

EPRNews

Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
Office of Emergency Preparedness and Response



Colorado Department
of Public Health
and Environment

August 2013

Announcements and Updates

In this edition

Included in this newsletter are announcements and updates, the Colorado Hospital Association update, systems update, epidemiology information and training announcements. If you received this email, but do NOT wish to receive the newsletter, email sarah.werner@state.co.us to be removed from the list.

Save the date!

The fall regional staff meeting will take place October 15-16 in the Denver metro area. More details and specifics are coming soon.

State health department receives \$14.6 million for emergency preparedness

The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment's Office of Emergency Preparedness and Response has received a federal grant of more than \$14.6 million to provide funding to 55 local public health agencies, 18 public health centers, 82 hospitals, 15 community mental health centers and several other partners for emergency preparedness and response.

"The funding we receive from the Department of Health and Human Services is imperative to preparedness, response and recovery activities across the state of Colorado," said OEPR Director Lyle Moore. "The funds are directed toward preparedness efforts with local agencies to build or enhance response and recovery capabilities."

One project supported by this funding is "I'm not scared if I'm prepared." This OEPR project provides kindergarten and first graders with preparedness activities to complete with their families, along with a bag that contains preparedness items such as a pump flashlight, water box and other items. The project was piloted last year in Colorado Springs near the Waldo Canyon burn area, where 5,000 kits were distributed, and will be expanded statewide this year.

"Other recent examples include providing funding to Rio Grande Hospital for additional radios that were used during the West Fork Complex Wildfire, building medical capacity to handle an incident like the bombing at the Boston Marathon, emergency operations and public information during wildfires and supporting preparedness planning and training in long-term care facilities throughout Colorado." Moore said.

In addition, the funding supports the Cities Readiness Initiative, which helps agencies in large metropolitan areas develop plans to quickly dispense antibiotics in response to bioterrorist events. More information on this initiative is available at <http://www.bt.cdc.gov/cri/>.

For more information on the CDPHE Office of Emergency Preparedness and Response, visit their Website at www.colorado.gov/cohealth.

Denver Health Named NACCHO Large Local Health Department of the Year

Denver Health was named the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) Large Local Health Department of the Year. Read more about their outstanding accomplishments on the [NACCHO Website](#).

El Paso County to hold Zombie Run and preparedness fair

As a result of the recent fires and floods in Colorado, El Paso county is making an effort to provide preparedness education to their citizens. As part of these efforts, El Paso County is holding a Zombie Fun Run/Walk on Saturday, Sept. 28, from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Educational booths will be set up to provide disaster preparedness information. Check out the [event Website](#) for more information.

West and Northwest Regions complete “Who Moved My Cheese” exercise



The West and Northwest Regions wrote and completed a public health-focused exercise entitled “Who Moved My Cheese” on July 23. For more on the exercise, including the capabilities that the exercise covered, check out this [article](#) by Mesa County Health Department’s Exercise Coordinator Jeremy Davidson.

According OEPR Training Coordinator Nicole Cantrell, “The exercise was so well written, highlighting these capabilities and focusing on different aspects of emergency preparedness, SNS and POD planning, as well as working to pull together two whole Regions to participate. I was super impressed!”

Colorado Hospital Association Update

For more information, contact deborah.french@cha.com



Physicians find solutions in the face of disaster

This [article](#) from the American Medical News contains information on how physicians affected by emergencies such as the Boston Marathon bombing, Aurora theater shooting and Hurricane Sandy met challenges and expanded their emergency preparedness and response skills.

Registration now open for the National Healthcare Coalition Preparedness Conference

Registration is open for the 2nd Annual National Healthcare Coalition Preparedness Conference. The theme of this year's

conference is "Building the Future Together." This is an excellent opportunity for healthcare coalitions, healthcare organizations, public health, emergency medical services, emergency management and other professionals nationwide to showcase training models, plans, tools and other resources that promote and advance the development of healthcare coalitions and describe effective coalition work. The conference will be held December 11-13, 2013 in New Orleans, La. Registration information is available at www.healthcarecoalitions.org.

