



EdTrAC Connect is distributed electronically every month. It provides preparedness training-related news and information to EdTrAC members and other individuals or organizations interested in receiving the updates. All of the information can be republished or distributed to other parties. Submissions can be made any time, but must be received by the first week of the month in order to be published in the new month. To submit items for the EdTrAC Connect, or to subscribe/unsubscribe, please contact Mat Willey at 515-243-2000 or mwilley@sppg.com.

EdTrAC, the Education and Training Advisory Committee, serves as a coordinator, link, and information clearinghouse about issues, training, and exercises that benefit those in the state who are responsible for ensuring the safety and health of Iowans on a day-to-day basis. Bringing together members who represent a wide array of preventers and first responders, EdTrAC takes an innovative and multidisciplinary approach to coordinating preparedness training priorities for Iowa. More information about EdTrAC can be found at www.edtrac.us.

EdTrAC is convened by the University of Iowa College of Public Health, Upper Midwest Center for Public Health Preparedness which is funded by a grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Partnering agencies include the Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division, the Iowa Department of Public Safety, and the Iowa Department of Public Health. State Public Policy Group serves as the coordinator and staff for EdTrAC.

Upcoming EdTrAC Quarterly Meeting Schedule:

Thursday March 6, 2008

9 am – noon
Location TBA

Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division Newsletter

Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division

One new HSEMD newsletter (December 4) has been posted at:

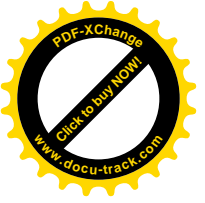
http://www.iowahomelandsecurity.org/asp/news_room/newsletters.asp

Three highlights from the December 4 issue:

Multi-State agro terrorism workshop supplies training and education

Partners from Minnesota, Wisconsin and Iowa interested in agro-terrorism prevention, protection, response and recovery met in La Crosse, Wisconsin November 14 -15. Approximately 125 attendees from a variety of disciplines, including federal, state, and local governments, along with law enforcement, extension offices, private sector, and elected officials participated in the workshop.

The training, a collaborative effort between Iowa Central Community College and Kirkwood Community College, focused on best practices and safety issues in the event of a foreign animal disease (FMD) outbreak. Participants discussed the importance of preparing for a potential outbreak, prevention, containment, euthanasia, disposal, and recovery.



Civil Air Patrol provides valuable resources

The Civil Air Patrol (CAP), the official auxiliary of the United States Air Force, is mandated by Congress to fulfill three missions around aerospace education, youth programs, and emergency services. The CAP in Iowa works very closely with professional emergency services organizations across the state and can be a valuable tool for incident commanders, emergency managers, and exercise planners.

The CAP in Iowa has a fleet of seven aircraft, 12 ground vehicles, and more than 400 trained unpaid professionals as part of the single largest volunteer aircraft fleet in the United States. With over 55,000 members nationwide, the members of the CAP dedicate their time and talents to support their local communities, the state of Iowa, and the United States.

Hamilton County receives radiological monitors

Members of the Hamilton County Emergency Management Board recently received new personal radiological monitors to be used by the county's fire departments. Hamilton County Emergency Management Agency Coordinator Terry Johnston said one of this year's projects of Homeland Security Region 1 was to supply first responders in the region with personal radiation monitors. The monitors are being assigned to fire/rescue units around the county who may be required to respond to calls involving transportation of radiological materials. The new monitors may also be used at commercial, agricultural, or residential locations as well.

Upcoming events:

Senior Officials Workshop for All Hazards Preparedness

Texas Engineering Extension Service, National Emergency Response and Rescue Training Center, and the Texas A&M University System

Dates:

Workshop is typically delivered at a time and place determined by the requesting jurisdiction.

Cost:

Free. To get more information call Phil Crosbie at 979.458.8161 or email him at Phil.Crosbie@teexmail.tamu.edu. Also, you may contact Diane Walters at 979.458.8877 or email her at Diane.Walters@teexmail.tamu.edu.

The Senior Officials Workshop is for local-jurisdiction elected and appointed senior officials. Its purpose is to provide a forum to discuss strategic and executive-level issues related to disaster preparedness, share proven strategies and best practices, and enhance coordination among officials responsible for emergency response to a disaster.

Volunteer Training Course

Iowa Department of Public Health and the Upper Midwest Center for Public Health Preparedness

Dates:

This course will be featured throughout December.

