



Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for May 29, 2018

Pipe bomb found at Kentucky truck stop

(WKYT) - Kentucky State Police say they are trying to find out why an improvised explosive device was at a truck stop Sunday.

Troopers say the device was found in a trash can at a Pilot Flying J truck stop in Pendleton. An employee discovered the pipe bomb in one of the store's exterior trash cans.

Read more: <http://www.wkyt.com/content/news/Employee-finds-pipe-bomb-at-Kentucky-truck-stop-483879621.html>

Stolen Guns Flood Louisville's Streets, But Few Are Ever Recovered

(WFPL) Every year, Louisville police officers take hundreds of guns off the streets. Some of them were purchased legally, but were being used illegally. Some were confiscated during arrests or drug searches. Some were owned by felons.

And some were stolen — though only a small percentage of those were likely reported as stolen. Many guns are stolen from people who don't remember their weapons' serial numbers. When gun-owners can't report those serial numbers, it's nearly impossible to return a stolen gun to its owner.

Read more: <http://wfpl.org/stolen-guns-flood-louisvilles-streets-but-few-are-ever-recovered/>

CDC: Outbreak Associated with Synthetic Cannabinoids Spreads to 9 States

(AHA Today) More than 200 people in nine states have reported bleeding or other symptoms associated with exposure to synthetic cannabinoid products containing an anticoagulant agent, including five who died, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [reported](#) Friday in an update on an [outbreak](#) that began in March. Most of the cases were in Illinois, and the rest in Maryland, Florida, Indiana, Kentucky, Missouri, Pennsylvania, Virginia and Wisconsin. Nearly all of the patients have tested positive for brodifacoum, a vitamin K antagonist anticoagulant, which public health officials believe may have been mixed with [synthetic cannabinoid](#) products, commonly referred to as synthetic marijuana, K2 or Spice. CDC said health care providers should screen patients presenting with unexplained bleeding and a possible history of synthetic cannabinoid for vitamin K-dependent antagonist coagulopathy, and report possible cases to their local health department, among other recommendations.

U.S. health officials sound alarm on synthetic pot as illnesses spike 52 people sickened by fake CBD oil in Utah

(CBS) U.S. health officials are urging states to regulate [marijuana](#) oil extracts after investigating a rash of illnesses tied to the products in Utah. In a report released Thursday, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found that synthetic products falsely labeled as [cannabidiol, or CBD](#), sickened as many as 52 people from October through January.

The CDC urged states to set up regulatory and control systems "to minimize the risk for recurrences of this emerging public health threat."

CBD is derived from cannabis but is designed not to produce a high. Users say it provides relief from pain and can fight seizures.

Read more: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/52-people-sickened-by-fake-cbd-oil-in-utah/?ftag=CNM-00-10aac3a>

[Hot work conditions may boost next-day heat stroke risk for older men](#)

(Reuters) Older men who exert themselves in the heat for prolonged periods may find they're at higher risk of heat stroke and related injuries the following day, a small experiment suggests.

Hurricane Maria death toll may be more than 4,600 in Puerto Rico

(CNN) An estimated 4,645 people died in Hurricane Maria and its aftermath in Puerto Rico, according to an academic report published Tuesday in a prestigious medical journal. That figure dwarfs Puerto Rico's official death toll of 64, which the article's authors called a "substantial underestimate" of Hurricane Maria's death toll.

"These numbers underscore the inattention of the US government to the frail infrastructure of Puerto Rico," authors from Harvard University and other institutions wrote in the New England Journal of Medicine.

The official death toll in Puerto Rico has been the subject of substantial controversy since Hurricane Maria hit this island, a US territory, on September 20.

Full story: <https://www.cnn.com/2018/05/29/us/puerto-rico-hurricane-maria-death-toll/index.html>

'People just give up':

Low-income hurricane victims slam federal relief programs

(Politico) A POLITICO investigation found that numerous low-income families [in the Houston area] were denied funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency because much of [their neighborhood] was in a flood zone, and homeowners were thus required to carry flood insurance — a law that many of them were unaware of. Other families, struggling with language issues and inexperienced with the federal bureaucracy, simply couldn't cope with a system that even FEMA officials agree is too complicated. Still others fell victim to shoddy contractors who took their money and failed to make repairs.

