



Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for October 1, 2018

KY Nurses Return from Hurricane Relief in NC

(KY CHFS Release) A Nurse “Strike Team” from Kentucky has returned from North Carolina where they worked in emergency shelters housing residents displaced by Hurricane Florence. The team was in North

Carolina for about nine days. The team consisted of nine registered nurses and two administrative staff members from the Bracken County Health Department, Department of Insurance, DPH, Lexington-Fayette County Health Department, and Louisville Metro Public Health and Wellness.



The strike team augmented staff to provide medical support to people who were displaced from their homes and were residing in general and medical needs shelters. The individuals housed in the medical support shelters had medical needs and were in relatively stable condition but had a chronic disease or condition such as diabetes or required oxygen or dialysis. Nurses conducted history and physical exams, provided patient assessments, assisted with medicine administration and provided general nursing care and comfort for these individuals.

[NOTE: The team is pictured standing with a North Carolina Army National Guard helicopter crew member who flew the team into a disaster area. Featured left to right

are North Carolina Army National Guard crew member; Angela Kik, Department for Public Health (DPH); Christopher Smith, Lexington-Fayette County Health Department; Rachel Harrison, Bracken County Health Department; Sherita Hall, Louisville Metro Public Health and Wellness; Charlene Woodard, Louisville Metro Public Health and Wellness; Sandy Glover, DPH; Stephanie Carpenter, Lexington-Fayette County Health Department; Heather Toews, Lexington-Fayette County Health Department; Shelley Wood, Department for Insurance; Rebecca Hardin, DPH; and Nancy Hamilton, DPH.]

----- Watch for Deer through End of Year While Driving

(AP & West KY Star) The Kentucky Transportation Department is warning drivers to start watching for deer as the animals become more active over the next few months.

A statement from the agency says Kentucky is 15th in the nation for vehicle crashes involving deer. It says most collisions are reported in the last three months of the year.

October, November, and December account for more than half of all reported deer-vehicle collisions,” said Kyle Poat, KYTC District 1 chief engineer. “Motorists should drive alert, especially during twilight hours when deer are more likely to be on the move and visibility is poorest.”

There were 3,200 vehicle collisions in Kentucky last year involving deer and 3,100 the previous year.

Read more: <http://www.westkentuckystar.com/News/Local-Regional/Western-Kentucky/Watch-for-Deer-Through-End-of-Year-While-Driving.aspx>

Reminder: National Test of the Wireless Emergency Alerts and Emergency Alert System (EAS) - October 3 starting 2:18 PM ET

>>> Read more: <https://www.fema.gov/emergency-alert-test>

Kentucky teens sentenced for school shooting threat

(AP) — A federal judge has sentenced two [Kentucky](#) teenagers to federal prison for posting threats about a school shooting days after 17 people were killed at a [Florida](#) high school. The Lexington Herald-Leader reports 19-year-old Cody T. Ritchey and 19-year-old Tristian H. Kelly pleaded guilty to one count of cyberstalking.

Full story: <https://www.usnews.com/news/best-states/kentucky/articles/2018-09-29/kentucky-teens-sentenced-for-school-shooting-threat>

----- Facebook Security Breach Affected Almost 50 Million Accounts

(NPR) Facebook says that it has discovered a security breach affecting nearly 50 million accounts and that it's not yet clear whether any information was accessed or any accounts were otherwise misused. The vulnerability that caused the breach was found Tuesday and was fixed on Thursday night, Facebook says. It was the result of bugs introduced into Facebook's code in July 2017. No passwords or credit card numbers were stolen, the company says. But as a result of the breach, attackers could gain access to a user's account — hypothetically

giving them the ability not only to view information, but also to use the account as though they were the account holder. Learn more: <https://www.npr.org/652631686>

CDC: Hospitals continue to lead field in health care worker flu vaccinations

([AHA](#) & CDC) An estimated 92 percent of hospital workers report receiving a flu vaccine for the 2017-18 flu season, compared with 75 percent of ambulatory care workers and 67 percent of long-term care workers, according to a [survey](#) released today by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Coverage was 97 percent among workers in hospitals requiring vaccination. The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices recommends annual flu vaccination for all health care personnel to reduce flu-related illness and mortality.