Cost:

Free



Four 15-minute volunteer training courses are available throughout December. The first training course is called 'First Steps' and is for potential public health volunteers. It will explain why volunteers are an essential part of a successful emergency response and provides guidance through the process of becoming a volunteer. The second training focuses on the **Incident Command System** and explains how the Incident Command System works and how volunteers fit into it. The third training course **deals with Personal Protective Equipment and** demonstrates the appropriate use of PPE. The fourth training course focuses on **Stress Management** and explains how a traumatic event affects people, identifies the symptoms of traumatic stress, and provides volunteers with methods to manage their stress, on-site, immediately after the event, and once they return to your everyday life.

Freedom of Information and Openness Training for Records Custodians and Journalists

Iowa Newspaper Foundation, National Freedom of Information Coalition, Iowa Freedom of Information Council, Iowa Association of School Boards, Iowa State Association of Counties, Iowa League of Cities, and Iowa Broadcasters Association

Dates:

December 7 - Mt. Pleasant
Civic Center/Public Library

Cost:

\$20 for on-site program. \$10 for ICN program. Registration deadline is November 27. For information on how to register contact Leo Landis at 515.244.2145 ext. 159.

Freedom of Information and Openness Training for Records Custodians and Journalists

Iowa Newspaper Foundation, National Freedom of Information Coalition, Iowa Freedom of Information Council, Iowa Association of School Boards, Iowa State Association of Counties, Iowa League of Cities, and Iowa Broadcasters Association

Dates:

December 13 - Cedar Rapids
Grant Wood Area Education Agency
ICN Sites available in Council Bluffs and Bettendorf

Cost:

\$20 for on-site program. \$10 for ICN program. Registration deadline is November 27. For information on how to register contact Leo Landis at 515.244.2145 ext. 159

Freedom of Information and Openness Training for Records Custodians and Journalists

Iowa Newspaper Foundation, National Freedom of Information Coalition, Iowa Freedom of Information Council, Iowa Association of School Boards, Iowa State Association of Counties, Iowa League of Cities, and Iowa Broadcasters Association

Dates Offered:

December 14 - Storm Lake
Buena Vista University



Cost:

\$20 for on-site program. \$10 for ICN program. Registration deadline is November 27. For information on how to register contact Leo Landis at 515.244.2145 ext. 159.

Weapons of Mass Destruction – Threat and Risk Assessment

United States Department of Homeland Security, Texas Engineering Extension Service, Texas A&M University System, Johnson County EMA, and the Coralville Fire department

Dates Offered:

March 25-28

Cost:

Free. Call 319.248.1835, 319.248.1844 or email dstannard@ci.coralville.ia.us for additional details.

This course provides a unique opportunity for individuals to acquire the knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary to help them protect public safety and infrastructure from the threat of a terrorism incident. Course participants, using their extensive professional experience, work together in multi-discipline teams to apply the information presented during the course in a variety of hands-on, small-group activities as well as realistic, multi-media scenarios.

U.S. Department of Homeland Security

New Resources on Interoperable Communications

Interoperable Communications:

For years, achieving communications interoperability has been a top priority for federal, state, and local jurisdictions across the country. To assist this effort, *LLIS.gov* has developed the [Interoperable Communications Resource Page](#) to serve as a one-stop resource for federal, state, and local interoperable communications guidance, research, and plans. The page highlights documents in key areas in interoperable communications such as tactical planning, strategic planning, technology solutions, and the use of common language.

New Resources on Tactical Interoperable Communications Plan Exercises:

This resource page highlights the lessons learned from last year's Tactical Interoperable Communication Plan (TICP) exercises conducted by more than 76 urban and metropolitan areas. The [TICP Exercises Resource Page](#) features TICP exercise after-action reports from urban areas across the country, and *LLIS.gov's* original research highlighting widely applicable TICP exercise lessons learned in areas such as communications protocols, incident command/unified command, and exercise design.

To access these resource pages, please log onto *LLIS.gov* (www.llis.gov) and click on the links provided under FEATURED TOPICS. Additionally, we encourage you to submit your own plans, reports, or other documents related to interoperable communications at IOComms@llis.dhs.gov. As always, we welcome your thoughts, questions, and suggestions.

**"Incident Command System for Executives" Training Materials Available Online
NEMA-CDC**

The 2007 "Incident Command System for Executives" training material is now available to all National Emergency Management Association (NEMA) members. The training curriculum and instructional



materials were developed by NEMA and IEM, through a grant from the Centers for Disease Control.

