

# THE PREPAREDNESS REPORT

The Center for Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Response

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ELEVATED THREAT LEVEL

Jim Paturas of YNH-CEPDR was Appointed as Vice-Chair of Connecticut's Department of Public Health Preparedness Advisory Committee: **New**



Jim Paturas

Jim Paturas, EMTP, CEM, CBCP, CHS-IV, FACCP of Yale New Haven Center for Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Response (YNH-CEPDR), was appointed to Vice-Chair Connecticut's Department of Public Health Preparedness Advisory Committee by the Connecticut Department of Public Health

Commissioner Dr. Robert Galvin. The advisory committee serves as the Public Health Subcommittee of the Governor's Coordinating Council in Connecticut. The committee meets to discuss key emergency preparedness activities that prepare and keep residents safe during a public health or medical emergency. To learn more about this committee, please contact [james.paturas@ynhh.org](mailto:james.paturas@ynhh.org) or call (203) 688-3224.

Communicable Disease Update:

Updated

Avian Influenza



The WHO reports the cumulative number of confirmed human cases of avian influenza A (H5N1) as of July 5, 2010 to be 500 cases

with 296 deaths resulting in a case mortality rate of 59%. These figures represent the total H5N1 influenza cases since 2003. To view the cumulative and individual country indexes, please visit:

[http://www.who.int/csr/disease/avian\\_influenza/country/cases\\_table\\_2010\\_07\\_05/en/index.html](http://www.who.int/csr/disease/avian_influenza/country/cases_table_2010_07_05/en/index.html).

Breaking News: **New**



The top-secret world the government created in response to the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, has become so large, so unwieldy and so secretive that no one knows how much money it costs, how many people it employs, how many programs exist within it or exactly how many agencies do the same work. These are some of the findings of a two-year investigation by *The Washington Post* that discovered what amounts to an alternative

geography of the United States, a "Top Secret America" hidden from public view and lacking in thorough oversight. After nine years of unprecedented spending and growth, the result is that the system put in place to keep the United States safe is so massive that its effectiveness is impossible to determine. For more information on this investigation, please visit: <http://projects.washingtonpost.com/top-secret-america/articles/a-hidden-world-growing-beyond-control/>.



The failed bombing attempt over Detroit on Christmas Day may not have been the only attack that extremists planned for the 2009 holiday, with intelligence from overseas three weeks earlier indicating that a plot targeting New York City on the same day may have been in the works, according to an FBI report obtained by Fox News. "The final target of the attack was not known, but extremist members had allegedly discussed restaurants and night clubs located in New York City."

The FBI's assistant legal attaché in London wrote in a threat report dated Dec. 4, 2009. "The extremists allegedly discussed conducting the attack on 25 December, to coincide with the Christmas holiday. "The report, sent to U.S. and British counterterrorism officials, warned that "extremists allegedly planned to conduct a test run" that evening, first hiding components for an improvised explosive device in a London-bound shipment of khat, a plant often chewed like tobacco that has become a tradition for many in East Africa and the Arabian Peninsula. For more details, please visit: <http://liveshots.blogs.foxnews.com/2010/07/16/exclusive-a-2nd-christmas-attack-in-nyc/>.

National Security/Readiness: **New**



After conducting a survey of more than 500 departments, the Gulf States Regional Center for Public Safety Innovations (GSRCP) found that many agencies have discussed but few are developing specific plans for social media implementation. The departments that have begun using Facebook and Twitter have found positive responses from their communities. GSRCP has broken down the stages of public service implementation of social media into three phases from introduction through full implementation. Further information is available at:

<http://www.emergencymgmt.com/safety/Plans-Social-Media-Survey.html>.

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## US DHHS Region I (New England) Emergency Planning Office (Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response – ASPR)

The following resources have been provided to assist your preparedness activities:

[http://www.ynhhs.org/emergency/US\\_DHHS\\_web\\_sites.pdf](http://www.ynhhs.org/emergency/US_DHHS_web_sites.pdf).

