



Preparedness and Planning

NHC to Offer Live Video Storm Updates

The National Hurricane Center (NHC) will provide [live-video](#) storm updates by forecasters during U.S. landfalling hurricanes and when other events warrant. These crucial video briefings by the nation's leading experts will be available to anyone with an internet connection -- without charge, in real time and in their entirety via media websites that subscribe to America's Emergency Network, Inc. Television outlets may subscribe to the feeds as well. For the first time, emergency managers, other government officials, utility executives, operators of healthcare centers, corporate managers, and individual residents will have full and unedited access to this vital information direct from the nation's official source of hurricane information.

Survival Lessons from a Sinking Plane

On January 15, U.S. Airways flight 1549 was forced to emergency land in the Hudson River. One of the more remarkable images from the disaster was the photo of passengers standing calmly on the floating wings, waiting to be rescued. For those who study disasters, the cool and collected demeanor of passengers was not surprising. Like other major disasters, people tend to stay calm, quiet and helpful to others. While much has been made of the pilot's quick thinking and landing skills, the fact that he took time to get on the intercom and warn passengers to brace for the impact, played an important role in saving lives. Sometimes, emergency responders are hesitant to tell people what is going on for fear of creating a panic response. However, any warning that can be provided puts the brain in the right mind frame to receive further instructions. Researchers believe that [simple steps](#) can improve a person's odds during an emergency. For example, routinely conducting fire drills and reviewing safety information can condition the brain to be prepared.

Vulnerable Groups More Susceptible to Terrorism Fear

Research has shown that certain marginalized groups — including the mentally ill, the disabled and ethnic minorities such as African-Americans and Latinos — fare worse than others in the aftermath of natural disasters, suffering disproportionate impoverishment, injuries and fatalities. Now, a [new study](#) by UCLA researchers and colleagues has found that they also experience greater terrorism-related fears and make more behavioral changes based on those fears — such as avoiding certain activities — than others. These groups also tend to overestimate the threat of terrorism, perceiving the risk as high even when the Homeland Security Advisory System's (HSAS) color-coded alert system rates it lower.

News

2009 MDCH-OPHP Volunteer Conference

On February 28, Michigan will offer its first conference dedicated to support public health and healthcare emergency response efforts for volunteers registered with the MI Volunteer Registry and other volunteer organizations. This Saturday conference is free to attendees, open to all disciplines, and supported by the Department of Health and Human Services's emergency preparedness cooperative agreements. For more information, including registration details, please visit the [MI-TRAIN website](#), and search for course ID 1014902.

Tamiflu® Resistance

Early data from a limited number of states indicates that a high proportion of influenza A (H1N1) viruses are resistant to the influenza antiviral medication oseltamivir (Tamiflu®). See [page 4](#) for more information.

Table of Contents...

Preparedness and Planning	1
Surveillance	4
Communications.....	5
Pandemic Planning	6
Regional News	6
Other News	7
Training & Education	7

Read the Next *Guardian* Issue!
February 27, 2009

Federal Preparedness Report Released

The [Federal Preparedness Report \(FPR\)](#) provides a snapshot of the state of preparedness in the United States at the end of Fiscal Year 2007. This report is the first comprehensive review of the combined preparedness efforts of federal, state, local, tribal, and territorial homeland security partners over the past five years. This report is the first in a series of annual preparedness reports that sets a baseline for future assessments by using lessons learned to institutionalize analytical and data collection processes necessary for routine reporting on all aspects of the national preparedness system.

CDC's Public Health Preparedness

The Centers for Disease Control's (CDC) Coordinating Office for Terrorism Preparedness and Emergency Response (COTPER) has released its [inaugural report](#) on CDC activities in public health emergency preparedness. This document outlines CDC's future preparedness priorities, including enhancing biosurveillance systems to support rapid detection of and response to emerging public health threats, increasing nationwide laboratory capacity to respond effectively after a radiological incident (such as a dirty bomb), and helping state and local health departments strengthen their emergency response capabilities.

MI-MORT Preparedness Increases

The Michigan Mortuary Response Team (MI-MORT) was established to provide the State of Michigan a mass fatality resource that could be readily deployed to any location in the state in response to an incident where the number of fatalities exceeded local or regional resources. This team consists of various professions including forensic pathologists, forensic dentists, forensic anthropologists, funeral directors, search and recovery specialist, and many others on a volunteer basis. This team works to support the local medical examiner and ultimately the local, regional and state response by providing technical assistance and personnel to recover, identify and process deceased victims in a dignified manner.

