



Preparedness and Planning

Detection and Modeling of Urban Hazardous Releases is Limited

First responders are responsible for responding to terrorist-related and accidental releases of chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear (CBRN) materials in urban areas. Two primary tools for identifying agents released and their dispersion and effect are equipment to detect and identify CBRN agents in the environment and plume models to track the dispersion of airborne releases of these agents. The Government Accountability Office ([GAO reports](#)) on the limitations of the CBRN detection equipment, its performance standards and capabilities testing, plume models available for tracking urban dispersion of CBRN materials, and information for determining how exposure to CBRN materials affects urban populations.

Including At-Risk Groups in Emergency Planning

Several organizations in northeast Minnesota held a day-long workshop to encourage preparedness among members of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing communities. The health department and its emergency management partners conducted a mass dispensing site exercise that involved eight activities: parking at one location, busing to the dispensing site, greeting, sorting/triaging, screening, medication/dispensing, questions, and busing back to the parking location. Participants also received an [overview](#) presentation on diagrams and [role playing](#) information for the exercise, along with background information on pandemic influenza. American Sign Language interpreters and real-time captioning augmented the verbal presentations.

Lessons Learned - People with Disabilities and Emergency Management

The National Council on Disability (NCD) recently heard from communities around the country on emergency preparedness issues, what works and what does not for people with disabilities. What follows is a [monograph](#) outlining key issues raised and discussions from invited subject matter experts in the field of disability and emergency management and public comment. This monograph is part of a one-year research project on disability issues and disasters that NCD is conducting. The information in this monograph is being released at this time for use by people with disabilities, first responders, policy makers and communities who are actively involved in using lessons learned to improve their emergency preparedness efforts.

CDC Uses Online Social Networks to Market Health

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) believes social networks offer great potential to protect health when accurate and relevant information is shared between trusted peers to support positive and healthy decision making. For this reason, CDC has its own MySpace page and maintains a dialogue with health-oriented sites like Sermo,

News

Public Comment Sought

The National Personal Protective Technology Laboratory (NPPTL) is currently seeking stakeholder input regarding proposed modification to the CBRN APR Statement of Standard to allow for mechanical connectors other than the specified single 40-mm thread connector. See [page 2](#) for more information.

FDA Issues Warning on Cipro

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has identified Ciprofloxacin, a widely prescribed antibiotic and a proposed treatment for pandemic influenza, as potentially causing tendon ruptures. See [page 3](#) for full story.

Salmonella Investigation Update

Since April, 1065 persons infected with Salmonella Saintpaul with the same genetic fingerprint have been identified in 42 states, the District of Columbia, and Canada. See [page 4](#) for more information.

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Daily Strength, and Patients Like Me. CDC recently formed a collaborative partnership with CaringBridge to extend the reach and accessibility of CDC's science-based health information to millions of CaringBridge users. By syndicating the "A-Z" listing of hundreds of different health topics from CDC.gov, CaringBridge users can now connect to CDC's credible [online health messages](#) when looking for health information on the site.

Communications

Emergency and Community Health Outreach (ECHO)

ECHO provides health and safety information by fax, phone, television, internet, and e-mail during emergency and non-emergency times. The program is noteworthy, because outreach materials and television shows are produced in multiple languages, including Spanish, Hmong, Somali, Vietnamese, Lao, and Khmer.



- [ECHO Fact Sheet](#)
- Each month, a twenty-minute [television program](#) on topics ranging from influenza prevention to winter survival is produced in six different languages: Hmong, Khmer, Lao, Somali, Spanish and Vietnamese. The ECHO collaborative owns all of the intellectual property rights in these television programs including title, topics and translations. ECHO grants you a non-exclusive, non-assignable right and license to reproduce and distribute at no charge the television programs, without modification, in the form of videotapes or DVDs.
- [Phone messages](#) change monthly and, during nonemergency times, feature seasonal advice, for example avoiding foodborne illnesses during summer months.

