



## Preparedness and Planning

### Severe Weather Awareness Information Packet

Severe weather -- such as thunderstorms, wind storms, floods, and tornadoes -- is a threat to the safety and welfare of all Michigan's citizens. Each year the Michigan Committee for Severe Weather Awareness, emergency management officials, and the news media work together to educate the public on which precautions should be taken to save lives and protect property and families during severe weather. Governor Granholm has declared the week of March 29 as Severe Weather Awareness Week in Michigan. For more information on how to prepare for severe weather, see the Michigan State Police's "[2009 Winter Hazards Awareness](#)" guide and visit the [Michigan Committee for Severe Weather Awareness website](#).

### African Violet Study May Yield New Anthrax Treatment

Researchers at the University of Warwick examined how a chemical structure is assembled in a bacterial pathogen called *Pectobacterium chrysanthemi* that afflicts plants -- particularly the African violet (*Saint-paulia*). Their [findings show](#) that it's possible to block an essential chemical pathway to prevent the bacterium from harvesting iron, essentially starving it. While an interesting piece of science, this work also has major implications for the treatment of several virulent and even deadly mammalian infections including anthrax.

### Anthrax Mail Solution

Despite billions of dollars spent on America's security, the mailroom remains a vulnerable gap through which a terrorist or prankster can bring a company or government to its knees. BioDefense Corp's "[MailDefender](#)" machine may offer hope. Workers place up to 100 pieces of mail at a time inside the machine, which has an internal wheel that rotates for 45 minutes while evenly exposing letters to an array of pathogen-killing technologies. These include microwave, ultraviolet light, and broad beam lights. These combined methodologies allegedly kill ricin, anthrax, ebola, and plague; the company even claims the machine can absorb the shock of a mail bomb.

### Feasibility of Using Nanotechnology to Detect Anthrax

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has completed a "proof-of-concept" study of a test that quickly and accurately detects the presence of even the smallest amount of the deadly anthrax toxin. [This study](#) relied on a nanotechnology-based test platform built from tiny molecular-sized particles. This assay, the europium nanoparticle-based immunoassay (ENIA), was able to detect the presence of a protein made by the anthrax bacteria known as protective antigen (PA). PA combines with another protein called lethal factor to form anthrax lethal factor toxin, the protein that enters cells and causes toxic effects. The researchers

## News

### Emergency Preparedness Funding Available for Nursing Facilities

The Office of Public Health Preparedness is offering up to \$10,000 per licensed nursing facility to fund emergency preparedness initiatives. Please see [page 2](#) for more details. Application deadline is April 3, 2009.

### Great Lakes Homeland Security Conference - Register Now!

This three-day conference will provide a broad range of top-rated speakers, hands-on workshop sessions, and expanded exhibit hall and networking opportunities. See [page 10](#) for further details.

### Obama Names Cabinet Members

President Obama officially nominated a new head of the Department of Health and Human Services and the Federal Emergency Management Agency. See [page 8](#) for details.

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Read the Next *Guardian* Issue!  
April 24, 2009

showed that ENIA is capable of detecting protective antigen in quantities that are 100 times lower than current tests, such as the enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA). Both the ELISA and ENIA rely on antibodies that have an affinity for the anthrax protein of interest.

### **New Disinfection Method**

It's a kitchen degreaser. It's a window cleaner. It kills athlete's foot. Oh, and you can drink it. A simple mixture of table salt and tap water whose ions have been scrambled with an electric current, dubbed electrolyzed water -- a substance that scientists say is powerful enough to kill anthrax spores and *Salmonella* without harming people or the environment.

### **Smallpox Vaccine Basics**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has updated its questions and answers for "Smallpox: Vaccine Basics", including information on vaccination before and after exposure to smallpox, contraindications and screening, vaccination while pregnant or breast feeding, and vaccine storage and distribution.