### Highlighted Resources:

**HHS Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR) Launches new Public Health Emergency Portal:**

<http://www.phe.gov/Preparedness/pages/default.aspx>.

## Communicable Disease Update: **Updated** (Continued)

**Universal Influenza Vaccine Soon to be Reality: **New****



A universal influenza vaccine, so-called because it could potentially provide protection from all flu strains for decades, may become a reality because of research led by scientists from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases

(NIAID), part of the National Institutes of Health. In experiments with mice, ferrets and monkeys, the investigators used a two-step immunization approach to elicit infection-fighting antibodies that attacked a diverse array of influenza virus strains. Current flu vaccines do not generate such broadly neutralizing antibodies, so they must be re-formulated annually to match the predominant virus strains circulating each year. The research was led by NIAID scientist Gary J. Nabel, M.D. "Generating broadly neutralizing antibodies to multiple strains of influenza in animals through vaccination is an important milestone in the quest for a universal influenza vaccine," says NIAID Director Anthony S. Fauci, M.D. "This significant advance lays the groundwork for the development of a vaccine to provide long-lasting protection against any strain of influenza. A durable and effective universal influenza vaccine would have enormous ramifications for the control of influenza, a disease that claims an estimated 250,000 to 500,000 lives annually, including an average of 36,000 in the United States." For additional information from *NIH*, please visit: <http://www.niaid.nih.gov/topics/flu/Pages/default.aspx>.

## National Security/Readiness: **New** (Continued)



Adequate protections from airborne pathogens are crucial in protecting health workers and other responders from infection in the event of a disease outbreak or bioterrorism attack, U.S. government researchers said on July 14<sup>th</sup>. National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health senior researcher Kenneth Mead said the United States must have the ability to quickly boost the capacity of negative pressure rooms, which prevent air from escaping into the wider environment or other similar quarantine areas. Only 60 percent of U.S. hospitals have structured units where airborne pathogens can be isolated, he said. Their cost is usually between \$30,000 and \$40,000, the Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy reported. Airborne isolation areas in hospitals today are developed and built with a focus on shielding the greater hospital from infection instead of the health care personnel and patients inside those units, Mead said. The units rely on dilution ventilation, a process that takes a long time to diminish the number of airborne pathogens and thus do not offer adequate protection. For additional information, please visit: [http://www.globalsecuritynewswire.org/gsn/nw\\_20100715\\_7885.php](http://www.globalsecuritynewswire.org/gsn/nw_20100715_7885.php).

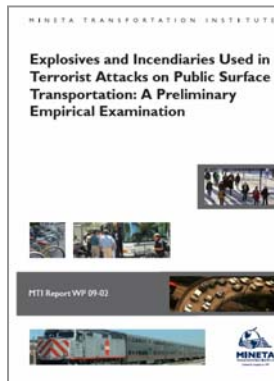


# FEMA

On July 15<sup>th</sup>, Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary Janet Napolitano announced more than \$1.8 billion in Fiscal Year (FY) 2010 Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) preparedness grants designed to help states, urban areas, tribal governments and non-profit organizations enhance their protection, prevention, response and recovery capabilities for risks associated with potential terrorist attacks and other hazards. "The grants being announced today will help our partners in state, local and tribal governments and non-profit organizations across the country better prepare for, respond to and recover from all threats and hazards," said Secretary Napolitano. "This funding pays for training for fire fighters, medics and police officers, supports the purchase of equipment that is essential to our first responders, and improves our ability to communicate during disasters. These investments have a direct impact on communities across our country as we work together to build, sustain and improve the resilience of our families, businesses and neighborhoods." Additional information on these grants can be found at: <http://www.fema.gov/government/grant/index.shtm>.

