CDC Deploys New Rapid Response Teams to Fight Zika

(USA Today) It was a call that public health officials were dreading, but for which they had prepared. An elderly man in Salt Lake City died after apparently contracting the Zika virus, the 1st fatality from the disease in the continental US.


AHA urges Congress to pass funding to fight Zika virus

(AHA News Now for Sept 13) The AHA today urged congressional leaders to provide $1.1 billion in new funding to combat the Zika virus. "Now that Zika is locally-transmitted in the United States, the challenge we face is preventing the virus from taking permanent hold, not only in Florida, but in half of the country," AHA Executive Vice President Tom Nickels wrote. "...We urge Congress to act now to prevent further transmission. With adequate funding, state and local public health departments would be able to respond with robust mosquito abatement programs, enhanced laboratory, epidemiology, and surveillance capacity and surge capacity through rapid response teams to limit transmission. Funding also would ensure that the development of a vaccine, diagnostic tests and treatments moves forward as quickly as possible." As of last week, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention had reported 43 locally-acquired cases of Zika virus and 2,920 travel-related cases in the U.S.

Memphis Fire officials say it was worst blaze in almost a century

Firemen Weep at Scene of Fire That Killed 5 Kids, 4 Adults

(Newser) – What local fire officials are calling the worst fire in Memphis, Tenn., in almost 100 years swept through a one-story home Monday, killing nine people, including five kids, USA Today reports. Per the Commercial Appeal, the city’s fire director, Gina Sweat, confirmed the deaths at a press conference and said one child is still in bad shape at a local hospital. She added the fire appears to have started in the living room, though fire officials are still checking out the evidence. NBC News reports there was a smoke detector in the home, though Sweat says it's unclear whether it was working; she also notes that the windows were barred, which may have prevented the victims’ escape.

Among the dead are an unidentified 18-year-old man, 56-year-old Carol Collier, 27-year-old Lakeisha Ward, and 61-year-old Eloise Futrell. The children who died, said to all be Futrell's grandkids, ranged in age from 3 to 16. "I've never seen firemen cry, but they were bawling like babies when they brought the children out," a neighbor tells the Appeal. Family members say the children's father had run out to the store, and he came upon the deadly scene when he arrived back home. "Our hearts are ripped in two," Futrell's niece says, and Sweat says the firefighters at the scene feel the same. "Nothing in our training can truly prepare us for this heartbreaking event," she says, per NBC.

Source: http://www.newser.com/story/230969/firemen-weep-at-scene-of-fire-that-killed-5-kids-4-adults.html

UK nurse who contracted Ebola faces disciplinary hearing

LONDON (AP) - Disciplinary hearings are set to begin in the case of a British nurse who contracted Ebola while working in Sierra Leone. Pauline Cafferkey is accused of concealing her elevated temperature from health officials when she returned to Britain with the virus. The Nursing and Midwifery Council says she "allowed an incorrect temperature to be recorded" when she landed at London Heathrow Airport on Dec. 29, 2014.

Full story: http://bigstory.ap.org/685a6f7b97754dd1a344f13ea2cbe555
Student dies of brain infection linked to Maryland

(AAP) A New York college student has died of a rare brain infection she probably contracted while swimming in a body of fresh water in Maryland, health officials said.

Nineteen-year-old Kerry Stoutenburgh of Kingston, New York, died in Kingston on Aug. 31, weeks after officials say she visited Cecil County in northeastern Maryland and swam in county waters.

The amoeba occurs naturally in bodies of warm, fresh water, Bortz said. He added that it is widespread, especially in Southern states.

While the amoeba can forcefully enter through the nose and travel up the olfactory nerve to the brain, he said, the risk of infection is low. But his health department says anyone jumping into a warm body of water should hold their nose, and anyone swimming in a river, lake or pond should wear a nose clip.

Full story: http://bigstory.ap.org/aea80cdf0c91497bb4a2a41d61f5d9858

Report warns of potential shortage of medical isotope

(AHA News Now for Sept 12) Global supplies of an isotope used in medical diagnostic imaging will fall substantially when a Canadian reactor stops producing it at the end of October, according to a report released today by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. Nearly all of the world’s supply of molybdenum-99 is produced by seven research reactors in Australia, Canada, Europe and South Africa. The isotope is distributed through an international supply chain at least weekly because it cannot be stockpiled.

