



# Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for September 14, 2018

## CBS: Florence slams North and South Carolina

### **Florence fast facts** (As of 8 PM)

- Florence made landfall as a hurricane near Wrightsville Beach, North Carolina, Friday morning. The tropical storm was located about 50 miles west-southwest of Wilmington with 70 mph winds, the National Hurricane Center said in its [5 p.m. advisory](#).
- A mother and an infant were killed when a tree fell onto their home in Wilmington. Police said the father was taken to a nearby hospital.
- More than 16 inches of rain have fallen in southeast North Carolina and another 20 to 25 inches is on the way, the hurricane center said.
- 600,000 homes and businesses were without power in North Carolina. Nearly 2,100 flights have been canceled through Saturday.

Watch video report, learn more: <https://www.cbsnews.com/live-news/hurricane-florence-category-1-path-tracking-latest-weather-forecast-north-carolina-2018-09-14-live/>

### ----- **Kentucky Nurse Strike Team preparing to deploy**

The Kentucky Department for Public Health (KDPH) received an EMAC Resource Request for Registered Nurses to deploy to North Carolina in response to Hurricane Florence. According to Jim House, Branch Manager for the Preparedness Branch, they have recruited ten Nurses and two Administrative Support staff as KY's Nurse Strike Team. A "Mission Ready Package" was completed and submitted to NC by the KYEM EMAC Coordinator, Greg Shanks. At this time, we are waiting for acceptance.

In the interim, all strike team members have been notified, briefed, and are preparing for "possible deployment". Upon acceptance of KY EMAC offer, KDPH will be notified and in turn will notify the Strike Team Members to assemble and deploy, potentially on Sunday, September 16, 2018.

#### General background items:

- Environmental Strike Team: DPH has rostered two teams of nine personnel (8 Environmentalists and 1 Admin Staff on each team) and are preparing for deployment if a formal EMAC request is received for KY.
- Epidemiology Strike Team: The department is also reaching out to the Regional Epidemiologist to see if any are interested in deploying as a strike team if that call is received.
- Other EMAC Requests: KDPH also received two EMAC Resource Request for Mental Health/Behavioral Health Workers, and those were forwarded to the Kentucky Community Crisis Response Board and Department for Behavioral Health.
- Deployable Resources: The Public Health Preparedness Branch continues to preposition resources needed for a potential deployment. All resources will be available and ready to deploy by Sunday, September 16, 2018.

#### Lexington nurses join KY Nurse Strike Team

Read more: <https://www.wkyt.com/content/news/Lexington-nurses-heading-to-North-Carolina-to-help-with-storm-relief-493335881.html>

### **Hospitals in Florence's path work to ensure care available to all in need**

(AHA) Hurricane Florence made landfall this morning along the North Carolina coast, where hospitals were anticipating additional traffic to emergency departments and potential admissions of injured and medically fragile individuals. "Our member hospitals and health systems in the projected path of the storm are working closely with their local emergency management agencies and the state to ensure care is available to all who need it during and after the storm," North Carolina Healthcare Association President Steve Lawler [said](#) yesterday. The Department of Health and Human Services' Office for

Civil Rights yesterday issued [guidance](#) to help emergency officials address the needs of at-risk populations during the disaster response. HHS also has [declared](#) public health emergencies in North and South Carolina and Virginia, and waived or modified certain Medicare, Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program requirements to give providers and suppliers greater flexibility to meet emergency health needs. For additional hurricane preparedness resources, visit [www.phe.gov](http://www.phe.gov). NCHA and the South Carolina Hospital Association also are providing regular updates at [www.ncha.org](http://www.ncha.org) and [www.scha.org](http://www.scha.org).