Systems Update

Systems Integration Plan

Over the last six months, the systems team within OEPR has been working on a written Systems Integration and Training Plan. This document has several purposes.

The first is to outline the various systems utilized by OEPR and our partners for emergency notifications, communications and training and to describe their primary and alternate uses. This will assist users of the systems in understanding each system better and explain why we utilize more than one.

Second, the document outlines the systems team's plan for integrating the various systems for better overall coordination. There are systems that are best utilized for response activities and others that are best utilized for preparedness activities. By streamlining each system into these categories, we will be better able to manage information and provide more value.

Finally, the document outlines the various training opportunities available for each system and the key contacts for technical assistance and training. As always, users or potential users may call our office to set up a training in their area as needed.

[Download the complete plan here.](#)

CO-SHARE update

Colorado Health Alert and Readiness Exchange (CO-SHARE) is making great progress. We are currently in the final stages of testing, and over the next few weeks CDPHE OEPR will be uploading information into the new Google site. Training for partners will begin early September. Remaining SATool communities and data will then begin to be migrated beginning October 1st.

CDPHE OEPR will be sending out a letter to partner agencies regarding the requirement for a Google Account in order to access the new site. This letter can be shared with senior management and IT and will address the need for the account as well as security and access concerns.

Dialogic contract information

CDPHE OEPR has contracted with our Dialogic vendor through June 30, 2014. A list of alternative solutions has been developed and a Request for Proposals put together so other vendors can submit proposals to provide us with information on their solutions. We want to ensure that if we transfer to another system that we will not be losing any functionality. Upon the selection of a new vendor we will make sure that all contacts, templates, groups, etc. are transferred over to the new system, and we will provide extensive training to everyone. We will also work to see how we can integrate with our

new Google Sites System - Colorado State Health Alert and Readiness Exchange (CO-SHARE). Please contact [Chennelle Valenzuela](#) with any questions.

Systems integration team hires temporary employee

The systems integration team has hired a temporary employee who will begin working at CDPHE on August 12. The employee will be helping with many projects involving the data clean up of our many emergency preparedness systems such as SATool/COHAN, EMResource, CO.TRAIN and Colorado Volunteer Mobilizer. The temporary employee will also help develop system training materials and will be working closely with the State Health Alert Network coordinator to develop a survey to help assess and improve Colorado's Health Alert Network program.

Epidemiology information

Update - Hepatitis A outbreak associated with pomegranate seeds in frozen berry mix

Local, state, and federal public health agencies continue to investigate a multistate outbreak of hepatitis A infections associated with pomegranate seeds in Townsend Farms Organic Anti-Oxidant Blend frozen berry mix and potentially other products. As of July 19, 27 cases have been confirmed in Colorado and 151 cases have been reported nationwide. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has now identified a single large lot of pomegranate seeds imported from Turkey that was a component of the Townsend Farms Organic Antioxidant Blend product consumed by confirmed cases in the outbreak. FDA is now detaining imports of pomegranate seeds from the implicated Turkish firm. Pomegranate seeds from the implicated lot are reported to have been incorporated into multiple products in addition to the Townsend Farms Organic Antioxidant Blend; however, at this point there are no cases of hepatitis A linked to products other than the Townsend Farms Organic Antioxidant Blend.

Update - West Nile virus in Colorado

Since surveillance for West Nile virus (WNV) began in early June in Colorado, 454 pools of Culex species mosquitoes have been tested at the CDPHE or Colorado State University laboratories. As of July 12, 49 (11%) pools have tested positive for WNV from Adams (n=1), Boulder (10), Delta (3), Jefferson (1), Larimer (8), Mesa (15), Pueblo (1), and Weld (10) Counties. As of July 22, only one human case of WNV has been reported in the state (in a Delta County resident with illness onset in late May). Geographically widespread WNV detection in mosquitoes suggests human risk for exposure to WNV from biting mosquitoes. Escalation of public education campaigns to create awareness of disease risk to the general public is advised. The four D's to prevent mosquito bites should be promoted: Dress to protect yourself, Drain standing water, use DEET or other mosquito repellants, and minimize outdoor activity at Dawn and Dusk. WNV information and surveillance statistics can be found under the Data and Statistics tab at:

