



Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for July 22, 2019

High demand, technical issues snag rollouts of Real ID in Franklin, Woodford Counties

(WKYT) People in Franklin and Woodford Counties already have access to Kentucky's new Real ID driver's licenses. Those in charge of issuing the licenses, however, say they've faced overwhelming demand and technical issues with the rollout, leading state officials to pause introducing the licenses to the rest of the state. People in Franklin County have faced long waits, some as long as two hours, to apply for the new Real ID.

Kentucky residents will need the new Real ID by October 1, 2020, in order to board a plane or enter federal buildings.

See more: <https://www.wkyt.com/content/news/High-demand-technical-issues-snap-rollouts-of-Real-ID-in-Franklin-Woodford-Counties-512958301.html>

When it gets to your county, what do you need? <https://drive.ky.gov/ConfidentKY/Pages/default.aspx>

New ACS standards aim to improve surgery for the oldest patients

(AP) The VA Eastern Colorado Health Care System, a Denver hospital, is trying something new: When their oldest patients need a major operation, what to do isn't decided just with the surgeon but with a team of other specialists, to make sure seniors fully understand their options — and how those choices could affect the remainder of their lives.

It's part of a move to improve surgical care for older Americans, who increasingly are undergoing complex operations despite facing higher risks than younger patients.

The American College of Surgeons launched a program Friday to encourage hospitals around the country to adopt 30 new standards to optimize surgery on patients who are 75 and older — information seniors and their families eventually will be able to use in choosing where to get care.

Read the full story: <https://www.sfgate.com/news/medical/article/New-standards-aim-to-improve-surgery-for-the-14107794.php>

Kentucky doctor allegedly let his wife mishandle vaccines, causing 'health crisis'

(Herald-Leader - July 19) A Mt. Sterling doctor was reprimanded Friday by the state medical licensing board for allegedly allowing his unlicensed wife to mishandle vaccines, causing an infection outbreak in patients across Kentucky, Indiana and Ohio.

The Kentucky Department of Public Health first [flagged McLaughlin's vaccinations as a public health threat early this year](#), after people who had received his flu shots reported [swelling, redness, and hard lumps at injection sites](#). Public health officials concluded these results were likely due to improper storage and handling of the vaccines.

Read more here: <https://www.kentucky.com/news/health-and-medicine/article232895532>

Hey! That's the Wrong Knee, Doctor

(HealthDay News) -- Say you go in for knee surgery and find the surgeon operated on the wrong leg. Or you received a drug you know you're [allergic](#) to.

It happens. In fact, about 1 in 20 patients is a victim of preventable medical errors, and 12% of such cases result in permanent disability or death, researchers say.

Most preventable harm is caused by medication and other treatments (49%) and by invasive procedures, the study found.

Preventable medical errors are more common in surgical and intensive care units than in general hospitals, and lowest in obstetric units, said the U.K. researchers. They

Learn more: <https://www.medicinenet.com/script/main/art.asp?articlekey=222937>

**Border Patrol has stored enough fentanyl to kill 794M
Their own agents are at risk**

(ABC) U.S. Customs and Border Protection has stored enough fentanyl in the past year to kill an estimated 794 million people, and now a government watchdog office is warning that the agency is "unnecessarily jeopardizing the lives" of its own agents by not sufficiently protecting them from accidental exposure to the lethal synthetic opioid.

In a report released Friday, the Homeland Security Department's Inspector General said the amount of fentanyl seized by agents and stored in vaults has skyrocketed -- from 70 pounds in 2015 to 3,500 pounds so far in this budget year. A single 2 milligram dose of fentanyl (there are 453,592 milligrams in a pound) is lethal for most people, [according to the Drug Enforcement Administration](#).

Full story: <https://abcnews.go.com/US/border-protection-stored-fentanyl-kill-794-million-isnt/story?id=64444041>

Female suicide bomber strikes hospital in Pakistan, 9 killed

(AP) A female suicide bomber struck outside a hospital in Pakistan on Sunday as the wounded were being brought in from an earlier shooting against police, in a complex assault claimed by the Pakistani Taliban that killed a total of nine people and wounded another 30. Gunmen on motorcycles opened fire on police in a residential area, killing two. He says the bomber then struck at the entrance to the hospital, killing another four police and three civilians who were visiting their relatives. The blast damaged the emergency room and forced it to shut down, according to a hospital official, who said the wounded were taken to a military hospital.