The national Disaster Portable Morgue Unit (DPMU) is a packaged system containing all forensic equipment, instrumentation, support equipment, and administrative supplies required to operate an incident morgue facility under field conditions or support an existing morgue facility. All materials are segregated into kits by section of use and are palletized in four trailers for rapid transport. The DPMU is designed to be erected as needed inside of usable facilities.



A new Michigan mass fatality resource is in its final stages of preparation. Michigan purchased seven new trailers to be pre-deployed in strategic locations throughout the state. In January, MI-MORT members from the Michigan Funeral Directors Association, Disaster Assistance Recovery, and Michigan Dental Association loaded the equipment into the trailers over a three-day period. The team was also assisted by members of Ohio Funeral Directors Association Mortuary Response. These trailers, once pre-deployed, contain enough equipment and supplies to provide a "stop gap" until the DPMU can arrive.

Medical Countermeasures Website Launched

The Department of Health and Human Services announced the availability of a new web-based system to provide a central source of information initiatives from the Public Health Emergency Medical Countermeasures Enterprise (PHEMCE) regarding research, development, and acquisition of [medical countermeasures](#) for public health emergencies, both naturally occurring and intentional. Product

developers can request meetings with PHEMCE personnel, as well. The goal of these meetings is to provide an opportunity for stakeholders to share information regarding medical countermeasures, whether they are currently under development or have been licensed.

Social Infrastructure for Hometown Security

The Nation's homeland security strategy calls on federal, state, and local governments, businesses, communities and individuals across the country to work together to achieve a shared vision of a secure way of life. Yet, the American public has been left out and is largely missing in action. [This paper](#) argues that this elusiveness persists because of a misdiagnosis of the way the American people experience homeland security practices, inappropriate application of border screening and verification techniques to domestic public life, and an incomplete strategic preparedness framework that relies excessively on top-down federal management. The authors argue for a new approach that engages the American people in ways that invites their participation in understanding, assessing, and mitigating risk.

Storm Surge Barrier to Protect New Orleans

Defense of Greater New Orleans' most vulnerable area from storm surge has begun with the groundbreaking for the [Inner Harbor Navigation Canal Lake Borgne Surge Barrier Project](#), the largest design-build civil works project in Corps history. When completed, the 26-foot-high, \$700 million surge barrier will run for nearly two miles near the confluence of the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway and the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet. The surge barrier is a new feature, authorized by Congress in 2006, the year after hurricanes Katrina and Rita devastated the area. It is expected to reduce the risk of storm damage to some of the region's most vulnerable areas -- New Orleans East, metropolitan New Orleans, the 9th Ward, St. Bernard Parish and Gentilly -- to a one percent chance in any given year.



Revised Field Triage Guidelines of Trauma Patients

[Guidelines](#) published in CDC's *MMWR* Reports and Recommendations are aimed at ensuring that trauma patients with more severe injuries are taken to trauma centers designed to handle such injuries. The recommendations designed to standardize decision-making at the injury scene also offer guidance on new technologies such as vehicle crash notification systems, which alert emergency services that a crash has occurred and automatically summon assistance.

Lessons Learned from the Anthrax Attacks

When anthrax was sent through the U.S. Postal Service in 2001, an overwhelming majority of postal workers elected not to be inoculated with the available vaccine because of confusion and distrust, according to a University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health study. According to [the report](#), reactions from postal workers were shaped partially by fears of being experimental "guinea pigs," disagreements among public health agencies about whether the vaccine should be recommended, physician advice, low perceived risk of infection and conflicting reports from national media organizations.

Ten Pitfalls to Successful Business Continuity Plans

Regardless of the current economic outlook, the risk of disaster doesn't decrease — natural disasters, power outages, malicious acts, etc. — still occur. If disaster does strike, companies are still beholden to stockholders, key vendors and clients to keep them supplied and operating. In putting together a

smart Business Continuity Plan (BCP), experts have identified several common missteps that can hinder a successful plan. [This article](#) discusses the ten most common pitfalls and recommends ways to overcome them.



Tamiflu® Resistance

On December 19, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention issued [interim guidance](#) for health care professionals on the use of influenza antiviral medications this flu season. The guidance was issued in response to early data from a limited number of states indicating that a high proportion of influenza A (H1N1) viruses are resistant to the influenza antiviral medication oseltamivir (Tamiflu®).

Michigan Health Statistics Available

Get the latest [health statistics](#) for your state from the National Center for Health Statistics! Check out birth, death, and health insurance statistics and rankings. The pages will be updated periodically to reflect the most recent data.

