



# Region 6 Healthcare Preparedness Newsletter

September 2007

Volume 2, Number 8

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## September is National Preparedness and NOAA Weather Radio Month!

"Washington State will observe National Preparedness Month, Weather Radio Awareness Month and 9-1-1 Day in September. Preparedness month encourages everyone including homeowners, businesses, schools, healthcare providers, and government agencies to review emergency response plans and 911 procedures as well as to participate in a statewide earthquake drill on September 19 between 10AM and 10:30AM." As part of Preparedness Month observance emergency preparedness information will be available on the Washington State Emergency Management Division website at:

[www.emd.wa.gov/preparedness/prep\\_campaign.shtml](http://www.emd.wa.gov/preparedness/prep_campaign.shtml)

Events to put on your calendar include:

- **September 11:** 9-1-1 Day, recognizes the 9-1-1 Public Safety personnel for a job well done and the 9-1-1 capabilities available in Washington
- **September 19:** Statewide earthquake drill and tsunami communication test to be conducted between 10AM and 10:30AM
- **September 26:** Storm Preparedness Day, encouraging everyone to prepare for severe weather events in advance of winter - highlighting the use of weather radios for emergency warning information.



## CO Poisoning and Safety

The month of September also recognizes CO Poisoning and Safety. Carbon monoxide (CO) is an odorless, colorless gas that can cause sudden illness and death if inhaled. CO is produced whenever any fuel such as gas, oil, kerosene, wood, or charcoal is burned. It is important to never burn charcoal inside homes to cook or heat and only use a generator outdoors and far away from open windows and vents.

CO poisoning prevention flyers are available in 14 languages on the Public Health-Seattle & King County website

<http://www.metrokc.gov/health/disaster/carbon-monoxide/>

## Information FDA Approves Second Generation Smallpox Vaccine *September 1, 2007*

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has licensed a new vaccine to protect against smallpox, a highly contagious disease with the potential to be used as a deadly bioterror weapon.



The vaccine, ACAM2000, is intended for the inoculation of people at high risk of exposure to smallpox and could be used to protect individuals and populations during a bioterrorist attack. It will be included in the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Strategic National Stockpile of medical supplies.

"The licensure of ACAM2000 supplements our current supply of smallpox vaccine, meaning we are more prepared to protect the population should the virus ever be used as a weapon," said Jesse L. Goodman, M.D., M.P.H., director of FDA's Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research. "This vaccine is manufactured using modern cell culture technology allowing rapid and large scale production of a vaccine with consistent product quality."

"Smallpox could be a particularly dangerous biological threat to us that would kill or debilitate a high percentage of the population," said Rear Adm. W. Craig Vanderwagen, M.D., assistant secretary for preparedness and response, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. "The licensing of ACAM2000 will make us better prepared as a nation because it provides an important, effective tool for protecting first responders and individuals with a high risk of exposure from this potentially lethal disease."

For more information, the full article can be found at:  
<http://www.fda.gov/bbs/topics/NEWS/2007/NEW01693.html>

## New Reports Identify State-level Privacy and Security Solutions for Secure Exchange of Health Information

The Department of Health & Human Services' (HHS) Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) today released a set of reports titled *Privacy and Security Solutions for Interoperable Health Information Exchange*. The reports review 34 state Health Information Exchange plans and identify the challenges and feasible solutions for ensuring the safety and security of electronic health information exchange.

Some of the key findings point to the need for additional research and guidance on:

- Identifying different interpretations of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) Privacy Rule among States and increasing awareness among stakeholders.
- Addressing variations regarding the potential intersections between federal/State privacy laws.
- Evaluating the technologies available to protect security and

### Privacy and Security Solutions for Interoperable Health Information Exchange

#### Nationwide Summary

##### Prepared for:

Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality  
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
540 Gathers Road  
Rockville, MD 20850  
[www.ahrq.gov](http://www.ahrq.gov)

Jodi Daniel, JD, MPH, Director  
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privacy of individuals as well as the associated administrative processes and liabilities.

- Developing a system that accurately and consistently matches individual patients with their health record information—one that is created and updated by various health care providers/organizations.
- Developing a standard set of definitions and terms to facilitate sharing of health information. For example, terms such as medical emergency, current treatment, related entity, and minimum necessary do not have agreed-upon definitions and may increase variation as organizations attempt to meet compliance.