Full story: <https://www.sfgate.com/news/crime/article/Twin-attacks-in-Pakistan-kill-6-police-14111486.php>

CDC supporting stepped up response to Ebola in DRC

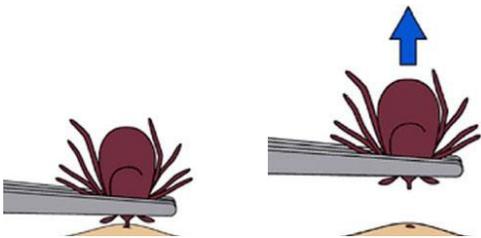
(AHA Today) The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is working with the U.S. Embassy in the Democratic Republic of the Congo to reposition staff in Goma to rapidly identify Ebola cases and prevent further spread of the disease in hotspots where the security situation permits, the agency [said](#). The World Health Organization [declared](#) the Ebola outbreak in DRC a public health emergency of international concern, citing in part the first confirmed case in Goma, a city of almost 2 million people on the border with Rwanda. CDC said it has 43 permanent staff in DRC and about 200 in the bordering countries of Rwanda, Uganda and South Sudan

Full story: <https://www.aha.org/news/headline/2019-07-18-cdc-supporting-stepped-response-ebola-drc>

26 cases of Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever diagnosed in Grayson County in 11 days

(WDRB) - July 19 - Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever is hitting Grayson County hard. Twenty-six cases were reported to the Grayson County Health Department in just eleven days. The tick-borne illness causes a painful rash and flu-like symptoms like a fever, chills, headache, nausea, abdominal pain, body aches and lack of appetite.

Grayson County has been the leading county in Kentucky for reported cases since 2016, but doctors said they're seeing more cases this year than ever before.



"If you do think you have any type of symptoms, it never hurts to get checked out," said Ben Williams, an emergency room doctor at Twin Lakes Regional Medical Center ER Director. "It's always better to be over cautious than under cautious."

Local doctors and the health department want to spread awareness. Removing ticks and early treatment could be a lifesaver.

Full story & video: https://www.wdrb.com/news/cases-of-rocky-mountain-spotted-fever-diagnosed-in-grayson-county/article_96475ba8-aa60-11e9-bf4c-2b4746a7d6fc.html

CDC on Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever: <https://www.cdc.gov/rmsf/index.html>

CDC Info poster download: <https://www.cdc.gov/rmsf/pdf/RMSFInfographic.pdf>

CDC on Tick Removal: https://www.cdc.gov/ticks/removing_a_tick.html

Why Dutch Parents Leave Their Children in the Woods

It's all about teaching them "Preparedness"!

(Newser) The Dutch call it "dropping": Parents drive their children to a remote location at night, drop them off, and say good luck. The tweens (and occasionally teens) have to navigate woods and dark roads and make it back to summer camp alone.

Learn more: <https://www.newser.com/story/278108/here-parents-leave-their-kids-in-the-woods-at-night.html>

Mosquito milestone: Use bacteria and radiation to eliminate the bugs

(ABC) Is repellent just not doing the trick to rid you of mosquitoes this summer? What about a different approach, like infecting the critters with bacteria topped up with a dose of radiation?

Researchers from Sun Yat-Sen University in China and Michigan State University have used the technique to all but eradicate the world's most invasive mosquito -- the Asian tiger mosquito -- from two Chinese islands, and they have published their findings in the journal Nature.

The Asian tiger mosquito, or the aedes albopictus, causes more than just an itchy bite. It can spread deadly viruses such as dengue fever and Zika. Controlling numbers of the winged bloodsuckers is key.

Full story: <https://abcnews.go.com/Health/mosquito-milestone-bacteria-radiation-eliminate-bugs/story?id=64438724>

CDC: Backyard chickens and these dog treats are still making people sick

(CNN) Two people have died and hundreds more have become ill in an ongoing [outbreak of salmonella](#) linked to backyard chickens, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said. The news came as the CDC also said a salmonella [outbreak traced to pig ear dog treats](#) continues to sicken people in multiple states.

