open the facilities to help communities during major disasters and other emergencies.

Promising SNS Practices

The Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) recently published a new issue brief highlighting promising Strategic National Stockpile practices. ASTHO compiled this brief by conducting interviews and reviewing drafts of the document over the last few months. The issue brief is available on the ASTHO website.

WTC Health Monitoring and Treatment Program

The federal government is working to ensure that coordinated monitoring and treatment services remain available to responders affected by World Trade Center (WTC) exposures, utilizing the most cost effective means possible. The President's FY2009 Budget requests \$25 million for this effort. The government is dedicated to improving the effectiveness of the WTC Monitoring and Treatment program, which is enhanced by timely quarterly data provided by the grantees.

A Network of Hope

In 2006, Ambassador (Ret.) Prudence Bushnell, Ambassador to Kenya at the time of the U.S. Embassy bombing in 1998, approached the Oklahoma City National Memorial with the challenge of developing a process that could assist communities in the wake of a massive disaster. Although leaders are aware of the need to develop disaster plans, no one is really fully prepared in advance to meet the post-first responder needs of a community that has faced extensive destruction and trauma without being able to rely on outside assistance.

Those communities that have experienced firsthand such destruction and trauma comprise a small group with special knowledge and understanding of what it takes to rebuild after such an incident. [This guidebook](#) is a collection of documents featuring universal truths and best practices from communities that have experienced large-scale disasters.

Disability Data

The Research and Training Center on Disability in Rural Communities (RTC:Rural) was established in 1988 as part of the Rural Institute at the University of Montana. RTC:Rural is funded by the National Institute on Rehabilitation Research to improve the ability of persons with disabilities to live independently in rural America. [RTC:Rural's Disability Counts website](#) offers statistical information on Michigan county-level disability data. The disability relevant data (demographics and resources) can be used to supplement existing data in a way that it meets the needs of local emergency planning, response, and recovery.

Emergency Preparedness for Individuals with Kidney Disease

In 2006 the Kidney Community Emergency Response (KCER) Coalition was formed in an effort to minimize disruption to life-sustaining dialysis and transplant services to emergency victims. The KCER is comprised of partners from the entire kidney community, representing patient and professional organizations throughout the US. Their mission is to collaboratively develop, disseminate, implement and maintain a [coordinated preparedness and response framework](#) for the kidney community in the event of any type of emergency or disaster.

National Clearinghouse for Worker Safety and Health Training

The National Clearinghouse is funded by the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) Worker Education and Training Program (WETP) and is the primary national source for hazardous waste worker curricula, technical reports, and weekly news. View their [factsheet](#) for additional information on the WETP National Clearinghouse.

Surveillance

Environmental Factors Influencing HPAI H5N1 Presence

The highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5N1 virus that emerged in southern China in the mid-1990s has in recent years evolved into the first HPAI panzootic. In many countries where the virus was detected, the virus was successfully controlled, whereas other countries face periodic reoccurrence despite significant control efforts. A central question is to understand the factors favoring the continuing reoccurrence of the virus. [This article](#) analyses the statistical association between the recorded HPAI H5N1 virus presence and a set of five key environmental variables comprising elevation, human population, chicken numbers, duck numbers, and rice cropping intensity for three synchronous epidemic waves in Thailand and Vietnam. A consistent pattern emerges suggesting risk to be associated with duck abundance, human population, and rice cropping intensity in contrast to a relatively low association with chicken numbers.



Pandemic Planning

Pandemic Planning Update V

On March 17, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) released their Pandemic Planning Update V report. This update focuses on collaboration not only with state and local public health and other government officials, but also with bloggers, religious leaders, and other people in the community. The [full report](#) is available online.

Guidance for Professionals during Disasters, Pandemics, and Other Extreme Emergencies

This white paper from the American Nursing Association outlines the role of the caregiver or service provider during an emergency. They called a together a panel of experts to answer the questions on the changes to standards of care during emergencies. The [white paper](#) is available online.

Why You Should Care about Indonesia?

Computer World blogger Scott McPherson says we should be concerned about the human spread of avian influenza H5N1. According to McPherson, "Just think of a pandemic as Y2K where the people fail, not the computers." McPherson's [blog article](#) is available online.

Communications



Severe Weather

Severe weather, in the form of thunderstorms, wind storms, floods, and tornadoes, is a threat to the safety and welfare of all Michigan citizens. The governor has [proclaimed](#) the week of April 6-12 as Severe Weather Awareness Week. As part of this endeavor, the Michigan State Police have developed their [2008 Severe Weather Packet](#). In addition, the Michigan Committee for Severe Weather Awareness has also produced their [Winter Hazards Awareness](#) information.