CDC survey link: https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/67/wr/mm6738a2.htm?s_cid=mm6738a2_w

VA Adding Opioid Antidote to Defibrillator Cabinets for Quicker Overdose Response

(NPR) The overdose antidote naloxone could soon be available in more public places. The Veterans Administration is adding it to its automated defibrillator cabinets. Other institutions are following suit.

VA had to persuade the accrediting agency [The Joint Commission](#) to approve guidelines for the AED naloxone project. The cabinets must be sealed and alarmed so staff can tell if they've been opened. They must be checked daily and refilled when the naloxone kits expire.



A smattering of schools, airports, churches and employers around the country have added naloxone to their AED cabinets. Some are stocking other lifesaving tools as well: tourniquets to [stop bleeding](#) after a shooting; EpiPens to keep airways open; and even injectors to treat diabetic shock.

Learn more: <https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2018/09/27/650639122/va-adding-opioid-antidote-to-defibrillator-cabinets-for-quicker-overdose-respons>

Workers overdose on the job, and employers struggle to respond

(Salon) As the opioid epidemic continues to rage across the country, with a record 72,000 drug overdose deaths estimated in 2017, the fallout is increasingly manifesting itself at construction sites, factories, warehouses, offices and other workplaces. A stunning 70 percent of employers [reported](#) that their businesses had been affected by prescription drug abuse, including absenteeism, positive drug tests, injuries, accidents and overdoses, according to a 2017 survey by the [National Safety Council](#), a research and advocacy organization.

At least 217 workers died from an unintentional drug or alcohol overdose while at work in 2016, up 32 percent from 2015, according to the [Bureau of Labor Statistics](#). Workplace overdose deaths have been increasing by 25 percent or more a year since 2010. Those numbers don't include the many more overdoses that don't end in death, like Sullivan's, or accidents caused primarily or partly by drug impairment.

Read more: https://www.salon.com/2018/09/30/workers-overdose-on-the-job-and-employers-struggle-to-respond_partner/

**Suicidal Thoughts Are More Common Than You Might Think:
*How Workplaces Can Help Reduce the Stigma***

Read more: <https://www.forbes.com/sites/kellygreenwood/2018/09/25/suicidal-thoughts-are-more-common-than-you-might-think-how-workplaces-can-help-reduce-the-stigma/#30ead74e4fd4>

Medical industry responds to physician suicide rates, mental health stigma

(Modern Healthcare) Physician suicide isn't a new issue in healthcare, but over the past few years the industry has taken more aggressive actions to prevent it. [READ MORE](#)

Smartphone-based test shows promise for rapid UTI diagnosis

(CIDRAP) Using a simple lab kit, some LED lights, a hot plate, and a smartphone, a team of engineers and molecular biologists have developed a point-of-care diagnostic test that can rapidly detect microbial pathogens in urine. New research on the device indicates it has the potential to provide quick, low-cost diagnoses of urinary tract infections (UTIs) in low-resource settings.

Read more: <http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/news-perspective/2018/09/smartphone-based-test-shows-promise-rapid-uti-diagnosis>

Pills for appendicitis? Surgery often not needed

(Fox) A new study says surgery isn't always needed for appendicitis and that antibiotics instead can often do the trick. The results from Finland contradict decades of thinking about the best way to treat an inflamed appendix. The condition has long been thought to be a medical emergency because of the risk for a burst

appendix, which can be life-threatening. But advances in imaging tests make it easy to determine which patients face that danger.

The study in 500 adults found that nearly two-thirds of patients treated with antibiotics fared well after five years. About one-third had another case of appendicitis and had surgery to take out their appendix. The results were published [last] Tuesday in the Journal of the American Medical Association.

Source: <https://www.foxnews.com/health/pills-for-appendicitis-surgery-often-not-needed-study-says>

But... Antibiotics Can Hurt Your Health If You Don't Have an Infection

Read more: <https://news360.com/article/471445840>

Researchers study presence of fluorinated chemicals in firefighter clothing

(Phys.org) Scientists at the University of Notre Dame will begin an independent study of turnout gear worn by firefighters after initial samples tested positive for fluorine.

Graham Peaslee, a professor of experimental nuclear physics at the University of Notre Dame, and his lab tested fabric swatches taken from unused personal protective gear for the presence of perfluorinated alkyl substances (PFASs).