Anthrax Q & A: Vaccination

This webpage from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention offers answers to the following [questions regarding anthrax](#) (*Bacillus anthracis*):

- Is there an anthrax vaccine and is it publicly available?
- Who should be vaccinated against anthrax?
- What is the protocol for anthrax vaccination?
- Are there adverse reactions to the anthrax vaccine?

Is Airborne Spread of Influenza Possible?

A [new study](#) from researchers at West Virginia University demonstrated that the influenza virus is able to remain suspended in the air, thus enabling airborne transmission. The results of this study call into question current recommendations for utilizing only droplet precautions when caring for patients with influenza. Given the presence of aerosolized virus, hospital air itself may be contaminated and act as a vector for spread of the influenza virus.

Joint Operating Environment 2008

The [Joint Operating Environment](#) examines three questions: what future trends and disruptions are likely to affect the Joint Force over the next quarter century, how are these trends and disruptions likely to define the future contexts for joint operations, and what are the implications of these trends and contexts for the Joint Force? By exploring these trends, contexts, and implications, the Joint Operating Environment provides a basis for thinking about the world over the next quarter century. Its purpose is not to predict, but to suggest ways leaders might think about the future.

Surveillance

Global Avian Influenza Panzootic Continues

Although “bird flu” has not been featured prominently on the evening news of late, the influenza A/H5N1 panzootic continues. Following a relatively quiescent period from May to October, outbreaks in poultry, wild birds, and people have occurred in a number of countries over the last several months. Since this panzootic began in late 2003, sixty-seven countries on three continents have been affected. There have been 404 human cases of H5N1. With 254 deaths, the case fatality rate is 63%. [This article](#) discusses preparedness achievements and continuing vulnerabilities.

***Salmonella* Typhimurium Update**

A combination of epidemiological analysis and laboratory testing confirmed that the sources of the outbreak of illnesses caused by *Salmonella* Typhimurium are peanut butter and peanut paste produced by the Peanut Corporation of America (PCA) at its Blakely, Georgia processing plant. Peanut butter is sold by PCA in bulk containers ranging in size from five (5) to 1,700 pounds. The peanut paste is sold in sizes ranging from 35-pound containers to product sold by the tanker container. Neither of these products is sold directly to consumers. Visit the [U.S. Food and Drug Administration's website](#) for further information, including a complete list of product recalls.

First U.S. Case of Marburg Virus

The [first U.S. case of Marburg](#) hemorrhagic fever has been confirmed in Colorado, and authorities say the patient — who contracted the rare illness while traveling in Uganda — has since recovered. The disease, caused by a virus indigenous to Africa, spreads through contact with infected animals or the bodily fluids of infected humans. The patient had traveled to Uganda, visited a python cave in Maramagambo Forest in Queen Elizabeth Park and encountered fruit bats, which can carry the Marburg virus. The Ugandan government closed the cave after a tourist from the Netherlands died from Marburg in July. Marburg hemorrhagic fever is extremely rare. The CDC's Web site counts fewer than 500 confirmed cases since the virus was first recognized in 1967. More than 80 percent of the known cases are fatal.

Absolute Humidity and Influenza

Influenza A incidence peaks during winter in temperate regions. The basis for this pronounced seasonality is not understood, nor is it well documented how influenza A transmission principally occurs. In [this study](#), published in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, researchers found that absolute humidity — the amount of water in the air regardless of temperature — constrained both influenza transmission efficiency and virus survivability much more significantly than relative humidity. In temperate regions, both outdoor and indoor absolute humidity possess a strong seasonal cycle that minimizes in winter. This seasonal cycle may explain the seasonality of influenza. (Note: a subscription is required to read the full text of the article.)



Communications

Michigan Reorganizes “Coping with Disaster” Webpages

Over recent months, there has been a surge of information related to recovering after a disaster or emergency. Often, we underestimate the impact such an event will have on us psychologically. The State of Michigan launched its preparedness website in September 2007 to provide citizens with up-to-date information regarding what they could do to prepare for, and recover from, an emergency. The prepare website's “Coping with Disaster” pages have been redesigned to include many of the recently released resources. Please [visit the site](#) today to see the improved content, and learn how you can successfully recover from a disaster.

Pandemic Planning

Facemask Use to Control Seasonal/Pandemic Influenza

Many countries are stockpiling face masks for use as a non-pharmaceutical intervention to control virus transmission during an influenza pandemic. Researchers conducted [a study](#) comparing surgical masks, non-fit-tested P2 masks, and no masks in prevention of influenza-like illness (ILI) in households. Mask use adherence was self-reported. During the 2006 and 2007 winter seasons, 286 exposed adults from 143 households who had been exposed to a child with clinical respiratory illness were recruited. The researchers found that adherence to mask use significantly reduced the risk for ILI-associated infection, but less than 50% of participants wore masks most of the time. Finally, the authors concluded that household use of face masks is associated with low adherence and is ineffective for controlling seasonal respiratory disease. However, during a severe pandemic when use of face masks might be greater, pandemic transmission in households could be reduced.

