



Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for May 21, 2018

Hawaii lava finally reaches the Pacific -- only to create another deadly danger

(CNN) First it was [catastrophic lava](#). Then it was [sulfur dioxide](#). Now Big Island residents have yet another danger to worry about. Laze -- a mashup of "lava" and "haze" -- is a nasty product formed when hot lava hits the ocean, sending hydrochloric acid and volcanic glass particles into the air. Laze can cause lung, eye and skin irritation. And it has proven deadly in the past.

The Kilauea volcano erupted at least twice this weekend -- at one point launching a cloud of ash [up to 10,000 feet high](#). Since Kilauea's massive eruption May 3, Brink said, about 2,250 earthquakes have struck on or around Hawaii's Big Island.

Full CNN story: <https://www.cnn.com/2018/05/20/us/hawaii-kilauea-volcano-lava-flow/index.html>

Tick Season Underway Across Kentucky

*State public health officials to host Facebook Live discussion
about tick awareness, prevention on June 4*

Tick awareness and prevention will be the focus of a Facebook Live discussion with state public health officials on June 4. The online event is scheduled to start at 1 p.m. (Eastern). To access the livestream, visit the Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services' Facebook page at [facebook.com/kychfs](https://www.facebook.com/kychfs). Questions can be emailed in advance to chfs.communications@ky.gov or posted in the comments section during the event.

For more information on ticks and tick-borne diseases visit www.cdc.gov/ticks.

Unnecessary and accidental use of ADHD drugs increases over 60%, study suggests

(CNN) Exposure to common medications used to treat attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) has increased by more than 60% in young children and adolescents, according to a new study

Read more: <https://www.cnn.com/2018/05/21/health/adhd-medication-exposure-study/index.html>

Save the date: Sept 24

Health policy forum to provide update on Kentucky's substance abuse epidemic

(Kentucky Forward - 05/17/2018) An update on solutions to Kentucky's substance use epidemic is the topic for the Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky's annual health policy forum, to be held from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Monday, September 24, at the Marriott Griffin Gate in Lexington. Speakers at the Howard L. Bost Memorial Health Policy Forum will share strategies to address the crisis, including responses to rising infectious diseases and alternative therapies.

John Hopkins: Health Security Headlines

Extracts from [May 17, 2018](#), [May 18, 2018](#), and [May 21, 2018](#)

Study by Center for Health Security Identifies Characteristics of Microorganisms Most Likely to Cause a Global Pandemic

Infectious disease preparedness work focuses predominantly on a historical list of pathogens derived from biological warfare agents, political considerations, and recent outbreaks. That fails to account for the most serious agents not currently known or without historical precedent, write scholars from the Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security in a new report on the traits of microorganisms with high pandemic potential. [Read more](#)

Most Maps of the New Ebola Outbreak Are Wrong (*The Atlantic*) On Thursday, the WHO released a map showing parts of the Democratic Republic of the Congo that are currently being affected by Ebola. The map showed 4 cases in Wangata, 1 of 3 "health zones" in the large city of Mbandaka. Wangata, according to the map, lies north of the main city, in a forested area on the other side of a river. That is not where Wangata is. [Go to article](#)

[Top Democrats Want Answers on Global Health Security Head's Sudden Departure](#) (*Huffington Post*) Sens. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass) and Patty Murray (D-Wash.) have requested answers from the White House about last week's sudden departure of Rear Adm. Tim Ziemer, who led the now-disbanded global health security team at the National Security Council. [Go to article](#)

[Controlling Vector-Borne Diseases by Releasing Modified Mosquitoes](#) (*Nature Reviews Microbiology*) *Aedes* mosquito-transmitted diseases, such as dengue, Zika and chikungunya, are becoming major global health emergencies while old threats, such as yellow fever, are re-emerging. Traditional control methods, which have focused on reducing mosquito populations through the application of insecticides or preventing breeding through removal of larval habitat, are largely ineffective, as evidenced by the increasing global disease burden. Here, we review novel mosquito population reduction and population modification approaches with a focus on control methods based on the release of mosquitoes. [Go to article](#)

[New Smallpox-related Virus Found Lurking in Texas Rodents](#) (*Live Science*) A never-before-seen virus that's a relative of the notorious smallpox virus has been found lurking in rodents in Texas, according to a new study. Researchers discovered the new virus in pygmy mice in east-central Texas. A genetic analysis revealed that the virus was a type of poxvirus, a diverse family of viruses that includes the smallpox virus. [Go to article](#)

[Ebola Outbreak is Concerning, but Falls Short of Global Emergency, WHO Panel Says](#) (*STAT*) The Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo does not currently qualify as a public health emergency of international concern, an expert panel convened by head of the WHO announced Friday. [Go to article](#)

[Grand Jury Faults Local Response to San Diego's Hepatitis Crisis](#) (*The San Diego Union-Tribune*) A new report released Thursday by the San Diego County Grand Jury delivers the toughest critique so far of local efforts to end last year's hepatitis A outbreak. [Go to article](#)

[CDC Warns Against Non-Essential Travel to Venezuela: Outbreaks, Breakdown of the Medical Infrastructure](#) (*Outbreak News Today*) The CDC is recommending travelers avoid all nonessential travel to Venezuela. The country is experiencing outbreaks of infectious diseases, and adequate health care is currently not available in most of the country. [Go to article](#)

[He Was Dying. Antibiotics Weren't Working. Then Doctors Tried a Forgotten Treatment.](#) (*Mother Jones*) The treatment Strathdee had fixed on as a last-ditch hope is almost never used in the US. The FDA has not licensed phage therapy, keeping it out of pharmacies and hospitals. Few physicians have used it even experimentally, and most civilians have never heard of it. But phages are a natural phenomenon, frequently deployed in the former Soviet Union. When used properly, they can save lives. [Go to article](#)