### **MI-TESA Exercise Very Successful**

On February 13, a Michigan Transportable Emergency Surge Assistance (MI-TE-SA) Medical Unit Tabletop Exercise was held to test the current draft of the MI-TESA Medical Unit Concept of Operations, including the request, deployment, communication and support process. The Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) Office of Public Health Preparedness (OPHP), Region 2 South and Region 5 Medical Bio-Defense Networks all played in the exercise to examine overall medical surge, communications and planning capabilities. The scenario encompassed an incident in Michigan involving two hospitals who needed long-term assistance. The MI-TESA Medical Units in Region 2 South and Region 5 were both requested and deployed. Participants considered the procedures for deploying the units, specific to transportation, setup, operations, deactivation and recovery. Exercising and developing the MI-TESA Medical Unit Concept of Operations fulfills the requirements set forth in the 2008-2009 Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR) Hospital Preparedness Program Cooperative Agreement.

### **Emergency Preparedness for Nursing Homes**

Since 2006, the Florida Health Care Association has been working on a new set of national emergency preparedness tools for nursing homes. These new tools, released in 2008, introduce nursing home providers to the latest national concepts and practices in emergency planning and response in order to protect residents and staff from environmental and man-made threats and to minimize their impact on operations.

### **Funding for Nursing Facilities' Emergency Preparedness**

Licensed nursing facilities are important partners in Michigan's overall health-care system preparedness. The Michigan Department of Community Health's Office of Public Health Preparedness (OPHP) has partnered with these agencies to pilot an emergency preparedness project. OPHP will provide up to \$10,000 to each facility to help develop interoperable communication systems, bed tracking, personnel management, fatality management planning, and evacuation planning. The funds have been earmarked to fund new activities such as conducting training or exercises, and purchasing new equipment such as client "go-kits", evacuation equipment, or personal protective equipment. It is expected that the new projects and activities will benefit licensed nursing facilities statewide and the State of Michigan's overall preparedness efforts. The funds cannot be used for personnel costs, indirect costs, or to augment another existing preparedness funding source or activity. If you are interested in applying for funding under this program, please contact Ms. Amber Pitts by email at [pitta@michigan.gov](mailto:pitta@michigan.gov) to receive the application template and requirements. The final

deadline for application is April 3, 2009.

### **Hospital and Healthcare Online Resource Center Launched**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention launched a [new online resource](#) center designed to help hospitals and healthcare facilities improve preparedness for disasters and large-scale emergencies. The preparedness resources are organized by healthcare setting and include readiness materials aimed at hospitals, physician offices, long-term acute and chronic care facilities, pediatric offices and hospitals, and outpatient and urgent care clinics.

### **Mass Patient Evacuee Movement, Regulating, and Tracking**

These recommendations, from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, are offered to assist in development of a system that could be used during a mass casualty or evacuation event to locate, track, and regulate patients and evacuees. [The recommendations](#) can provide decision support to persons and organizations responsible for patient and evacuee movement, healthcare and transportation resource allocation, and incident management. Appendices discuss issues related to implementation of a national system, including: Legal issues such as HIPAA compliance; existing tracking systems at the local, regional and federal level; institutional record systems for hospitals, nursing homes, shelters, and other facilities; and existing systems that inventory and identify available resources.

### **Legislators Want Changes to Health Facilities after Ike**

Nursing homes were left without electricity, and medical evacuees flooded hospitals during Hurricane Ike. More than a [dozen bills](#) pending in the U.S. Legislature could help change the way state agencies and facilities operate during a hurricane. Many of these bills are procedural, requiring state agencies, hospitals and individuals to better establish exactly what steps they should take during a disaster. Some bills attempt to address what hospitals and first responders said was an unexpected strain from the sheer number of nursing home and other health-facility patients.

### **Field Testing Dilemma and LRN Chemical Laboratories**

During a recent investigation of letters containing a white powder sent to a targeted company in several states, a common field detection [device failed](#) to identify the white powder. First responders used the device, known as the HazMatID, to try to identify the white powder from one of the letters in the field. Their instrument gave them a result that insinuated the presence of a non-toxic, inert chemical. Fortunately, the responders had enough white powder left to send a sample to a public health laboratory for testing. The lab later identified the powder as a toxic chemical that could potentially cause illness if inhaled or ingested. The responders had learned a valuable lesson, and were fortunate that no one had been sickened by the white powder. The incident was a reminder to other first responders, though, to be constantly aware of the limitations of their own field-detection devices.