"The results were phenomenal—off the scale in parts per million of fluorine in all but one of the samples," Peaslee said. "Everything was just loaded with fluorine." Following the initial tests, Peaslee is leading a study of new and used turnout and personal protective gear issued throughout the 2000s, including jackets, pants and undershirts—all of which are either new or have been in service for more than a decade.

The chemicals are a component of aqueous film-forming foams. These foam fire suppressants have been linked to incidents of contaminated drinking water. In Michigan, where a number of communities have traced water contamination to the use of the foam, some fire officials are working to limit its use or to use alternative, PFAS-free formulas when possible. The United States Air Force began phasing out PFAS-based foam for an environmentally safer alternative in 2016, and finished replacing its stock in 2017.

Read more at: <https://phys.org/news/2018-09-presence-fluorinated-chemicals-firefighter.html>

John Hopkins: Health Security Headlines

Extracts from [September 27, 2018](#) & [September 28, 2018](#)

[A Plague of Mosquitoes Has Emerged After Florence. NC Governor Vows \\$4 Million to Fight Them](#) (*News & Observer*) Standing water is the perfect breeding ground for one of the south's most plentiful pests. Hurricane Florence dumped nearly 8 trillion gallons of rain over North Carolina, according to the National Weather Service in Raleigh's estimate. That rain led to catastrophic flooding. It's a recipe for the biting little buggers. Water is still standing in large swathes across the state and it's creating a plague of mosquitoes the governor has vowed to take action against. [Go to article](#)

[USDA Waives Food Stamp Limitations During Hurricane Recovery](#) (*North State Journal*) In response to Hurricane Florence, the North Carolina Department of Revenue announced last week a notice advising retailers across the state that the USDA approved a waiver allowing participants in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) to purchase hot foods with their SNAP EBT benefits through October 31, 2018. [Go to article](#)

[DHS Aims to Replace Slow, Outdated Bioterror-Detection System](#) (*Defense One*) In order to fight next-generation biological threats, the DHS, is revamping the way the government collects, uses, monitors and distributes information. The hope is to get something that works far faster than the system in use today to catch a pandemic before it starts. [Go to article](#)

[EPA to Eliminate Office that Advises Agency Chief on Science](#) (*The New York Times*) The Environmental Protection Agency plans to dissolve its Office of the Science Advisor, a senior post that was created to counsel the EPA administrator on the scientific research underpinning health and environmental regulations, according to a person familiar with the agency's plans. The person spoke anonymously because the decision had not yet been made public. [Go to article](#)

[Trump Administration Sees a 7-Degree rise in Global Temperatures by 2100](#) (*Washington Post*) Last month, deep in a 500-page environmental impact statement, the Trump administration made a startling assumption: On its current course, the planet will warm a disastrous 7 degrees by the end of this century. A rise of 7 degrees Fahrenheit, or about 4 degrees Celsius, compared with preindustrial levels would be catastrophic, according to scientists. Many coral reefs would dissolve in increasingly acidic oceans. Parts of Manhattan and Miami would be underwater without costly coastal defenses. Extreme heat waves would routinely smother large parts of the globe. [Go to article](#)

**Taken For a Ride:
M.D. Injured in ATV Crash Gets \$56,603 Bill for Air Ambulance Trip**

Read more: <https://www.npr.org/647531500>

Related - Will Congress Bring Sky-High Air Ambulance Bills Down To Earth?

Read more: <https://www.npr.org/649537563>

Extracts from [EMR-ISAC: The InfoGram](#) for September 27, 2018

Propane and natural gas safety in flooding conditions

Responding to a gas leak during average conditions is one thing, but responding during a flood or in the aftermath of a hurricane can bring an entirely different set of hazards. Consider the following tips and information when responding to possible natural gas and propane leaks during flooding conditions:

- Both propane and natural gas smell similar to rotten eggs, but each has a distinctly different odor. All first responders should know these smells.
- When approaching a propane tank, don't assume the owner has shut off the tank.
- Be aware of hissing sounds, any confined areas of dead or dying vegetation,
- [Propane tanks can float if broken away from their anchor or pipe systems](#). You may have emergency calls for floating tanks, and it's possible [the floating tank could even be on fire](#) as seen in this 2016 video from Louisiana.
- Be aware that small grill or torch bottles can be easily hidden by debris.
- Propane is heavier than air, but lighter than water. If there is a propane leak, the propane will pool in the lowest area.
- Natural gas is lighter than air and will dissipate rapidly. If the leak is inside, this will increase the parts per million in the air and make combustion more likely.