Respirator Document for Public Review and Comment

The National Personal Protective Technology Laboratory (NPPTL) is currently [seeking stakeholder input](#) regarding a request from the Department of Defense (DoD). The request is for a proposed modification to the CBRN APR Statement of Standard to allow for mechanical connectors other than the specified single 40-mm thread connector. The DoD is seeking modification of



the standard to allow DoD first responders to use a newly developed respirator, the Joint Service General Protective Mask (JSGPM), for respiratory protection on military installations in the United States, or when called upon to support civil authorities. The JSGPM uses a bayonet mounted, dual filter design instead of the single standard 40-mm screw mounted canister. DoD's request is to supplement the existing NIOSH standard with an alternate design for DoD application.

Pandemic Planning

At-Risk Populations and Pandemic Influenza Planning

The Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) is pleased to announce the release of *At-Risk Populations and Pandemic Influenza: Planning Guidance for State, Territorial, Tribal, and Local Health Departments*. This [guidance](#) is the product of nearly a year spent reviewing relevant publica-

tions and plans, assembling subject matter expert work groups, and convening public and stakeholder engagement meetings to provide key input during the drafting process. ASTHO hopes that the culmination of this important project will assist public health officials in their pandemic influenza planning efforts.

Transportation and Pandemics

Researchers at the Naval Medical Research Center and the Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy (CIDRAP) authored a [curriculum](#) on how transportation around the world affects pandemics. They touch on transportation as a vector of disease and how the shipping of supplies would be affected. The entire project is available online.

Healthcare Workers' Attitudes towards Working during Pandemic Influenza

Researchers from the University of Birmingham in the United Kingdom published their [study design](#) to judge how willing healthcare workers would be to work during a pandemic. The study will be conducted in two parts: first focus groups will be conducted, and then a survey from the results will be created to gauge the likelihood of healthcare workers working during a pandemic. More details on the upcoming study are available online.

Town Hall Meetings on Pandemic Influenza Planning

The Indiana Department of Health held [town hall meetings](#) on pandemic preparedness issues. A toolkit was provided to community partners that emphasized personal preparedness. Three surveys were distributed after the meetings in order to measure whether the education resulted in preparedness activities. Survey questions apply to the preparedness needs of families, schools, and businesses.



New Doxycycline Home Prep Guidelines

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has posted the new [Doxycycline Home Preparation Instructions](#). These instructions for doxycycline are not to be used except in the case of a declared public health emergency. Although the instructions have not been fully evaluated and will require additional scientific study, the FDA has concluded that the current version of home preparation instructions should be available to public health emergency planners at this time.

FDA Issues Warning on Ciprofloxacin

Federal drug safety officials have imposed the government's most [urgent warning on Ciprofloxacin](#) and similar antibiotics, citing risks that they can cause tendon ruptures, a serious injury that leaves some patients incapacitated. On July 8, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) ordered makers of fluoroquinolone drugs - a potent class of antibiotics, which include Ciprofloxacin, Levaquin, Floxin and other medications - to add a 'black box' warning to their products. Patients should immediately stop taking the medications if they develop any tendon pain, swelling or inflammation.

Reserving Tamiflu® for Workers in Case of Pandemic

Roche Holding AG, maker of Tamiflu®, have proposed [a deal](#) with U.S. employers: pay an annual fee and reserve enough to protect every worker if a new super-flu strikes. The plan, announced July 3, comes as the federal government also begins a new effort to encourage many businesses to stockpile anti-flu drugs in case of a pandemic. Those private stockpiles would supplement a national stockpile that contains enough doses to treat only a fraction of the popu-

lation. The U.S. government, in an unusual move, congratulated Roche on the program and helped to publicize it.

Pandemic Planning Lessons from Thirteen Indiana Counties

Purdue University conducted [a study](#) of local pandemic planning in thirteen counties in Indiana to see if the federal guidance was matching the needs of the locals. This will help to build a state-level template for preparedness planning that would be more effective. The study is available online.