### **Chemical Warfare Decontamination Lotion**

The European Union has approved U.S. company RSDcon's chemical warfare [decontamination lotion](#) for distribution in the 27 EU countries. RSDL is a patented, broad spectrum skin decontamination product intended to remove or neutralize chemical warfare (CW) agents or T2 toxin from the skin.

### **Community Continuity Planning**

The Department of Emergency Management in Dane County (Wisconsin) offers a step-by-step tool for building a disaster-resistant business community. "Ready Your Business" delivers a 12- point program for successful business continuity planning that can be used by communities, small or large organiza-

tions, as well as any type of industry. The program is available on the [Dane County website](#).

### **Five Rules of Business Continuity Management**

Business Continuity Management Planning provides the framework for developing a business continuity system company-wide. However, implementing the standard is only part of the process. These five fundamental rules should be followed to ensure its success.

1. Understand the business requirement- if this is overlooked or poorly defined, considerable effort will be spent revising your agency's BCM strategies.
2. Commit time and effort from across the business – realize implementing a BCMS requires time, effort and commitment from all parts of the organization. All decision-makers must understand the need for continuity and be involved in developing meaningful impact analyses, risk assessments, and continuity plans.
3. Internal communication is critical – Two aspects of communication are pivotal to success: Communicating the progress of the BCMS project in order to gain and maintain engagement; and - Taking the time to develop a sound BCM Communications Plan - probably the most important document in any real crisis.
4. The documentation should match the organization – When developing a BCMS realize that no two organizations are the same and that the structure of your documentation needs will need to match your organizational structure and business requirements, yet drawing on best practices and maintaining compliance.
5. Put the plan to the test – Testing or exercising the plan is the most cost-effective way to ensure that the plan meets the department's needs. It also ensures full engagement from all administrative units within the department. Testing and exercising provides the opportunity to “shake out” mistakes or incorrect assumptions allowing the plans to be improved. Testing and exercising is a valuable tool as it increases awareness of business continuity throughout the department and provides a valuable training opportunity for key staff involved in crisis management, business continuity and recovery.

### **Planning Guidance for Responding to a Nuclear Detonation**

The Homeland Security Council has published the first edition of its planning guidance for responding to a nuclear detonation in the United States. The guidance is designed to provide emergency planners with nuclear detonation-specific response recommendations to maximize the preservation of life in the event of an urban nuclear detonation. [The guidance](#) addresses the unique effects and impacts of a nuclear detonation such as scale of destruction, shelter and evacuation strategies, unparalleled medical demands, management of nuclear casualties, and radiation dose management concepts. The guidance is aimed at response activities in an environment with a severely compromised infrastructure for the first few days when it is likely that many federal resources will still be en route to the incident.

### **Coordinating Disability and Technology Policy**

[This paper](#), developed by the Georgia Tech Center for Advanced Communication Policy, addresses key factors and practices that can be used to develop a set of virtual interactive tools which supports the development of disability and technology policy. Disability policy, both its development and implementation, is critical to reducing technological inaccessibility and participatory barriers for people in the community and workplace. An online collaborative policy network that focuses on disability and technology policy is well within reach. It is a financially feasible and logistically practical way to leverage research, academic, and advocacy nodes within this particular policy niche.

## **FEMA Stronger than Ever**

The Inspector General, the Homeland Security Department's watchdog, says the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is stronger than ever and that the agency wasn't ready to deal with a catastrophic incident before joining the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). The strength is the result of three events: FEMA's 2003 move into DHS, lessons learned from Hurricane Katrina, and enactment of the Post-Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act, which reorganized FEMA and expanded its authority. (Note: to read the [full article](#) will require a username and password.)

## **Safeguarding Children during Public Health Emergencies**

The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality released [two new tools](#) designed to protect and care for children who are in a hospital or a school during a public health emergency. The first tool consists of guidelines to assist pediatric hospitals in converting from standard operating capacity to surge capacity and help community hospital emergency departments provide care for large numbers of critically ill children. The second tool is a national model for school-based emergency response planning. It provides guidance on the recommended steps for both creating and implementing a school-based emergency response plan.