- The International Association of Emergency Managers' Healthcare Caucus represents the emergency management and disaster preparedness issues that hospitals and healthcare face daily. Although a part of the communities in which they reside, hospitals and healthcare facilities require unique and critically important considerations for patients, visitors, staff, operations and physical plant in the planning, preparation/mitigation, response and recovery related to disasters. The purpose of this committee is to provide emergency managers from hospitals and healthcare facilities a voice in national and international forums, and to ensure their needs are being recognized by healthcare administration/leadership, accrediting organizations, regulatory bodies and government. This committee is working to bring the professionalism and community of the IAEM organization to the Healthcare Emergency Management setting. To learn more about the Caucus, please visit: <http://www.iaem.com/committees/HCC/index.htm>

## Terrorism/Weapons of Mass Destruction: **New**



The Mineta Transportation Institute at San Jose State University in San Jose, California, is a research center dedicated to studying all aspects, including security, of ground transportation. A recent study by Brian Michael Jenkins and Bruce Robert Butterworth, "Explosives and Incendiaries Used in Terrorist Attacks on Public Surface Transportation: A Preliminary Empirical Examination" suggests that terrorists see public surface transportation as a killing field; despite their continuing obsession with attacking commercial aviation, when it comes to wholesale killing, trains and buses offer easily accessible concentrations of people. The entire report is available at: <http://www.transweb.sjsu.edu/MTIportal/research/publications/documents/2875%20-%20IED%20Support%20Research%20%28with%20Covers%205.27.2010%29.pdf>.

## Communicable Disease Update: **Updated** (Continued)

### Modeling the Influence of the Media on Limiting Infectious Disease Outbreaks: **New**

During outbreaks of serious infectious disease, many individuals closely follow media reports of the outbreak and take steps, including self-isolation, to protect themselves from infection and possibly death. Self-isolation can take many forms including restricting local and long-distance travel, using facemasks and choosing to receive a vaccine. Researchers from Marshall University and Georgia Tech have developed mathematical modeling to show that public health agencies working together with the media can significantly decrease the severity of an outbreak by providing timely and accurate accounts of the numbers of new infections and deaths. A pre-publication of their study is available at:  
[http://arxiv.org/PS\\_cache/arxiv/pdf/1006/1006.5028v2.pdf](http://arxiv.org/PS_cache/arxiv/pdf/1006/1006.5028v2.pdf).

## Programs and Services

Center for Emergency Preparedness  
and Disaster Response



YNH-CEPDR is committed to developing and delivering effective and scalable services that advance healthcare planning, preparedness and response for emergencies and disasters. YNH-CEPDR offers the following services to hospitals, other healthcare delivery organizations, emergency management professionals, the business community and others.

- ASSESSMENTS/EVALUATIONS
- PLANNING
- OPERATIONS
- EDUCATION and TRAINING
- DRILLS and EXERCISES
- PROGRAM MANAGEMENT
- EVENT COORDINATION/MANAGEMENT
- INCIDENT RESPONSE SUPPORT
- SITUATIONAL AWARENESS/ANALYSIS

For additional information about these services, please contact us at (203) 688-3224 or [center@ynhh.org](mailto:center@ynhh.org), or visit our web site at [www.ynhhs.org/emergency](http://www.ynhhs.org/emergency).

### Questions, Comments, Suggestions or to Subscribe

For questions, comments, suggestions or to subscribe to the Preparedness Report, please e-mail us at [center@ynhh.org](mailto:center@ynhh.org).  
[www.yalenevhealth.org/emergency](http://www.yalenevhealth.org/emergency)

## Terrorism/Weapons of Mass Destruction: **New** (Continued)

- The BP disaster offers new venue for terrorists: blowing up offshore oil rigs in order to inflict vast economic and environmental damage and impose steep costs on the U.S. government and private companies. Terrorists can mount such attacks easily because oil rigs are unprotected and completely vulnerable. Legislators note that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) now requires nuclear power generators withstand aircraft crashes. Senator Jim Webb says that similar standards should be considered for the oil and gas industries. In a letter to President Obama, Webb says: "While Congress will continue to scrutinize BP and regulatory agencies, I write to urge you to also be vigilant against deliberate acts, such as an attack or sabotage that could similarly devastate the region". For additional information, please visit:  
<http://homelandsecuritynewswire.com/new-worry-terrorists-may-blow-shore-oil-rigs>.