For the past three years, NEMA and Innovative Emergency Management (IEM) have been delivering ICS training to state interagency teams comprised of executive-level state officials representing public health, emergency management, fire, law enforcement, governor's offices, and other state agencies with roles and responsibilities for disaster and public health preparedness and response. The training consists of an overview of ICS and a bioterrorism focused tabletop exercise.

Click on the following link <http://www.nemaweb.org/?1100> to access the training manual and the PowerPoint presentation, or cut and paste the URL address into your Internet browser. Note some of the files are large and may take several minutes to download.

NEMA and the CDC encourage you to make the most of the materials to aid in your bioterrorism preparedness. Feel free to modify the exercise scenario and other training material to meet your agency's needs. If you have questions about the materials feel free to contact Beverly Bell, NEMA Sr. Policy Analyst, at bbell@csg.org.

U.S. Department of Transportation

Two federal agencies joined forces to give fire fighters and other emergency responders instant access to information that will help them – in the first critical moments of an incident – determine the best way to safely contain hazardous materials spills and battle chemical fires.

Emergency responders will for the first time have electronic access through laptops and personal digital assistants (PDAs) to the 2008 Emergency Response Guidebook (ERG) under the new effort between the U.S. Departments of Transportation (DOT) and Health and Human Services (HHS). The guidebook is the go-to reference for first responders to help them quickly identify hazardous material classifications, determine the best response, and protect themselves and the general public immediately after an incident.

"This new digital tool will give our police, fire fighters, and other emergency responders first on the scene the information they need to make the rapid-fire decisions necessary to protect the public and themselves," said Ted Wilke, PHMSA Associate Administrator for Hazardous Materials Safety.

The new electronic guidebook was made possible by a new agreement signed today between DOT's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) and the HHS's National Library of Medicine.

The library developed special software to give emergency responders access to the guidebook through PDAs as well as Windows-based laptops and desktops. The software application, called the Wireless Information System for Emergency Responders (WISER), will be available later this year.

For more information on the ERG, visit <http://hazmat.dot.gov/pubs/erg/guidebook.htm/>. For information on WISER visit <http://wiser.nlm.nih.gov/>.

For additional questions, contact Patricia Klinger or Joe Delcambre at (202) 366-4831.

Introduction to Disaster Services American Red Cross Online Course



Introduction to Disaster Services is a free online course consisting of three separate learning modules that will introduce individuals to American Red Cross Disaster Services and allow them to discover how volunteers support this critical mission as well as explore ways they can become involved in their local chapter.

This online course takes approximately 45 minutes to complete. To take the course, visit the website: http://www2.redcross.org/flash/course01_v01/.

Providing Mass Medical Care with Scarce Resources: A Community Planning Guide

HHS Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality Shares Resources

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, in collaboration with the Office of Public Health Emergency Preparedness, has released *Providing Mass Medical Care with Scarce Resources: A Community Planning Guide*. This planning guide was developed to provide community planners, as well as planners at the institutional, state and federal levels, with valuable information that will help in their efforts to plan for and respond to a Mass Casualty Event (MCE).

The planning guide examines MCE response and preparedness challenges across a wide range of health care settings and issue recommendations for planners in specific areas. The guide also discusses ethical and legal considerations related to MCE planning in hospital, acute-care, alternative-care sites and pre-hospital.

To access *Providing Mass Medical Care with Scarce Resources: A Community Planning Guide* go to <http://www.ahrq.gov/research/mce/>. To order a print copy of the guide, contact the AHRQ Publications Clearinghouse at 800-358-9295 or by sending an e-mail to ahrqpubs@ahrq.hhs.gov.

Websites to Check Regularly for Trainings and Exercises:

AgTerror Preparedness Center

<http://www.agterror.org/>

EdTrAC

<http://www.edtrac.us>

Iowa Department of Public Safety, State Fire Marshal Division

<http://www.dps.state.ia.us/fm/fstb/>

Iowa Law Enforcement Academy

<http://www.state.ia.us/ilea/courses.html>

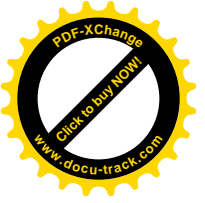
Iowa Responder Training

<http://www.iowarespondertraining.com/>

National Fire Fighter Near-Miss Reporting System

www.firefightersnearmiss.com

Prepare Iowa Learning Management System



<http://www.prepareiowa.com/Public/>

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www.edtrac.us