

THE PREPAREDNESS POST

UTAH DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
YEAR 3, ISSUE 3

Preparation Doesn't Predict Disaster *by Charla Haley*

Personal and community preparedness can have a huge impact on the outcome of a disaster. So, why are so many people so complacent about getting ready for one? According to Robin Finegan, FEMA Region VIII Administrator who spoke recently at the Utah Intergovernmental Roundtable, resistance to preparing for a disaster is complicated. But Finegan says one possible insight into the behavior is what's called the Just World Theory.

This scientific hypothesis was first developed by social psychologist Melvin Lerner. In 1965, Lerner conducted an experiment with a group of volunteers where women were given what appeared to be painful electric shocks while working on a difficult memory problem. Those who watched the situation blamed the victims for what was happening to them, praised the experiment, and even rated the women as being less physically attractive than did those who had seen them but not the experiment. Simply stated, the tendency is for people to believe the world is just and therefore, "people get what they deserve."

Finegan says, "In general, people live their lives with a clear view of the world and their role in it." And most of us work from the assumption that making good, responsible decisions gives us



Robin Finegan, FEMA Region VIII Administrator

control over things that happen. When we remove the aspect of randomness related to violence and tragedy, we feel safe and as if we have control in our lives. "Conversely, if we anticipate disaster, we are forced to relinquish this important but false sense of control," said Finegan.

Finegan believes many of those same reasons are why so many of us believe the old adage, "It couldn't happen here." But, ask the survivors of the Oklahoma City bombing if they still believe that. Or those who lived through the Columbine High School tragedy. Or New York City residents who watched the twin towers disintegrate on 9/11. Finegan wonders how that view has changed for those communities.

Finegan asserts that empowerment

should be the motivation in moving forward. She states, "You should prepare yourselves, your families and your communities to be survivors rather than victims, determined rather than devastated, prepared rather than perplexed." Those of us involved in preparing for the Big One, Finegan says, "need to be the contributors, not the wishers," because it truly can mean the difference between life and death.

To find Preparedness Training information:



<https://www.utah.train.org>

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Protection Against Influenza is for Everyone

by Charla Haley

On February 24, 2010, meeting as the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), a panel of immunization experts voted to expand the recommendation for annual influenza vaccination. Beginning with the 2010 – 2011 influenza season, all people ages 6 months and older are encouraged to be vaccinated against the flu. The new recommendation is designed to remove barriers to influenza immunization and, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, signals the importance of preventing influenza across the entire population.

Discussion at the ACIP meeting in February focused on the value of protecting all people 19 to 49 years of age, the group hardest hit by the 2009 H1N1 pandemic. The group also outlined the concern that many people in currently recommended “higher risk” groups are unaware of their risk factor and don’t understand that influenza could cause serious complications when combined with their health condition. Plus, a universal recommendation makes messaging that much easier. In addition, new data collected over the course of the 2009 H1N1 pandemic indicate that some people who do not currently have a specific recommendation

for vaccination may also be at higher risk of serious flu-related complications, including those people who are obese, postpartum women, and people in certain racial/ethnic groups.

Several formulations of influenza vaccine are available, such as the nasal spray, traditional shot and thimerosal-free vaccine. A new high-dose influenza vaccine is available for adults 65+ years of age.

To find a facility offering influenza vaccinations near you, visit: <http://www.immunize-utah.org/> and click on Flu Vaccination Locator.

For more information on seasonal flu, visit: <http://health.utah.gov/epi/diseases/flu/index.htm>

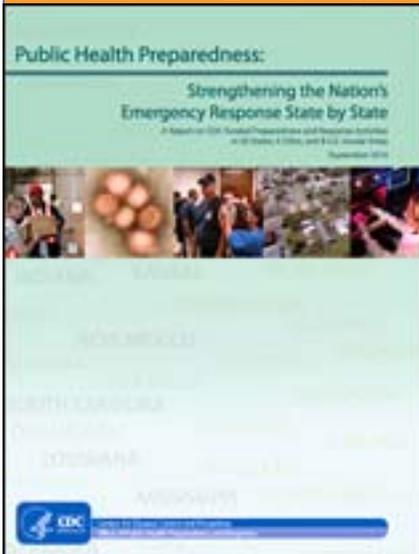


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health.utah.gov/preparedness
health.utah.gov/ems**

Preparing for Public Health Threats *by Charla Haley*



On Tuesday, September 21, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention issued a report on CDC-funded preparedness and response activities. *Public Health Preparedness: Strengthening the Nation's Emergency Response State by State* highlights progress in preparedness and presents data on a broad range of preparedness and response activities occurring at state and local levels across the nation.