Among infections linked to the dog treats, 93 people have been reported ill, including 48 cases reported since July 3, [the centers said](#). The CDC has been tracking the outbreak since it [began in October 2018](#). No deaths have been linked to the outbreak, the CDC says.

Full story: <https://www.cnn.com/2019/07/19/us/salmonella-deaths-backyard-chickens-dog-treats/index.html>

Babies and young kids can still get heat illness at pool or splash park

(WDRB) The excessive heat warning is dangerous for everyone, but babies and toddlers are even more at risk. Erika Janes, an RN at Norton Children's Hospital (*and a member of the SafeKids Coalition*) said pools and splash parks can still be dangerous when the heat index is over 100.

"Babies less than six months to a year really do not need to be out in this weather, even at the pool," she said. "Babies don't sweat well, and so they're inefficient in getting rid of the heat. They breathe faster, and their heart beats faster, so they're going to heat up quicker."

Even if they're playing in water, kids can still get dehydrated. Janes said a child playing outdoors, even in a pool, should still get 6 ounces of water or Gatorade every 20 minutes.

Read more: https://www.wdrb.com/news/babies-and-young-kids-can-still-get-heat-illness-at/article_7b4bddf0-a9d0-11e9-955e-6b6aa7c06e32.html

Exposed to extreme heat, plastic bottles may ultimately become unsafe

(National Geographic) Millions of people along the East Coast and in the Midwestern United States are under a heat watch this weekend as a massive heat wave bears down. This scorching July weekend follows what [NOAA recently reported](#) was the hottest June on record. But before you reach for a plastic water bottle to keep hydrated, you might think twice about whether it too has been wilting under a hot sun.

"The hotter it gets, the more the stuff in plastic can move into food or drinking water," says Rolf Halden, director of the Center for Environmental Health Engineering at Arizona State University's Biodesign Institute.

Full story: <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/environment/2019/07/exposed-to-extreme-heat-plastic-bottles-may-become-unsafe-over-time/>

**New Threat: There's A Flame-Throwing Drone You Can Buy
...and It's Completely Legal**

An American company from Ohio called *Throwflame* is selling a drone attachment that allows users to spew fire in the air; it may not be the safest idea, but it can serve a practical purpose.

The flame thrower attachment is called *TF-19 Wasp* and can easily sound like a nightmare waiting to happen. The *TF-19 Wasp* gets its name from nature's very own venom-stinging insect that could inflict pain with a single poke.

Throwflame sees that their latest product responds to a growing market need and can serve as an industrial solution in many applicable ways other than the morbid idea of burning people randomly—still a possibility.



As of the moment, the four-pound *TF-19 Wasp* flamethrower drone attachment is available for purchase to the general public for \$1,500. According to the company, the device can easily hold up to a gallon of tank fuel that should last users 100 seconds of firing time with a 25-foot (7.62m) range.

It burns through a mixture of petrol and diesel, although the company also offers napalm thickener – one scoop per gallon of 50:50 petrol-diesel mixture.

The company also offers a napalm-compatible standalone flamethrower called XL18 for more intense tasks. It provides a 100-foot (30m) range and can carry up to 3.3 gallons (12.5 liters) in its tank but will come at a higher price tag amounting to \$3,000.

Depending on the drone used, users can have a visual input on their remote controls for farther distances and other hard-to-reach locations.

Read more and see the video: <https://z6mag.com/2019/07/20/theres-a-flame-throwing-drone-you-can-buy-and-its-completely-legal/>

Did you hear about the Sarin incident at Facebook?

FBI: Tests of Facebook mail found nothing dangerous after initial sarin scare

(Chicago Tribune/AP) July 2 - The FBI says a package that initially tested positive for sarin at a mail facility near Facebook's headquarters in California (July 1) did not contain any dangerous substance. The FBI said in a statement the agency and its law enforcement partners "thoroughly tested the items in question and determined them to be non-hazardous."

Incoming mail undergoing routine processing by machine tested positive for sarin.