The press release can be found at:

<http://www.ahrq.gov/news/press/pr2007/hiereptpr.htm>

The full report can be downloaded at:

[http://healthit.ahrq.gov/portal/server.pt/gateway/PTARGS\\_0\\_1248\\_661884\\_0\\_0\\_18/Nationwide.pdf](http://healthit.ahrq.gov/portal/server.pt/gateway/PTARGS_0_1248_661884_0_0_18/Nationwide.pdf)



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## Emergency Preparedness for Families of Children with Special Needs

Children’s Hospital and Regional Medical Center in Seattle has published a website to assist families of Children with Special Needs prepare for emergencies. The site provides guidance on considerations for children with special needs, planning, creating a support network, organizing supplies, and provides links to additional resources.

The site can be found at:

<http://www.cshcn.org/resources/EmergencyPreparedness.cfm#three>

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## One in Eight WTC Rescue and Recovery Workers Developed Post Traumatic Stress Disorder

NYC Department of Health ([www.nyc.gov/html/doh/](http://www.nyc.gov/html/doh/))

NEW YORK CITY – August 29, 2007 – Thousands of World Trade Center rescue and recovery workers were still suffering serious mental health effects three years after the disaster, the Health Department reported today. New findings released from the World Trade Center Health Registry show that one in eight rescue and recovery workers (12.4%) likely had post-traumatic stress disorder when they were interviewed in 2003 and 2004. The findings were published today in the American Journal of Psychiatry, available online at

<http://ajp.psychiatryonline.org/cgi/reprint/164/9/1385>



The new data comes from the World Trade Center Health Registry’s initial survey of nearly 30,000 rescue and recovery workers. The respondents ranged from police officers and firefighters to clergy and construction workers. The prevalence of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) varied significantly by occupation, with rates ranging from 6.2% among police officers to 21.2% among unaffiliated volunteers (those who were not working with an organization such as the Red Cross). The prevalence of PTSD in the U.S. population is roughly 4% at any given time.



Photo found at [www.wtc.com](http://www.wtc.com)  
Image Library. Image Credit:  
Joe Woolhead; Courtesy of  
Silverstein Properties

People who started work on or soon after 9/11, or who worked for longer periods, were also more vulnerable to PTSD. For all occupations except police, the risk of PTSD was greatest among those who worked at the site for more than three months. The finding suggests that shortening work periods, and limiting exposure of those who have less prior exposure to trauma, might help reduce PTSD rates in future emergencies.

The survey found that firefighters developed PTSD at nearly twice the rate of police officers (12.2% versus 6.2%), a finding consistent with past research. The discrepancy is not well understood, but the authors offer several possible explanations. It may reflect the rigorous screening that police recruits undergo, but it could also reflect under-reporting by police officers who fear being judged unfit for duty. In addition, firefighters lost six times as many comrades as police officers, suggesting that grief may have compounded the trauma and the risk of PTSD.

PTSD is an anxiety disorder that can result from experiences marked by intense fear, hopelessness or horror. The common causes include war, terrorism and personal assault. Symptoms include avoiding situations reminiscent of the event, reliving the event when reminded of it, feeling emotionally numb, or feeling hyper-alert. Many people recover with counseling or medication, but PTSD can be very disruptive to those who suffer from it, leading to family and work problems, as well as drug and alcohol abuse.

The full report can be found at:

<http://www.nyc.gov/html/doh/html/pr2007/pr076-07.shtml>

The article in the American Journal of Psychiatry can be found online at:

<http://ajp.psychiatryonline.org/cgi/reprint/164/9/1385>

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## *King County Healthcare Coalition*

The King County Healthcare Coalition is a network of healthcare organizations and providers that are committed to strengthening the Healthcare System for emergencies. The following workgroups currently meet as part of the King County Healthcare Coalition to address preparedness issues in the healthcare community.

