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Report on Public Health Emergency Preparedness in Oregon



Signs to help guide the public at medical points of dispensing, satellite phones and personal protective equipment are items being distributed to local health departments, tribes and hospitals in August, September and October. These items were purchased with carryover funding from the CDC and HPP pandemic influenza grants.

Satellite Phone Project Underway

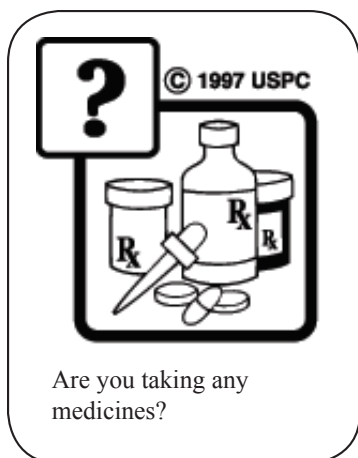
- The new Iridium 9505A phones have arrived. Each local health department is eligible for two phones and accessories.
- Each PHEP funded tribe and each hospital is eligible for one phone and accessories.
- All participating agencies will be required to sign a terms and conditions form prior to delivery.
- Information will be available to partners via HAN by mid-September on how to begin processing a delivery.
- The Oregon Public Health Division will pay for the phone, its accessories, and pelican case. Additionally, all related service

charges related to public health response, exercise and training will be paid in full by the state through 2010.”

- All phones will be tracked on HAN to create a comprehensive phonebook for all participating agencies. New phones also have been activated in critical public health programs like Radiation Protection Services and the Strategic National Stockpile program.
- All PHEP liaisons also will be issued a new phone, as well as key partners, such as the Oregon Disaster Medical Team.
- “This represents a major improvement to our overall public health communications infrastructure,” says HAN Manager Kevin Cradock. “We strongly encourage any eligible agency to participate.”

Signage for Points of Dispensing

- Health departments throughout Oregon recently received sets of signs to assist the public in navigating through medical points of dispensing (PODs) that would be set up for mass distribution of medications or other medical supplies during a significant public health emergency.
- Fashioned after signs developed by the Washington State Department of Health, each sign is translated into Spanish, Vietnamese, Russian and Chinese, and features a pictogram to assist those with low literacy or who speak other languages in understanding the message.
- PHEP produced 174 sets of 18 durable, light-weight signs, which are laminated, mounted on foam core, and include hangers for suspending the signs from the ceiling.
- In addition, each POD location received two decks of medical pictogram cards to assist staff in communicating about how to take medications with those who have limited English proficiency.



Personal Protective Equipment Purchased for Local Health Departments

- Following a needs assessment by OPHD Office of Environmental Public Health (OEPH) Sr. Industrial Hygienist Russ Reasoner, the PHEP has purchased \$46,000 in personal protective equipment (PPE) items for local health departments to use in the event of a large scale outbreak like pandemic flu.
- PPE items include N-95 respirators, face shields, surgical masks, isolation gowns and nitrile gloves.
- Reasoner assessed the level of interest in participating in the project among local health departments, determined the type and brands of equipment they already use (and what they lacked), and the number of employees in each local health department who would likely be involved in a pandemic response and at what level of risk (by job title and role).
- The equipment is currently arriving at the OPHD office in Portland, where it will be sorted and packed for shipment to local health departments.
- Carryover funding from the CDC pandemic influenza preparedness grant was used to purchase the equipment.

Oregon to Receive \$1.5 Million for Pandemic Influenza Planning

- Oregon has been selected to receive \$1.5 million in competitive federal pandemic influenza preparedness grants for three demonstration projects that will serve as models for programs nationwide.
- The funding is a portion of \$24 million made available for projects in 62 states and territories through the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Division of State and Local Readiness, Coordinating Office for Terrorism Preparedness and Emergency Response.
- “There were 176 applications submitted nationally, and Oregon is very fortunate to have been successful in three of its four grant proposal submissions,” said Mike Harryman, Public Health Emergency Preparedness Program (PHEP) director. “These three projects will help ensure that Oregon is ready

to respond in the event of a pandemic or other major communicable disease outbreak.”