----- (Hurricane/Tropical Storm) Florence Quickies -----

**How the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention responds to a hurricane like Florence**  
<https://news360.com/article/470247471>

**Facing heat for 2017, FEMA ramps up hurricane prep for Florence**  
<https://news360.com/article/470251665>

**What is the National Hurricane Center, where is it located and what does it do?**  
<https://news360.com/article/470207645>

**See What a Flood Surge of 9 Feet Looks Like**  
<http://newser.com/s264578>

**FEMA uses Waffle House Index as Hurricane resource**  
<https://news360.com/article/470256098>

**Hurricanes can cause former drug users to relapse  
Here's how North Carolina will keep that from happening**  
<https://news360.com/article/470232090>

**Trump Administration Transferred \$9.8 Million From FEMA To ICE  
....but it won't impact their Hurricane Florence response**  
<https://www.npr.org/647021316>

**Trump Denies Death Toll In Puerto Rico, Falsely Claims 'Done By The Democrats' -**  
<https://www.npr.org/647377915>

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***Yes, they died!***

**How Maria gave Puerto Ricans months of agony**

(AP) — Ramona Gonzalez did not drown when Hurricane Maria drenched Puerto Rico. She did not die in the tempest, or from destruction wrought by the storm's 154 mph (248 kph) winds.

Instead, this disabled, 59-year-old woman died a month later, from sepsis — caused, says her family, by an untreated bedsore.

In all, the storm and its aftermath took the lives of unfortunates like Gonzalez and thousands of others, many of whom could have been saved with standard medical treatment. This was a slow-motion, months-long disaster that kept Puerto Ricans from getting the care they needed for treatable ailments, even as President Donald Trump lauded his administration's response.

A year after Maria roared across the Caribbean, reporters for The Associated Press, the news site Quartz and Puerto Rico's Center for Investigative Journalism have put together [the most detailed portrait](#) yet of the agonizing final days of victims of the storm, interviewing 204 families of the dead and reviewing accounts of 283 more to tell the stories of heretofore anonymous victims.

Trump cast doubt on the storm's widely accepted death toll Thursday, tweeting that "3000 people did not die" when Maria hit after a near-miss by Hurricane Irma in September, 2017. He said the death count had been inflated "by the Democrats in order to make me look as bad as possible," by adding unrelated deaths to the toll from causes like old age.

But the joint investigation reflects how Puerto Rico's most vulnerable fell victim to dire conditions created by the storms.

Read the full story to learn more: <https://apnews.com/519dba8360744544827222eae378d9af>

## **Boston suburbs gas pipeline accident biggest since 2010**

(Reuters) - Some 8,000 people in Boston's suburbs had little hope of returning home soon as investigators scrambled on Friday to find out the cause of dozens of gas explosions that destroyed scores of homes in the biggest such accident in nearly a decade.

Read more: <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-massachusetts-explosions/boston-suburbs-gas-pipeline-accident-biggest-since-2010-idUSKCN1LU0W6>



### **'It looked like Armageddon.' Homes burn in Massachusetts towns after suspected gas explosions**

(CNN) Massachusetts Gov. Charlie Baker declared a state of emergency Friday in three towns north of Boston rocked by a string of deadly gas explosions, and he put another utility company in charge of restoration efforts.

Read more:

<https://www.cnn.com/2018/09/14/us/massachusetts-explosions-fires/index.html>

## **Three West Nile Cases in Northern KY**

(AP) - Health officials in northern Kentucky say there have been three human cases of West Nile virus reported there over the summer.

Read full story: <https://www.wkyt.com/content/news/3-human-cases-of-West-Nile-reported-in-northern-Kentucky-493279541.html>

## **Rowan County search for missing nine-year old**

(WKYT) - Six days after 9-year-old Bryce Combs was swept away in flood waters, the Morehead community is still searching. Rescue crews have been searching Triplett Creek and the surrounding areas in Rowan County from dawn until dusk. But, volunteers from the Morehead community and even from as far as West Virginia have come together to help with the search.

Full story: <https://www.wkyt.com/content/news/Morehead-community-continues-to-search-for-9-year-old-boy-493341191.html>

## **Kentucky ambulance service defrauded Medicare with needless trips**

(Herald-Leader) An ambulance service in Lee County defrauded taxpayer-funded health programs by submitting false claims for payment, the federal government alleged in a lawsuit filed Friday. The service put information in reports that made it seem patients were in worse condition than they really were, so that the runs would qualify for federal reimbursement, the lawsuit charged.