A healthy population is more resilient in public health emergencies. To develop an effective response plan, a state or locality must consider the unique needs of its own population. In Utah, 8.4% of adults reported having asthma, 6.1% diabetes, 4.9% heart disease, and 2.0% had had a stroke. In addition, 19.5% reported a limiting disability and 58.2% were overweight or obese.*

Some notable Utah accomplishments in the report include:

- Scored 94% on rapid identification of disease-causing bacteria submitted to PulseNet database within 4 working days (target: 90%)
- Scored 100% on lab test results submitted to PulseNet database within 4 working days (target: 90%)
- State public health department reports a 24/7 reporting capacity system that could receive urgent disease reports any time of day
- In 2007-2008, Utah's CDC technical assistance review (TAR) state score was 85. In 2008-2009, the score was 88. And in 2009-2010, Utah scored a 92.
- Under the category of Response Readiness, pre-identified staff acknowledged notification within the target time of 60 minutes 5 out of 5 times.

The CDC has also outlined some key future challenges:

- Preparing adequately for outbreaks and other public health emergencies that may occur simultaneously.
- Gaps in measuring preparedness in the areas of surveillance and epidemiology.
- An all-hazards approach to preparedness that will blend with efforts to promote health and prevention of disease, injury and disability in communities.

The full report may be downloaded from

<http://emergency.cdc.gov/publications/2010phprep/>

*CDC, ONCDIEH (NCCDPHP) Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 2008.

Healthcare Planning and Response Coalitions in Utah

by Kevin McCulley

Over the past three years, the UDOH has used Hospital Preparedness Program funding from ASPR/HHS to fund Regional Healthcare Coalitions. As shown in the image on the right, Healthcare Coalitions provide a method for healthcare partners (hospitals, outpatient clinics, long-term care, and others) to unify around planning and response at a regional (Tier Two) level.

Program activities include development of Memoranda of Understanding for sharing of assets, personnel, and information. Other activities include the development of a shared training plan, efforts to unify health and medical (ESF-8) planning in the regions, and increased integration of facility communication with jurisdictional command in each area.

The current project period now includes funded Coalitions in every part of the state:

Northern Utah Healthcare Coalition – Box Elder, Cache, Rich, Davis, Weber, and Morgan Counties. (Housed in Bear River Health Department.)

SST Regional Healthcare Preparedness Coalition – Salt Lake, Summit, and Tooele Counties. (Housed in Salt Lake Valley Health Department.)

Medical Surge Capacity Coalition of Central Utah – (name may change as Central District activates) Utah and Wasatch Counties. (Housed in Utah County Health Department.)

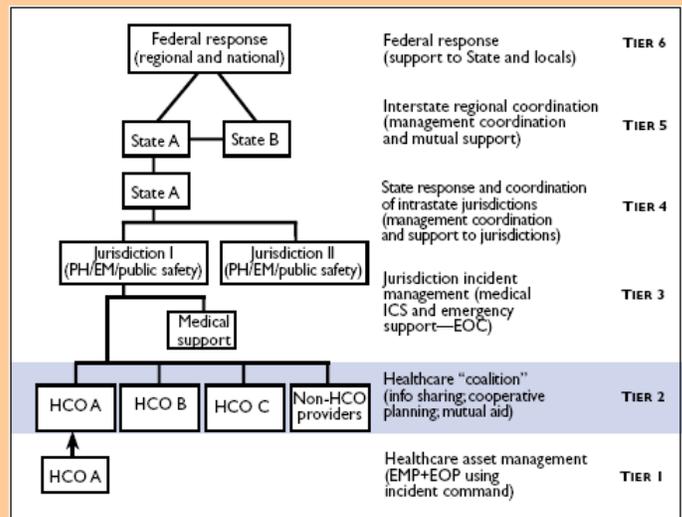
TriCounty Healthcare Coalition – Uintah, Duchesne, and Daggett Counties. (Housed in TriCounty Health Department.)

Southeast Utah Healthcare Coalition – Emery, Carbon, Grand, and San Juan Counties. (Housed in Southeastern Utah District Health Department.)

Southwest Utah Healthcare Preparedness Coalition – Beaver, Iron, Kane, Washington, and Garfield Counties. (Housed in Southwest Public Health Department.)

Central District Healthcare Coalition – (under formation, name may change) Juab, Sanpete, Sevier, Millard, Piute, and Wayne Counties. (Housed in Central Utah Public Health Department.)

For any questions about participating on a Coalition, or for more information, contact Kevin McCulley, Healthcare Preparedness Program Manager, at 801-273-6669 or kmcculley@utah.gov.



Promote business, community and workplace preparedness: www.BeReadyUtah.com

Exciting Changes at UDOH

Kevin McCulley has joined the UDOH, Bureau of Emergency Medical Services and Preparedness as the Healthcare Preparedness Program Manager. He oversees and directs the ASPR Healthcare Preparedness Program Cooperative Agreement. This agreement is responsible for funding and supporting preparedness planning, training, equipment, and collaborative efforts of entities across the healthcare spectrum. Program areas include NIMS compliance, Mass Fatality Planning, Persons with Access and Functional Needs, and Redundant Communications, to name a few. Some of you may know Kevin from his recent work with the Association for Utah Community Health, where he was the Preparedness Coordinator working to support

preparedness efforts of community health centers in Utah. When he isn't working, Kevin enjoys backcountry skiing and mountain biking. Please welcome Kevin to the Bureau!



