

# EPRNews

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



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of Public Health  
and Environment

**June 2013**

## **Announcements and Updates**

### **Message from OEPR Director Lyle Moore**

Greetings from OEPR!

Welcome to the first issue of EPRNews, one method of building my vision of a common operating picture for public health and medical preparedness and Response efforts statewide. As we move forward with this effort, please feel free to submit material for inclusion and we will do everything we can to include it. Keeping the public health and medical community and our first responder partners informed of preparedness and response efforts across the state will only improve and solidify response, helping to get the citizens of Colorado back to their normal activities – our ultimate goal. Hopefully this newsletter will start to assist with that goal.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at any time.

Take care,  
Lyle

### **Welcome to EPRNews**

This is the first edition of the Office of Emergency Preparedness and Response's new monthly newsletter. Included in this newsletter are [announcements and updates](#), [grant information](#), [systems updates](#), [news from our partners](#), [epidemiology information](#) and [training announcements](#). If you received this email, but do NOT wish to receive the newsletter, email [sarah.werner@state.co.us](mailto:sarah.werner@state.co.us) to be removed from the list.

### **Staff update**

OEPR has a number of new staff we hope you can get to know. [Attached](#) is information on our team. Scroll down in the document for more on what each person does and their contact information.

## **Grant Information**

### **2013-2014 Grant kickoff calls**

Grant staff will host conference calls to kick off the new grant year in July. The next scheduled FY14 grant information call for local health departments is July 16 from 1 - 2 p.m. It will be repeated July 18 from 10 - 11 a.m. You do not need to participate in both calls. The call in number is 1-877-820-7831 and the passcode is 676520#.

### **Guidance documents to support 2013-2014 work plans**

Watch for the FY14 guidance documents in July 2013. The goal of these guidance documents is to provide clarification and additional details pertaining to next year's work plan. These are "living documents" and will be updated throughout the grant year.

## Systems Update

### New Google Groups for better interagency communications

We have several new Google Groups to streamline communications. These groups have been established with a "state.co.us" email address to help mitigate any issues with receiving messages. You be receiving emails stating you have been added to a Google group. If you receive such an email, but do not wish to be added, please contact the group manager. We will be including a list of our new groups in next month's newsletter.

### Systems integration plan

We have had a lot of questions regarding the systems utilized before, during and after emergencies for public health and medical partners. With all of the upcoming changes to our systems, our team is working on a Systems Integration Plan that outlines all of our preparedness and response systems, the plan for migration and integration of systems over the next year and the training plan for each system. We expect to have a final document ready by the beginning of July 2013. If you are interested in seeing the plan, please contact Lori Hodges at 303-656-5023 or by email at [lori.hodges@state.co.us](mailto:lori.hodges@state.co.us). We also will send the plan out through our email distribution lists.

### Changes expected to systems in 2013

Due to the nature of technology, many changes are expected with our current systems in 2013. These changes include:

- **SATool** - The Situational Awareness Tool (SATool) through CDPHE is no longer supported by its current vendor, which led us through an extensive search for new options. As part of this search, we sent out a survey to partners and stakeholders to determine the strengths and weaknesses of the system and the needs for the future to build a more efficient and effective system. We also surveyed several other states to determine best practices and possible vendors. It was decided, due to the State's new use of Google, to use Google Sites as our new platform for this system. A vendor is available to assist in the migration of all data to the new platform. Chennelle Valenzuela sent out a poll to determine the new name for this site. The winning name by most votes is CO-SHARE, an acronym for "Colorado State Health Alert and Readiness Exchange." This site will be the primary preparedness platform for all public health and medical partners in Colorado. The system will be used to collaborate on planning, training, exercising and progress reporting as well as health, medical and emergency alerting. A project schedule has been developed to track tasks and ensure the project stays on schedule. The schedule can be viewed here:  
<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheet/ccc?key=0AtE4WmFv94tHdEF3QWRRZ2FhenNIX3Vya25yZEdNMnc&usp=sharing>.
- Action items:
  - A survey will be sent out to local partners to collect feedback on current SATool features, data and other functions that are critical to migrate over to the new system. We also will solicit

feedback on any needed enhancements.