FEMA Disaster Preparedness Publications

Disasters disrupt hundreds of thousands of lives every year. To help communities, families, and individuals become better informed, the U.S. Federal Emergency management Agency (FEMA) offers [free publications](#) designed to provide assistance in planning and preparing for disasters.

ATSDR Website Updated

The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) has updated their website. Information concerning the "Statement of Scientific Concerns" regarding the Great Lakes region has been added. This new information is featured in the Spotlight section of [ATSDR's homepage](#).

New Website on Emergency Planning for Individuals with Disabilities

One of the key lessons of recent emergencies, including Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, is that emergency management processes at all levels of government must fully integrate the needs and talents of individuals with the full range of disabilities and the elderly. This site - [IDEA EM](#) - is intended to provide information concerning emergency management and individuals with disabilities, and the elderly. Also included is a listing of documents and internet links from a variety of organizations that provide information on relevant topics.

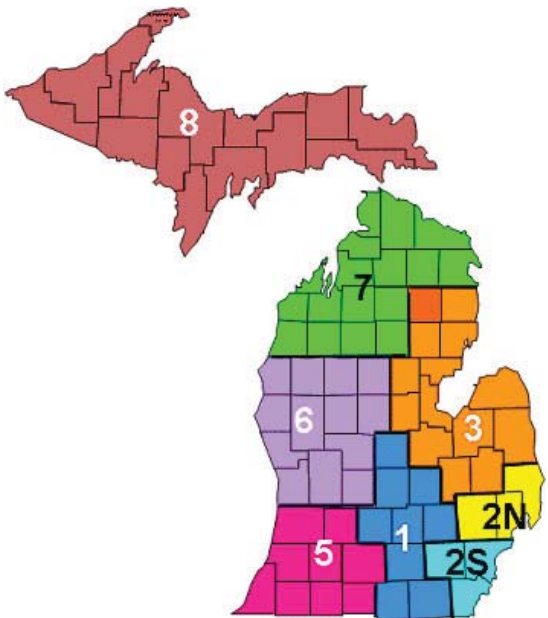
Where Does Risk Communication Fit in Public Participation?

Peter Sandman, a risk communications consultant, writes an article about how to manage public participation meetings. He says we as public officials need to be able to allow true public outrage to occur before we can deliver our message.

Regional News

Region 2 South: FY 2007-08 Training Programs

From October 2007 to March 2008, Region 2 South (R2S) has provided ongoing training and education programs for stakeholders and planning partners. As part of these initiatives, R2S continues to support the National Disaster Life Support curriculum. The region will again conduct five Basic Disaster Life Support (BDLS) courses. This fiscal year, Region 2 South has already conducted two BDLS courses and a third course is scheduled for April 12, 2008. Two additional BDLS courses will be scheduled in the upcoming months.



In addition to the BDLS program, Region 2 South conducted a radiological training and overview of the Fermi nuclear power plant located in Monroe County. This training provided hands-on guidance in the use of the radiological equipment purchased by the region for area hospitals, and the program concluded with distribution of the dosimeters to the hospital representatives.

R2S is currently working with Midwest Medflight in the development of a practical portable ventilator training program expected to be conducted in FY 2007-2008. Like the radiological training, the portable LTV ventilators purchased by Region 2 South will be distributed at the conclusion of the program.

In May 2008, Region 2 South will sponsor a region-wide required chemical terrorism specimen collection and Laboratory Response Network training program in conjunction with the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) Bureau of Laboratories (BOL). The hospital labs will receive their chemical terrorism specimen collection kit provided by MDCH BOL at the conclusion of this program.

Finally, Region 2 South will continue the tradition of sponsoring education programs based on planning for special needs. On June 9-10 and June 24-25, 2008, Region 2 South will again conduct the "Group Crisis Intervention" Critical Incident Stress Management program. This two-day course provides education on topics such as pre and post-incident crisis education, on-scene support services, crisis intervention for individuals, demobilization after major traumatic incidents, and group intervention.

TESA Initiatives for FY 2007-2008

Region 2 South (R2S) continues to spearhead the TESA Task Force in Michigan. Major initiatives for FY 2007-2008 include the strategic packing of durable equipment. Calculated equipment packaging will ensure all resources are ready for immediate and efficient deployment when called upon. As part of this initiative, R2S is currently building an inventory management database that will catalogue all equipment, storage layout, and other information, including expiration and any special instructions for the equipment.

Other equipment initiatives this fiscal year include the purchase of a water purification system and an oxygen-generating system for TESA. Available models for both systems have been researched, and as a result of hands-on review and vendor discussions of the products at the NDMS Conference in March 2008, R2S has finalized the systems to be purchased.

The remaining equipment initiative for FY 2007-2008 is in progress as the TESA Task Force is finalizing a list of perishable goods, including pharmaceuticals that will be ordered in the upcoming months.



