



# Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for July 29, 2019

## Another festival shooting Gunman Dead After Mass Shooting at California Festival:

(NEWSER & SFGATE) – Three people were killed and at least 15 others injured in a mass shooting Sunday at one of America's biggest food festivals, authorities say. Witnesses say a white man in his 30s opened fire with an assault rifle around 5:30pm at the Gilroy Garlic Festival in northern California. A suspect was then shot and killed, Gilroy Chief of Police Scot Smithee said at a press conference late Sunday night. The area around Christmas Hill Park is still being searched by law enforcement as "witnesses indicated there may have been a second suspect." Smithee said it's not known if the second suspect is armed.

"It appears as though [the now-deceased suspect] came into the festival via the creek which borders the parking area. They used some kind of tool to cut through the secure fence-line," Smithee said.

Read more: <https://www.sfgate.com/bayarea/article/Report-11-people-shot-at-Gilroy-Garlic-Festival-14191965.php>

## One dead, five injured in Philadelphia shooting on set of rap music video

(NY Daily News) Six people were shot, including one fatally, Sunday night in Philadelphia while they were preparing to shoot a rap video, police said. A gunman got out of a black car and fired about 10 shots at the group of men around 8:20 p.m., Philadelphia police told the Daily News.

Story: <http://www.nydailynews.com/news/national/ny-philadelphia-rap-music-video-shooting-20190729-spiyarjizctlgdexiyak4m3q-story.html>

## FEMA's next Emergency Alert System test leaves internet devices out

(engaget) Federal agencies are once again poised to [test emergency alerts](#), but this time it's all about where you won't see them. The [FCC](#) and [FEMA](#) are conducting their fifth *nationwide Emergency Alert System test on August 7th at 2:20PM ET*, but only on TV and radios. They want to gauge the preparedness of the alerting system when there's no internet access -- important if a crisis knocks out data but not power.

The dry run will last for a minute, with the last test ending at 2:50PM, and will start from designated radio stations that form part of the National Public Warning System. From there, TV and radio stations will carry the broadcast. It's not expected to have any more disruption than monthly EAS warnings.

Full story: <https://www.engadget.com/2019/07/24/fcc-fema-emergency-alert-system-test/>

## Military fights a deadly enemy: Heat More U.S. troops are falling to heatstroke as the military struggles to balance training with rising temperatures.

(Inside Climate News and NBC) The rate of heatstroke among active-duty service members has risen across

the military. The service members who died of heat exposure are among the most extreme examples of how rising temperatures from climate change pose a threat to military personnel, both at home and abroad. The heat exacerbates challenges the military is facing in some of the world's most destabilized regions and endangers individual troops and, by extension, U.S. security and preparedness, the Pentagon concluded in recent [studies on climate change risks](#).

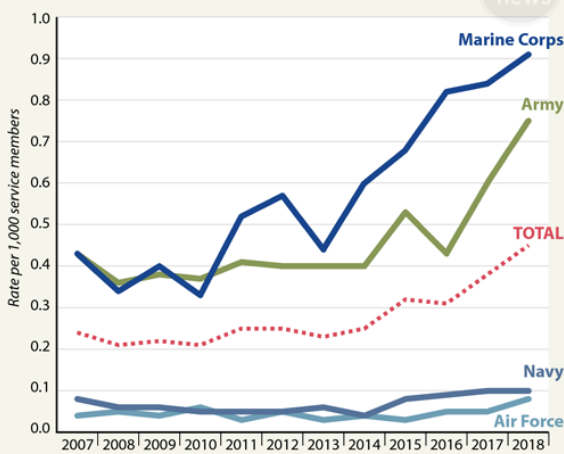
Health impacts from heat have already cost the military as much as nearly \$1 billion from 2008 to 2018. The warming planet "will affect the Department of Defense's ability to defend the nation and poses immediate risks to U.S. national security," a [recent Department of Defense report](#) said.

An [InsideClimate News](#) and [NBC News](#) investigation found that despite acknowledging the risks of climate change, the military continues to wrestle with finding a sustainable, comprehensive strategy for how to train in sweltering conditions. The military's investigative reports, often heavily

### The Rising Danger from Heat

The rate of heat stroke among active-duty service members has risen across the military over the past decade. There were 60 percent more cases in 2018 than in 2008, even with a smaller active-duty force.

**U.S. MILITARY HEAT STROKE INCIDENT RATE**  
Army, Navy, Marine Corps and Air Force, 2007-2018



SOURCE: Military Health System

PAUL HORN / InsideClimate News

redacted, show evidence of disregard for heat safety rules that led to the deaths of service members. The reports document a poor level of awareness of the dangers of heat illness and the decisions of commanders who pushed troops beyond prudent limits in extremely hot conditions.

The tendency to train through high heat results at least in part from a warrior ethos based on the belief that troops must be hardened to withstand the rigors of combat, the reporters found. Heat risks are defended as necessary to realistically replicate combat conditions.