Consider contacting your local natural gas and propane companies to set up informal training for fire, EMS and even law enforcement personnel.

(Source: [Propane Education & Research Council](#) (PERC))

Fire Prevention Week campaign focuses on action

Fire Prevention Week is October 7-13 this year and the focus is on actions people can take to reduce the likelihood of having a fire, and how to escape if they do. The [U.S. Fire Administration](#) (USFA) and [National Fire Protection Association](#) (NFPA) both have resources available for fire departments interested in doing outreach in their communities. These include social media toolkits, fire safety checklists for homeowners and renters, videos, games, apps and activity plans.

Working to reduce fire risk in your community should be an ongoing fight, not limited to one week a year. [NFPA reports 2017 fire losses in the United States](#) caused approximately 3,400 deaths, almost 15,000 injuries and \$23 billion in property losses. Your department has a lot of impact on reducing those numbers in the future through regular public education and outreach.

(Source: [USFA](#) and [NFPA](#))

Reminder: October is National Cybersecurity Awareness Month

[National Cyber Security Awareness Month \(NCSAM\)](#) – observed every October – was created as a collaborative effort between government and industry to ensure every American has the resources they need to stay safer and more secure online.

Since its inception under leadership from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and the National Cyber Security Alliance, NCSAM has grown exponentially, reaching consumers, small and medium-sized businesses, corporations, educational institutions and young people across the nation. 2018 marks the 15th year of National Cyber Security Awareness Month.

With recent legislation and support from the White House, cybersecurity is continuously a popular topic of discussion and rightfully so. More specifically, there is even stronger focus on consumers and their cyber safety. Everyone at every age is a consumer, and thus this year each theme will focus on the consumer and his/her needs regarding cybersecurity and safety. NCSAM 2018 also marks the 8th anniversary of the [STOP. THINK. CONNECT.™ campaign](#). Each year, NCSAM highlights the overall message of STOP. THINK. CONNECT.™ and the capstone concepts of the campaign, like "Keep a Clean Machine," "Protect Your Personal Information,"

“Connect with Care,” “Be Web Wise,” “Be a Good Online Citizen,” “Own Your Online Presence” and “Lock Down Your Login.”

2018 NCSAM Themes

- Week 1: Oct. 1–5: Make Your Home a Haven for Online Safety
- Week 2: Oct. 8–12: Millions of Rewarding Jobs: Educating for a Career in Cybersecurity
- Week 3: Oct. 15–19: It’s Everyone’s Job to Ensure Online Safety at Work
- Week 4: Oct. 22–26: Safeguarding the Nation’s Critical Infrastructure

----- **HHS Cybersecurity Threat Briefing on Xbash Malware**

(DHS) The HHS Healthcare Cybersecurity and Communications Integration Center (HCCIC) released a TLP: white threat briefing report this week on [Xbash malware](#). More information on the Traffic Light Protocol (TLP) designations is available via the [US-CERT website](#). ([Link](#))

----- **Digital maps are a modern marvel - until they're hijacked**

(AP) Learn more: <https://apnews.com/7f2d24cbce684a138965b26edcca846e>

----- **Remove the *YOUR COMPUTER WAS LOCKED* tech-support scam**

The **Your Computer was locked tech support scam** is a browser based scam that tries to trick people into thinking that their computer is infected and that their computer was locked. They then tell the user to call a listed phone number to receive help. As this is just a scam and the site has no idea what is running on your computer, you should not call any listed number.

For the most part, if you see a browser based tech support scam, then you can simply close the browser and start it again. On the other hand, if you are continuously seeing scams like the "Your computer was locked" scam, then you should scan your computer for adware and remove anything that is found.

Read more: <https://www.bleepingcomputer.com/virus-removal/remove-your-computer-was-locked-tech-support-scam>

----- **FBI warns companies about hackers increasingly abusing RDP connections**

(ZDNet) In a public service announcement published last week by the US Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI) Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3), the FBI is warning companies about the dangers of leaving RDP endpoints exposed online.