Allocating Scarce Resources during a Pandemic

On January 30, Minnesota health groups unveiled two [preliminary guidance reports](#) designed to help the state make and implement difficult decisions about allocating scarce resources such as antivirals, respirators, ventilators, and vaccines during a severe influenza pandemic. The authors recommend that public officials consider a host of fairness characteristics — such as high risk of death from the flu or good response to a particular treatment — before using random methods to ration scarce pandemic resources.

Developing Countries' Pandemic Preparedness

Developing countries face unique difficulties in preparing for an influenza pandemic. The current top-down approach will not provide these countries with adequate supplies of vaccines and antiviral agents. Consequently, they will have to use a bottom-up approach based on inexpensive generic agents that either modify the host response to influenza virus or act as antiviral agents. Investigators must primarily identify agents for managing infection in populations, and determine in which countries these agents are produced and define patterns of distribution and costs. Because prepandemic research cannot establish whether these agents will be effective in a pandemic, randomized controlled trials must begin immediately after a new pandemic virus has emerged. Without [this research](#), industrialized and developing countries could face an unprecedented health crisis.

Regional News

Region 3 Promotes Michigan Volunteer Registry

Two years ago, Region 3 produced a thirty-second public service announcement (PSA) promoting the [Michigan Volunteer Registry](#). Region 3 ran this PSA again last year, with an increase in registrants of over 40%. This year, the Board approved some minor revisions to the PSA, primarily updating the region's new name and the new grant number, as well as placement of it again on local TV, radio and cable. The first cable run of the PSA on Charter Media began on January 26 and will run on numerous channels for sixty days. The PSA will also be submitted to all TV and radio stations serving Region 3's fourteen counties over the next month.



Other News

U.S. Nerve Gas Weapons Destroyed

The United States has completed the [destruction](#) of the last of its nerve gas weapons stored in the United States. The 66 month effort destroyed 293,000 gallons (over a million liters) of VX and Sarin nerve agent, by incineration. These weapons were stored, for nearly half a century, in underground bunkers in the Anniston Army Depot, 80 kilometers east of Birmingham, Alabama.

Daschle Withdraws as DHHS Secretary Nominee

Former senator Thomas A. Daschle suddenly [stepped aside](#) as the president's nominee for secretary of health and human services because of problematic ties to wealthy private interests. It was a jarring twist to Daschle's 30-year career in Washington, one built on a reputation of integrity and decency. After losing his Senate seat while serving as that body's most powerful Democrat in 2004, he swiftly signed on as a special policy adviser to a 900-member law firm and pulled in a multimillion-dollar salary. Until this week, Daschle was regarded as a shoo-in for confirmation. His undoing came with the release of his financial disclosure forms last Friday and information that he had paid \$146,000 in back taxes and interest.

Illinois TB Patient Ordered into Isolation

A tuberculosis patient who failed to take precautions to avoid spreading the illness will be tracked by GPS and could go to jail if he violates court orders requiring him to [remain isolated](#). On January 21, a Champaign County (IL) Circuit Judge imposed those conditions on 20-year-old Clasance Botembe. Health officials and prosecutors say Botembe failed to take precautions to avoid spreading the disease. Court records say his girlfriend got TB after being exposed to him. Botembe is being treated at home. Botembe will be isolated for 30 days. He could be charged with a Class A misdemeanor if he defies the judge's order.

National Public Health Week 2009

For more than a decade, communities around the country have celebrated National Public Health Week (NPHW) each April to help protect and improve our nation's health. [Michigan will celebrate NPHW April 6-12](#) with a theme of "Building the Foundation for a Healthy America." This theme will guide efforts to ensure that core public health principles such as preventing disease and promoting health are the foundation upon which our nation's current dialogue about health reform is built. There are many individuals, organizations, groups and coalitions throughout Michigan that are doing great work in these areas. Nominate the ones you know to be a Michigan Hometown Health Hero. Approximately ten Hometown Health Heroes will be chosen from the nominees, and then recognized in a special ceremony in Lansing on April 21.

Training & Education

Public Health Law 101

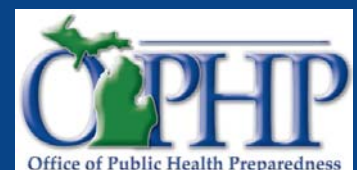
CDC's Public Health Law Program has developed this new, foundational course on public health law as a learning resource for public health practitioners, students, and others. The course comprises nine slide lecture units for delivery by legal counsel to health departments and by other persons trained in law. [This course](#) provides an introduction to fundamental principles of law, ethics, and the legal system as they frame public health practice in the United States.