<http://www.colorado.gov/cs/Satellite/CDPHE-DCEED/CBON/1251607766375>

Training announcements

Join us for the Fifth Annual Volunteer Capacity Building Workshop

All volunteer coordinators and volunteers are invited to attend the Fifth Annual Volunteer Capacity Building Workshop on August 16 at the Beaver Run Resort and Conference Center in Breckenridge, Colo. There's a great agenda for this year's workshop. Please go to <http://bit.ly/volcbw> for a copy of the agenda and information on how to register in Co.TRAIN. Early registration is requested to achieve an accurate count of attendees.

If you have questions, contact Koral O'Brien at koral.obrien@state.co.us or 303-692-2782.

We look forward to seeing you soon!

Vigilant Guard full-scale exercise

The Vigilant Guard Exercise was held the week of July 20-27, with 2,300 National Guard service members from seven states participating with our local hospitals and incident management personnel. The systems team had the opportunity to utilize many of their systems for this exercise - from internal notifications of CDPHE staff through Dialogics to blood bank queries to hospitals through EMResource. Due to the level of ESF-8 involvement in this exercise, we are planning on a special edition of the newsletter dedicated to this exercise with information from each participating hospital, as well as the systems team, to review key activities and lessons learned. Expect to see this edition hitting your mailbox around Aug. 15. If you have information or photos you would like to contribute to this edition, contact [Sarah Werner](#).

OEPR and MWPERLC partner to create preparedness workshops

The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) Office of Emergency Preparedness and Response (OEPR) and the Arizona Mountain West Preparedness and Emergency Response Learning Center (MWPERLC) have partnered to create two Colorado-specific emergency preparedness and response-related online courses. They are:

[Preparedness in Colorado: Environmental Health Aspects of Natural Disasters](#) (CO.TRAIN ID #1041661) - which covers:

- o Environmental health
- o The public health role in responding to environmental challenges associated with incidents
- o Possible health and environmental risks associated with disasters
- o How water quality can impact public health
- o Services that can be compromised prior to an incident and throughout the response and recovery phases of a disaster

[Preparedness in Colorado: Vulnerable Populations](#) (CO.TRAIN ID #1041660) – which covers:

- o Types of Vulnerable populations
- o A type of community engagement process for finding special populations
- o The importance of special needs support systems
- o Barriers to self-sufficiency before, during and after a disaster
- o Non-traditional solutions to barriers including communications and alerts
- o Evacuation and shelter planning considerations for vulnerable populations

We hope you'll take the time to take these courses. Please pass the word along to your other EPR public health partners about these courses. Thank you!

MCICS training held at St. Anthony's pre-hospital facility



A Mass Casualty Incident Command System (MCICS) training was held May 24 and 25, 2013, at St. Anthony's pre-hospital facility. MCICS is designed for anyone responsible for planning or responding to a mass casualty incident.

Attendees learned how to use daily operational guidelines for planning, building and successfully managing a mass casualty incident, while integrating all emergency planning and response disciplines.

This MCICS class was provided to volunteers registered in the Colorado Volunteer Mobilizer.

CoWARN to hold workshop and tabletop exercise

The Colorado Water Wastewater Agency Response Network (CoWARN) will be holding a workshop and tabletop exercise on Oct. 1 related to water and wastewater sector preparedness and response. The workshop and exercise are open to member and non-member utilities as well as response partners. For more information on this workshop, check out the [invitation](#) and [flyer](#).

Systems team to hold training on COHAN and EMResource

The OEPR systems integration team is planning upcoming Webinars on the Colorado Health Alert Network (COHAN) and EMResource.

[COHAN Community Administrator Training](#) is designed for previous COHAN system administrators and those who are interested in becoming a regional or local COHAN community administrator. As a regional or local COHAN Community Administrator, you will help ensure that the Situational Awareness Tool's (SATool) COHAN Community has the most current contact information and alerting attributes assigned to key public health and emergency preparedness contacts within your jurisdiction.

