



# Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for August 7, 2019

## At Dangerous Kentucky Dams, Locals Aren't Prepared For Disaster

(WFPL & Center for Investigative Reporting) Of the 178 dams the state Division of Water considers to be high hazard — regardless of whether it's in good or bad condition — about 89 percent don't have complete plans on file with the state.

### High-Hazard Dams and Safety Plans

- Completed plan
- Draft plan
- No plan



Source: Kentucky Division of Water  
Map by Alexandra Kanik

Of the 80 high-hazard dams rated poor or unsatisfactory across the state, records show at least 47 of them received that ranking at least partially because they wouldn't hold enough rain during a catastrophic storm.

KyCIR interviewed emergency management staff in 25 counties where high-hazard dams are rated in poor or unsatisfactory condition, the lowest ratings respectively. The vast majority had not seen dam break plans, or didn't know if there were any — even when state data indicated their dams had plans.

The Federal Emergency Management Administration recommends detailed plans for any dam that would threaten lives if it broke. Forty-three states have laws that require these plans for high-hazard dams, but

Kentucky does not. According to FEMA, a plan is not effective unless it's made in close coordination with emergency management authorities and practiced regularly.



The Loch Mary Reservoir dam (pictured) in Earlington [Hopkins County] is one of 80 in Kentucky that state inspectors have deemed to be a two-fold risk: high-hazard, because a breach would threaten lives or property, and in poor or unsatisfactory condition.

Some emergency managers interviewed by KyCIR were surprised to hear that dams in their county were considered high hazard, and they had no idea that inspectors had rated them poor. They did not have plans to practice.

Chris Limpp has been Spencer County's emergency management director for five years and worked for the county for 15. He didn't know a dam existed in his county, let alone that state dam experts determined that it would likely kill someone or significantly damage infrastructure if it broke. Jim McKinney, emergency services coordinator for Louisville Metro Emergency Services, said dam owners have not provided him with specific plans.

*Listen to the broadcast report and read more:* <https://wfpl.org/kycir-at-kentuckys-most-dangerous-dams-locals-arent-prepared-for-disaster/>

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**FBI Opens Domestic Terrorism Investigation into Gilroy Festival Shooting**

Read more: <https://www.npr.org/2019/08/06/748788149/fbi-opens-domestic-terrorism-investigation-into-gilroy-festival-shooting>

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### **FBI investigating Dayton mass shooter's interest in violent ideology**

(AP) — The shooter who killed nine people in Dayton, Ohio, had expressed a desire to commit a mass shooting and showed an interest in violent ideology, investigators said Tuesday as the FBI announced it is opening an investigation.

Federal investigators will try to determine what ideologies influenced 24-year-old Connor Betts, who might have helped him, and why he chose the specific target of Dayton's Oregon entertainment district for the shooting early Sunday, said Special Agent Todd Wickerham, the head of the FBI's Cincinnati field office.

Full story: <https://fox59.com/2019/08/06/fbi-opens-investigation-into-dayton-mass-shooting/>

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### **Mass Shootings Can Be Contagious, Research Shows**

Learn more: <https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2019/08/06/748767807/mass-shootings-can-be-contagious-research-shows>

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### **Feds clarify change on opioid meds for government workers**

(AP) — The government is clarifying a policy change that will limit the prescribing of opioid painkillers to federal workers. The Labor Department issued a statement Tuesday saying the limitations will apply to employees injured on the job and covered under the government's workers' compensation program.

Read more: <https://apnews.com/212b7518de0c4614a8e43f9cca443803>

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### **Legionnaires' death from Atlanta hotel More contracted the disease; 61 "probables" identified**

(CNN) One person has [died after an outbreak of Legionnaires' disease](#) at a prominent Atlanta hotel. Twelve people who stayed at the Sheraton Atlanta contracted the disease, which affects the lungs, and another 61 probable cases have been identified. All the people who were diagnosed had attended a convention at the Atlanta hotel in early July. Legionnaires' disease can be extremely serious and can leave patients with long-lasting neurologic and neuromuscular symptoms. About 1 in 10 people who are diagnosed with the disease die from it, according to a government report. The Sheraton at the center of this recent outbreak has voluntarily shut down while outside experts conduct testing. Read more: <https://www.cnn.com/2019/08/06/health/legionnaires-disease-atlanta-sheraton-1-death/index.html>

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### **Florida Hepatitis A Cases Continue Piling Up**

(CBSMiami/NSF) – Florida had 81 new hepatitis A cases reported last week, as state Surgeon General Scott Rivkees declared a public health emergency because of the virus, newly released numbers show. The 81 cases reported from July 28 to Saturday increased to 2,123 the number of hepatitis A cases reported in the state this year. Full story: <https://miami.cbslocal.com/2019/08/05/florida-hepatitis-a-cases-piling-up/>

CDC Hep-A Info: <https://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/hav/index.htm>

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### **'No-Wake Zone' Now Part Of Hospital's Care Plan**

(WCCO - Minneapolis) Abbott Northwestern nurses Liz Kozub and Autumn Gode began an experiment in 2017 designed to test the medical outcomes among patients who get better sleep, essentially allowing the non-critical care patients in the hospital's spine and medical oncology floors to sleep largely undisturbed between 1 and 6 a.m. Rooms can be declared a "no-wake zone." There's even a sticker attached to the door.