- Document library and contact/user clean up should occur between June and August. Local and regional staff can begin taking a look at contacts and files within their jurisdictions and delete outdated information or update information prior to the migration. CDPHE will help with this task. Our goal will be to have at least 25 percent fewer files in each regional folder.
  - Any questions can be directed to Chennelle Valenzuela at [chennelle.valenzuela@state.co.us](mailto:chennelle.valenzuela@state.co.us).
- **EMSystem / WebEOC** - At the beginning of 2013, the owners of EMSystem acquired WebEOC, the primary system in the State of Colorado for emergency management situational awareness and resource coordination. This acquisition will create opportunities for integration of the two systems and enable CDPHE and State OEM to work closely to build a robust response and recovery tool for emergency management, public health and medical partners. Again, updates will come throughout the year and we will push this information out as it becomes available.
    - Action items:
      - We are seeking input from local public health and medical partners on the future use of both of these systems. We are working with State OEM on public health and medical boards in WebEOC, we are adding public health and medical resources into the resource boards in WebEOC and we have an EMSystem User Group established to work through future use of each system from a public health and medical perspective. If interested in being a part of this group, please contact [Lori Hodges](#).
- **CO.TRAIN** - We have two employees assisting with [CO.TRAIN](#) needs while Greg Schlosser works in an interim assignment within another division at CDPHE. Please contact Chennelle Valenzuela at [chennelle.valenzuela@state.co.us](mailto:chennelle.valenzuela@state.co.us) or Kristen Campos at [kristen.campos@state.co.us](mailto:kristen.campos@state.co.us) for assistance with CO.TRAIN. We also are in the process of making some changes to CO.TRAIN to make it less CDPHE-specific. There currently are more than 160 different agencies using the system for learning management and we want the system to appeal to all types of learners and course providers.

## EMSystem trainer

CDPHE has contracted with Intermedix for a full-time EMSystem trainer to provide training on the three modules utilized in the State of Colorado: EMResource, EMTrack and EM-HICS. If interested in any training on these programs, please contact our Intermedix contractor, Kim Richardson, at 501-425-9055 or by email at [kim.richardson@intermedix.com](mailto:kim.richardson@intermedix.com).

In addition, EMSystem will be holding monthly webinars covering the systems above. The odd number months will review EMResource and EMTrack from the basic/end user level. The even number months cover those products from an Administrator level. HICS is broken up into quarters. The first month covers the Planning Section (IAPs, ICS chart, Documents Library and Contacts). The second month reviews creating an incident and managing the incident. The third month covers reports, best practices, reviews upcoming changes and any other topics that are suggested.

- The HICS webinars are held on the 2nd Monday (1 - 2:30 p.m. Mountain time) and the 3rd Thursday (8 - 9:30

a.m. Mountain time).

- EMTrack is the 3rd Wednesday of each month from 1 - 2:30 p.m. Mountain time.
- EMResource is the 4th Wednesday of each month from 1 - 2:30 p.m. Mountain time.

If you have any questions or concerns, contact our EMS System Administrator, Aubrey Kukral, at [aubrey.kukral@state.co.us](mailto:aubrey.kukral@state.co.us) or by phone at 303-619-8902.

### **Response update**

As part of the ESF 8 Branch, we have been working in collaboration with the State ESF 8 Steering Committee to develop a training course on public health and medical (ESF 8) responsibilities during and after emergencies. This course is under final review and will be available to present to all public health and medical partners after July 1.

The next steps for this project include the development of a tabletop exercise to walk through the process at the local level, and a workbook outlining key concepts for public health and medical roles and responsibilities and resource management for this function.

### **News from our partners**

#### **El Paso County Completes Colorado's First CASPER**

In April 2013, El Paso County Public Health (EPCPH), in conjunction with emergency managers and behavioral health partners within El Paso County, completed the state's first Community Assessment for Public Health Emergency Response (CASPER). CASPER is a tool developed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to rapidly assess the health status and basic needs of a community affected by a disaster. CASPER can also be used to collect information about a community prior to a disaster in order to assess preparedness levels. Data collected through the CASPER process assists public health and emergency managers prioritize response efforts and make informed decisions regarding resource distribution.

The EPCPH CASPER was focused on households in the Waldo Canyon wildfire burn scar area that have a high or heightened risk of flooding. Randomly selected households in this area were questioned about emergency preparedness, information sources during an emergency, barriers to evacuation and post-disaster behavioral health practices. Based on the results of the CASPER, several recommendations for emergency planners were made around public education, communication methods, and post-disaster behavioral health.

The final CASPER report can be found at the EPCPH website: <http://www.elpasocountyhealth.org/news/articles-publications>

#### **Colorado Hospital Association newsletter**

The Colorado Hospital Association also has a regular newsletter called "Emergency Preparedness News." Check out their most recent edition, "[Lessons Learned from Hurricane Sandy](#)." If you are interested in subscribing to this newsletter, contact [RayAnn Rodriguez](#).

## Epidemiology information

### **New Avian Influenza Strain in China: Influenza A H7N9**

Human infections with a new avian influenza A H7N9 virus were detected in China in March 2013. Prior to this, H7N9 viruses had never been detected in humans, but they are commonly found in poultry. Evidence suggests that most people have been infected with the H7N9 virus after having contact with infected poultry or contaminated environments. Most of the reported human cases of this virus have had serious illness. Symptoms of H7N9 infection in humans are similar to other influenza virus infections (high fever, cough); however, many cases progressed to serious illness including severe pneumonia, acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS), septic shock, and multi-organ failure leading to death. So far, the virus is not spreading easily from person-to-person. Chinese health officials are closely monitoring the situation to determine if the virus gains the ability to spread easily from person-to-person, which could then potentially cause a pandemic. Currently, there is no vaccine to protect humans against the virus, but CDC and other organizations are working to develop a vaccine if it is needed. No cases of H7N9 have been detected in the United States, and the risk to people in the United States is considered to be low. In Colorado, clinicians are asked to contact CDPHE if they learn of a person with influenza-like illness with recent travel to China or recent contact with a confirmed human case of influenza A H7N9 infection. As of May 24, 2013, 131 cases have been identified in China, 36 of whom have died.