Learn more: <https://insideclimatenews.org/news/23072019/military-heat-death-illness-climate-change-risk-security-global-warming-benning-bragg-chaffee> and <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/military-s-climate-change-problem-blistering-heat-killing-soldiers-during-n1032546>

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**Small Towns Fear They Are Unprepared For Future Climate-Driven Flooding**

Read more: <https://www.npr.org/744203716>

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**Swarm Drowns City in Insects**

***A huge grasshopper migration is freaking out Las Vegas tourists***

(Newser) – Been to Vegas lately? Then you know what should stay there: grasshoppers. Spawned by a soggy spring, the latest migration is so widespread that it showed up on a National Weather Service radar.



Jeff Knight, an entomologist at the state's agriculture department, says heavy grasshopper migrations occur there every few years when there's a wet winter or spring.

Full story and video link: <https://www.newser.com/story/278413/the-swarm-hits-vegas.html>

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**A deadly mosquito-borne virus that causes brain swelling in humans has been detected in Florida**

(CNN) Florida health officials [are warning](#) of an uptick in a mosquito-borne virus known as Eastern equine encephalitis (EEE).

Several sentinel chickens tested positive for EEE, which can spread to humans via infected mosquitoes and cause brain infection and swelling, the Florida Department of Health in Orange County said in a Thursday statement. Sentinel chickens are fowl that are tested regularly for the West Nile virus and EEE. Their blood can show the presence of the diseases, but they don't suffer from the effects of the viruses. Following the positive tests for the sentinel chickens in Orange County, the health department said "the risk of transmission to humans has increased."

Only about seven cases of the EEE virus in humans are reported in the US each year, the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says](#). However, the disease can be fatal: about 30% of people who contract it die, according to the CDC. Many survivors have ongoing neurologic problems.

Read more: <https://www.cnn.com/2019/07/28/health/eastern-equine-encephalitis-mosquito-outbreak-chickens-florida-trnd/index.html>

CDC EEE Info: <https://www.cdc.gov/easternequineencephalitis/gen/ga.html>

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**FDA Approves First Needle-Free 'Rescue' Drug for Low Blood Sugar Episodes**

Story link: <https://news360.com/article/503192691>

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**[Hospitals implement quake-ready technology, teams in seismically active areas](#)**

(Fierce Health) When major earthquakes hit Southern California earlier this month, it was a reminder to residents about the persistent threat of a catastrophic quake in that region. But it was also a prompt for all hospitals located near the fault lines to brush up on their own disaster preparedness procedures.

So what are hospital staff and administrators in earthquake areas of the country doing to stay ahead of the game in 2019?

Two California hospitals and one pediatric hospital in Seattle discuss how they are diversifying their communication tools, outfitting buildings with technology and running preparedness scenarios in order to implement the best possible outcome following an earthquake.

"Healthcare organizations in seismically active areas must prepare differently as building codes are usually much more stringent and there is little to no warning to prepare for the earthquake," William Dunne, administrative director of emergency preparedness, safety and security services for UCLA Health, told

FierceHealthcare. "In California, the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development monitors the construction, renovation and seismic safety of hospitals and skilled nursing facilities. State engagement allows for strict code enforcement to engage seismic risk mitigation."

Learn more from full story: <https://www.fiercehealthcare.com/hospitals-health-systems/hospitals-implement-quake-ready-technology-teams-seismically-active-areas>

**RELATED: [California hospitals share earthquake preparedness information with government](#)**

### Plastics Chemicals Meant to Replace BPA May Not Be Any Safer for Kids

(HealthDay) Manufacturers have been phasing out the plastics chemical [bisphenol A](#) because of evidence it might harm human health. Now a new study raises questions about the chemicals that have replaced it. Bisphenol A, or BPA, has long been used in [plastics](#). It was once in a wide range of products -- including the lining of food cans, food storage containers, water bottles and even the coating on cash-receipt paper.

In recent years, though, companies have turned to substitutes and tout their products as "BPA-free." That's based on a body of research showing that BPA is an endocrine disruptor -- capable of interfering with the body's hormones -- and may have ill health effects. Studies have linked higher BPA exposure to increased risks of [obesity](#), [type 2 diabetes](#) and attention-deficit/[hyperactivity](#) disorder, for example.

But are the BPA substitutes any safer?

Read more: <https://www.medicinenet.com/script/main/art.asp?articlekey=223140>

### Johns Hopkins: Health Security Headlines Extracts from [July 26, 2019](#)

[WHO, Preparing for the Worst, Makes Plans for Reduced Doses of Ebola Vaccine](#) (STAT) The World Health Organization is drawing up plans to use reduced doses of Ebola vaccine in the Democratic Republic of the Congo in the event that supplies in the long-running outbreak run short, according to the head of the WHO's health emergencies programs.

[Preparing for Emerging Infections Means Expecting New Syndemics](#) (Lancet) When several sources of morbidity come together to produce interlinked and worse health outcomes, they are sometimes called a **syndemic**.

[Accelerating the Development of a Universal Influenza Vaccine](#) (Sabin-Aspen Vaccine Science & Policy Group) The goal of developing and delivering a [Universal Influenza Vaccine] — capable of eliminating the current threats to the health and well-being of populations worldwide — is the driver behind the ideas and recommendations included in this report.