## **How Federal Public Health Dollars Are Spent**

This report, by the Trust for America's Health, examined how the economic downturn could lead to serious cuts to disease prevention and emergency preparedness programs at the state level. [Researchers found](#) that Midwestern and Southern states received less funding from the federal government than Northeastern and Western states did in fiscal year 2008 for disease prevention programs, which can amount to millions of dollars in differences. This report found that states receive \$17.60 per person on average from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to spend on public health. Midwestern states received an average of \$15.40 per person and Southern states received \$17.89 per person, while Northeastern states received \$18.99 and Western states received \$18.15 per person from the CDC.

## **\$500 Disaster Grants for Young People**

DoSomething and the Dunkin' Brands Community Foundation have teamed up to offer \$500 Disaster Grants to young people across the U.S. and Canada. Do you know a young person building houses down in New Orleans, planning an emergency coat drive for families in crisis this winter, or collecting toys for kids who've been through a natural disaster? Each week in 2009 they will be awarding \$500 to an "awesome person with a project idea around the themes of disaster preparedness and emergency response". To learn more, including eligibility guidelines, visit the [DoSomething.org website](#).

## **Homeland Security Centers for Excellence**

The Homeland Security [Centers of Excellence](#) bring together leading experts and researchers to conduct multidisciplinary research and education for homeland security solutions:

- Center for Border Security and Immigration
- Center for Explosives Detection, Mitigation, and Response
- Center for Maritime, Island and Port Security
- Center for Natural Disasters, Coastal Infrastructure, and Emergency Management
- National Transportation Security Center of Excellence
- Center for Risk and Economic Analysis of Terrorism Events
- National Center for Food Protection and Defense
- National Center for Foreign Animal and Zoonotic Disease Defense
- National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism

- National Center for the Study of Preparedness and Catastrophic Event Response
- Center for Advancing Microbial Risk Assessment
- University Affiliate Centers to the Institute for Discrete Sciences (Info analysis)
- Regional Visualization and Analytics Centers

### **Link between Organizational Resilience and Crisis Management**

The term 'resilience' is coming into prominence within the management boards of public and private enterprises alike. Organizations are not abandoning the traditional risk management disciplines of IT service continuity and business continuity management. These disciplines are still relevant and vital. Rather, they seek ways that focus on 'hardening' the organization against risks, so that their organizations are less crisis-prone, or such that the negative effects of disruptions are mitigated by an inbuilt infrastructure resilience, redundant systems, and well-trained staff. [This article](#) discusses these concepts, and offers suggestions to increase organizational resilience.

## **Communications**

### **FEMA Asks for Comments on Alert Standard**

The Federal Emergency Management Agency is [asking for comments](#) on its proposed technical standard for emergency alert messages in the Integrated Public Alert and Warnings System (IPAWS)," reports Federal Computer Week. IPAWS is the next-generation public warning capability being developed by FEMA to create an integrated public and private system capable of delivering warnings through television, radio, telephone, e-mail messages, text messages and other technologies. The [comment](#) period is open through May 2.

## **Pandemic Planning**

### **Sick City**

Sick City is real time disease detection from user status messages that are posted on the microblog website Twitter or on the social networking site Facebook. The [Sick City](#) software compiles the data into graphs, by city, which may help those in public health know where outbreaks may be occurring. The software is free and can be used by anyone.

### **Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Law in Europe**

An article published in the journal *Public Health* assesses the state of public health law in Europe. The [PHLawFlu project](#), a group funded to examine public health laws in Europe, found that national laws need to be in place and updated to stay ahead of public health threats. Plans in many countries were found to be inadequate, and border health issues need to be addressed. The project plans to support public health reform across Europe.

### **Cleaning Transit Vehicles and Facilities during a Pandemic**

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) has created interim guidance for the cleaning of transit vehicles during a pandemic. This [interim guidance](#) includes cleaning for railcars, EMS trucks, and aircrafts. The guidelines are meant as a framework to be updated as new information becomes available.