- Multnomah County Health Department will receive \$1,034,066 to develop a system to ensure delivery of essential health services if a pandemic occurs. Lane County Public Health will receive \$260,371 to design and implement an emergency planning mentoring program for community based organizations serving homeless populations. The OPHD Office of Disease Prevention and Epidemiology will receive \$228,848 to improve the electronic exchange of pandemic influenza data with the CDC and among public health laboratories throughout the northwest region.

Emergency Responder Liability Update

A contract between the Public Health Division and Willamette University (as staff to the Law Commission) to draft emergency responder liability legislation has been signed. Deliverables include:

- Formation of a work group and development of a work plan by Sept. 1.
- Review of relevant materials and work group meeting reports, including an approach for dealing with critical issues, by Dec. 1.
- A detailed proposal to Legislative Council for draft legislation by Jan. 15, 2009.
- Proposed legislation and a summary report of work accomplished by Feb. 15.
- A report on the status of proposed legislation and recommendations regarding issues requiring additional attention, by July 31.

Emergency Support Function-8 Advisory Committee

Dr. Larry Mullins, President and CEO of the Samaritan Health Services, held the bi-monthly Emergency Support Function-8 (ESF-8) meeting on July 31 at Oregon Emergency Management. During the meeting PHEP staff provided updates on:

- The Law Commission
- Hospital Preparedness Program
- Oregon Volunteer Registry
- Health Alert Network
- Statewide Pandemic Influenza Operations Plan

- Cascadia Peril Statewide Exercise (April 2009)
- State Emergency Medical Service Plan
- Governor’s Homeland Security Private Sector Working Group.

Pacific Northwest National Laboratory Briefing

- On July 10, Oregon Director of Homeland Security/Military Department Adjutant General MG Raymond Rees, invited staff from the U.S. Department of Energy’s Pacific Northwest National Laboratory in Richland, Wash., to Oregon to provide a presentation on the laboratory’s capabilities to support regional Homeland Security collaboration and partnership.
- Representatives from Oregon Emergency Management, Oregon State Police, the Oregon Military Department, the Governor’s Homeland Security Working Groups and Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) attended the briefing.
- PHEP Director Mike Harryman, Interim Oregon State Public Health Laboratory Director Chris Biggs and Medical Toxicologist Michael Holcomb attended on behalf of PHEP.

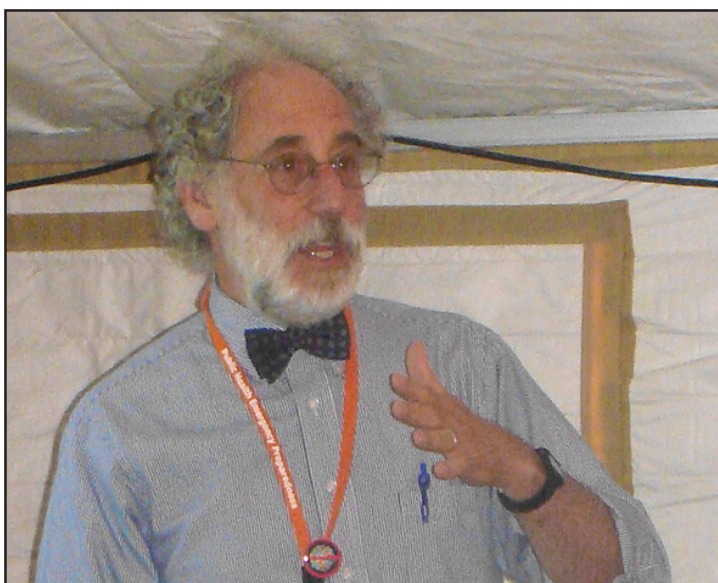
Governor’s Homeland Security Private Sector Working Group

- PHEP staff provided a Pandemic Influenza overview at the quarterly meeting of the Governor’s Homeland Security Private Sector Working Group.
- The group focuses on the critical infrastructure and key resources that impact the private sector, and how they can best respond and provide services during all phases of preparedness planning, response and recovery at the local, state and regional level.