“Current efforts to increase the supply of molybdenum-99 by expansion of existing overseas production and initiation of domestic production by methods not requiring highly enriched uranium are important to ensure future availability,” said S. James Adelstein, chair of the committee that produced the report and a professor of medical biophysics at Harvard Medical School. “Although there are plans from both existing international suppliers and potential domestic suppliers to fill the expected supply gap from Canada, the committee is concerned that any delays in bringing additional supplies of molybdenum-99 to the market would increase the risks of substantial shortages.”

3 new strains of norovirus cause epidemic in Australia

(CIDRAP News Scan) Scientists from the University of New South Wales (UNSW) have identified three new strains of norovirus that have caused an epidemic of gastrointestinal disease in Australia this winter. Officials estimate that hundreds of thousands of Australians—most in nursing homes, hospitals, cruise ships, and daycares—have been infected with these new strains. Researchers said two of the viruses are hybrids that evolved from the Sydney 2012 strain, and the other strain likely originated in Asia. According to a press release today from UNSW, the strains are named Kawasaki 308, New Orleans 2009/Sydney 2012 and GII.P16/Sydney 2012.

Study finds high rate of MDR pathogens in hospitalized Syrian children

Researchers at a hospital in Israel are reporting a high rate of multidrug-resistant (MDR) pathogen carriage among Syrian children who were ill or wounded during the ongoing Syrian civil war. The study, conducted at Israel's Galilee Medical Center and published in Emerging Infectious Diseases yesterday, involved 128 children admitted to the hospital for multiple trauma and acute or chronic illness from March 2013 to February 2016. Of the 128 children, 107 were screened for five MDR pathogens: extended-spectrum beta-lactamase-producing Enterobacteriaceae (ESBL), carbapenem-resistant Enterobacteriaceae (CRE), methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus, MDR Acinetobacter baumannii (MDR-AB), and vancomycin-resistant Enterococcus. The researchers identified MDR pathogens in 89 of the 107 children (83%), with all five classes of pathogen being represented. Infections were present in 24 of the children (19%), with urinary tract, surgical site, and bone infections being the most prevalent.
Hungry Teens in US Turn to Sex Work: Report
(Newser) – Hunger is forcing some teens in low-income communities across the US into the sex trade, according to a report by the Urban Institute. The authors looked at poor teens in 10 communities across the nation and found that, in most of them, girls turn to "selling their body" and "transactional dating" with older men, and boys shoplift and sell drugs to pay for food. "People have to do other things," a teenage boy in Illinois told the authors. "They do what they have to do to survive because not everyone can go out and get a job." Susan Popkin, the lead author of the report, "Impossible Choices," called the findings "new and shocking." She told the Guardian: "The level of desperation that it implies was really shocking to me. It's a situation I think is just getting worse over time."

An estimated 6.8 million 10- to-17-year-olds do not have enough to eat, of which 2.9 million have "very low food security," the researchers said. "A small subset of teens make risky decisions in big and small communities alike because family poverty has increased, working-class wages have stalled, and cash assistance from government programs has wilted." The food budget is one of the first to be cut when families are in crisis, they said, adding that the results raise questions about the priorities of a Congress more focused on spending on very young children. The study casts doubt on the legacy of Bill Clinton's sweeping welfare reform two decades ago, notes the Guardian. Among the institute's recommendations: expanding school meals in the summer and after class, creating jobs for kids, and keeping kids out of the criminal justice system. Says Popkin: "One of the things we see, particularly around girls, is that if they get caught up in the criminal justice system, they get treated as status offenders, so they get arrested ... instead of receiving the support they should be having for being exploited."