## **Planning Guidance for Critical Infrastructure and Key Resources**

This guide is one of the practical tools the U.S. Department of Homeland Security has developed for business owner-operators and their contingency planners to enhance pandemic planning. [This guide](#) assembles the primary government and pandemic influenza-specific background material, references, and contacts all in one place. It introduces an enhanced contingency planning process for a pandemic and provides business planners with numerous sector-specific and common pandemic influenza planning variables keyed to escalating disaster phases. This guide will complement and enhance, not replace, extensive private sector contingency planning already in place.

## **Drive-Thru Medication Dispensing**

If a flu pandemic or bioterrorism attack strikes the Wasatch Back (Utah), the Summit County Health Department wants residents to be ready. On March 7, the health department partnered with Zions Bank to practice for distributing antibiotics or antiviral medication via [drive-thru windows](#). This was the first exercise of its kind in the nation. To encourage people to participate, Zions Bank gave each child a \$1 presidential coin. There were also drawings for Utah Jazz basketball tickets, golf outings, and other items. The exercise was funded by a grant from the Cities Readiness Initiative of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

## **Free Pandemic Preparedness Supplies**

To encourage businesses and organizations to prepare for a flu pandemic, the Alabama Department of Public Health is offering [free preparedness supplies](#) to groups that write continuity plans and receive pandemic preparedness education. Those who qualify have their choice of two kinds of free supplies: personal protective equipment (masks, gloves, sterilization products, face shields) or comfort-care items (fever and pain reducers, electrolyte drinks, antidiarrheal medicine, inflatable mattresses, disposable pillows, and blankets).

## **NPHIC Pandemic Flu Resources**

The National Public Health Information Coalition (NPHIC) gathered several resources on pandemic influenza and created a [searchable database](#). Partners can both use existing information or post new library resources. The goals of this library are to aid in emergency messaging creation and to learn from each other.

## **Influenza Transmission Characteristics**

A better understanding of transmission dynamics is essential in influenza pandemic planning. The authors of this study performed a systematic review of published studies describing the relationship between viral shedding and disease transmission. Based on the available literature, [they found](#) that there is scant, if any, evidence that asymptomatic or presymptomatic individuals play an important role in influenza transmission. As such, recent articles concerning pandemic planning, some using transmission modeling, may have overestimated the effect of presymptomatic or asymptomatic influenza transmission. More definitive transmission studies are sorely needed.

## **Four Years Needed to Meet Pandemic Vaccine Demand**

A study from the World Health Organization (WHO) and International Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers and Associations (IFPMA) found that despite increasing [capacity to make avian flu vaccines](#) by 300 percent in the past two years, four years will still be needed to meet global demand in the event of a pandemic. Effective coverage through mass immunization is based on two doses per person for a global population of 6.7 billion. It also said doses of vaccine tailored to the actual strain of pandemic influenza that emerges would not be available until four months after that strain is identified.

## Regional News

### Region 2S Hosts Large-Scale SNS Exercise

On March 24, Oakwood Healthcare System (OHS) and Region 2 South (R2S) Medical Coordination Center (MCC) hosted a Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) exercise that included all the local Emergency Management response organizations. As part of guidance from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, all treatment centers are required to conduct a tabletop exercise of their SNS plan in 2009. The general purposes of the exercise were to: enhance general awareness of local SNS plans, identify the strengths and weaknesses of the local SNS Plans, test the process of sending completed SNS forms to the MCC, and efficient paperwork transfer from the Local Emergency Operations Center to the State Emergency Operations Center. Further details on the exercise outcome will be included in the next issue of the Guardian. Tabletop exercise documents can be obtained free of charge from Mr. Paul Haley, City of Trenton Emergency Manager (haleyp@trenton-mi.com).