September is National Preparedness Month

- Get a kit
- Make a plan
- Be informed
- Get involved





Office of Environmental Public Health (OEPH) PHEP Coordinator Michael Heumann discusses preparedness resources available from the OEPH during the Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board Preparedness Conference.

Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board Preparedness Conference

- The fifth annual Emergency Preparedness Conference, hosted by the Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board, was July 23 and 24 in Pendleton.
- This conference focuses on building relationships between the tribes and local public health partners and sharing information on various public health topics.
- The Keynote address featured RADM W. Craig Vanderwagen, MD, Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.
- During the conference, PHEP Training Manager Lynda Muriera and Training and Exercise Specialist Candy Cates presented on the *Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP)*.
- PHEP Pandemic Influenza Planners Michael Kubler and Julie Plagenhoef conducted a *Pandemic Influenza Planning Interactive Discussion*, and Kubler presented on pandemic influenza *Community Containment*.
- OPHD Office of Environmental Public Health Emergency Preparedness Coordinator Michael Heumann presented on *Planning and Response Resources available from the*

Office of Environmental Public Health.

- Immunization Program Vaccine Manager Mimi Luther presented on *Tdap Vaccine and Information*.
- PHEP Operations Manager Beth Crane and PHEP Liaison Carey Palm moderated the *Oregon Tribal State Breakout Session*.

Drinking Water Emergency Response Plan Published

- Oregon's Drinking Water Emergency Response Plan, Attachment J to the State Emergency Plan Annex F - Health and Medical, has been completed and published.
- The plan is the result of many hours of hard work by Public Health Division Environmental Public Health employees Ron Hall, Michael Heumann, Kurt Putnam, Michael Holcomb and Tony Fields; and PHEP Sr. Strategic Planner Nan Newell.
- Prior to publication, this plan was reviewed internally and by the county health departments, the Drinking Water Advisory Committee, the ORWARN Steering Committee, and the Regional Drinking Water Consortium.
- The plan is available in the emergency plan section of the Document Library on the Health Alert Network Web site.

State Mass Fatalities Plan Orientation and Tabletop Exercises

- State Mass Fatalities Plan orientations and tabletop exercises, which began in Bend and LaGrande on Sept. 16 and 17, are planned at four more locations around the state between now and the end of January.
- The goal is to introduce the plan to a broad range of county/regional responders, to discuss the coordination of state and local response, and to ensure the state plan is realistic, clear, and adequate.
- Invited participants include members of the faith community, morticians, funeral directors, medical examiners, Oregon tribes, and professionals from local health departments, hospitals, vital records, emergency management, law enforcement, fire/hazmat, EMS, Healthcare Regional Coordinators,

PHEP Liaisons, and other emergency response partners.

- The tabletop exercise will focus on the state response, but also is designed to stimulate discussion about county/local roles and responsibilities.
- The scenario for the tabletop exercise will be an earthquake. James Roddey, the Oregon geologist who is the earthquake subject matter expert for the Cascadia Peril scenario, will present information on what to expect from such an earthquake if it took place in the location of the training.
- Course locations and dates include:
Klamath Falls: Nov. 19
Eugene: Jan. 13, 2009
Roseburg: Jan. 14, 2009
Woodburn: Jan. 20, 2009
- Registration is via the DHS Learning Center: <https://dhslearn.hr.state.or.us>, Course # C00808, or by calling Michelle Tworoger at: 971 673-0342, or michelle.b.tworoger@state.or.us

Hospital Preparedness Program Grant Award and Stakeholder Involvement

- The Hospital Preparedness Program (HPP) recently received the HPP FY08 notice of grant award with no restrictions, for the fiscal year from Aug. 9, 2008 to Aug. 8, 2009.
- The HPP is embarking on a stakeholder involvement process to better prepare for the FY09 Funding Opportunity Announcement submission likely due next spring.
- It will start with an initial meeting/retreat in late October in the Portland area.
- The meeting will involve the regional lead agency administrators and coordinators, the regional boards, hospital administrators and hospital emergency planners.
- The meeting will focus primarily on stakeholder discussion and gathering input.
- The expected outcomes are:
 - Introduce and begin a new process for engaging stakeholders in the course of preparing for the FY09 Grant submission,
 - Accomplish some 3-year strategic planning
 - To discuss remaining on-going preparedness planning elements.