Date/Time	Event	Location
Feb. 23, 2009	<p>Mass Casualty Preparedness & Response Forum</p> <p>At this forum participants will engage together in addressing a capability-specific priority of the Goal to Strengthen Medical Surge and Mass Prophylaxis Capabilities. The Forum presents an opportunity for leaders, decision makers and planners of business, government and civil society (non-profits, NGOs, etc.) to address complex issues surrounding mass casualty events and response, and create an ongoing dialogue of ideas that will evolve into solutions that can be applied in an all hazards environment.</p>	Washington, DC
Feb. 24, 2009	<p>All-Hazards Regional Evacuation Plans</p> <p>This workshop will walk participants through the regional planning process. Using proven planning methodologies, the workshop guides participants in creating sound strategies for a variety of catastrophes, both natural and man-made. This best-practice approach to planning provides emergency managers and key officials with detailed data and tools that promote effective decision-making during a catastrophic event.</p>	Arlington, VA
Feb. 25, 2009	<p>The Renewed Fight against Terrorism: Law Enforcement Intelligence</p> <p>Objectives for this curriculum: learn how to apply criminal intelligence standards to your agency; assess the factors needed to implement Intelligence Led Policing; define the strategic priorities for Intelligence Led Policing; how to establish public/private partnerships for intelligence in your community; performing open source information research.</p>	OPHP Large Training Room (517) 353-8150
Feb. 27, 2009 8am	<p>Basic Disaster Life Support</p> <p>This five-hour course is designed to develop commonality of approach and language and to improve the care and coordination of response in WMD disaster and public health emergencies. For more information, including registration information, please visit the Region 2 South web-site.</p>	RESA Auditorium 5454 Venoy Road Wayne, MI 48184
Feb. 28, 2009	<p>2009 MDCH-OPHP Volunteer Conference</p> <p>Michigan will offer its first conference dedicated to support public health and healthcare emergency response efforts for volunteers registered with the MI Volunteer Registry and other volunteer organizations. This Saturday conference is free to attendees, open to all disciplines, and supported by the Department of Health and Human Services's emergency preparedness cooperative agreements. For more information, including registration details, please visit the MI-TRAIN website, and search for course ID 1014902.</p>	Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center East Lansing, MI
Mar. 3, 2009 7:30am	<p>Fundamentals of Medical Planning</p> <p>This workshop will teach aspects of crisis action medical planning to help your organization enhance its preparedness and risk management posture. This workshop will help you create, or improve, organic medical plans to improve your defenses against emergency events, whether they be from terrorism, the next series of catastrophic weather events, or large-scale industrial accidents.</p>	San Diego, CA

Date/Time	Event	Location
Mar. 11, 2009	Special Needs Shelter Planning Basics This workshop will focus on the process involved in pre-identifying locations to be used as special needs shelters. It will involve compiling data on identified facilities and the equipment needed to support special needs shelters. <u>The workshop</u> will focus on the approach of how to leverage existing capabilities and resources in advance to be ready to care for a medically-fragile population.	Arlington, VA
Mar. 19, 2009	MI Public Health Technology Conference The primary goal of this <u>two-day conference</u> is to bring together Michigan's public health professionals to promote public health performance with technology. This conference strives to achieve this goal by sharing established technologies; exploring emerging technologies; improving public health through the sharing of innovative methodologies and processes; and promoting system integration.	Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center East Lansing, MI
Mar. 25, 2009	Basic PIO Workshop This is a two-day workshop for entry-level or less experienced disaster Public Information Officers and staff, emphasizing the skills needed to manage crisis information in emergency and disaster events. Topics include responsibilities of a Public Information Officer in disasters, effective media interviews, crisis information planning, and Joint Information Center (JIC) management. Visit the <u>Michigan State Police website</u> for further details and registration information.	Oakland County
Mar. 28, 2009	ACMT 7th Annual Spring Course The American College of Medical Toxicology (ACMT) is offering its 7th Annual Spring Course which will deliver cutting edge concepts relative to neurotoxic mechanisms, controversies, and etiologies for Parkinsonism, cognitive disorders, neuropathy and autism; case-based presentations on pesticide, mercury and lead toxicity; and the practical use and interpretation of neuropsychological testing, EMG, and nerve conduction studies. ACMT member registration fee is \$525. See the <u>ACMT website</u> for further details, including registration information.	San Juan, Puerto Rico



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