[Lawrence Livermore Data Analyst Brings Dirty Bomb Preparedness to Life](#) (Homeland Preparedness News) Thanks to the efforts of data analyst and visualization technologist Ryan Chen, of the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, **a new model gives emergency responders a means of simulating and testing a situation no one ever wants to witness firsthand: the explosion of a radiological dispersal device (RDD).**

### How hospitals are using AI to save their sickest patients and curb 'alarm fatigue'

(NBC) From interpreting CT scans to diagnosing eye disease, [artificial intelligence is taking on medical tasks](#) once reserved for only highly trained medical specialists — and in many cases outperforming its human counterparts. Now AI is starting to show up in intensive care units, where hospitals treat their sickest patients. Doctors who have used the new systems say AI may be better at responding to the vast trove of medical data collected from ICU patients — and may help save patients who are teetering between life and death.

Learn more: <https://www.nbcnews.com/mach/science/how-hospitals-are-using-ai-save-their-sickest-patients-curb-ncna1032861>

### Surprise 'city-killer' asteroid almost hit Earth

(NY Post) A "city-killer" asteroid whizzed by Earth on Thursday, startling astronomers who didn't pick up the rock's trajectory until days before it passed the planet, according to a report. The rock, dubbed Asteroid 2019 OK, passed within 43,500 miles of Earth traveling at a speed of 15 miles a second, [the Sydney Morning Herald first reported](#).

The asteroid, which was estimated to be between 187 feet and 427 feet in diameter, was discovered this week by two astronomy teams in Brazil and the US — and confirmed by NASA's Jet Propulsion Lab. It's the largest rock to pass by Earth this year — and possibly even this decade.

Full story: <https://nypost.com/2019/07/26/surprise-city-killer-asteroid-almost-hit-earth-whizzing-by-at-15-miles-a-second/>

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**Net Health Experienced Ransomware Incident July 23rd**

Link to more info: <https://info.nethealth.com/update-net-health-service-outage-1564180687053>

**AP Explains: How big a threat is an electromagnetic attack?**

(AP- July 27) When much of Venezuela was plunged into darkness after a massive blackout this week, President Nicolás Maduro blamed the power outage on an “electromagnetic attack” carried out by the U.S. The claim was met with skepticism. Blackouts are a regrettably frequent part of life in Venezuela, where the electric grid has fallen into serious disrepair. And Maduro’s administration provided no evidence of an electromagnetic attack.

*“In Venezuela, it’s a lot easier for him to say we did something to him than he did it to himself,” said Sharon Burke, senior adviser at New America, a nonpartisan think tank, and former assistant secretary of defense for operational energy at the Department of Defense. “Their grid, it’s decrepit. It’s been in very poor shape. They’ve been starving their infrastructure for years.”*

Nevertheless, Maduro’s claim has raised questions over what exactly is an electromagnetic attack, and how likely is it to occur and what impact could it have.

**WHAT IS AN ELECTROMAGNETIC ATTACK?** The phrase “electromagnetic attack” can refer to different things, but in this context most likely refers to a high-altitude electromagnetic pulse generated when a nuclear weapon is detonated in space, about 30 kilometers above the Earth’s surface. Once the weapon is detonated, an electromagnetic pulse can travel to the Earth’s surface and disrupt a wide variety of technology systems from appliances to a nation’s electric grid. Some characteristics of an electromagnetic pulse are similar to disturbances caused by solar flares.

**COULD VENEZUELA HAVE SUFFERED FROM AN ELECTROMAGNETIC ATTACK?** While several countries have capabilities to detonate a nuclear weapon and cause an electromagnetic pulse, it’s unlikely that such a maneuver would escape the world’s attention.

**HOW MUCH OF A THREAT DOES AN ELECTROMAGNETIC PULSE ATTACK POSE?** It depends on who you ask. While the technology to launch an electromagnetic attack exists, and the impacts could cause widespread damage to electronics, some security experts believe the likelihood of such an attack is low and the threat is overstated.

Others are convinced that an electromagnetic attack could wipe out vast swaths of the U.S. power grid for prolonged periods, potentially killing most Americans.

The Electric Power Research Institute, a think tank funded primarily by utilities, found in an April study that an electromagnetic pulse could trigger regional service interruptions but would not likely trigger a nationwide grid failure in the U.S.

But the Commission to Assess the Threat to the United States from Electromagnetic Pulse Attack, which has been sounding the alarm on the possibility of this type of attack for years, said in 2017 Congressional testimony that a nuclear electromagnetic pulse attack would inflict massive widespread damage to the electric grid. An attack on the U.S., it warned, would inevitably lead to a widespread protracted blackout and thousands of electronic systems could be destroyed, risking millions of lives.

Full AP story: <https://apnews.com/0fe9a3d844bb410ba9b1d2abf1ee200c>

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- For individuals, families and community groups, it will help with basic preparations, and with planning that can help secure and sustain participants during an extreme disaster.

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

The KHEREF 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](mailto:rbartlett@kyha.com) (include your current email address). The preparedness program for the Kentucky Hospital Association (KHA) and KHEREF are supported by US DHHS ASPR HPP funds through a contract with Kentucky Public Health.