Sandy Fire Department Public Information Officer Alice Lasher makes a point during a tabletop exercise on the second day of the pandemic flu summit. (See additional photo, page 12.)

Pandemic Summit: Beyond the Basics

- A public/private partnership summit designed to actively engage Oregon's critical utility infrastructure in joint pandemic influenza planning with state and local governments took place Sept. 16 and 17 at the World Trade Center in Portland.
- The summit focused on strengthening private-public partnerships, sharing best practices and resources, identifying and discussing hot topics, clarify roles in emergency situations, and preparing an Oregon crisis communication model for a pandemic event.
- More than 100 people attended the summit, representing a broad spectrum of critical infrastructure partners, including city, county and state governments, public health, law enforcement, fire, emergency response, universities, military, justice, transportation, agriculture, health care, large corporations and public and private water, natural gas and electrical utilities.

Article Features Oregon Response to Vaccine Shortage

- An article about Oregon's response to the 2004-05 influenza vaccine shortage was published in the August 2008 edition of the *Journal of Public Health Management and Practice*.

- The article describes Oregon's efforts to ration vaccine at the point of administration and an evaluation of that process. The authors of the article, Martha Priedeman Skiles, Kathy Scott and Collette Young, work for the Oregon Immunization Program.

HOSCAP Upgrade to Version 2.0

- In late September, the Oregon Hospital Capacity Web Site (HOSCAP) will be upgraded to version 2.0. The new version is the first of three steps to a comprehensive hospital situational awareness tool.
- The new features that will be available in this release include major upgrades and reporting tools for emergency departments, richer and more thorough reports, and an enhanced user interface.
- The HOSCAP version 2.0 was designed in collaboration with key stakeholders and the HOSCAP Advisory Group in late 2007.
- Training for the new version will begin in late September. Visit <https://www.oregonhan.org/login/hantraining.cfm> to register for a 15-minute online introduction to the new HOSCAP.
- HOSCAP version 2.1, which will begin incorporating advanced reporting tools and Google maps, is due out in early 2009.
- The release of HOSCAP's SharePoint 2007 dashboard is scheduled for early December 2008.
- According to HAN Manager Kevin Cradock the upgrade will occur at night over the weekend on the backup HOSCAP then the primary system will be upgraded while hospitals use the backup system. The system will be online as engineers complete the upgrade and check for errors. A HAN alert will be issued when the upgrade is complete.

HAN Call-in Account Feature Now Available

- Health Alert Network (HAN) users now have an additional way to access alerts—via the HAN call-in account feature.
- This feature offers users the flexibility to stay informed about new and developing situations from where ever they may be.
- All levels of users can access HAN Alerts with

this new feature.

- To get started, access the Secure HAN and go to My Profiles > Change My Call In Account Number. Users can call: 866-558-2109, enter their Account Number and Alerting Security Code, and access and confirm receipt of any active and unconfirmed HAN alerts. Users also can pre-program cell devices to access the call-in feature directly.
- Users can still use any of the existing methods to receive alerts: email, Secure HAN portal, phone/cell devices. Now, you have another option to be kept informed via the HAN system.
- For more information, see the Secure HAN News area. For questions, or to join the HAN community, e-mail: HAN.Oregon@state.or.us.