### Region 2N Conducts Hospital Hazard Vulnerability Assessment

Region 2 North, working with hospital partners, completed a regional hazard vulnerability analysis to assess hospital preparedness. The process involved evaluating potential events and the level of preparedness from the stakeholder's perspective. Information from each participating agency was compiled into a regional summary. The areas included: natural events (e.g., tornadoes, blizzards, floods); technological events (e.g., generator, electrical or water failure); and human events (e.g., terrorism, hazmat exposure, bomb threat). These areas were reviewed from the perspectives of occurrence probability, risk (including life and safety threat and disruption of operations), and level of preparedness. In general, respondents felt their level of preparedness was 'fair' to 'good' for the three event areas evaluated. However, when evaluating their ability to respond to a human event, a majority of respondents (52%) indicated they were at a fair level of preparedness. This was lower than the other two areas and indicates room for improvement.

## Other News

### Chemical Ordnance Ocean Dump Search

A 2007 report to Congress said 2,558 tons of chemical agents were dumped at three deepwater sites off O'ahu (Hawaii) after World War II. The chemicals dumped included lewisite, mustard, cyanogen chloride, and cyanide. The University of Hawaii's two submersible crafts will descend 900 to 2,000 feet to the ocean floor five miles south of Pearl Harbor to search. The 15 days of daytime dives, augmented by the use of robotic vehicles at night, are part of the Army's ongoing assessment of the health and environmental effects from the old munitions.

### Obama Names DHHS Secretary

On March 2, President Obama officially nominated Kansas Governor Kathleen Sebelius as Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). In this role, Sebelius will oversee a department with wide-ranging responsibilities essential to the American people, including the implementation of the President's vision for healthcare.

### Obama Names New FEMA Chief

On March 4, President Obama picked a seasoned emergency response coordinator from Florida to lead the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Craig Fugate, the director of Florida's Division of Emergency Management since

2001, will be Obama's [nominee to head the agency](#).

### U.S. Declared Disaster Areas

Since the beginning of 2009, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has declared eighteen weather-related disasters in the United States. The formal declaration by FEMA releases federal funds to aid in the disaster recovery process. Most recently, North Dakota received federal funds to supplement state and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms and flooding. Visit the [FEMA website](#) for an up-to-date listing of current disaster areas.

### Sports Stadium to Become ADA-Compliant

Justice Department officials have [notified](#) Memphis that the city has until September 2010 to update Liberty Bowl Memorial Stadium in compliance with Americans with Disabilities Act requirements, a project that officials say will cost more than \$40 million. The Justice Department is requiring the city to provide 600 seats for the disabled to keep the 43-year-old stadium open.

## Training and Education

### Screening People for External Radiological Contamination

This 18-minute skills [training video](#) demonstrates how to screen people for external contamination using a hand held Geiger Mueller detector. The program is designed for individuals assigned to conduct mass screening for contamination from radioactive materials following a large scale incident. The program may be used as pre-incident training or intra-incident just-in-time training. Supplementary training material on utilization of ion chambers and alpha scintillation detectors is provided. A downloadable graphic illustration of the procedure for performing a radiological survey (G-M Detectors Job Aid) is also provided. To order copies of the training in a DVD format, with a hard copy of the G-M Detectors Job Aid enclosed, send an email with mailing address, number of copies requested, and your phone number to [cdcinfo@cdc.gov](mailto:cdcinfo@cdc.gov).

Date/Time	Event	Location
Mar. 28, 2009	<b>ACMT 7th Annual Spring Course</b> 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 <a href="#">ACMT website</a> for further details, including registration information.	San Juan, Puerto Rico
Apr. 2, 2009 2:00pm	<b>Building a Healthier America</b> This <a href="#">presentation</a> will focus on the health system at the federal, state, and local levels and discuss whether we, as a nation, are appropriately prioritizing preventative measures, community health initiatives, and preparedness efforts. A panel of experts from the field will share their insights and lessons learned.	Webcast

