

EPRNews

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



Colorado Department
of Public Health
and Environment

September 2013

Announcements and Updates

In this edition

This month we are sharing 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.

Capability presentations now available on EPR Website

Office of Emergency Preparedness and Response Program Evaluator Rachel Coles has created presentations outlining each of the HPP and PHEP capabilities. Check out these presentations, along with a capability and performance measure list on the [OEPR Website](#).

CDPHE OEPR awarded SERG grant

The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment's (CDPHE) Office of Emergency Preparedness and Response (OEPR) was awarded a \$500,000 Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration Emergency Response Grant (SERG) to meet ongoing behavioral health needs stemming from the Aurora theatre shooting. The SERG will fund the Aurora Trauma Recovery Program through the Aurora Mental Health Center and will work in partnership with the **Aurora Strong** Community Resilience Center.

The program will provide the city of Aurora:

- Expanded trauma recovery treatments through the Aurora Mental Health Center
- Crisis counseling and outreach services to the community as a whole
- Suicide prevention efforts through community education and outreach
- Expanded in-school mental health services at an Aurora high school

"The SERG allows Aurora Mental Health to provide crucial recovery-focused services in partnership with a wide range of community partners, including the City and the recently-launched Aurora Strong Community Resilience Center," said OEPR Behavioral Health Program Manager Curt Drennen. "This new approach has the potential of becoming a model for other communities across the nation for community crisis recovery-focused services and strengthening resilience."

CDPHE OEPR awarded Crisis Counseling Program grant

The Office of Emergency Preparedness and Response within the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment will be administering the Crisis Counseling Program (CCP) grant awarded to the state of Colorado following the Black Forest Fire. This grant will be contracted to Aspen Pointe Health Services (the behavioral health provider for El Paso County) to hire a group of crisis counselors to go out into the community and provide educational information, crisis counseling services and referrals to other community resources.

The program will run initially for 60 days where the counselors will focus on meeting with individuals and groups to support their needs related to stress following the fires this summer. Following that 60 days, the program will broaden its services

to target the larger community with more media information and general public education regarding common reactions to stress and the impacts that are routine in communities following disaster. The broader education will focus on reducing stress in the community, getting community members connected with resources to meet lingering needs and leaving a legacy of knowledge and understanding following the event. This part of the program will last nine months and work with other community organizations and recovery groups to support their services with addressing the psychological and social needs.

September is National Preparedness month

Are you looking for ideas on activities you can undertake for National Preparedness Month? Check out these free online resources from FEMA.

[IS-909: Community Preparedness: Implementing Simple Activities for Everyone](#) helps participants define preparedness, describe the role of individuals and households in preparedness, identify community preparedness principles, describe the purpose of community-based preparedness activities, identify the steps for planning and conducting a community-based preparedness program and identify resources for supporting community-based preparedness programs.

[The Preparedness Activities for Communities Everywhere Toolkit](#) (available in English and Spanish) can educate individuals about simple steps they can take to become more prepared.

To share your National Preparedness Month activities, or to get additional ideas, please contact [Sarah Werner](#) or [Barbara Beiser](#).

Volunteer Capacity Building Workshop held



Jen Scott, Max Khaytsus and Shadow conduct search and rescue operations during the exercise

The 5th Annual Volunteer Capacity Building Workshop was held on August 16 at the Beaver Run Resort and Conference Center in Breckenridge. A total of 119 attendees from all walks of volunteering were there including: Medical Reserve Corps (MRC), Colorado Volunteer Mobilizer (CVM), Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT), veterinary volunteers, behavioral health volunteers, Red Cross, Mile High United Way and others.

Eighteen different sessions were provided throughout the day for the attendees, including moulage training, situational awareness, build a kit in a year and Emergency Support Function 8 (ESF8).

During lunch, there was an award ceremony, with four volunteers and two groups receiving awards.

The last event of the day was a tornado exercise, where the volunteers simulated providing search and rescue and providing minor medical attention, while referring those needing more serious treatment to a hospital. Veterinarians were able to provide animal care and the behavioral health volunteers assisted with those that needed help.

For more photos of this event, check out our [Facebook page](#).