Public Information Officer Classes Available

- The Oregon Public Health Division will offer two classes for Public Information Officers back-to-back on Tuesday and Wednesday, Nov. 4 and 5 at the Crook County Library, 175 NW Meadow Lakes Drive, Prineville, OR 97754.
- A *Basic Public Information Officer* class will be Tuesday, Nov. 4, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- A Centers for Disease Control and Preparedness (CDC) *Strategic National Stockpile Mass Dispensing Public Information and Communication* workshop will be Wednesday, Nov. 5, from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- The *Basic Public Information Officer* class (course #: C00855) will cover the PIO's role in an emergency, media relations and Oregon's Virtual Joint Information Center. The course also features hands-on workshops in emergency newswriting, being interviewed for radio and TV, and staging news conferences.
- The class will be taught by FEMA Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program PIO Cheryl Seigal and Oregon Public Health Emergency Preparedness PIO Christie Holmgren.
- The *CDC Strategic National Stockpile Mass Dispensing Public Information and Communication* workshop (course #: C00854) is a collection of presentations, group exercises, discussions, and supporting

materials that will be used to provide technical assistance to health communicators who may be involved in a mass antibiotic dispensing operation.

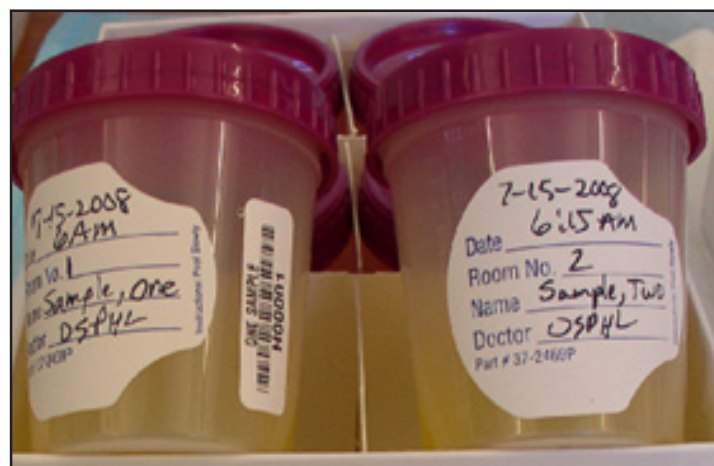
- This course will introduce state and local communicators to the Division of Strategic National Stockpile (DSNS) and help them better understand their roles and responsibilities in the event of SNS deployment. This interactive scenario-based course will focus on the development of messages, methods, and materials necessary for disseminating information to specific audiences in the changing situations that occur before, during, and after a public health emergency.
- The workshop will be taught by CDC SNS Public Information and Communication Specialists Laura Ross and Blanche Collins.
- Both classes are free. Participants pay for travel, lodging and meals. Registration is via the DHS Learning Center at: <https://dhslearn.hr.state.or.us>.

Cascade Messaging Article

- Oregon's secure Health Alert Network (HAN) alerting capability was featured in an Aug. 27 article on cascade messaging in the Government Health IT newsletter.
- Cascade messaging allows alert messages generated by one state to automatically be sent to key positions within neighboring states.
- The article can be accessed at: http://www.govhealthit.com/print/4_20/communities/350526-1.html

Oregon State Public Health Laboratory Specimen Submission Exercise

- The Oregon State Public Health Laboratory (OSPHL) recently exceeded Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) standards for labeling, packaging, shipping, refrigeration and evidence-tape security of chemical specimens during an annual submission exercise.
- The OSPHL is a CDC-Laboratory Response Network Chemical Preparedness and Response (LRN-C) Level 3 laboratory.



The Oregon Public Health Laboratory exceeded federal standards in a recent specimen submission exercise.

- Level 3 LRN-C laboratories work with hospitals and first responders to collect, package and ship human samples for confirmatory testing to Level 1 and 2 CDC-LRN Chemical Preparedness and Response laboratories.
- During the exercise, on July 15-16, the OSPHL successfully submitted 50 simulated chemical terrorism specimens to the CDC Rapid Toxic Screening (RTS) Lab.
- This exercise is performed annually by 62 LRN-C Level 3 state and local public health laboratories throughout the U.S. and its territories. These exercises are conducted to assess the readiness of LRN-C Level 3 facilities to properly communicate with the CDC-RTS Lab and collect, package, label, and ship emergency response specimens from human patients according to comprehensive CDC LRN-C program guidelines and requirements.
- This exercise demonstrates that the OSPHL is prepared to respond, as part of the public health preparedness team, to a chemical threat emergency.