Surveillance

Updates on *Salmonella* Investigation

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is collaborating with public health officials in many states, the Indian Health Service, and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to investigate an ongoing multi-state outbreak of human *Salmonella* serotype Saintpaul infections. An initial epidemiologic investigation comparing foods eaten by ill and well persons identified consumption of raw tomatoes as strongly linked to illness. Recently, many clusters of illnesses have been identified in Texas and other states among persons who ate at restaurants. These clusters have led us to broaden the investigation to be sure that it encompasses food items that are commonly consumed with tomatoes. Since April, 1065 persons infected with *Salmonella* Saintpaul with the same genetic fingerprint have been identified in 40 states, the District of Columbia, and Canada. For the most up-to-date information on the outbreak, visit the [FDA website](#) or [CDC website](#).

Update on *E. coli* Investigation

State departments of health and agriculture in Michigan and Ohio, collaborating local health jurisdictions, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the United States Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service (USDA-FSIS) are investigating a multi-state outbreak of *Escherichia coli* O157:H7 infections. Based on this investigation, as July 2, 41 confirmed cases have been linked both epidemiologically and by molecular fingerprinting to this outbreak, 21 in Michigan and 20 in Ohio. Onset of illness in these patients occurred between May 30 and June 20, 2008. Twenty-two ill persons have been hospitalized. One patient has developed a type of kidney failure called hemolytic-uremic syndrome (HUS). No deaths linked to the outbreak have been reported. Twenty-four (59%) patients are female. Patients range in age from 4 to 78 years with a median age of 20 years. For more information on the recalls, please visit the [USDA-FSIS website](#).



Regional News

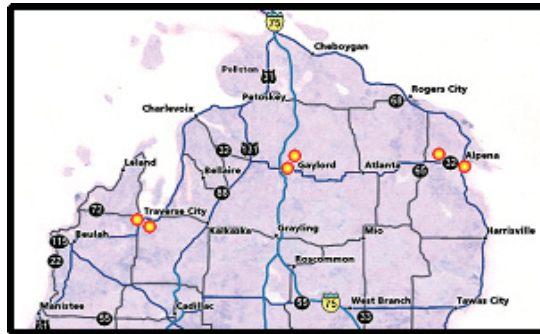
Region 7 Chemical Terrorism Exercise

Since 2002, the regional programs funded by ASPR (and previously by HRSA) have expanded their vision beyond just healthcare, and sought to impact more than just bioterrorism. Today, all our regional programs work with a wide variety of partners to prevent, protect against, respond to and recover from all hazards, whether naturally occurring, accidental or intentional. This change in scope has paid dividends in promoting a strong coalition mentality and common approach to all the mission areas.



To test the capabilities of various disciplines in working together in response to a large-scale incident, the Region 7 Medical Biodefense Network selected a chemical terrorism scenario for its annual full-scale exercise this year. The exercise was aptly named the Region 7 Chemical Terrorism Full-Scale Exercise 2008, or CHEMTERR-08 FSE. Its scenario necessitated a swift and unified response involving hazardous materials, law enforcement, emergency medical services, emergency management, hospital, dispatch, public health and the impacted sites' personnel. Exercise objectives included testing capabilities related to unified command, CHEMPACK deployment, decontamination and patient tracking.

The scenario involved a coordinated release of sarin gas at the Cherry Capital Airport (Traverse City), Otsego County Fairgrounds (Gaylord) and Alpena County Regional Airport (Alpena). To simulate self-reporting patients, a portion of the many actors recruited for the exercise to portray victims reported directly to the hospitals in these three communities (Munson Medical Center, Otsego Memorial Hospital and Alpena Regional Medical Center). This was intended to mimic what occurred during the 1995 Tokyo subway system sarin gas attack. As a result, exercise simulations occurred simultaneously over a 3½-hour period at essentially six incident scenes, in addition to the various local emergency operations centers, dispatch centers and agency command centers.



In all, an estimated 200 agency personnel simulated response and support functions, 120 actors were involved and 50 controllers/ evaluators managed the flow of the exercise and assessed capabilities of the players. The exercise benefited from involvement of a multitude of local agencies, in addition to DHS, TSA, RRT (from multiple regions), the 51st Civil Support Team, the Alpena CRTC, MSP and our colleagues at MDCH. Information gathered through participant and actor feedback forms and the Exercise Evaluation Guides, and during the local hotwashes and the Controller/ Evaluator Debrief, has allowed us to pinpoint several weak points in our capabilities as a region. This information will be synthesized into an exercise After Action Report and Improvement Plan (AAR/IP). The AAR/IP will be shared with key regional partners, and serve as a springboard for planning for preparedness activities for next and subsequent fiscal years.