Committee/Workgroup	Staff
Coalition Development	Cynthia Dold, (206) 263-8715 Cynthia.dold@kingcounty.gov
Coalition Administrative Staff	Lydia Ortega, (206) 263-8721 Lydia.ortega@kingcounty.gov
Ambulatory Care Committee	Aimee Welch, (206) 263-8719 aimee.welch@kingcounty.gov
Alternate Care Facilities	Tony Cebollero, (206) 263-8718 Anthony.Cebollero@kingcounty.gov



KING COUNTY  
**Healthcare  
Coalition**  
Prepare. Respond. Recover.



## Upcoming Meetings

- Coalition Executive Council Meeting  
September 14, 2007  
8:30 – 10:30 am
- Zone 1 Meeting  
September 19, 2007  
12:00 – 2:00 pm
- Disaster Preparedness for Pediatrics  
September 27, 2007  
8:00 – 9:00 am
- Region 6 Hospital Emergency Preparedness  
September 27, 2007  
7:30 – 10:00am

Critical Care Workgroup	Lewis Rubinson, MD, (206) 263-8716 rubinson@u.washington.edu
Hospital Emergency Prep Committee	Danica Mann, (206)947-5565 Danica.mann@overlakehospital.org
Infectious Disease Workgroup	Jeff Duchin, MD, (206) 263-8171 Jeff.duchin@kingcounty.gov
Legal Workgroup	Amy Eiden, (206) 296-901 amy.eiden@kingcounty.gov
Long Term Care & Home Health Planning	Carlos Dominguez, (206) 263-8710 Carlos.Dominguez@kingcounty.org
Medical Director's Committee	Jeff Duchin, MD, (206) 263-8171 Jeff.duchin@kingcounty.gov
Mental Health Planning	Michelle McDaniel, (206) 263-8712 Michelle.McDaniel@kingcounty.gov
Puget Sound Call Center Coordination	Joe Cropley, 206-517-2383 cropley@wapc.org
Regional Medical Resource Center	Allison Schletzbaum, 206-744-6213 aschletz@u.washington.edu

***The Healthcare Coalition meeting calendar for 2007 is also available on the website:***

**<http://www.metrokc.gov/health/hccoalition/2007-calendar.pdf>**

## Coalition Workgroup & Committee Updates

Outlined below are current updates for some of the King County Healthcare Coalition committees and workgroups. Please consult the Healthcare Coalition website for additional information.

### Ambulatory Care Workgroup

- Public Health and Healthcare Coalition staff have participated in informative "communication conversations" with 15 King County hospitals and 3 clinic systems, with visits to more organizations pending. If your facility would like an electronic copy of the notification tree template, please contact Dr. Kay Koelemay at Public Health at 206-263-8188 or Kathryn.Koelemay@kingcounty.gov.
- Ambulatory care and Regional Medical Resource Staff are beginning to scope and define KCHHealthTrac, an incident management software system that will be utilized by ambulatory care providers during a response.
- Planning to incorporate the Ambulatory Care Sector into regional coordination and response is currently in process along with an exploration of a regional MOU system.

### Hospital Emergency Preparedness Committee

- Public Health and Healthcare Coalition staff have participated in informative "communication conversations with 15 hospitals.
- New Joint Commission Standards for Emergency Management have been released. It is expected the new measures will be implemented by January 2008. Guidance on implementation at a regional level will be provided to all Region 6 Hospitals.
- NIMS Compliance reporting is due by September 30, 2007. All hospitals will be provided with a guidance document for reporting.

- A short debrief on the impact of the I-5 lane closures occurred at the Region 6 Hospital Emergency Preparedness Committee meeting at the end of August. Little impact to the healthcare system was reported, largely due to the RMRC bulletins, good communication and mitigation planning with staff and vendors.
- The committee approved their ASPR funding list for 2007 at the August meeting. Funding items include planning staff, pharmaceutical cache, communications equipment, fatality management supplies, training and exercise reimbursements, and regional trainings

### **Long Term Care and Home Health**

- Recent talks between representatives from the King County Healthcare Coalition and the King County Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) has set the stage for future collaborative work around emergency preparedness and response for both Residential and Community-based care. A work group composed of case managers, surveyors and quality assurance staff will be looking at ways to improve communication, define roles and responsibilities, and develop a plan for a coordinated response during an event. This collaborative effort also envisions the coordination of efforts around the assessment, training and response of State-licensed long term care facilities in King County.
- Carlos Dominguez began work with Aging and Disability Services (ADS) to develop a preparedness plan for communication and coordination efforts to assess clients' needs during a disaster. The goal is to create guidelines for establishing and maintaining communication between Public Health and ADS.