Mercy Medical Center Radiation Drill

- OPHD Radiation Protection Services Medical Physicist Bonny Wright served as an evaluator for Mercy Medical Center's Weapons of Mass Destruction/HazMat Response and Decontamination Drill on Aug. 15 in Roseburg.
- The unannounced, after-hours event tested

the hospital's Incident Command System, call-back ability for responders, amount of time necessary to set up a decontamination tent, and decontaminate victims of a "vehicle accident" involving medical radioactive material.

- The Hospital Preparedness Program Healthcare Preparedness Region 3 provided funding for the exercise and assisted in the design and evaluation. The program also funded the hospital's decontamination equipment, according the Region 3 Coordinator Tracy DePew.
- "Results were very favorable in that all participants cooperated, an Incident Command Structure was set up at the hospital and there were many lessons learned for the hospital to now develop an After-Action Report and Improvement Plan," said Wright. "Three years ago the hospital had a small radiation disaster plan and now they can set up a full-fledged decon tent."

POD Guidance Development Workshop

- Representatives of the Portland-metro Cities Readiness Initiative (CRI) participated in a *Closed Point of Dispensing (POD) Guidance Development Workshop* Aug. 20 and 21 in Atlanta.
- Closed PODs are typically provided by large employers or organizations for their own employees or clients.
- The Portland-metro region's Push Partner Registry was selected as the template for the national operational guidance.
- Managed by the CDC's Division of Strategic National Stockpile (DSNS), the comprehensive guidance will include a sales kit to entice organizations to join and an operational kit for them to use in planning for their own closed PODs.
- Once it has been vetted, the complete guidance is expected to be distributed before the end of the year to health departments throughout the nation who are incorporating closed PODs into their alternative dispensing strategies.
- Portland-metro CRI Program Specialist Cristin Corcoran helped facilitate the workshop.



The CDC's new Pandemic Influenza Storybook Web site includes numerous stories about survivors from the 1918 pandemic, as well as more recent events.

CDC Launches Pandemic Influenza Storybook

- A Web site featuring personal recollections of survivors, family and friends of people affected by pandemic influenza outbreaks has been launched by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
- The first story in the book, on Marcella Bobzien, comes from Oregon's own Marilynn Sutherland, administrator for Klamath County Public Health.
- The storybook is a project of the CDC's Crisis and Emergency Risk Communication Advisory Panel, of which PHEP Public Information Planner Christie Holmgren is a member.
- The storybook is available online at: <http://www.pandemicflu.gov/storybook/index.html>

Strategic National Stockpile Pick Pack Exercise

- On Sept. 3, the OPHD Immunization Program took advantage of the need to ship 1,800 doses of influenza vaccine to three counties to test its Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) Pick Pack Just-in-Time (JIT) training procedures.
- The exercise took place at OPHD's Vaccine Depot. The SNS Pick Pack Lead, Shelby Tooze, conducted the training for co-worker, Sandy Newsum, who then picked and packed the vaccine. The JIT training, pick/pack activities and inventory control procedures took just 32 minutes to complete.

Chempack Sustainment

- During August, a sustainment team from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention went to Chempack locations around the state to replace expiring materials and conduct security assessments.
- Chempack is a program to place nerve agent antidotes and supporting material in communities around the nation. The antidotes are controlled by local first responders for victims of a nerve agent or insecticide exposure.

Two Oregon Women Chosen for National Communication Training Scholarships

- Umatilla-Morrow Education Service District Hispanic Community Liaison Maria Durón and Umatilla County Health Department Emergency Preparedness Coordinator Sherena Clements were selected to receive all-expenses-paid scholarships to attend the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Crisis and Emergency Risk Communication Pandemic Influenza Latino Communicators Workshop in Houston in August.
- Durón is very active in the Umatilla Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program (CSEPP) and assists in training public information officers involved in the CSEPP annual exercise.
- Clements helps educate the community about preparedness and local health department services. She is currently studying at Blue Mountain Community College BMCC to become a nurse.