Read more: <https://www.kentucky.com/news/state/article218401260.html>

## **As opioid crisis rages, cost of overdose antidote spikes**

(CBS) As the [opioid epidemic](#) continues to kill tens of thousands of Americans each year, the drug naloxone has proved invaluable in preventing overdose-related deaths. Yet a spike in its cost in recent years has constrained access to naloxone, potentially depriving health care professionals, emergency responders and families of a critical treatment that can save lives.

Driving that price spike, experts say: An ongoing surge in overdoses that's boosting demand for naloxone; a dearth of federal rules that could limit price increases; a lack of drug industry competition; and pharmaceutical firms' lack of transparency in setting prices for drugs to counter the effects of opioids.

Read more: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/as-opioids-kill-more-americans-cost-of-overdose-antidote-spikes/>

### **Half As Many People Are Trying Heroin, But Marijuana Use Grows**

(Kaiser Health) Some good news from the front lines of the heroin crisis: Half as many people tried heroin for the first time in 2017 as in 2016. That's according to data released Friday from the [government's annual National Survey on Drug Use and Health](#). The survey found that marijuana use, however, increased in 2017, especially among [pregnant women](#) and young adults.

Read more: <https://khn.org/news/half-as-many-people-are-trying-heroin-but-marijuana-use-grows/>

### **Calling teen vaping 'epidemic,' officials weigh flavor ban**

(AP) — U.S. health officials are sounding the alarm about teenage use of e-cigarettes, calling the problem an “epidemic” and ordering manufacturers to reverse the trend or risk having their flavored vaping products pulled from the market.

The warning from the Food and Drug Administration on Wednesday cited recent data pointing to a sharp rise in underage use of the devices, including Juul, Vuse and others.

It marks a shift in the agency's tone on e-cigarettes. Since 2017, FDA commissioner Scott Gottlieb has discussed e-cigarettes as a potential tool to ween adult smokers off cigarettes, although that benefit hasn't been proven.

Full story: <https://apnews.com/23cd6c85396849e1acbb7d468d239d8c>

### **Students jump into action when JCPS bus driver suffers medical emergency**

Students say their bus driver wasn't acting quite like herself on the way to school Friday morning.

See report and read more: <http://www.wdrb.com/story/39094272/jcps-bus-driver-suffers-medical-emergency-on-watterson-expressway-students-rush-to-her-aid>

### **Las Vegas shooting survivors, health care providers reunite**

(AP) — Bullet fragments are still lodged in Robert Aguilar's back, but almost a year after he was wounded in the deadliest mass shooting in modern U.S. history, he can walk with the help of a cane and has a very special group of people to thank: the health care providers at a Las Vegas area hospital.

Aguilar and other survivors did just that Friday, when they reunited with the doctors, nurses and other health care professionals who cared for them at Sunrise Hospital. They shared emotional stories in person or prerecorded videos of their days and weeks at the hospital and the time since they were discharged.

Read more: <https://www.sfgate.com/news/crime/article/Las-Vegas-shooting-survivors-health-care-13230854.php>

### **Contagious Hand, Foot and Mouth Disease Throws Curveball Into MLB Season**

(NPR) Astros relief pitcher Brad Peacock has come down with hand, foot and mouth disease, a team spokesman confirmed to NPR, in Major League Baseball's third known case of the contagious virus this season.

Peacock is home recuperating in Houston, [the Houston Chronicle](#) reports, after falling ill while he was with the team last weekend in Boston. He was feeling worse by Monday in Detroit, where the team's medical staff attended to him before sending him home.

Pitchers Noah Syndergaard with the Mets and J.A. Happ with the Yankees both [came down with the virus](#) earlier this summer and were placed on the 10-day disabled list.

"I'm not sure why this has become a thing in Major League Baseball this year," Astros manager A.J. Hinch told the *Chronicle*. Full story: <https://www.npr.org/647133036>

### **Scientists engineer a powerful new weapon against antibiotic-resistant bacteria**

(ScienceMag) Meningitis, pneumonia, deadly diarrhea. Antibiotic developers have long struggled to treat such dreaded diseases because the bacteria that cause them have double cell walls with an outer membrane that is particularly difficult for drugs to penetrate. The only new products to fight such gram-negative bacteria in the past 50 years are variations on existing, already approved drugs. Yet resistance to those classes of compounds is soaring. Now, a team of scientists has created a

compound that breaches these bacterial outer membranes in a novel way—and could one day save the lives of people infected with bacteria that today foil every gram-negative antibiotic on the market.