"It's allowing patients a set time to get good rest overnight to help them prevent from getting delirium," Northwestern nurse Liz Kozub said.

The onset of delirium brings on anxiety, restlessness and even malaise in hospital patients when they don't get long periods of deep sleep. In hospitals, however, necessary interruptions are often an essential part of a patient's care like frequent blood pressure checks, lab draws, heartbeats and pulse checks. For patients post-surgery, there are periodic doses of pain medications.

"On average, studies will show anywhere from 15 to over 30 times a night patients are awakened," Kozub said.

That's why Kozub and nurse partner Autumn Gode pressed the hospital to experiment with forgoing the nurse checks in favor of fewer nighttime disruptions in many non-acute care patients. It becomes part of a patient's orders. They're offered sleep aids like masks, earplugs, even slumber enhancing sounds. In addition, the hospital staff has sought to minimize the annoying sounds coming from squeaking cart wheels, door hinges and other mechanical distractions. The results are impressive, indicating as much as a 40% drop in patients experiencing delirium.

Full story and video report: <https://minnesota.cbslocal.com/2019/08/05/abbott-northwestern-no-wake-zone-patient-care-sleep-plan/>

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**Pain Rescue Team Helps Seriously Ill Kids Cope In Terrible Times**

(NPR) An interdisciplinary team in San Francisco uses acupuncture, massage, counseling and other methods, as well as medicine, to help kids get relief from chronic pain. But such pediatric centers are rare.

Listen to podcast and read more: <https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2019/08/05/745589634/pain-rescue-team-helps-seriously-ill-kids-cope-in-terrible-times>

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**KY Film Project to Help Raise Awareness, Help Teens Cope with Emotional Distress**

(CHFS) A new project is under way to help Kentucky high school students learn more about prevention and healthy coping strategies to deal with bullying, substance use, and teen suicide through a creative partnership with the Department for Behavioral Health, Developmental, and Intellectual Disabilities (BHDID), the state's Regional Prevention Centers, HoriZen Media, and The Rising Center.

Filming for an original 12-episode video series known as The Pact, envisioned as an educational resource for high school students, began in late May at various locations around Breathitt County. The videos, which follow a story arc examining the complex friendships between the series' main characters, use storytelling to facilitate learning and building coping mechanisms for young people dealing with the realities and stresses of the teenage years.

The Pact covers relevant topics such as suicide, substance use, sexual violence, trauma, bullying, the discrimination experienced by marginalized populations, and more – but models positive behaviors, coping mechanisms, and strategies to overcome these issues. The PACT high school curriculum will target high school students in the 10<sup>th</sup> thru 12<sup>th</sup> grade. Additional curriculums are also in development that would make PACT content available to high school aged youth and their parents in the community. The PACT high school curriculum will target high school students in the 10<sup>th</sup> thru 12<sup>th</sup> grade. Additional curriculums are also in development that would make PACT content available to high school aged youth and their parents in the community.

The PACT will be introduced in schools across the state of Kentucky. Plans are being developed to make content available outside the state as requested as well.

Full press release: <https://www.bereasonline.com/2019/08/film-project-to-help-raise-awareness-help-teens-cope-with-emotional-distress/>

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**CMS takes steps to promote antibiotic drug development**

(Modern Healthcare) The CMS plans to increase payment for certain inpatient drugs designated as infectious disease products to promote more development of new antibiotics to fight antimicrobial resistance.

