



Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for May 28, 2019

More than 500 tornadoes reported across the U.S. this month

(CBS) May is already the fourth worst month for [tornadoes](#) ever recorded and the threat continues with watches and warnings posted in half-a-dozen states from Oklahoma to New Jersey. More than 500 tornadoes have been reported.

One storm after another pummeled the nation's midsection, leaving a trail of despair, destruction and one death from at least 53 twisters that may have touched down across eight states overnight. In Ohio and Indiana, winds of up to 140 mph ripped homes from their foundations, raised roofs and toppled thousands of trees

Watch and read more: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/ohio-tornadoes-today-more-than-500-tornadoes-reported-across-us-this-month-2019-05-28/>

**There are different types of tornadoes.
Here's how to tell them apart**

Learn more: <https://news360.com/article/497560093>

7 American cities could disappear by 2100 because of sea-level rise

- Rising sea levels threaten to [submerge entire cities](#) by 2100.
- The cities most vulnerable to flooding in the US are low-lying coastal areas.
- If the worst projections of sea-level rise wind up being correct, cities like Miami and New Orleans could find themselves underwater.

Read more: <https://www.businessinsider.com/american-cities-disappear-sea-level-rise-2100-2019-3>

2 disaster experts asked about their best tips in case of emergency

- The frequency and level of damage from weather-related natural hazards has increased in recent years in the United States, and it's more important than ever to have a game plan.
- INSIDER spoke with disaster preparedness experts Tom Heneghan and Andrew Kruczkiewicz, who suggest stocking up your home and car with essential supplies and coming up with a plan so that you're prepared if a natural hazard should strike.
- Taking a First Aid and CPR/AED course as well as coming up with a way to keep in contact with local authorities is also helpful.

Learn more: <https://www.businessinsider.com/best-tips-in-case-of-an-emergency-2019-5>

**Natural Disasters, Landlord Edition:
*How To Prepare Your Property And Tenants***

See more: <https://news360.com/article/497510473>

Trans-Star Ambulance now part of AMR

(Salyersville Independent) At midnight, April 11, Trans-Star Ambulance Services in eastern Kentucky ended quietly, and Lifeguard Ambulance Services jumped into gear. Lifeguard Ambulance Service is part of the AMR system, which is a division of Global Medical Response (GMR), which is made up of 40 different group and air emergency medical services.

In January Trans-Star, the ground ambulance service based in Prestonsburg, filed a notice of acquisition with the Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services. The Cabinet reported that the company was being bought by American Medical Response in Colorado.

Bert Absher, the director of operations for Lifeguard Ambulance Service, noted that they transitioned quietly that Friday night, after preparing for the switch-over for weeks, in order to not alarm the public.

Full story: <https://www.salyersvilleindependent.com/ambulance-service-switched-hands-over-weekend>

Water stays in the pipes longer in shrinking cities - a challenge for public health

(Phys.org) The geographic locations where Americans live are shifting in ways that can negatively affect the quality of their drinking water. Cities that experience long-term, persistent population decline are called [shrinking cities](#). Although shrinking cities exist across the U.S., they are concentrated in the American Rust Belt and Northeast. Urban shrinkage can be bad for [drinking](#) water in two ways: through aging infrastructure and reduced water demand.

Many of the pipes and [treatment plants](#) built with those funds are now [approaching or have exceeded the end of their expected lifespan](#). Shrinking cities often don't have the tax base to pay for maintenance and replacement needs. So the infrastructure, which is largely underground, out of sight and out of mind, deteriorates largely outside of the public eye.

As an example, there's been a major shift in the type of microbes that cause waterborne disease outbreaks in the U.S. since the EPA report was published. In the most recent report, covering 2011-2012, [the statistics reversed](#), with pneumonia (mostly due to [Legionnaires' Disease](#)) accounting for two-thirds of all outbreaks and 100% of all waterborne deaths during the monitoring period.

High water age contributes to low chlorine concentrations and corrosion, which can result in high levels of metals, such as iron. When these conditions occur during warmer summer months, growth of Legionnaires' Disease bacteria increases.

Learn more: <https://phys.org/news/2019-05-pipes-longer-cities-health.html>

What does "best if used by" on packaged food really mean?

- The U.S. wastes \$161 billion in food each year, some of that due to consumer confusion over packaging labels.
- The FDA is backing a uniform label to show when a product's quality might start to fade.
- Regulators say the move would curtail misunderstandings that lead to 20% of household food waste.

Full story: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/what-does-best-if-used-by-on-packaged-food-really-mean/>

CMS Restraint and Seclusion Webinar

Did you know that the number one area of deficiencies in the CMS Conditions of Participation (CoP) is regarding restraints? CMS issued a memo summarizing all of the deficiencies against hospitals which is updated quarterly. KHA will host a webinar on June 19 discuss the most problematic standards in the restraint section.

If a CMS surveyor showed up at your hospital tomorrow would you be prepared? Does your staff understand all 50 pages of the CMS interpretive guidelines? This program will also discuss the proposed changes to restraints published in the Hospital Improvement Rule which address changing the term to licensed practitioners so PAs can order restraints.

See the [program's flyer](#) for additional details about the webinar. [Online registration](#) is available for your convenience.

If you have any questions, contact Sharon Perkins at KHA (isperkins@kyha.com).

Source: <http://www.new-kyha.com/NewsBlog/tabid/550/EntryId/1558/CMS-Restraint-and-Seclusion-Webinar.aspx>

KY Healthcare Coalition Readiness and Response Coordinator - Job Postings

Kentucky Healthcare Coalition Readiness and Response Coordinator job postings for the Paducah/Purchase Area (Region 1), Lexington/Bluegrass Area (Region 15), and the Somerset/Lake Cumberland (Region 14) area are live on-line. You may access them via the following links. Their goal is to be able to interview mid-June for a July start date.

- Lexington: <http://gohire.org/job/healthcare-coalition-readiness-and-response-coordinator-lexington-ky-bluegrass-area/>
- Lake Cumberland: <http://gohire.org/job/healthcare-coalition-readiness-and-response-coordinator-lake-cumberland-area/>
- Paducah: <http://gohire.org/job/healthcare-coalition-readiness-and-response-coordinator-paducah-ky-purchase-area/>

Information related to the benefits package for these positions can be found in the attached benefits guide.

If you have questions about the positions or receive questions from others related to these positions, please feel free to reach out to me.

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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](#). 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.



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