Healthcare Preparedness Region 1 Community Based Organization Notification Exercise

- Healthcare Preparedness (HP) Region 1 recently completed an exercise to test its public health disaster activation and notification procedure for Community Connectors (CCs) and Community Based Organizations (CBOs).
- Region 1 designated HRSA/HPP funding to develop systems for contacting culturally-

specific populations during an emergency. This is being addressed by the Cultures Uniting for Emergency Preparedness Project (CUEP), which works with identified populations to create culturally-appropriate communication plans that can be quickly and effectively activated in emergencies.

- The exercise activated Multnomah County Health Department CCs to contact the CUEP CBOs and notify them of an impending health event. In turn, CBOs utilized their emergency communication plans and contact lists developed during the project to reach their respective communities.
- During the exercise, seven CBOs reached 13 cultural/ethnic groups and contacted approximately 180 individuals representing a wide array of organizations, including churches, temples, schools, youth programs, cultural foundations, property managers and the media. In turn, those community contacts spread the word even further within the community and organizations.
- Now that it has been tested, the notification procedure will become part of the Multnomah County Health Department Emergency Response Plan under Tab G, Risk Communications.
- “The success of this project and the exercise is a testament to the strength and importance of community ties, and how far-reaching this emergency communications method is,” said HP Region 1 co-coordinator Kathryn Richer, Northwest Oregon Health Preparedness Organization (HPO).
- “The HPO is working with emergency management leadership to help them understand the largely untapped potential our communities have in spreading the word in an emergency in a way the communities understand and can respond to. They have collectively created a model with proven and positive outcomes that can be shared and utilized.”
- For more information, call or e-mail Richer at (503) 988-3674 or Kathryn.a.richer@co.multnomah.or.us

Psychological First Aid Training

- Thirty-six volunteers from the Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) units in Clackamas, Multnomah and Washington counties took part in an Aug. 4 *Psychological First Aid* training taught by Judy Olivier, a behavioral health planner for the northwest Oregon region.
- Psychological First Aid is an approach to help individuals in the immediate aftermath of disasters. It is designed to reduce the initial distress caused by traumatic events and to help survivors cope effectively.
- According to Multnomah County Health Department Community Emergency Planner Zumana Rios, the MRC will hold additional trainings this fall.

HPP Region 5 Mobile Communications Unit

- Through a collaborative effort of a number of Jackson County emergency response partners, the county now has a Mobile Communications Unit equipped with high-tech HAM radio technology.
- The unit is designed to help maintain critical communications between hospitals and the county Emergency Operations Center in the event of a disaster that interferes with other established means of communication.
- The project was a joint effort by volunteers from the Jackson County Communications Council, who donate their time and energy to ensure ongoing and sustained communications during exercises and emergencies; Mercy Flights, which donated an ambulance to use for the mobile unit; and the Region 5 Hospital Preparedness Project (HPP), which funded the radio equipment.

Incident Command System Position-Specific Training

- *Incident Command System (ICS) Position-Specific Trainings* will be offered in October, February and March at five locations around the state.
- The intermediate-level Incident Command System (ICS) trainings are designed to develop advanced skills on the roles and

functions of specific ICS positions and sections.

- Single-day courses will be offered in the areas of Command, Operations, Planning, Logistics, and Finance /Administration.
- Anyone who will serve in a specific ICS position or section, as well as those who are just interested in acquiring a more detailed understanding of these positions and sections is invited to attend. Participants can attend one course, all five courses, or any combination, at any locations.
- Classes will be offered in Bend the week of Oct. 13, in LaGrande the week of Oct. 20, in Woodburn the week of Feb. 16, in Eugene the week of March 9, and in Klamath Falls the week of March 16.
- Registration is via the DHS Learning Center: <https://dhslearn.hr.state.or.us>

Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program Exercise Design Training, Course # C00191

- The Oregon Public Health Division is offering a three-day *Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP) Exercise Design Training* at six locations across the state this fall and spring.
- The training is interactive and allows participants to share personal lessons learned and best practices while gaining practical experience. The course includes instructor-led presentations, small-group activities, videos, and group discussions.
- Participants will learn how to use the online HSEEP Toolkit including the Design and Development System that allows for easy creation of a Master Scenario Events List (MSEL) and Exercise Evaluation Guides (EEG).
- The course will focus on capabilities-based planning, and participants will receive a hard copy of the Target Capabilities List to keep.
- Since this is an intermediate-level exercise design course, students are required to take the prerequisite course, IS-120A, *An Introduction to Exercises*, available on-line at: <http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/IS120A.asp>