[EMResource for Public Health](#) training will show local public health agencies how EMResource can be used during an emergency event. EMResource is a web-based system that allows for real-time tracking of patients and medical resources during an emergency. This tool is designed for those responsible for managing emergencies: hospitals, dispatch 9-1-1 communication centers, emergency managers, RETACs, EMS/first responders, Rural Health Clinics, and ESF-8 leads, to share information and resources during emergencies in their region. This system can also be used for resource tracking on a day-to-day basis. The training will also provide local public health agencies with the knowledge need to respond to the two state-facilitated EMResource drills taking place this 2012-2013 grant.

Dates and registration information for both these trainings is available in the training calendar below.

North Carolina creates Preparedness Coordinators Tool Kit

The University of North Carolina Center for Public Health Preparedness has created a Preparedness Coordinators Tool Kit to bring together preparedness resources and trainings in a central location. A lot of good information, including an introduction to public health preparedness, behavioral health and legal issues is included in this toolkit located at <http://cphp.sph.unc.edu/pctoolkit/index.html>.

Upcoming trainings

Access the CO.TRAIN calendar at <https://www.co.train.org/DesktopShell.aspx?tabId=143>.

Training name	Date(s)	Time(s)	Location	Contact
COHAN Community Administrator Training	August 13	1 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.	Webinar	Chennelle Valenzuela
ICS 400: Incident Command System	August 14-15	8 a.m. - 5 p.m.	Glenwood Springs	Beth Roome
EMResource for Public Health	August 15	1:30 - 2:30 p.m.	Webinar	Chennelle Valenzuela
Volunteer Capacity Building Workshop	August 16	8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	Breckenridge	Koral O'Brien
G-318: Mitigation Planning Workshop for Local Officials	August 20-21	8 a.m. - 5 p.m.	Centennial	Michael Bean
AWR 148: Crisis Management for School-Based Incidents	August 23	8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	Lamar	Michael Bean
COHAN Community Administrator Training	August 28	1 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.	Webinar	Chennelle Valenzuela
EMResource for Public Health	August 28	10 a.m. - 11 a.m.	Webinar	Chennelle Valenzuela
AWR 148: Crisis Management for School-Based Incidents	August 30	8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	Falcon	Michael Bean
HazMat for First Receivers Instructor Course	September 16-18	9 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.	Colorado Springs	Bill Mayfield
ECRI Institute's Healthcare Environmental Manager Training	September 23-27	All day event	Aurora	Jill Rosenfeld

(HEM) Certification Course				
CoWARN workshop and tabletop	October 1	8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	Westminster	Horsley Witten Group
HICS webinar	Second Monday Third Tuesday	1 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. 8 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.	Webinar	Aubrey Kukral
EMTrack webinar	Third Wednesday	1 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.	Webinar	Aubrey Kukral
EMResource webinar	Fourth Wednesday	1 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.	Webinar	Aubrey Kukral
AWR-307-W: Evacuation and shelter-In-place needs of people with medical dependencies during a disaster (awareness level)	Anytime	Anytime	Webinar	Bill Halstead
PER-302-W: Evacuation and shelter-In-place needs of people with medical dependencies during a disaster (performance level)	Anytime	Anytime	Webinar	Bill Halstead
Preparedness in Colorado: Environmental Health Aspects of Natural Disasters	Anytime	Anytime	Webinar	Nicole Roland
Preparedness in Colorado: Vulnerable Populations	Anytime	Anytime	Webinar	Nicole Roland

Contact Us

Do you have information for this newsletter?

If you have information, questions or comments/suggestions, contact Sarah Werner at sarah.werner@state.co.us, 303-692-6359 or 720-387-5185. **Deadline for submission of Articles for the September edition is Wednesday, August 21 at 5 p.m.**

Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
Office of Emergency Preparedness and Response
4300 Cherry Creek Drive South • Denver, CO 80246-1530
303-692-2030 • 800-886-7689 • www.colorado.gov/cohealth