Read more: <https://www.politico.com/story/2018/05/29/houston-hurricane-harvey-fema-597912>

Proposed National Resilience Strategy to reverse catastrophic increases in 'deaths of despair'

<https://news360.com/article/455747201>

Almost all in Congo city at immediate risk of Ebola now vaccinated -WHO

(Reuters) The World Health Organization said on Tuesday almost all the people it considers at immediate risk from an Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of Congo city of Mbandaka have now been vaccinated against the disease.

John Hopkins: Health Security Headlines

Extracts from [May 29, 2018](#)

WHO's Congo Ebola Plan Assumes 100 to 300 Cases Over Three Months (*The Globe and Mail*)

The WHO assumes 100-300 cases of Ebola in Democratic Republic of Congo between May and July, under a revised response plan to the outbreak that it published on Tuesday. [Go to article](#)

The Places in the US Where Disaster Strikes Again and Again (*New York Times*) About 90 percent of the total losses across the US occurred in ZIP codes that contain less than 20 percent of the population, according to an analysis of data from the Small Business Administration. [Go to article](#)

New Global System to Monitor Attacks on Health Care (*H5N1*) According to a new global surveillance system, 105 attacks on health-care facilities, personnel or resources were reported in the first three months of 2018. With many countries just beginning to submit their data, this number is expected to rise. [Go to article](#)

Medal of Valor Nomination Period Opening ***Honoring Federal, State, Local & Tribal Public Safety Officers.***

(USFA) On Thursday, May 31, 2018, the U.S. Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Assistance will open the nomination period for the 2017-2018 Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor. This is the highest national award honoring emergency service officers, firefighters and law enforcement officers across the country, including federal, state, local and tribal officers.

The nomination period will remain open until 11:59 p.m. ET on Tuesday, July 31, 2018.

This award honors public safety officers who displayed exceptional acts of courage and decisiveness to protect human life, above and beyond the call of duty. Recipients are selected based on nominations from the head of their employing agencies.

Learn more about the requirements for this award on the [Medal of Valor website](#) and start preparing your nominations today.

Municipal wastewater can be used to track diseases in UH study

A new study led by Tao Yan, professor of civil and environmental engineering at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa surveyed Honolulu's municipal wastewater system and determined that bacterial pathogen information collected matched those collected through the state's health laboratories.

Read more: <https://phys.org/news/2018-05-municipal-wastewater-track-diseases-uh.html>

Do DIY Medical Tests Promise More Than They Can Deliver?

(KQED) A new batch of startup companies are trying to drive a revolution in lab testing by letting you skip the doctor and test for food sensitivities, fertility, sleep hormones and even vitamin deficiencies — all from the privacy of your bathroom — no lab visit required....

Read more: <https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2018/05/28/614125270/do-diy-medical-tests-promise-more-than-they-can-deliver>

5G service is coming – and so are health concerns

(CBS) The wireless industry is in a race to roll out [5G service](#). The network is supposed to be up to 100 times faster than current data speeds, but it requires cellphone tower equipment to be closer to users than before. Wireless companies in the U.S. say they'll have to install about 300,000 new antennas – roughly equal to the total number of cell towers built over the past three decades. That's causing outrage and alarm in some neighborhoods, as antennas go up around homes.

Read more: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/5g-network-cell-towers-raise-health-concerns-for-some-residents/>

'Hoax threats are not a joke.'

FBI looks to cut growing number of school shooting threats



The FBI is launching a #ThinkBeforeYouPost social media campaign to remind people that social media threats are a crime and not a joke - FBI of Louisville

(Herald-Leader) After a wave of gun-related school threats in Kentucky and nationally, the FBI has launched an educational campaign urging students to #ThinkBeforeYouPost.

In March, [police took 500 rounds and a gun](#) from a Lexington student. A hoax threat on social media led to two arrests and federal charges in Jessamine County. In April, a Henderson County student [received five years in prison](#) for a threat to shoot up the school.

Many of the threats came after deadly shootings in Marshall County, Ky., and Parkland, Fla.