Read more: <https://l.e.crainalerts.com/rtsgo2.aspx?h=348960&tp=i-H43-E0-4IA-BfDa3-1n-1D7a-1c-BfJRI-1B3CMv>

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**Headlines from *Trust for America's Health* from Aug 7th**

- *Reuters*: [Measles surveillance lags in U.S. workplaces, expert says](#);
- Washington Post*: [Health officials try new tactics against measles outbreaks](#)
- *HHS.gov*: [HHS Secretary Azar Statement on National Immunization Awareness Month](#);
- Forbes*: [National Immunization Awareness Month Faces Uphill Battle In Wealthy Areas Of U.S.](#)
- *U.S. News & World Report*: [Hepatitis A Sparks Public Health Emergencies in Florida, Philadelphia](#)
- *Homeland Security Today.US*: [Protect Our Communities: Resources on Mass Shooting Prevention, Response](#)
- *Frederick News-Post*: [Fort Detrick lab shut down after failed safety inspection; all research halted indefinitely](#)

--- **Related story >> CDC to Army Lab: 'Cease and Desist' Studying Deadly Germs** ----

(Newser) – A "cease and desist" order from the Centers for Disease Control has been issued, a military biodefense lab has been shuttered, and "research is currently on hold" there, possibly for months. The issue: safety worries that cropped up over processes used to contain dozens of dangerous toxins and "special agents" (ie, ones that cause anthrax and Ebola) studied there. Specifically, the 900-employee US Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases in Fort Detrick, Md., has cited a lack of "sufficient systems in place to decontaminate wastewater" as one reason for the shutdown, per a lab statement, with the CDC adding that "national security reasons" prevent it from releasing many more details. Lab rep Caree Vander Linden stresses to the [New York Times](#) that the public wasn't at risk (nothing escaped the lab environment) and that no employees have been hurt. <https://www.newser.com/story/278765/cdc-to-army-lab-cease-and-desist-studying-deadly-germs.html>

## Healthcare industry is a major source of harmful emissions

(Phys.org) Climate change presents an unprecedented public health emergency and the global healthcare sector is contributing to the worldwide crisis, argues Jodi Sherman, M.D., associate professor of anesthesiology at the Yale School of Medicine in a commentary published Aug. 2 in the Journal of the American Medical Association.

"The healthcare industry is responsible for responding to the many of the most dangerous effects of pollution and climate change, and yet it is a significant source of greenhouse gases and other deadly environmental emissions itself," said Sherman, who is also an associate professor of epidemiology in environmental health sciences at the Yale School of Public Health. "We must act to reduce waste and prevent pollution—work that is crucial to protecting public health and improving patient safety, which is at the heart of everything we do. "

The U.S. healthcare system contributes 10% of the nation's [carbon emissions](#) and 9% of harmful non-greenhouse air pollutants. (Air pollution was associated with an estimated 9 million premature deaths worldwide in 2015 or 16% of all deaths.) Its rate of greenhouse gas emissions increased 30% between 2006 and 2016, Sherman said. The healthcare sectors of the United States, Australia, Canada, and England combined emit an estimated 748 million metric tons of greenhouse gases each year, an output greater than the carbon emissions of all but six nations worldwide, Sherman noted.

Read full story: <https://phys.org/news/2019-08-healthcare-industry-major-source-emissions.html>

## N. Korea Has Swiped \$2B in Cyberattacks

(Newser) – North Korea has funneled \$2 billion into its weapons of mass destruction programs by using cyberattacks to pilfer from banks and cryptocurrency exchanges, according to a confidential UN report seen by [Reuters](#) and [CBS News](#). The "widespread and increasingly sophisticated" attacks carried out by actors under the direction of a top North Korean military intelligence agency served to "raise money for its WMD programmes, with total proceeds to date estimated at up to two billion US dollars," experts write in the report delivered to the UN Security Council North Korea sanctions committee. Read more: <https://www.newser.com/story/278771/we-have-a-new-cyberattacker-un-report.html>

## FEMA Educational Programs

[1523 - Training Opportunity - L0102 Science of Disaster Washington DC](#)

**L0102 Science of Disaster** (To be held in FAA HQ, Washington, DC)

**Course Description:** This course provides the participants with an overview of scientific principles and concepts that shape our increasingly dangerous world. Read more in [Training Opportunity 1523](#).

[1524 - Training Opportunity - L0110 National Emergency Management Basic Academy TtT](#)

**L0110 National Emergency Management Basic Academy Train-the-Trainer**

**Course Description:** The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) recognizes the need to tie training programs to an established set of emergency management competencies and to a career development program through a progressive training and education system that includes the Basic Academy. The Emergency Management Institute (EMI) is offering the opportunity to students who are experienced in emergency management and adult training to take a step toward becoming qualified as an instructor for the Basic Academy courses. Read more in [Training Opportunity 1524](#).

[1525 - Training Opportunity - L0103 Planning Template - Washington DC Sep 4-5 2019](#)

**L0103 Planning: Emergency Operations** (To be held in FAA HQ, Washington, DC)

**Course Description:** This course is designed to give basic concepts and planning steps to those new to the field of emergency management so that they may apply planning discipline and skills to challenges in their jobs. The course content includes Emergency Management Planning doctrine and steps to take to accomplish writing plans and using them to deal with special events, which are common challenges for all jurisdictions. Read more in [Training Opportunity 1525](#).

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](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.