End of year capabilities reporting guidance now available

As with the mid-year assessments, we will be asking local agencies to submit six spreadsheets for capabilities: fatality management, information sharing, mass care, non-pharmaceutical interventions, responder safety and health and volunteer management. They are the same spreadsheet macros we provided at mid-year in the prior fiscal year with the same questions, in order to gather the similar data from the baseline we used at mid-year. This covers your activities between January 1, 2013, and June 31, 2013.

PHEP Spreadsheets:

- Macro-enabled Excel spreadsheets are available in SATool for your convenience. They are located in each county folder along this SATool path: COHAN/Document Library/Grant Guidance/HPP PHEP Grant Alignment/PHEP Local End Of Year Assessments/LPHAs/[Your county]/End Of Year PHEP Data. In this subfolder, you will find the blank spreadsheets. Please download them, fill them out and upload the completed documents back into the end of year PHEP data subfolder in your county file folder. If you find a community preparedness spreadsheet, please ignore it. It is not necessary to report on this for the end of year report.
- Please ensure that the macros are enabled as some security systems will automatically try to disable them.
- There is a dropdown option for questions requiring a 'yes' or 'no' answer.
- In fields that ask for a number, it is only possible to enter a number.
- Please do not alter the spreadsheets in any way since they are macro-enabled for upload into a master

document, and altering them could make the macros unusable.

All documents must be uploaded to SATool by close of business Wednesday, September 18, 2013.

Should you have questions, please contact your RPOC or program evaluator Rachel Coles. Rachel can be contacted at: 303-692-2764 or rachel.coles@state.co.us.

OEPR presents awards to Gurule and Trocheck



Judy Yockey of the Office of Emergency Preparedness and Response recently presented awards to Kathi Gurule of the Southern Ute Tribe and John Trocheck of the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe for their dedication and continued support of public health and emergency preparedness with the State of Colorado. As representatives of their tribes, Gurule and Trocheck have been key partners with the State and the Southwest Region for more than 10 years.

SNS updates

SNS Plan Template Orientation for Regional Staff

The next SNS plan template webinar is Wednesday, September 4, from 9 a.m. - 11 a.m. You can register on [CO.TRAIN using Course # 1045838](#). Participation in one of these webinars is mandatory for all regional staff as outlined in the contract's Scope of Work.

CDC Resource: New SNS Security Video Available

CDC has released a new video to assist with building partnerships between law enforcement agencies and public health agencies preparing for a medical countermeasure (MCM) response. The 16-minute video describes the role of law enforcement in an MCM response and highlights several successful partnerships from around the country. The video is posted on the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) extranet at https://www.orau.gov/snsnet/resources/videos/SNS_Security.htm. This site is password-protected.

If you have any questions or comments about any of this information, please contact Melanie Simons at 303-692-2950 or melanie.simons@state.co.us.

2013-2014 Grant Scope of Work Guidance now available

The 2013-2014 Grant Scope of Work Guidance is now available on the [OEPR Website](#). The document provides general guidance regarding the execution of this year's workplans. Please continue to utilize your State Regional Point of Contact (SRPOC) to answer questions or address concerns.

Children's Hospital Colorado offers Hazard Vulnerability Assessment tool

Children's Hospital Colorado is releasing an improved hazard vulnerability assessment tool designed to assist emergency and risk managers in identifying events that could affect facility operations. The new tool, Community Hazard Vulnerability

Assessment, builds upon past hazard vulnerability tools and the four phases of emergency management. “It was designed to assist emergency and risk managers in identifying gaps in their emergency management programs,” said Philip Niemer, System Administrator for Operational Continuity at Children’s Colorado. The tool represents a step forward from the traditional hazard vulnerability assessment used by many hospitals.

The updated Community Hazard Vulnerability Assessment (CHVA) is based upon the work of many partners including Children’s Hospital Colorado and a Wisconsin Department of Health Services workgroup consisting of state and local emergency management and public health departments, tribal health and hospital emergency planners. The CHVA incorporates the four phases of emergency management and takes an all-hazards approach to address national and local planning scenarios.