Additional information about influenza A H7N9 can be found at: <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/avianflu/h7n9-virus.htm>

### **Novel Coronavirus in the Middle East: Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS-CoV)**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the World Health Organization (WHO) and the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) continue to track and investigate cases of Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV). Coronaviruses are common worldwide, and usually cause respiratory illness such as the "common cold." MERS-CoV was discovered in 2012 and has caused severe respiratory illness in adults in the Middle East or adults who are linked to people that have traveled to the Middle East. MERS-CoV is different from other coronaviruses seen in humans; however, genetic sequencing reveals it is similar to coronaviruses in bats. There is evidence of some human-to-human transmission with this virus, and the main modes of transmission are being investigated by public health officials. There are no antiviral medications or vaccines available for MERS-CoV. Diagnostic laboratory testing kits have been sent to state laboratories in the 15 states that have the most residents or travelers from the Middle East. The Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment Laboratory does not currently have the kit, but can forward specimens to CDC if necessary. As of May 29, 2013, 49 cases have been identified, 24 of whom have died.

For additional information, please visit the CDC website: <http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/ncv/case-def.html>

## Training Announcements

### 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
<a href="#">Mesa County Spring PIO Retreat</a>	June 7	7:30 a.m. - 4:15 p.m.	Ute Water Conservancy District 2190 H1/4 Rd. Grand Junction	<a href="#">Christy McGee</a>
<a href="#">CO.TRAIN user training</a>	June 11 June 25	10 a.m. - noon	Webinar	<a href="#">Lori Hodges</a>
<a href="#">EMResource for public health</a>	June 7	10 a.m. - 11 a.m.	Webinar	<a href="#">Lori Hodges</a>
<a href="#">Colorado Community Health Network Public Communications Face to Face</a>	June 10	8 a.m. - 5 p.m.	History Colorado Museum, Denver	<a href="#">Kyle Greufe</a>
<a href="#">Radiation Response Volunteer Corps</a>	June 14 June 15	8 a.m. - 5 p.m.	Mesa County Health Department, Grand Junction	<a href="#">Koral O'Brien</a>
<a href="#">MCICS 400</a>	June 14 June 15	8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. 8:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.	NorthCare Building 6071 E Woodmen Rd Colorado Springs	<a href="#">RayAnn Rodriguez, CHA</a>
<a href="#">How Best to Protect: Shelter-in-Place or Evacuation Workshop</a>	June 17 June 18	9 a.m. - 4 p.m. 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Embassy Suites Denver Tech Center 10250 East Costilla Ave. Centennial	<a href="#">RayAnn Rodriguez, CHA</a>
<a href="#">HSEEP</a>	June 19-21	All day	Colorado Springs	<a href="#">Nicole Cantrell</a>
<a href="#">How Best to Protect: Shelter-in-Place or Evacuation Workshop</a>	June 20 June 21	9 a.m. - 4 p.m. 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Valley View Hospital 1906 Blake Ave. Glenwood Springs	<a href="#">RayAnn Rodriguez, CHA</a>
HICS webinar	Second Monday Third Tuesday	1 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. 8 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.	Webinar	<a href="#">Aubrey Kukral</a>
EMTrack webinar	Third Wednesday	1 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.	Webinar	<a href="#">Aubrey Kukral</a>
EMResource webinar	Fourth Wednesday	1 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.	Webinar	<a href="#">Aubrey Kukral</a>

### Upcoming exercises and drills

For a complete 2013 drill schedule, go to [https://docs.google.com/document/d/14TBK2AQBxhemO9lpjRRWh-xQXLM8\\_bSXNXlfg-7NU/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/14TBK2AQBxhemO9lpjRRWh-xQXLM8_bSXNXlfg-7NU/edit?usp=sharing).

Drill name	Date(s)	Time(s)	Location	Contact
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Regional public health SNS RSS to RTP	June 5	TBD	National Western Stock Complex, Denver	<a href="#">Lori Hodges</a>
NDMS Exercise	June 5	All day	Denver International Airport	<a href="#">Nicole Cantrell</a>
CDPHE systems (Dialogic, HAN-Fax, EMResource, SATool Secure Message[tent.])	June 20	All day	Virtual	<a href="#">Lori Hodges</a>

## 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](mailto:sarah.werner@state.co.us), 303-692-6359 or 720-387-5185.

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