In addition to equipment development and management, Region 2 South is currently developing the TESA Concept of Operations. Once finalized, this document will identify the criteria that all eight regions in Michigan will utilize when establishing their own regional TESA strike teams.

Other News

British National Security Strategy Launched

British Prime Minister Gordon Brown has set out plans to deal with national emergencies such as terror, disease pandemics and flooding. The British *National Security Strategy* proposes that the 'national register of risks' be made available to the public. The prime minister said the number of security service staff would rise to 4,000 and that there would be new moves to secure the UK against cyber-attacks. He also said there would be a 1,000 person civilian task force to be sent to trouble-spots around the world. This would include police, emergency services and judges and would be put on standby to help failing states and countries emerging from conflict.



Response Blueprints Found in Garbage

Blueprints for the new headquarters of an elite military counter-terrorism unit ended up in a pile of garbage. The Canadian Joint Incident Response Unit, housed inside an armed forces base in Trenton, Ontario, is designed to cope with the aftermath of an attack using weapons of mass destruction. The twenty-six blueprints were contained in one of seven defense ministry files. A passer-by found the [blueprints](#) lying on some garbage bags on a downtown street in Ottawa, the Canadian national capital. The other six defense ministry files are still missing.

Training & Education

Date/Time	Event Description	Location
Online	<p>Ready, Willing, & Able: Assisting People with Disabilities during Disasters</p> <p>The free, professional, two-hour, introductory, online training course is offered for independent study and for continuing education. Specific training covers disability etiquette, terminology, communications and assistance techniques during disasters for assisting people with disabilities. Course participants will become familiar with various disaster assistance needs of persons with sight, mobility, hearing, and cognitive disabilities. To access the training, first create an account at http://www.train.org/.</p>	Online
Online	<p>Crisis & Emergency Risk Communication (CERC)</p> <p>This course will stress the fundamentals of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's CERC instructor-led course. The course has been designed to serve those who will perform crisis and risk communication and media relations in the event of a public health emergency. <u>This course</u> is divided into five modules and should take approximately two hours to complete.</p>	Online
Apr. 2-4, 2008	<p>American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Conference</p> <p>Sessions include alternatives to pain management and well-being, building a new image of individuals labeled as 'disabled', building and maintaining support, social security disability programs, Medicaid basics, and many others. Please see the conference brochure for full details.</p>	Valley Plaza Resorts 5221 Bay City Road Midland, MI 48642 T: (989) 496-2700
Apr. 8-9, 2008	<p><u>Building the Future of Public Health: re-focus, redesign, reenergize</u></p> <p>Participants will have opportunities to discuss the changing dynamics of public health as well as issues that are essential to the future of public health, including health equity, social justice, racial disparities, emergency preparedness, mental health impacts, and women's roles as health leaders. With this, we aim to strengthen public health efforts and improve the public's health in Genesee County and beyond! Speakers include Peter Ajluni, Kevin Stephens, and Julie Gerberding.</p>	Flint Cultural Center 1198 Longway Blvd. Flint, MI 48503 T: (810) 237-7333
Apr. 14-May 30, 2008	<p>Budgeting and Accounting</p> <p>The development and use of budgets as planning and management tools for organizations comprise the course content. Participants will develop an understanding of the financial constraints that must be managed by an organization, in terms of costs and revenues. Modules cover how to use various measures of cost in making, planning, and operating decisions for their organizations. For more information, see the Michigan Public Health Training Center website.</p>	School of Public Health University of Michigan 109 S. Observatory, Room 2675 Ann Arbor, MI 48109 T: 734-615-9439 F: 734-763-7976 E: mphtc@umich.edu