Some of the improvements include:

1. Response column added under probability.
2. Three distinct ways to evaluate the data (occurrence, response, and non-weighted).
3. Extensive listing of potential events affecting the facility.
4. Ability to better document input from external partners.
5. Multiple graphs for identifying gaps in the four phases of emergency management, both internal and external.
6. **Print Tab** to shorten the CHVA to one page.
7. **Additional Tabs** to document compliance with accrediting/regulatory groups.

The CHVA tool was not designed to instruct a user in how to complete a hazard vulnerability assessment nor does it require the use of all listed events. However, the CHVA is fully customizable and the user can modify the CHVA for their own facilities’ needs. The tool also may be used for continuity of operations planning (COOP), information technology disaster planning, and business continuity. The tool is not locked and is being offered free to anyone under a General Public License.

ESF 8 presentation now available online

A Presentation on ESF 8 (Public health, medical and mortuary) is now available [online](#). This presentation provides a basic overview of ESF 8 responsibilities along with Colorado-specific information.

NACCHO announces latest efforts in administrative preparedness

NACCHO recently released two new reports to assist local health departments (LHDs) in streamlining their administrative processes to allow their agency to respond more quickly to disasters and emergencies. NACCHO developed these reports with the support of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services’ Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR). These reports, focused on expediting administrative and emergency procurement processes during an emergency, are the latest results from an ongoing effort to assist health departments in assessing, building and improving their administrative preparedness capacity and capability.

The first report, [“Administrative Preparedness Authorities: Suggested Steps for Health Departments.”](#) examines existing and potential authorities that may provide health departments with the capability to expedite administrative preparedness processes during an emergency. The report suggests a five-step process for health departments to assess their administrative preparedness authorities and outlines some of the declarations and other authorities currently available across the country.

NACCHO’s second report, [“Administrative Preparedness: Emergency Procurement Strategies for Health Departments.”](#) assists health department officials and fiscal agents in assessing their day-to-day procurement capacity and establishing what impact an emergency may have on the procurement process within their agencies. The report identifies five factors that influence the ability of health departments to expedite their procurement processes. Health officials can use the included checklist to assess their administrative preparedness in tandem with their procurement partners.

For more on these tools, go to <http://newsmanager.commpartners.com/nacchoa/issues/2013-07-24/index.html>.

Colorado Emergency Management Conference call for speakers

The 2014 Emergency Management Conference Committee is dedicated to improving the Colorado Emergency Management Conference by building on past success and needs your creativity and subject-matter expertise.

The Colorado Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management and the Colorado Emergency Managers Association (CEMA), have joined forces with public health and medical, fire, law enforcement, local and county government, EMS and private citizens to develop a comprehensive conference agenda with a theme of “Partner Integration – Your Piece of the Puzzle.”

The anticipated date of the conference is February 25-27, 2014. This three-day conference will feature speakers from across the state on a range of topics including health and medical, emergency management, emergency medical response and law enforcement and fire, designed to empower all emergency support functions to become better integrated risk managers in their fields. This year’s call for speakers is one step toward producing a vibrant and educational conference.

This conference is more than emergency management-based, though this remains an important topic. The committee is committed to integration, all-hazards community risk reduction, instructional methodology and program improvement. Part of the efforts to improve this conference is the approach to scheduling speakers and presentations for 50-minute breakout sessions. Those in the emergency management field are invited to propose presentation topics for this conference. The only limit to course topics is your imagination within the conference theme, “Partner Integration – Your Piece of the Puzzle.”

Note that the **proposals are due to the Conference Committee at the close of business on Thursday, October 31, 2013.**

Registration for attendees will begin around November 1. The Conference Committee will send out updates on the DHSEM and CEMA websites.

Please use the following link to submit a Speaker Presentation Submission:

<https://docs.google.com/a/state.co.us/forms/d/1f57SzGnvGFSjJclXFTWQqyS-jGzD7XkCK1YXXt7x2Ac/edit>

If you have any questions or issues, please email cdps_seoc_logistics@state.co.us.