Read more: <http://www.kentucky.com/news/state/article211837129.html>

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Hoax Threats are Crimes

In recent months, the FBI and law enforcement around the country have investigated a number of hoax threats of targeted violence against schools and other public places. These threats—often issued via text message or posted on social media—are taken very seriously.

Hoax threats are not a joke, and they can have devastating consequences both for the public and for the perpetrators.

(FBI HQ) Issuing a threat—even over social media, via text message, or through e-mail—is a federal crime (threatening interstate communications). Those who post or send these threats can receive up to five years in federal prison, or they can face state or local charges.

With a thoughtless remark on social media, young people risk starting out their adult lives in prison and forever being labeled a felon.

More: <https://www.fbi.gov/news/stories/hoax-threats-awareness-052318>

Parents of Parkland victims are outraged about a new video game that would let players shoot up a school

Suggest caution to parents on this new Active Shooter game out June 6

(CNN) Politicians and parents of slain students in Parkland, Florida, are expressing outrage about a forthcoming video game in which players can simulate being an active shooter to terrorize a school.

The game, "Active Shooter," is set to be released June 6 on Steam, a gaming platform owned by Valve Corp., a video game developer based in Washington state. The game was developed by Revived Games and published by a Russian company called Acid, which [plans to sell the game for between \\$5 and \\$10](#) on the Steam platform.

Marketing materials for the game say players will be able to choose between portraying a SWAT team member responding to a shooting or portraying an actual shooter whose objective is to "hunt and destroy." **[What could possibly go wrong?]**

Learn more: <https://www.cnn.com/2018/05/28/us/active-shooter-video-game-steam-valve-trnd/index.html>

5-year-old IoT attack resurfaces, puts millions of devices at risk

<https://news360.com/article/455624969>

Digital Ambulance Chasers?

Law Firms Send Ads To Patients' Phones Inside ERs

(NPR) Patients sitting in emergency rooms, at chiropractors' offices and at pain clinics in the Philadelphia area may start noticing on their phones the kind of messages typically seen along highway billboards and public transit: personal injury law firms looking for business by casting mobile online ads at patients.

The potentially creepy part? They're only getting fed the ad because somebody knows they are in an emergency room.

[Recruiters Use 'Geofencing' To Target Potential Hires Where They Live And Work](#)

The technology behind the ads, known as geofencing, or placing a digital perimeter around a specific location, has been deployed by retailers for years to offer coupons and special offers to customers as they shop. Bringing it into health care spaces, however, is raising alarm among privacy experts.

Read more: <https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2018/05/25/613127311/digital-ambulance-chasers-law-firms-send-ads-to-patients-phones-inside-ers>

Why Hackers Are Going After Hospitals?

<https://news360.com/article/455651039>

US says North Korea behind malware attacks

(AP) — The Trump administration says computer malware tied to the North Korean government has been targeting U.S. infrastructure and aerospace, financial and media companies for at least nine years to steal information and remotely manipulate networks.

Read more: <http://www.wkyt.com/content/news/US-says-North-Korea-behind-malware-attacks-483982081.html>

Disaster & Emergency Preparedness Resources
Shared by a reader for your information and preparedness...

[Home Emergency & Disaster Safety](#)

[How to Stay Safe During a Hurricane](#)

[Wildfire Action Plan](#)

[Mudslide Safety for the Home: How to Assess Your Risk and Take Preventative Action](#)

[Lightning Safety: The Myths and the Basics](#)

[Flood Safety Guide](#)

[The Ultimate Guide To Creating An Emergency Evacuation Plan For Your Home](#)

Learn more about the

American Red Cross - Pillowcase Project

<http://www.redcross.org/local/texas/gulf-coast/programs/disaster-preparedness/pillowcase-project>

CDC's **CRISIS AND EMERGENCY RISK COMMUNICATIONS** (CERC)

CERC: Psychology of a Crisis

June 5, 2018 2PM Eastern Time

More information on this webinar, previous CERC webinars, and information on CE credits can be found on the [CERC Webinar website](#).

(https://emergency.cdc.gov/cerc/training/webinar_20180605.asp)

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 added or deleted, 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.