### **Mental Health Planning**

Michelle McDaniel is currently concentrating preparedness efforts on two high priority treatment segments: *outpatient methadone treatment* and *inpatient psychiatric services*. She is assisting providers in assessing their agency's own level of disaster preparedness and identifying ways they can work together in an effort to ensure continuity of care in the event of an emergency.

### **Pediatric Planning**

*Disaster Preparedness: Pediatricians' roles in hospital, office and the community* will be the topic of Grand Rounds at Children's Hospital & Regional Medical Center on Thursday, September 27th at 8 am. Speakers include Jeff Duchin, MD and Kay Koelemay, MD, of Public Health – Seattle & King County and Jeff Sconyers, JD, Senior Vice-President and General Counsel at Children's Hospital and representative for the Pediatric sector on the Healthcare Coalition Executive Council.

#### Issues in disaster preparedness to be discussed include:

- Special challenges in regional disaster planning for children
- Medico-legal issues for pediatricians
- How the pediatric community can contribute to regional planning efforts through the formation of a Pediatric Workgroup of the Healthcare Coalition

A Pediatric Workgroup Strategic Planning Committee, consisting of regional pediatricians has convened several times over the last few months.

### **Regional Medical Resource Center (RMRC)**

- The RMRC developed a series of six Bulletins to help mitigate the impacts of the I-5 Closures on Healthcare Facilities. The Bulletins were

met with positive feedback and this information sharing tool will be used regularly to communicate with Healthcare Coalition members and partners.

- Documentation and training materials for KCHealthTrac are in progress. A healthcare sector rollout plan will be presented to the Executive Council in September for approval. Rollout and training will begin for various healthcare sectors in 2008.
- The Phase 2 TSP applications were submitted to the federal government in August. TSP outreach to additional healthcare sectors will start in the coming months.

#### **Alternate Care Facilities Project**

- Several representatives from various emergency agencies around the county attended a "walk through" at the Seattle Center (about 23 people) on Aug 6<sup>th</sup> to tour the proposed alternate care facility site.
- A multi-agency workgroup meeting occurred on Aug 30<sup>th</sup> and began to address logistical needs, security assessment, safety/fire response and communications issues around the creation of a functional ACF.

#### **Puget Sound Call Center Coordination Project**

- The RFP process has begun to select a vendor that will host the technology to route calls to participating call centers and individuals during a hotline activation.
- Joe Cropley recently exchanged ideas during a teleconference with a team of students at Stanford University who have outlined a plan for a national pandemic hotline utilizing stay-at-home volunteers.
- Public Health-Seattle & King County is partnering with Joe to plan for PICC surge support in case of an increase in calls related to the expected West Nile Virus Season.

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## **Training Opportunities**

*Note: The following list of available training opportunities are provided for your interest. Making each opportunity known as available is not necessarily an endorsement as to the value of each training.*

### **Carbon Monoxide Poisoning Prevention Clinical Education**

#### **Webcast**

*September 20, 2007 9am to 10am*

Goal: To enhance diagnosis, reporting, and treatment of carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning by clinicians and healthcare providers.

To access this webcast, visit:

<http://www2a.cdc.gov/phtn/webcast/COPoisonPrev>

### **Amateur Radio Technician Licensing Class**

*September 21-22-23, 2007*

*Location: Group Health Administration*

*Cost: \$35.00*

*Sponsor: Western Washington Medical Services Communications*

*For More Information or to Register, contact:*

*Marina Zuetell, N7LSL—[ww7mst@comcast.net](mailto:ww7mst@comcast.net), or call 206-524-6567*



### **HICS Training**

*November 7, 2007 8am to 12pm*

*Location: KCECC*

*Cost: No Cost*

This regional class will be held as an orientation to the new HICS materials. Planning is currently underway, please save the date, more information to follow!