Colorado Hospital Association Update

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



University of Utah Burn Center provides wildland firefighter burn injury guidelines for care

The University of Utah Burn Center has created a [wildland firefighter burn injury guidelines for care](#) document for hospitals who may take care of injured wildland firefighters. The first page contains demographics and hazards specific to wildland firefighting in addition to some important information for initial providers. The pages that follow contain the following:

- Initial First Aid for Minor Burns
- EMS treatment guidelines
- Burn Estimate and Diagram
- Adult Pain Medication Guidelines
- Fluid Infusion Rate for patients greater than 30 kg
- Initial Management Guidelines for the Adult Burn Patient
- Wound Management Treatment Guidelines
- Outpatient Wound Care Instructions
- Physical Therapy Guidelines
- Telehealth / Telemedicine Instructions
- Burn Anticipated Resource Table

This information was adapted from the Utah Burn Disaster Crisis Standards of Care (BDCSC) so that it would be applicable for everyday use.

Systems Update

SATool update

The new Colorado State Health Alert and Readiness Exchange (CO-SHARE) site will replace our Situational Awareness Tool (SATool) and Progress Reporting System (PRS). The vendor still is working through some bugs in the system, and we are in the process of finishing testing, developing cheat sheets and user guides, scheduling trainings and uploading resources and data into the new site. Training will begin in early September, and we will share dates for training once it's scheduled.

SATool will remain operational until June 30, 2014, so if there is a need to share information with your partners at this time you can continue to use this secure site. All data will be transferred over to our new Google site.

There is a deliverable in your scopes of work that references the creation of a gmail account. Since we are still working through the protocol for access, please do **not** complete this deliverable. Once we know the exact procedures for access, we will provide detailed instructions.

Lastly, there may be some agencies that have begun to complete deliverables for this grant year. Until the progress reporting section of the CO-SHARE site is complete, please work with your Regional Point of Contact to discuss the best way to document completion of the deliverables as deadlines approach.

If you have any questions about the site, please contact chennelle.valenzuela@state.co.us.

Save the date for EMTrack and EMResource training

The Southwest Regional Emergency and Trauma Advisory Council scheduled several dates for training on EMResource and EMTrack. The trainings, which are open to anyone who uses the systems, will be held in Archuleta County on September 16, LaPlata County on September 17 and Montezuma County on September 18. Please bring a laptop or EMS tough book and EMTrack scanner, if available.

For more specific information on these trainings, go to <http://www.eventbrite.com/event/7965395713>.

Communications Surge Network

EMResource often is used as an effective tool during mass casualty incident (MCI) management. While communications technicians can appreciate the benefits of EMResource, many rural areas of Colorado only are able to staff one dispatcher during a shift. Understandably, the rural dispatchers fear being overwhelmed by radio traffic from multiple agencies as well as by increased telephone activity during a large incident, and question their ability to use EMResource during these times.

The Communications Surge Network (CSN) has been established to meet this need. The purpose of this tool is to provide a secondary backup dispatcher from a remote communications center. This role is defined to assist the local communications office or emergency manager (and personnel on scene) by coordinating patient dispersal to receiving hospitals during an MCI, using EMResource. The objective of the CSN is to help establish a network of communications centers to be voluntary collaborative partners with other communications centers.

The EMSystem Work Group established a CSN subcommittee to continue work on this tool. The group is developing policies, procedures and agreements for the system. Once these procedures and agreements are in place, there will be training for agencies that want to participate in this program.

This subcommittee also will present information about CSN at the upcoming Association of Public Communications Officers (APCO), Consolidated Communications Network of Colorado (CCNC) and National Emergency Number Association (NENA) Conference October 9-11 in Longmont. This presentation will include an overview of the program along with a discussion about future uses of the tool and steps forward. For more information about this conference, you can go to the Colorado APCO site, which has conference details.

<https://apco-co.org/State-Conference.html>

Additionally, if you are interested in more information about CSN or if you would like to be on the work group, please contact [Aubrey Kukral](#) at 303-619-8902.

Epidemiology information

Colorado West Nile Virus Update

Since surveillance for West Nile virus (WNV) began in early June, 2019 pools of Culex species mosquitoes have been submitted to the CDPHE Laboratory for WNV testing. Mosquito pools have been submitted from Adams, Arapahoe, Boulder, Delta, Garfield, Jefferson, Larimer, Mesa, Morgan, Prowers, Pueblo and Weld counties. As of August 19, 352 (17.4 percent) pools have tested positive for WNV from Adams (12), Arapahoe (2), Boulder (58), Delta (5), Garfield (4), Jefferson (4), Larimer (177), Mesa (32), Morgan (7), Prowers (2), Pueblo (2) and Weld (47) counties. In 2012 during this same period, 124 (8.9 percent) mosquito pools were positive out of 1387 tested.