Full story: <http://www.sciencemag.org/news/2018/09/scientists-engineer-powerful-new-weapon-against-antibiotic-resistant-bacteria>

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**A Massive Floating Boom Is Supposed To Clean Up The Pacific. Can It Work?**

(NPR) We humans have deposited a huge amount of plastic in Earth's waters. There are now five garbage-filled gyres in the world's oceans — the largest and most notorious being the Great Pacific Garbage Patch, with its estimated [1.8 trillion pieces](#) of plastic, spread across an area twice the size of Texas.



One of the people trying to figure out how to clean up the ocean is Boyan Slat, a 24-year-old Dutch social entrepreneur who has been working to invent a solution [since he was 17](#). His idea — for a giant floating system that would corral the plastic so it can be scooped out — is on the verge of reality.

Learn more: <https://www.npr.org/2018/09/11/646724291/a-massive-floating-boom-is-supposed-to-clean-up-the-pacific-can-it-work>

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**U.S. states demand better access to secrets about election cyber threats**

(Reuters) - U.S. state election officials are demanding better access to sometimes classified federal government information about hacking threats to voting systems. With less than three months until the November midterm elections, 44 states, the District of Columbia, and numerous counties on Wednesday participated in a simulation that tested the ability of state and federal officials to work together to stop data breaches, disinformation and other voting-related security issues. They did not

simulate a cyber attack, but rather played out various scenarios to learn how to react if there were one.

Read more: <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-election-cyber-access/u-s-states-demand-better-access-to-secrets-about-election-cyber-threats-idUSKBN1L12JS>

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**FAA says it's finally 'catching up' to drone technology;  
several programs in the works**

<https://news360.com/article/470064373>

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**Using a GM vehicle for a response car?  
1-million vehicles are being recalled**

(Newser) – In the second massive US vehicle recall in the space of a week, General Motors is recalling around 1 million pickups and SUVs because of a power-steering software defect that causes a crash risk. The recall affects the 2015 models of the Chevrolet Silverado 1500, GMC Sierra 1500, Chevy Suburban and Tahoe, GMC Yukon, and Cadillac Escalade, reports the [Wall Street Journal](#). The company says the glitch, which can cause the vehicles to briefly lose electronic power steering, has been a factor in at least 30 accidents and two injuries, but no deaths that it is aware of. When the steering assist is lost and suddenly returns, "the driver may have difficulty steering the vehicle, especially at low speeds," according to [a National Highway Traffic Safety Administration release](#).

Full story: <http://newser.com/s264606>

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**Beware virtual 'kidnapping' scams, FBI warns**

(Fox) Virtual kidnapping scams that attempt to dupe victims into paying a quick ransom are on the rise, a new FBI bulletin says. The virtual aspect of the scam involves staging a scene either on the phone or via social media in an attempt to convince the victim that a loved one has been kidnapped, the FBI Albuquerque Division said in a [community outreach note](#) released this week. The criminals then demand a ransom.

Full story: <http://www.foxnews.com/tech/2018/09/14/beware-virtual-kidnapping-scams-fbi-warns.html>

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**US Service Members May Soon Get Phones in Their Mouths**  
*Pentagon signs contract for 'Molar Mic,*  
*'a communications device clipped to users' teeth*

(Newser) With a transmitter that's worn around the neck and a tiny custom-fit microphone clipped to a user's upper back molars, the Bluetooth-like system is able to sync up with a telephone, walkie-talkie, or other communications method, and the user will be able to take in communications through his or her jaw and skull bones. "You can hear through your head as if you were hearing through your ear." Molar Mic could have further application down the road for first responders, industrial workers, and security personnel. Read more: <http://newser.com/s264594>

(Another potential weapon for the military: [lasers that can mimic human voices](#).)

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**T-Mobile lines up more small cells and fiber backhaul for 5G**

<https://news360.com/article/470190963>

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**Crossing into the world of medical devices...  
New Apple Watch to Detect Abnormal Heartbeats**

Learn more: <https://www.npr.org/647180302>

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](mailto: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.