Date/Time	Event	Location
Apr. 29, 2009 12:00pm	<p><b>MiSMR Conference: Pandemic Preparedness</b> AIDS, SARS, and the threat of pandemic influenza remind us daily that there will be another pandemic in our future. We all know that we need to be able to respond more rapidly than in the past to the emergence of such new diseases, or a bioterror threat. There are many questions we have yet to ask, the answers to which may be just as important for preparing for future pandemics as are the obvious ones. See the <a href="#">Michigan Society for Medical Research website</a> for more information.</p>	Michigan State Univ. Kellogg Conf. Center East Lansing, MI
Apr. 30, 2009	<p><b>Media Relations and You</b> In a crisis someone will step up and speak for your organization. How can you better prepare for your moment in the lights? How do you deliver your desired message effectively? How will the public view your organization the next day? Further information, including registration details, are available on the <a href="#">Region 3 Healthcare Preparedness Network website</a>.</p>	Dow Events Center Saginaw, MI
May 3, 2009	<p><b>Conference on Public Health and Disasters</b> The public health consequences of natural and intentional disasters cut across many substantive areas. This three-day conference will provide an annual forum that continues to promote a dialogue and exchange of ideas between local health departments and others involved in improving emergency public health preparedness, mitigation, response, and recovery. Register by April 3 to receive the discounted \$395 registration rate. Visit the <a href="#">UCLA website</a> for further information and registration details.</p>	Torrance, CA
May 5, 2009	<p><b>Great Lakes Homeland Security Conference</b> This three-day conference will provide a broad range of top-rated speakers, hands-on workshop sessions, and expanded exhibit hall and networking opportunities. Keynote speakers include: Amanda Ripley, TIME magazine reporter who covered hurricanes Katrina and Rita; Steve Berry, former EMS instructor and interpreter for the hearing impaired; and Bob Woodruff, ABC News anchor and reporter. Register before April 10 to receive the discounted rate of \$350. Visit the <a href="#">Michigan State Police website</a> for further information, including registration details.</p>	DeVos Place Grand Rapids, MI
May 14, 2009	<p><b>Mercury Spill Response Workshop</b> The Michigan Department of Community Health Division of Environmental Health is offering a mercury spill response <a href="#">workshop</a>. The workshop is hosted by District Health Department #10. Mercury is a powerful neurotoxin that can harm human health, especially children's health. The course is free and is open to agencies that have a role in preventing and responding to mercury spills. To register, send an email to Ms. Sue Manente at <a href="mailto:manentes@michigan.gov">manentes@michigan.gov</a> or call (800) 648-6942.</p>	MSU Extension Office Cadillac, MI

Date/Time	Event	Location
May 28, 2009	<b>Cornerstones of Emergency Preparedness Conference</b> This <u>one-day conference</u> will provide content that describes: Essential elements of preparedness in large-scale emergency events; psychological consequences for care givers involved in large disaster scenarios; special needs population considerations; and information for long-term care facilities, rural health clinics, and dialysis services.	Dow Event Center Saginaw, MI
Jun. 21, 2009	<b>World Conference on Disaster Management (WCDM)</b> The WCDM is the premier event for disaster management professionals. With the 2009 theme: "A Climate for Change - Communication, Collaboration and Cooperation" <u>the conference</u> will offer a unique educational experience that provides a platform for the exchange of ideas and networking opportunities in a climate that fosters change. Individuals will learn how to develop strong resiliency tactics that will sustain business operations and communities during critical times such as natural, technological or human induced events.	Toronto, CANADA



**SAVE THE DATE**

**2009 BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CONFERENCE**

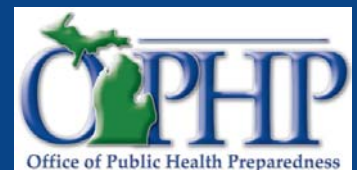
**"PREPARING FOR THE UNTHINKABLE"**

**DESIGNING A BEHAVIORAL HEALTH BLUEPRINT FOR DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE**

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY HEALTH  
 OFFICE OF PUBLIC HEALTH PREPAREDNESS  
 DATE: MONDAY, JUNE 29, 2009  
 LOCATION: SHERATON HOTEL, LANSING MICHIGAN

Registration Coming Soon at <http://www.mcep.org>

*Mailing Address:*  
 Office of Public Health Preparedness  
 Capitol View Building - 201 Townsend Street - Lansing, MI 48913  
 (517) 335-8150 — <http://www.michigan.gov/ophp>



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