JUST RELEASED: Federal Funding for Health Security in FY2017
Health security is unique in that multiple federal agencies are responsible for discrete aspects of maintaining national readiness for epidemics and other disasters. This analysis, prepared by the UPMC Center for Health Security, is intended to capture and report funding levels for the broad array of health security-related work ongoing at the federal level in public health, health care, national security, and defense. Read more

UPMC Health Security Headlines
Excerpts from September 13, 2016

Homeland Security: DHS's Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and Explosives Program Consolidation Proposal Could Better Consider Benefits and Limitations (GAO) DHS documentation related to its proposed consolidation of Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and Explosives programs offers some insights into benefits and limitations considered, but the information provided to GAO did not include several key factors to consider when evaluating an organizational consolidation. Go to article

EPA Proposes New Water Rules for Nuclear Emergencies (Wall Street Journal: subscription required) In the wake of a nuclear emergency, the Environmental Protection Agency thinks it would be acceptable for the public to temporarily drink water containing radioactive contamination at up to thousands of times normal federal safety limits. Go to article

Cyber Bombs Reshape US Battle against Terrorism (npr) Fifteen years after 9/11, the battle against terrorist groups has gone high tech with the leveling of what Defense Secretary Ash Carter called cyber bombs. NPR looks at how this cyber war is being waged against ISIS and what it means for the future fight against terror. Go to article

Antimicrobial Resistance: Is the World Unprepared? (PLOS: Medicine) Some health crises appear suddenly and require swift assessments and strong responses; others come into focus more
slowly and are striking in their complexity and intractability. The UN has previously convened high-level meetings and special sessions to focus specifically on health issues on only 3 occasions: to address the threats posed by HIV, non-communicable diseases, and Ebola. Go to article

The Radiation Emergency Medical Management (REMM)
US DHHS Website Team is proud to announce a major content update for August 2016.
US DHHS Website: https://www.remm.nlm.gov

Since REMM’s last major content and design update in September 2015, significant content updates include but are not limited to the following:

1. New York City Department of Health gave REMM permission to host and publish their “Field Guide for Health and Safety Officers: Radiological Incidents”. This is an extraordinary asset for local planners and first responders.
2. Major update to the Myeloid Cytokines page reflecting FDA approval of a new drug for neutropenia. This was accompanied by required changes to
   o REMM’s Prototype for Hospital Orders for radiation injury admission
   o Mobile REMM countermeasures page
3. Significant updates to the Protective Actions Guides (PAGs) page reflecting the ongoing updates to the EPA guidance
4. Inclusion of link to important new video explaining Operational tactics for the first 100 minutes after an outdoor explosive RDD.
5. Major update to the Potassium Iodide page, reflecting FDA guidance on liquid countermeasures for children and other prescribing information.
6. Major addition to the multimedia assets content with tools created by CDC
7. Major update to the content on the Nuclear Power Plant page
8. Complete redrafting of the radiation Labels and Placards page, with key, new graphics
9. Major update to the Planners page, including reorganized references to the National Response Framework
10. Link to important new document about Electromagnetic Pulse (EMP) is included on the REMM nuclear detonation page
11. Link to very important new reference from HHS (Coleman CN, Koerner JF) about using biodosimetry following a large scale radiation incident is included on the REMM biodosimetry references page.
12. Update to the retrospective assessment of dose information on the software tools page
13. Update of HHS information including TRACIE (Technical Resources, Assistance Center and Information Exchange)
14. New links to complete set of IOM (National Academies) monographs on "Crisis Standards of Care", (see volumes 1-7). Links are on the REMM Crisis Standards of Care page.

If you have comments or questions, please Contact Us directly.
GM recalls 4.3 million vehicles over air bag-related defect

September 9, Reuters – (National) General Motors Company issued a recall September 9 for nearly 4.3 million of its model years 2014 – 2017 vehicles in select makes due to a software defect which can prevent the air bags from deploying during an accident, thereby increasing the risk of injury. One death and three injury reports have been linked to the recall.
Source: http://www.reuters.com/article/us-gm-recall-idUSKCN11F2AH

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Publix recalls Apple Coffee Cakes (foreign matter-metal)

September 9, U.S Food and Drug Administration – (National) Publix Super Markets, Inc. issued a voluntary recall September 8 for its Apple Coffee Cakes products due the potential presence of small metal shavings. No illnesses have been reported and the products were sold at Publix bakery departments in Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Alabama, Tennessee, and Florida.
Source: http://www.fda.gov/Safety/Recalls/ucm520029.htm

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U.S. tech firms urge Congress to allow internet domain changeover

(Reuters) Major technology companies including Facebook, Google and Twitter are urging Congress to support a plan for the U.S. government to cede control of the internet's technical management to the global community, they said in a joint letter dated on Tuesday.