Familiar Faces in New Places

Raul Garcia recently accepted a new position within the Bureau of Emergency Medical Services and Preparedness (BEMSP) as an EMS Systems Consultant. He will represent the Bureau in the southwest region of the State, attending local EMS councils, local emergency planning committees, and interim grants committee meetings. Raul will also assist in the development and review of EMS Systems Program policies, established membership, bylaws, and funding support. In case of major EMS incidents, Raul will respond according to the Bureau disaster plan. His response may include coordinating EMS resources within the region or, as needed, statewide.

Christine Warren has been the Preparedness and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Training Coordinator since January 2010. Her job responsibilities now include the Emergency Preparedness Exercise Coordinator component for UDOH and statewide partners. As the Training & Exercise Coordinator within the Bureau's Professional Development Program, she will continue to focus on the Department's employee emergency preparedness training along with incorporating appropriate training and exercises for UDOH's Response Team, which is part of our ICS disaster plans. Christine will also be working with the Department's various programs and external partners to assist, facilitate, coordinate, and support various emergency preparedness resources for conferences, workshops, trainings, and exercises.

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Upcoming Trainings and Events Nov. 2010–Mar. 2011

U-TRAIN www.utah.train.org

DATE	Conferences / Events	Organization Sponsorship	Location	Registration Information	Contact
Nov. 2-4	New EMS Instructor Course	Utah Department of Health Bureau of EMS & Preparedness	Red Lion Hotel 161 W. 600 So. SLC, UT	\$150 Approval Required Reg @ U-Train Course #1024464	Riki Rice: rikirice@utah.gov 801-273-6631
Nov. 17	Interactive WEBINAR “EMD Protocol Use for Best Outcome” Presenter: Dave Brinton SLC Fire Dept.	Utah Department of Health Bureau of EMS & Preparedness and Peace Officer Standards & Training (POST)	Interactive WEBINAR Requirements: Must have Internet access	No Cost Reg @ U-Train Course #1024762	Riki Rice: rikirice@utah.gov 801-273-6631
2011 Jan. 25-26	FBI Regional Criminal Epidemiology Investigation Workshop	FBI and Utah Department of Health	TBD	No Cost By Invitation Course # TBD	Christine Warren christinewarren@utah.gov 801-273-6663
2011 Tentative Date Feb. 9-10	ADLS Course	Utah Department of Health Bureau of EMS & Preparedness	TBD	No Cost Reg @ U-Train Course # TBD	Christine Warren christinewarren@utah.gov 801-273-6663
2011 Tentative Date Mar 7-10	SNS Preparation Course	Utah Department of Health Bureau of EMS & Preparedness	TBD	No Cost Approval Required Reg @ U-Train Course # TBD	Don Wood donwood@utah.gov 801-273-6654

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**Upcoming Training and Events
Nov. 2010–Mar. 2011 (continued)**

DATE	Conferences / Events	Organization Sponsorship	Location	Registration Information	Contact
2011 Mar 18-19	EMS Instructor Course	Utah Department of Health Bureau of EMS & Preparedness	Cedar City	TBD <i>Approval Required</i> Course # TBD	Riki Rice: rikirice@utah.gov 801-273-6631

Additional Trainings from Homeland Security

To register for a HLS State Training go to UTRAIN at: www.utah.train.org

All-Hazard Communications Unit Leader (COML) Course - L-969 - Course ID: 1024743

All-Hazard Finance/Administration Section Chief (L-973) - Course ID: 1024678

CCDC-City and County Directors Conference – Course # 1021336 Dates: 11/16/2010 and 4/28/2011

COOP Manager's Training Course w/Train-the-Trainer module (L548) - Course ID: 1019093

Hazcat Training - Course ID: 1021436

(HSEEP) Homeland Security Exercise & Evaluation - TOOLKIT - Course ID: 101927

ICS-300 Intermediate ICS for Expanding Incidents - Course ID: 1011051

ICS 400 Advanced-ICS Command & General Staff Complex Incidents - Course ID: 1011057

PIO - Basic Public Information Officer Course (G290) - Course ID: 1011053

PIO - Joint Information System/Center Planning for Tribal, State, & Local Public Information Officers (G291) -
Course ID: 1020466

RACES/ARES Conference - Course ID: 1011069

Resilient Accord 2010 - Continuity (COOP) Tabletop

Training and Exercise Plan Workshop - Course ID: 1023945

UEMA Workshop - Course ID: 1023657

Water Sector Interdependencies - Course ID: 1023162