[Plug-and-Play Diagnostic Devices](#) (*Science Daily*) Researchers have developed modular blocks that can be put together in different ways to produce diagnostic devices. These 'plug-and-play' devices can test blood glucose levels in diabetic patients or detect viral infection, among other functions. [Go to article](#)

[A New Push for a Universal Flu Vaccine](#) (*Scientific American*) If all goes according to plan, the annual flu shot protects about 60 percent of vaccinated people. This year's inoculation, of course, fell far short of such expectations, safeguarding only one in four vaccinated people who encountered the dominant H3N2 strain. This shortfall injected further momentum into the push to create a universal vaccine that protects against many flu types over time. [Go to article](#)

EMS prehospital documentation and body-worn cameras

(USFA) This article discusses the results of a pilot study where EMS providers used body-worn cameras (BWCs) to see if they could help to improve the accuracy of their prehospital documentation.

Research takeaway: This study showed significant errors in documentation by seasoned paramedics. Use of video review during the documentation process effectively reduced errors.

[Read the article](#) ➔

Silence is deadly: the first step in addressing the rise in suicides

([InfoGram May 17](#)) As mentioned earlier this month, [suicide deaths among firefighters and law enforcement officers \(LEOs\) outpaced line-of-duty deaths in 2017](#), and researchers believe the numbers are actually much higher due to underreporting.

The number one action experts say will help the mental health crisis among first responders is to begin talking about it, starting within the department. It is much easier to [talk about witnessing traumatic events with someone who has been there](#) and seen what you have seen. Allowing a coworker to release the unseen pressure valve that has been building might save their life.

Expecting first responders to repeatedly see injury, violent death and the dark side of humanity but not have it affect them is unreasonable and naive. It's ironic that the "[suck it up](#)" attitude and push to be "strong enough" for the job might actually be perpetuating first responder suicides, as it discourages them from seeking help.

[Departments and personnel need to get serious about addressing mental health and job stress despite the "taboo" label.](#) Research is one thing. Numbers and statistics have their place, but the first steps to solving this problem start in the station. There are programs available to help your department start the conversation:

- [Firefighter Behavioral Health Alliance](#) workshops, self-assessments, resources.
- National Fallen Firefighter Foundation [Everyone Goes Home](#) program. Also, please take the time to fill out their Survey on [Suicide Prevention Efforts](#).
- [Carry the Load](#) program for all first responders, veterans and their families.
- National Volunteer Fire Council's [Share the Load](#) program.
- [CopsAlive.com](#) and [The Badge of Life](#)
- [Law Enforcement Survival Institute](#)
- [The Total Policing Wellness Project](#) requests your stories and tips on wellness for other officers and their families on all aspects of life and career.

Other articles:

- FBI report: Law Enforcement Officers Killed and Assaulted, 2017
- Electric car batteries pose minimal but extended fire risk

[As families struggle to get behavioral health coverage, enforcement of parity laws lags](#)

(Modern Healthcare) Providers, advocacy groups and some policymakers are pressing for stronger enforcement of mental health parity laws. But congressional Republicans and Democrats disagree about giving the federal government more enforcement power. [READ MORE](#)

ASPR Blog: What's in Your State's Disaster Management Plan?

4 Ways to Incorporate Mental and Behavioral Health into Disaster Planning

Last year was one for the record books: hurricanes, floods, severe cold, drought, and wildfires – totaling over \$1 billion in climate- and weather-related damages. Hurricane Preparedness Week is a perfect time for states, tribal nations, and territories to start reviewing state and local disaster preparedness plans to ensure they are up-to-date and address all aspects of planning, response, and recovery. ([Link](#))

Disaster Health Core Curriculum

This [course](#) consists of eleven 30-minute to one-hour online training lessons covering a variety of disaster health topics such as personal or family preparedness, communication, surge capacity, ethical and legal issues encountered in disasters, and considerations for recovery. The curriculum is designed to be taken by healthcare professionals in pieces or as a whole. ([Link](#))

Highly Infectious Disease Resources

ASPR TRACIE has updated our [VHF/Ebola Topic Collection](#) with additional resources. Please also check out our [Select Highly Infectious Disease Resource Page](#) which includes links to various helpful and timely resources, such as the [ASPR TRACIE EMS Infectious Disease Playbook](#), [Step Care for Ebola/VHF Patients: Guidance for International Field Hospitals](#), and our [webinar series](#) co-hosted with the National Ebola Training and Education Center.

The Characteristics of Pandemic Pathogens

The authors of [this report](#) identify traits of global catastrophic biological risk organisms (GCBRs) "biological agents [that] could lead to sudden, extraordinary, widespread disaster beyond the collective capability of national and international governments and the private sector to control." Based on a literature review, subject matter expert interviews, and a meeting of experts, they argue that a framework based on biologic and epidemiologic traits provides an open-ended, pathogen-agnostic approach to preparedness.

Specialized Training Packages: Special Topics in Emergency Management

The U.S. Department of Education has released [12 self-paced emergency management training packages](#). These materials support high-quality emergency management across a range of special topics. Each package includes training instructions, a PowerPoint presentation, and supplemental resources. Tabletop exercises are also included with some packages. Topics include Large Event Planning, Infectious Disease Planning, Continuity of Operations Planning, Family Reunification Planning, Integrating the Needs of Students and Staff with Disabilities and Other Access and Functional Needs, and Understanding Educator Resilience and Developing a Self-Care Plan. ([Link](#))

FEMA - EMI Educational Offering [1405 - Training Opportunity - E0110 Train the Trainer Basic Academy](#)

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](#). If you would like to add or delete, or have something you would like to contribute to a future edition of the Emergency Preparedness Update, please contact rbartlett@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.