Full story: <https://www.chicagotribune.com/business/ct-biz-facebook-mail-site-sarin-20190701-au2znkc6tzhnri7cjegihlcehg-story.html>

FYI - CDC Facts on Sarin: <https://emergency.cdc.gov/agent/sarin/basics/facts.asp>

**NIMS Alert 25-19: FINAL PUBLICATION
NATIONAL QUALIFICATION SYSTEM (NQS)
SUPPORTING TOOLS**

FEMA's National Integration Center is publishing several National Qualification System (NQS) documents that enhance interoperability and the effectiveness of mutual aid. Today's release includes:

NQS Job Titles/Position Qualifications for the Recovery mission area, Mitigation, and Division/Group Supervisor (DIVS) that define minimum qualifications criteria for personnel serving in these positions, and

NQS Position Task Books (PTB) for the Recovery mission area, Mitigation, and DIVS that identify the competencies, behaviors, and tasks that personnel should demonstrate to become qualified for a these positions.

To access the documents, visit: <https://www.fema.gov/national-qualification-system>.

FEMA CERT Training

The **Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)** program educates volunteers about disaster preparedness for the hazards that may impact their area and trains them in basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations. CERT offers a consistent, nationwide approach to volunteer training and organization that professional responders can rely on during disaster situations, which allows them to focus on more complex tasks. Through CERT, the capabilities to prepare for, respond to and recover from disasters is built and enhanced.

There are now CERT programs in all 50 states, including many tribal nations and U.S. territories; each unique to its community but all essential to building a Culture of Preparedness. Businesses, such as Toyota and FedEx, have developed CERT programs for their facilities; and neighborhood associations have created CERT teams to be better prepared for disasters.

Learn more about CERT: <https://www.ready.gov/community-emergency-response-team>

----- Related - Residence program at FEMA's EMI/Emmitsburg, MD -----

[1520 - Training Opportunity - E0427 CERT Program Manager](#)

E0427 Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Program Manager:

This course prepares participants to establish and sustain an active local CERT program. Read more in [Training Opportunity 1520](#).

[1521 - Training Opportunity - E0428 CERT TrtT](#)

E0428 Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Train-the-Trainer:

This course prepares participants to deliver the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) CERT Basic Training course. Read more in [Training Opportunity 1521](#).
[Link to FEMA web page](#).

Microsoft Issues Upgrade Warning For Millions Of Windows 10 Users

<https://news360.com/article/502604754>

Windows 7: Hospitals and healthcare aren't ready to say goodbye

(ZDNet) The world can safely look at 2017's WannaCry outbreak through the rear-view mirror. But the impending cut-off date for Windows 7 patches could set the stage for a repeat in a healthcare sector that depends on machines that can't be upgraded. Upgrade paths are harder for machines that aren't PCs.

Read more: <https://www.zdnet.com/article/windows-7-hospitals-and-healthcare-arent-ready-to-say-goodbye/>

Healthcare's blind spot: Unmanaged IoT and medical devices

(Helpnetsecurity) - Many of these are networked and they can be found everywhere in today's hospitals. Depending on who you ask, in the U.S. there are, on average, either a [handful](#) or [between 10 to 15 connected devices per bed](#), and keeping an eye on them is a difficult.

"Our data shows that hospitals on average have lost track of 30% of their networked [medical devices](#), making it much harder to protect them against hackers. This is particularly concerning because some 61% of all medical devices on a hospital network are at cyber risk and can be compromised by malicious attackers seeking to steal data, harm patients or ransomware," says Motti Sorani, CTO of medical cybersecurity provider CyberMDX.

"Adding this to the broader picture, where nowadays almost 50% of endpoints in hospital networks are [unmanaged devices](#), IoT or medical – It is apparent there's a huge blind spot, with hardly no visibility of the devices or them being attacked."

Learn more: <https://www.helpnetsecurity.com/2019/07/22/healthcare-iot/>

Fast-growing web of doorbell cams raises privacy fears

Read more: <https://apnews.com/9371972bf7bf4f28949a6167a75b3c85>

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.

EarthEx 2019 Exercise Facilitator Training

The next EarthEx 2019 event is the initial facilitator's training update. This update will provide some valuable information on ways to conduct the exercise for organizations. It is not required, and probably not necessary for those only playing the *Individual and Family Lane*, but may be useful for those working with larger groups.

If you are interested in participating in the live session on the 25th at 1:30, I suggest registering early. It will be recorded and available on our video channel after the presentation. There will be another Facilitator Update in August.