Date/Time	Event Description	Location
Apr. 15-16, 2008 Jun. 17-18, 2008	PREPARE Train-the-Trainer Prepare the long-term care workforce with knowledge and competencies to deal with natural disasters and other public health emergencies. Produce an effective long-term care workforce able to treat older adults in such emergencies. Alert the public health system of emergencies. Resources for continuing disaster preparedness education. Evaluating the program's impact. There is no charge for attending this program. See the informational flyer for details. Register now as seating is limited.	Gaylord Lansing
Apr. 22-24, 2008	Great Lakes Homeland Security Conference This conference is a unique opportunity to: network with your peers, hear nationally recognized speakers, and see the latest in homeland security and emergency preparedness and response related products and services. The registration fee is \$350 before April 1 or \$400 after April 1. Lodging is not included. Please see the Michigan State Police's Emergency Management and Homeland Security (EMHSD website) for more information, including online registration.	DeVos Center 303 Monroe Ave. NW Grand Rapids, MI 49503 T: (616) 742-6500
Apr. 30-May 2, 2008	COOP Train-the Trainer This course provides emergency planners and other interested parties with the knowledge and skills to develop Continuity of Operations (COOP) plans and then be able to offer training to other emergency planners and state, local, and tribal personnel in their jurisdiction. Look for the COOP link on the MI-TRAIN homepage for more information.	OPHP Joint Activity Room Lansing, MI
May 5-6, 2008	Emergency Planning This two-day course examines emergency and disaster planning principles and Michigan initiatives for new emergency management professionals. Planning concepts include preparedness, mitigation planning, hazard analysis, hazardous material planning, and new federal initiatives. This course is strongly recommended for all entry-level emergency managers.	Lansing
May 19-22, 2008	Effective Managing Transit Emergencies This course will provide information on understanding the importance, purpose, development, and implementation of emergency management and how it relates to the other safety functions of a transit system. Participants will learn how to better understand the emergency management concept and the role of the transit system in responding to emergency/disaster situations in both the community and transit system. Materials fee is \$55.	Grand Rapids, MI
May 22, 2008	MDCH Communicable Disease Conference This conference will provide the latest knowledge on communicable disease diagnosis, surveillance and reporting, incorporation of epidemiologic principles, and laboratory test interpretation. Conference fee is \$20 per person. Please see the informational brochure for more information, including registration details.	Comfort Inn & Suites Hotel and Conf. Center 2424 South Mission St. Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858 T: (989) 772-4000

Date/Time	Event Description	Location
May 22, 2008	<p>Developing Volunteer Resources</p> <p>This one-day course is designed to cover a broad range of issues in disaster volunteerism expanding on the concepts presented in the prerequisite Independent Study. Topics will include spontaneous volunteerism in disasters, liability issues, marketing, recruitment, and recognition of volunteers.</p>	Lansing
May 27-Jul. 14, 2008	<p>Demystifying Data: Accessing, Interpreting, and Using Health Data</p> <p>This course focuses on the effective and systematic use of data in an evidence-based approach to decision making. Participants will be able to use data to develop a brief statement of the problem, describe the issue quantitatively, and develop data-based program or policy options. The course is designed for those who need to use data in their daily work but may not have considerable training in the use of data. For more information, see the Michigan Public Health Training Center website.</p>	<p>School of Public Health University of Michigan 109 S. Observatory, Rm. 2675 Ann Arbor, MI 48109 T: 734-615-9439 F: 734-763-7976 E: mphtc@umich.edu</p>
Jun. 11-14, 2008	<p>HIV Prevention Leadership Summit</p> <p>This year's Summit will again include institutes, workshops, roundtables and other sessions geared to planning groups, health departments and community-based organizations providing HIV, viral hepatitis, STD and TB prevention services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) capacity building assistance providers, and other federal and national partner agencies involved in HIV, viral hepatitis, STD and TB prevention.</p>	<p>Renaissance Center Detroit, MI 48243 T: (313) 568-8000</p>
Jun. 12, 2008	<p>Behavioral Mental Health Conference</p> <p>This annual forum promotes an intellectual exchange among Michigan's behavioral health professionals, local health departments and others involved in improving mental health surrounding public health preparedness, mitigation, response and recovery to emergency and disaster. Please note there is a non-refundable conference fee of \$20. Logon to MI-TRAIN, search for course ID 1010420, and register today!</p>	<p>Lansing Conf. Center 333 E. Michigan Ave. Lansing, MI 48933</p>
Jul. 6-25, 2008	<p>Graduate Sessions in Epidemiology</p> <p>Courses are for all public health professionals and anyone interested in health research. One- and three-week courses are available in a range of topics. Distance learning courses available for the Fundamentals of Biostatistics, and the Fundamentals of Epidemiology. CME credit is available.</p>	<p>The Univ. of Michigan School of Public Health 109 Observatory St. Ann Arbor, MI 48109</p>



Photo by Bruce Wrenn

Date/Time	Event Description	Location
Jul. 8-10, 2008	Great Lakes Border Health Initiative Conference Save the Date! For more information, view the announcement flyer .	Ann Arbor, MI
Jul. 23-24, 2008	Emergency Planning for Special Needs Populations This two-day course covers the unique concerns for organizations responsible for the care of "special needs" groups in disasters. This course will expand on the concepts covered in the prerequisite Independent Study 197 by discussing definition of "special needs populations" and highlighting the planning elements of mass care, sheltering, and evacuation.	Lansing



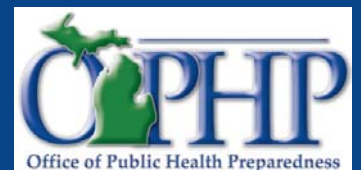
Photo by Rachel Smith



Photo by Rita Simpson



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