The U.S. Commerce Department has primary oversight of the internet's management, largely because it was invented in the United States. Some Republican lawmakers are trying to block the handover to global stakeholders, which include businesses, tech experts and public interest advocates, saying it could stifle online freedom by giving voting rights to authoritarian governments.

The years-long plan to transfer oversight of the nonprofit Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers, or ICANN, is scheduled to occur on Oct. 1 unless Congress votes to block the handover. The California-based corporation operates the database for domain names such as .com and .net and their corresponding numeric addresses that allow computers to connect.
Full story: http://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-cyber-governance-idUSKCN11I2OT

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Samsung's quick fix for Galaxy Note 7 is no full recharge

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — Samsung plans to issue a software update for its recalled Galaxy Note 7 smartphones that will prevent them from overheating by limiting battery recharges to 60 percent.

The front page of the Seoul Shinmun, a South Korean newspaper, carried a Samsung advertisement on Tuesday announcing the software update for any users of the Note 7 who may be disregarding its recall notice and continuing to use the smartphone.

"It is a measure to put consumer safety first but we apologize for causing inconvenience," the advertisement by Samsung Electronics said. The update for South Korean users will start Sept. 20, it said. Full story: http://bigstory.ap.org/2778369281b249c2bc4b9a6eb6044163

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WADA says Russian hackers published athletes' medical data

GENEVA (AP) - Confidential medical data of gold medal-winning gymnast Simone Biles, seven-time Grand Slam champion Venus Williams and other female U.S. Olympians was hacked from a World Anti-Doping Agency database and posted online Tuesday.

WADA said the hackers were a "Russian cyber espionage group" called Fancy Bears. They revealed records of "Therapeutic Use Exemptions" (TUEs), which allow athletes to use otherwise-banned substances because of a verified medical need.
Read more: http://bigstory.ap.org/d3060c900017464fa9e49e2debb51624

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Free decrypter available for Philadelphia ransomware

*September 10, Softpedia* — (International) An Emsisoft security researcher released a decrypter for the Philadelphia ransomware that can unlock a victim’s files for free after the researcher discovered the malware was deleting a predetermined number of files from an infected device if the user did not immediately pay the ransom.


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6 key things to know about Apple's new iOS 10 software

CUPERTINO, Calif. (AP) — Your iPhone will look and feel different with the iOS 10 software update. It will be easier to move around and do more without switching apps, but the changes will take getting used to. The changes are the most dramatic since 2013, when Apple redesigned icons and introduced functions with swipes from various edges. Now, new things happen when you swipe, and you can handle more tasks from the lock screen.

If you aren't prompted for the free update Tuesday, go to "Software Update" under "General" in the settings.

Once you get it, here are some things to know about using it.

1. NEW GESTURES
2. MORE FROM THE LOCK SCREEN
3. COMMUNICATIONS
4. APP INTEGRATION
5. REDESIGNED APPS
6. DOZENS OF TINY DISCOVERIES

Get the details: [http://bigstory.ap.org/211b2659758546bd90efd689408d63c7](http://bigstory.ap.org/211b2659758546bd90efd689408d63c7)

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The KHREF Emergency Preparedness Update is assembled several times a week. When events make it necessary, the Update may be sent out several times a day to keep our hospital and the healthcare community advised on preparedness news and information. Most of this information is compiled from open sources, and where possible reference links will be provided. There is an archive of Emergency Preparedness Updates [available here](http://bigstory.ap.org/211b2659758546bd90efd689408d63c7). If you would like to added or deleted, or have something you would like to contribute to a future edition of the Emergency Preparedness Update, please contact [preparedness@kyha.com](mailto:preparedness@kyha.com) (include your current email address). The preparedness program for the Kentucky Hospital Association (KHA) and KHREF are supported by US DHHS ASPR HPP funds through a contract with Kentucky Public Health.