Nine years after envelopes of powdered anthrax killed five people and shut down the Capitol, the U.S. remains poorly equipped to distribute antibiotics in time to prevent mass deaths in the event of a large dispersal of the deadly pathogen, Robert Kadlec, a physician and former Air Force special operations officer who was President George W. Bush's bioterrorism advisor said. This was in response to the proposed cut of \$2 billion from reserve funds for bioterrorism and pandemic flu to find funds that would prevent teacher layoffs. Included in these cuts are funds for Project BioShield, money designated to buy lifesaving drugs and vaccines in the event of a biological attack. For more information on this controversial decision, please visit:  
<http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/nation/la-na-bioterror-20100713,0,4807257.story>.

## Disasters Around the World: **New**



Credit: AFP/Getty Images

A speeding express train plowed into a stationary passenger train in eastern India on Monday, July 19<sup>th</sup>, killing 61 people in a crash so powerful it sent the roof of one car flying onto an overpass. Officials said they could not rule out sabotage. Residents crawled over the twisted wreckage trying desperately to free survivors before rescue workers arrived with heavy equipment to cut through the metal. Railway Minister Mamata Banarjee, who rushed to the site, raised the possibility the crash could have been another case of sabotage, two months after Maoist rebels were blamed for a derailment that killed 145 people. For further details, please visit: [http://www.usatoday.com/news/world/2010-07-18-india-train-crash\\_N.htm?csp=34news&utm\\_source=feedburner&utm\\_medium=feed&utm\\_campaign=Feed%3A+usatoday-NewsTopStories+%28News+-+Top+Stories%29](http://www.usatoday.com/news/world/2010-07-18-india-train-crash_N.htm?csp=34news&utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+usatoday-NewsTopStories+%28News+-+Top+Stories%29).

- The National Interagency Fire Center (NIFC) has set National Preparedness Level 2 (Several geographic Areas are experiencing high to extreme fire danger. Wildland fire activity is increasing and large fires are occurring in one or more geographic Areas. Minimal mobilization of resources from other geographic areas is occurring. There is moderate commitment of national resources with the potential to mobilize additional resources from other geographic areas. A low-pressure trough along the Pacific Northwest coast will bring dry and breezy conditions to portions of the Great Basin and Wyoming. Thunderstorms are expected over the Four Corner States, Wyoming and Montana. Nationally, wildland fire activity remains light. Four new large fires were reported, three in Arizona and one in Wyoming. Firefighters contained three large fires on July 19<sup>th</sup>. Fifty-four large fires are being managed to achieve multiple objectives throughout the states. Uncontained large fires include only fires being managed under a full suppression strategy. For more information from NIFC, please visit: [http://www.nifc.gov/fire\\_info/nfn.htm](http://www.nifc.gov/fire_info/nfn.htm).



# FEMA

There have been three new Major Disaster Declarations since July 10, 2010. The affected areas are Montana (severe storms and flooding), Nebraska (severe storms, flooding and tornadoes) and Wyoming (flooding). For information on these declarations, please visit the following:  
<http://www.fema.gov/news/event.fema?id=13032> (Montana),  
<http://www.fema.gov/news/event.fema?id=13053> (Nebraska) and  
<http://www.fema.gov/news/event.fema?id=13052> (Wyoming).

## Disasters Around the World: **New** (Continued)



A tropical weather system in the Caribbean Sea became less organized overnight, but still has a high probability -- a 60 percent chance -- of becoming a tropical depression or more serious storm over the next 48 hours, the National Hurricane Center said in its 8 a.m. ET Wednesday (July 23<sup>rd</sup>) update. The system broke up some after it ran into wind shear and absorbed dry air, CNN meteorologist Sean Morris said. An Air Force reconnaissance mission into the system has been postponed until Thursday because of the system's developmental setback. Hurricane Center forecasters say a tropical depression is not expected to form Wednesday, but environmental conditions are favorable for some development as the disturbance moves to the west-northwest from Hispaniola into the Bahamas at about 10 mph. Morris said forecast models show the

tropical wave moving into the Bahamas and across southern Florida this weekend and then re-emerging into the northeastern Gulf of Mexico. For more information, please visit: <http://www.cnn.com/2010/US/07/21/tropical.weather/index.html?hpt=T2>.