As of August 19, WNV infections have been reported in 36 people in Colorado. Thirteen of these 36 patients had neuroinvasive WNV infections (i.e., meningitis or encephalitis or acute flaccid paralysis, which are more severe manifestations of WNV infection). Overall, less than one percent of people infected with WNV will develop neuroinvasive disease. The fatality rate for these patients is approximately 10 percent. The risk of developing neuroinvasive disease increases with increasing age. It is estimated that about two percent of those 65 years or older may develop neuroinvasive disease. Most WNV fever and meningitis patients will recover fully, though symptoms such as fatigue may persist for weeks or months. Encephalitis patients are often more negatively impacted, and can require assistance with activities of daily living for some time following hospitalization. In addition, these patients report memory and concentration problems for up to a year following the infection. Acute flaccid paralysis may occur in some WNV infected patients. These patients experience a polyomyelitis-like syndrome and may develop single or multiple extremity paralysis. Paralysis and infection associated deficits can continue for months or longer.

There is no licensed human vaccine to prevent WNV infections. Therefore, prevention strategies are key to reducing cases of human illness. Personal protective measures such as the four D's (DEET or other effective repellents, drain, dusk & dawn, and dress) can be effective if these recommendations are followed. Integrated pest management programs are also effective at decreasing the size of vector mosquito populations, and reducing the number of WNV infected biting mosquitoes.

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

MMRS to hold evacuation workshop

The Metropolitan Medical Response System (MMRS) is scheduled to conduct an evacuation seminar November 18-19 at the Denver Marriott DTC. The audience for this event includes hospitals, long-term care facilities, home health partners, emergency managers, public health officials, emergency responders and mass care partners. The workshop will cover many of the critical evacuation considerations for health facilities, including lessons learned and best practices from areas previously affected by disasters. Please save the date for this important seminar.

More information is available on the [course flyer](#).

COWARN to host workshop and tabletop exercise

Colorado's Water / Wastewater Agency Response Network (COWARN) will be hosting a free workshop and tabletop exercise on Tuesday, October 1, at the Westminster Public Safety Center. The exercise will be based on a hypothetical incident designed to bring together agencies representing water and wastewater services, and county and state agencies and public safety to discuss roles and responsibilities during an incident. The experience is open to member utilities and non-member utilities, as well as response partners that are interested in joining or learning more about CoWARN. [Click here](#) to register.

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
EMTrack and	September 16	1 p.m.-4 p.m.	Archuleta County	Karel Longan

EMResource training			EOC 777 County Road 600 Pagosa Springs	
EMTrack and EMResource training	September 17	9 a.m.-12 p.m.	Durango Fire and Rescue Authority 142 Sheppard Dr Durango	Karel Longan
EMTrack and EMResource training	September 18	9 a.m.-12 p.m.	Southwest Memorial Hospital Annex Building (conference room) 20 S. Market St. Cortez	.Karel Longan
EmTrack and EMResource drill day	September 19	9 a.m. - 11 a.m.	Online	Karel Longan
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 (HEM) Certification Course	September 23-27	All day event	Aurora	Jill Rosenfeld
Behavioral Health Disaster Coordinator's meeting	September 25	All day event	Breckenridge area	Curt Drennen
Colorado Behavioral Healthcare Council 2013 Annual Conference	September 26-30	All day event	Breckenridge	Curt Drennen
CoWARN workshop and tabletop	October 1	8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	Westminster	Horsley Witten Group
APCO, CCNC and NENA Conference	October 9-11	All day event	Longmont	Aubrey Kukral
Fall 2013 EPR Regional Staff meeting	October 15-16	8 a.m. - 5 p.m.	Denver area	Kristen Campos
MMRS Evacuation Seminar	November 18-19	18 a.m. - 5 p.m.	Denver	Lisa Ciazza or Melinda Malamoco
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 October edition is Wednesday, September 25, at 5 p.m.**

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