For this month's update, please register for EARTH EX 19 July Facilitators Update on Jul 25, 2019, 1:30 PM EDT at: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/3531111679663458060>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

Be sure and invite your family and partners in your community and network to register to play.

Background on EarthEx

For some of you this may be your first time introduction to the topic of EarthEx exercises, and for others it will be a reminder and update. This is transnational activity, and there is something in it for all of you in public safety and government - as well as your community and critical partners. This international exercise, available after August 21st, can be played within 38 lanes of play. You can do it as an individual or family (good way to start), or from the focused perspective of your organization's function or mission.

No - it is not just about electric issues. There is certainly an interdependence, but the exercise looks at the impact of major disasters across critical sectors and the resilience needed to minimize potential damage to your organization and its ability to respond. The interdependence we have on each other, and the potential for there to be cascading impacts that could lead to civil disorder and loss of life, are as real as the stories that come out of Puerto Rico - still struggling to bounce back.

This year they are largely looking like the extremely severe weather that has ripped across the US this Spring. Interesting that they picked the scenario theme (based on some similar weather events from 2012 - which ripped the top floor off a hospital in central KY), well before Mother Nature decided to turn the central US into a massive sea of water, or to let tornadoes and fierce winds loose across the land.

- Phase-1 will focus on Preparedness and Response; and is based on the extreme flooding that we saw in the nation's heartland.
- Phase-2 moves into severe windstorms, straight-line winds, tornadoes, and related damage; and it will get into Resource Management (Mutual Aid agreements, government cross-line EMAC, the value of cross-sector relationships and more.) This phase will also begin to look at Restoration Priorities. That will lead in to
- Phase-3 which will look at stimulating group discussion and decision making, developing situational awareness, and critical management actions. Phase-3 will let you set the stage, make decisions, and pick from three optional decision paths. The program will respond to the option you or your group picks, and will then display potential results. What is different here is that if you don't like how your decision is working, you can GO BACK and have a RE-DO! Make an alternate choice, and see how that works.

The content of each lane is customized, though there are some common threads. There are videos that will provide information and scenario creation. You can run the exercise with your family if you would like (kid friendly) - and anyone who has been in this business for any time will tell you that *you need to prepare the family FIRST, so you then go take care of your business, organization, facility, or community*. You can then run your lane exercise for yourself to get a feel for how it will work, then run it again for your preparedness or management team. You can sign-up for another lane, and run the variation with another targeted group. You can keep doing it as many times as you need to from August 21 to the end of October. It is available in English, Spanish, and Israeli. Support materials are due out at the end of July, and facilitator training will be offered July 25 and Aug 14.

They also have a video channels (more than one) you can sign-up for and watch at any time that will focus on Individuals, new community leaders of critical employees, and Team Preparation.

>> So I have had skeptics tell me that they aren't sure about this whole EarthEx exercise thing because it is being done by the Electric Infrastructure Security Council, and is all about the remote possibility of an electromagnetic pulse or solar flare. A Black Sky Event, as you will see in the slides, is more broadly focused on catastrophic events of any kind that are likely to damage or disruption to one or more of the critical life-line infrastructures in our community at the same time, and the potential cascading effects that this might have. We have seen it from natural disasters over the past few months, but given the recent press coverage about the US placing cyber programs in another nation's weapons, and how the US and state-nation actors are putting cyber software into each other's electronic control devices, control rooms and power (gas and water) grids, we need to remember that in the future war will be fought on land, sea, air, space, AND cyber-space. In fact, at the recent EIS Summit I just attended with delegates from 16 nations, there was significant discussion and concern expressed about the growing imminent threat we all face from cyber-terrorism - home grown and foreign.

Consider participating. You will have about 2-1/2 months with the tools, and can try the program in the privacy of your home or office before taking it to your preparedness or leadership team. See the slides for more information, and links to the video libraries and registration. Learn more: https://www.eiscouncil.org/EarthEx_ReadMore.aspx

Background brief from June 27 on EARTH Ex 2019: The Third Annual Emergency All-Sector Response Transnational Hazard Exercise [DOWNLOAD SLIDE DECK](#) | [VIEW RECORDING](#)

REGISTER: <https://www.nisconsortium.org/brcreator2019/register.php?exercise=4>