St. Clair County Purchases GIS Software

St. Clair County purchased eight licenses of GeoBlade Dispatch GIS software from Geographic Technologies Group Inc. (GTG). The [application](#) has the ability to perform historic call mapping, historic automated vehicle location (AVL) mapping, and E-911 call mapping.

Training & Education

MEDDRUN, CHEMPACK, and SNS Trainings

An overview of the Michigan Emergency Drug Delivery and Resource Utilization Network (MEDDRUN), CHEMPACK, and Strategic National Stockpile

programs is now available as a training program on CD. Physician, nurses and pharmacists will benefit from this training by being able to identify the purpose of, difference between, and order of deployment of these critical medication caches within Michigan in the event of an emergency. This no-cost training takes approximately one hour to complete and offers continuing education credits for: Public Health Consortium for Continuing Medical Education, U of M, School of Public Health - One AMA PRA Category 1 credit; Michigan Board of Pharmacy - 1 credit; and Michigan Nurses Association Continuing Education Approval Program (CEAP) - 1 nursing CE. You may submit your request for these training CD(s) by contacting Lindsey Shull at shullL@michigan.gov or by calling the Office of Public Health Preparedness at (517) 335-8652.

Date/Time	Event Description	Location
Online	<p>Survey Design and Methodology for Public Health</p> <p>This seven-week, online, mentored course will provide an overview of the methods for designing, implementing and interpreting a survey to meet program and research objectives in the public health field. Participants will learn to select a proper sample, limit sources of error and format a valid questionnaire for gathering survey data. The course is intended for public health practitioners who may use survey instruments in their work and desire formal training in this area. Visit the Michigan Public Health Training Center website for more information.</p>	Online
Jul. 22, 2008	<p>Improving Disaster Communication: The Role of Poison Centers in Public Health Program</p> <p>objectives include: List three reasons individuals require immediate poison control information during disasters and mass events. Describe the history, organization and role of poison centers in poisoning prevention and education. Illustrate the historical role of poison centers in disaster communication and public health response using specific examples. List the many roles of public health during disasters and mass events. Discuss potential future poison centers' roles in disaster communication and public health response.</p>	OPHP Large Conference Room (517) 335-8150
Jul. 23, 2008 2-3pm	<p>Avian Influenza Response Training For Emergency Responders</p> <p>Learn the importance and need for responder assistance during an HPAI outbreak. Define responder roles in the event of a foreign animal disease incident such as HPAI. Develop an awareness of the potential impact of an outbreak to our nation's poultry industry and economy.</p>	OPHP Large Conference Room (517) 335-8150
Jul. 23-24, 2008	<p>Emergency Planning for Special Needs Populations</p> <p>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.</p>	Lansing
Jul. 24, 2008 3-5pm	<p>Bridge the Gap: Community Surge and Resiliency</p> <p>In the last fifteen months several towns in Alabama and surrounding states have come face-to-face with various disasters. Community leaders and response personnel from these communities will highlight best practices of how they responded to their disaster.</p>	TBD

Date/Time	Event Description	Location
Aug. 12-14, 2008	<p>National Conference on Health Communication and Marketing</p> <p><u>This conference</u> will give participants: an environment to present findings and recommendations from health marketing, communication and media research; an opportunity to network as well as promote information sharing and interdisciplinary collaboration within the health communication, marketing and media community; and advance the practice of health communication, marketing and media through sharing exemplary programs.</p>	Atlanta, GA



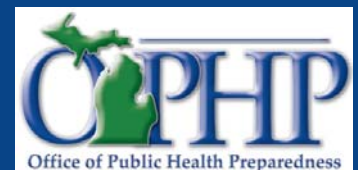
Photo by Lin Taylor



Photo by Renee Brooks



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