RDP stands for the Remote Desktop Protocol, a proprietary technology developed by Microsoft in the 90s that allows a user to log into a remote computer and interact with its OS via a visual interface that includes mouse and keyboard input --hence the name "remote desktop."

RDP access is rarely enabled on home computers, but it's often turned on for workstations in enterprise networks or for computers located in remote locations, where system administrators need access to, but can't get to in person.

Ransomware specifically designed to be deployed via RDP includes strains such as CryptON, LockCrypt, Scarabey, Horsuke, SynAck, Bit Paymer, RSAUtil, Xpan, Crysis, Samas (SamSam), LowLevel, DMA Locker, Apocalypse, Smr32, Bucbi, Aura/BandarChor, ACCDFISA, and Globe.

Learn more: <https://www.zdnet.com/article/fbi-warns-companies-about-hackers-increasingly-abusing-rdp-connections/>

----- **KY Governor appoints members of the KY Board of EMS**

(KY Governor's Office) Gov. Matt Bevin announced on September 26th a number of appointments, including these to the Kentucky Board of EMS:

- David Webb, of Madisonville, is a program director for AirEvac Lifeteam. He will represent licensed air ambulance service administrators and serve for a term expiring Sept. 19, 2022; and
- James H. Lee, of Glasgow, is the executive vice-president of marketing and support services for TJ Regional Health. He will represent citizens at-large and serve for a term expiring Sept. 19, 2019.

The Kentucky Board of Emergency Medical Services is charged with regulating EMS licenses and ensuring all licensed and certified EMS workers in Kentucky practice within the state's code of conduct for emergency services.

----- **FEMA NIMS Alert 26-18:**

Publication of **NIMS/NQS Emergency Operations Center Skillsets**

(9/27/18) Emergency Operations Centers (EOC) across the Nation play a critical role in managing incidents, both large and small. The third edition of NIMS describes multiple EOC organization structures, a necessary

flexibility given the diversity of EOCs across the nation. This diversity can create challenges when attempting to support personnel qualifications for EOCs and share personnel between centers, however. FEMA developed the EOC Skillsets to address the need for flexibility in EOC guidance while supporting EOC personnel qualifications.

As a part of the National Qualification System (NQS), EOC Skillsets support standardized qualifications for EOC personnel, while remaining flexible enough to accommodate EOCs of all sizes and kinds. EOC Skillsets let individual EOC leaders build position qualifications according to their organization's needs and resources while building a national vocabulary for EOC personnel qualifications.

The EOC Skillset suite of documents includes:

- **20 EOC Skillsets**, which define demonstrable tasks associated with common EOC functions;
- The ***EOC Skillsets User Guide*** explains what EOC Skillsets are, and how to use them to construct EOC Position Task Books (PTB);
- **EOC Position Task Books (PTB) Introductory Language** provides slightly modified language from the standard NQS PTB introductory language, in order to be more applicable for the EOC environment; and
- **EOC Skillset Blank Template** is a blank form so that EOC leaders can add additional tasks in order to make the EOC PTBs reflect the full range of tasks for their specific positions.

FEMA developed the EOC Skillsets collaboratively with leaders from local, state, tribal, and territorial EOCs. They reflect common functions performed by EOCs and EOC leaders can mix and match skillsets, combining them together to form EOC PTBs that reflect the needs of their EOC.

FEMA is hosting a series of 60-minute webinars to discuss the EOC Skillsets and answer questions. All webinars are open to the whole community, including individuals and communities, the private and nonprofit sectors, faith-based organizations, and all governments. To view the documents and for additional webinar information, visit: <https://www.fema.gov/national-qualification-system>.

Please contact FEMA-NIMS@fema.dhs.gov with any questions or concerns.

Reducing Antimicrobial Resistance Workshop

December 7-8, 2018

8 AM to 4:30 PM (ET) each day

Content Provided by CDC and other Subject Matter Experts

Located in Pavilion A Auditorium -- UK Chandler Medical Center

1000 S. Limestone St., Lexington, KY

[Option for video conference for 10 or more at your site.]

Registration is open: <http://www.ukconce.org/default.aspx>

Address questions to:

- Olivia Rebella omre222@uky.edu or (859) 323-3851
- Hazel W. Chappell hwchap1@uky.edu or (859) 323-6256

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.