- The course will be offered in Klamath Falls on Oct. 7, 8 and 9; in Roseburg on Oct. 21, 22 and 23; in Eugene on Oct. 28, 29 and 30; in La Grande on March 10, 11 and 12; in Woodburn on March 17, 18 and 19; and in Bend on March 24, 25 and 26.
- Registration is via the DHS Learning Center at: <https://dhslearn.hr.state.or.us>
- For assistance registering, call or e-mail Christina Stenerson at 971 673-1110 or christina.a.stenerson@state.or.us.

Continuing Education Units Now Available

- Continuing Education contact hours (CEs) are now available for two online epidemiology courses offered by the Public Health Division. CEs have been approved by the OHSU School of Nursing for the following courses:
 - *Introduction to Communicable Disease and Epidemiology*, Course #C00337, CEs = .633
 - *Introduction to Outbreak Investigation*, Course #C00546, CEs = .50
- Registration for these courses is available via the DHS Learning Center at <https://dhslearn.hr.state.or.us>

Hopkins Selected as Public Health Division "Lean Leader"

- PHEP Liaison Bryan Hopkins has been selected to take a 16-month job rotation in support of Department of Human Services (DHS) Transformation Team. Hopkins will become the Public Health Division's Lean Leader and will be focused on the coordinating and implementing DHS Roadmap Initiatives within and/or across DHS divisions.
- Hopkins previously led the Public Health Division's planning efforts with the Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program and acted as a PHEP liaison with Morrow, Umatilla, Union, Wallowa, Grant, Baker, Harney and Malheur counties in eastern Oregon.
- Hopkins is a 2008 graduate of the DHS Leadership Academy.



Weyer Selected for DHS Leadership Academy

- PHEP Training Specialist Joy Weyer has been selected as a member of the DHS Leadership Academy Class of 2008-2009. The Leadership Academy is designed to prepare the leaders of the future, as well as enhance the skills of those already in such positions.



Through training sessions, mentorship and work on projects, participants develop their competence in strategic thinking, team building, negotiation, and other skills vital in today's changing work place. The 2008-09 session will be the fifth for DHS. PHEP Liaison Bryan Hopkins completed the program during the 2007-2008 session.

Staff Changes

- State Epidemiologist **Mel Kohn** has been named acting state public health director and state health officer. He replaces Interim Public Health Director Mike Skeels, who is returning to his former position as director of the Oregon State Public Health Laboratory. Kohn has been the state epidemiologist since 2000. Filling in for Kohn as state epidemiologist will be Medical Epidemiologist **Katrina Hedberg**, who most recently managed the tuberculosis control and health statistics program.
- Clinical Epidemiologist **Barb Progulske** has been appointed manager of the Preparedness Surveillance and Epidemiology Team in the Acute and Communicable Disease Program (ACDP). Progulske replaces Paul Lewis who recently left the Public Health Division. In addition to her other duties,





Pacific Corps Dispatch Director Debbie Guerra discusses issues that may arise in the event of a flu pandemic with other public and private critical infrastructure partners during a Sept. 16 and 17 Pandemic Influenza Summit in Portland.

Progulske will act as PHEP policy coordinator and principal investigator on the CDC Cooperative Agreement.

- Medical Epidemiologist **Richard Leman**



has returned to PHEP as a medical epidemiologist on the Preparedness Surveillance and Epidemiology Team after a five-year absence working as a chronic disease epidemiologist for the Health Promotion and Chronic Disease Prevention Section. Before leaving PHEP

in July 2003, Leman was instrumental in drafting the Oregon Public Health Division's first pandemic influenza plan.

- **Russ Reasoner**, who had been working in a job rotation with PHEP in the Office of Environmental Public Health for the past year, has returned to his previous position with OR-OSHA.



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