Tropical storm Chanthu shifted direction away from Hong Kong as it crossed the South China Sea toward China, the U.S. Navy Joint Typhoon Warning Center said. Chanthu was about 505 kilometers (314 miles) south-southeast of Hong Kong at 2 p.m. China time today, July 21<sup>st</sup>, the center said on its website. The storm was moving north-northwest and may hit China's southern coast about 195 kilometers west of Hong Kong within 36 hours, the center said. The storm's maximum sustained winds were 65 kilometers per hour (40 miles per hour) and may strengthen to 83 kph in the next 24 hours as it approaches China, the center said. Waves reached as high as 4.6 meters (15 feet). For additional information, please visit:

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2010-07-20/tropical-storm-chanthu-shifts-track-toward-china-coast-may-miss-hong-kong.html>.

## Does your organization require assistance in the areas of patient safety, healthcare associated infections and improved customer service?



Center for Healthcare Solutions

The Yale New Haven Health System Center for Healthcare Solutions offers services and programs that will help you meet current healthcare standards, priorities and other challenges. Healthcare-focused services include education and training, assessments,

planning and program implementation and testing and evaluation in the disciplines of patient safety, healthcare associated infections, emergency management and service excellence. For more information, please visit [www.ynhhs.org/chs](http://www.ynhhs.org/chs).



### FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

**YNH-CEPDR**  
**Eastern Regional Office**  
**Rebecca Cohen**  
 (203) 688-3224  
[rebecca.cohen@ynhh.org](mailto:rebecca.cohen@ynhh.org)

**YNH-CEPDR**  
**National Capital Region Office**  
**Stewart D Smith**  
 (202) 590-0774  
[stewart.smith@ynhh.org](mailto:stewart.smith@ynhh.org)

**YNH-CEPDR**  
**Central Regional Office**  
**Kristy Anderson**  
 (214) 648-0223  
[kristy.anderson@ynhh.org](mailto:kristy.anderson@ynhh.org)

**YNH-CEPDR**  
**Western Regional Office**  
**Patrick Ward**  
 (714) 321-0433  
[patrick.ward@ynhh.org](mailto:patrick.ward@ynhh.org)

Preparedness Report Archive: <http://www.yalenewhavenhealth.org/emergency/commu/archives.html>

One Church Street, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor • New Haven, CT 06510 • Tel. (203) 688-3224 • Fax (203) 688-4618  
[center@ynhh.org](mailto:center@ynhh.org) • [www.yalenewhavenhealth.org/emergency](http://www.yalenewhavenhealth.org/emergency) • [www.ynhhs.org/healthcaresolutions/index.html](http://www.ynhhs.org/healthcaresolutions/index.html)

US DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

**Gregory T. Banner, MS, CEM**  
 Region I Regional Emergency Coordinator  
 JFK Federal Building, Room 2100 • 15 New Sudbury Street •  
 Boston, MA 02203  
 (617) 777-6404  
[gregory.banner@hhs.gov](mailto:gregory.banner@hhs.gov)

<http://www.hhs.gov/>

US DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY  
 FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (FEMA)

**Paul Ford**  
 Acting Regional Administrator  
 FEMA Region One  
 99 High Street • 6<sup>th</sup> Floor • Boston, MA 02110  
 (617) 956-7566  
[paul.ford@dhs.gov](mailto:paul.ford@dhs.gov)

<http://www.fema.gov/>

**US Department of Health and Human Services 24x7 Operations Center**  
[hhs.soc@hhs.gov](mailto:hhs.soc@hhs.gov) • (202) 619-7800 • <http://www.hhs.gov/disasters/>