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## Upcoming Conferences

*Note: The following list of available conference opportunities are provided for your interest. Making each opportunity known as available is not necessarily an endorsement as to the value of each conference.*

### **Washington State Emergency Management Association State Conference**

September 18-20, 2007

Location: Doubletree Hotel, Spokane City Center

Cost: \$205 for members and \$235 for non-members.

For more information, visit:

<http://www.co.thurston.wa.us/em/WSEMA07/Registration.asp>

### **2007 National Summit on Primary Care Emergency Preparedness**

September 19, 2007

Location: Sheraton New York, New York City

Cost: Starts at \$250

For more information, visit:

[http://www.pcdcnyc.org/programs/emerging\\_initiatives/case\\_studies/emerg\\_mgmt.html](http://www.pcdcnyc.org/programs/emerging_initiatives/case_studies/emerg_mgmt.html)

### **Disaster Planning for California Hospitals**

September 24-26, 2007

Location: Sacramento Convention Center, Sacramento CA

Cost: Starts at \$225

For more information, visit:

<http://www.calhealth.org/public/edu/gms/2007DisasterPlanning.htm>

### **Emergency Nurses Association Annual Conference**

September 26-29, 2007

Location: Salt Lake City, UT

Cost: Starts at \$195

For more information, visit:

<http://www.ena.org/conferences/annual/2007/default.asp>

### **Preparing for the Unknown: "Are You Ready?" Emergency Preparedness Conference**

October 10-11, 2007

Location: Alexandria, VA

Cost: \$650 per registrant / Early bird fee: \$575 per registrant

For more information, visit:

<http://www.jcrinc.com/24835/>

### **Pacific Northwest Preparedness Society 2007 Emergency Preparedness Conference**

November 21-23, 2007

Location: Vancouver BC

Cost: Early Registration \$630.70 / Late Registration \$736.70

For more information, visit:

<http://www.jibc.ca/epconference/>

### **Partners in Preparedness – Save the Date**

April 1-2, 2008

Location: Tacoma Convention Center

For more information, visit:

<http://capps.wsu.edu/conferences/emergencyprep/>

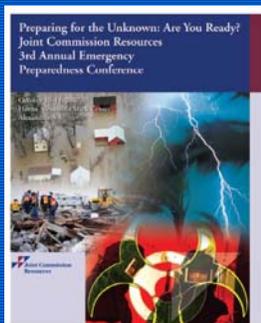




Photo from HistoryLink.org, by:  
David Wilma

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## Upcoming Exercises

### ***City of Seattle Winter Storm Tabletop Exercise***

September 21, 2007, 8am to 12pm

City of Seattle will be holding a tabletop exercise to help prepare for severe winter weather. Hospitals in Zone 5 are encouraged to attend. For more information contact Grant Tietje at [grant.tietje@seattle.gov](mailto:grant.tietje@seattle.gov)

### ***Medical Services Team Radio Drill***

September 29, 2007

The ARES Medical Services Team (MST) will be conducting a radio drill testing alternate communications based on a severe weather scenario. Hospitals will be contacted to see what sites are available to participate. For more information, please contact Marina Zuetell at [Zuetell@comcast.net](mailto:Zuetell@comcast.net) or 206.524.6567

### ***Mass Fatalities Tabletop Exercise***

October 25, 2007 1:00 – 4:00pm

Public Health and the King County Medical Examiner's Office will be hosting a pandemic flu mass fatality management tabletop exercise on October 25. This tabletop will bring together multiple disciplines, including funeral directors, public health, healthcare, vital statistics and first responders to look at issues related to managing a large number of deaths that could occur from a pandemic influenza outbreak.

### ***Sound Shake 2008 – March 5, 2008***

The Seattle UASI area (comprised of King, Pierce, Snohomish Counties, City of Seattle and City of Bellevue) obtained a grant to develop and execute a Seattle Fault Catastrophic Earthquake exercise. It will be a tri-county, functional exercise. For more information about the exercise, please visit:

<http://www.metrokc.gov/prepare/SoundShake08.aspx>

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## About this Newsletter

This publication will be sent monthly via email. Please feel free to share resources through this newsletter. To subscribe or to submit information to share, please contact Lydia Ortega at [Lydia.Ortega@kingcounty.gov](mailto:Lydia.Ortega@kingcounty.gov)

Thank you!