



Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for August 12, 2019

KY pipeline explosion released 66 million cubic feet of natural gas. Feds order repairs.

(Herald-Leader) The [natural gas pipeline explosion](#) that killed one person and sent six others to the hospital in Lincoln County earlier this month released about 66 million cubic feet of natural gas, according to the federal government. A corrective action order issued by the federal Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration Thursday provides some new details about the explosion and explains what Enbridge, the company that owns the pipeline, must do. [Enbridge](#), which operates the pipeline through a subsidiary, Texas Eastern Transmission, said the NTSB returned control of the site to the company on Friday. Read more here: <https://www.kentucky.com/news/local/article233730422.html>

UK experiences massive power failure impacting nearly 1-million National operator promises to learn lessons from blackout

(BBC) National Grid (the power system operator) has said it will "learn the lessons" after nearly one million people across England and Wales lost power on Friday (for about 40 minutes). But director of operations Duncan Burt told the BBC that its systems "worked well" after the "incredibly rare event" of two power stations disconnecting. He said he did not believe that a cyber-attack or unpredictable wind power generation was to blame.

The government has announced an investigation into what happened. Industry experts said a gas-fired power station at Little Barford, Bedfordshire, failed at 16:58 hrs (BST), followed two minutes later by the Hornsea offshore wind farm disconnecting from the grid. Learn more: <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-49302996>

EARTH EX is almost here!

If you would like to participate in the final Facilitator Training Webinar on August 14 at 1:30 PM ET, the link is: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/1493506626938268429> This webinar is primarily for those that are going to serve as a facilitator or note-taker/recorder during the exercise.

NOW!! IS THE TIME FOR HEALTHCARE AGENCIES TO REGISTER FOR EARTHEX 2019

Available AUGUST 21, 2019 to October 31

The four-hour exercise will be available beginning on **August 21, 2019**, but you can choose the time and date your organization participates. The exercise will remain open until October 31, and you can run them more than once. **It is free for all participants, there are 39 lanes, and it is HSEEP Compliant!**

To register for Earth Ex 2019, go to the following link: <https://www.eiscouncil.org/EarthEx.aspx>.

[PS - the UK is a major national participant in the development of EarthEx!]

At least eight Walmart stores were the subject of threats over the past week

(CNN) At least eight Walmart locations have received threats over the past week after deadly shootings at two stores in recent weeks, law enforcement agencies said. Walmart spokesman Lorenzo Lopez said the chain is focused on safety and security at its 5,000 US stores.

Full story: <https://www.cnn.com/2019/08/11/us/walmart-store-threats/index.html>

EPA Mandate to Newark:

Hand Out Bottled Water ASAP

Filters to keep lead out didn't work, leading to recommendation for bottled water

(Newser) In what the *New York Times* calls "an echo of Flint," a New Jersey city that's handed out nearly 40,000 filters to help protect residents whose water flows through old lead pipes now says those filters might not be working and is moving to Plan B. It's still not clear why the filters in the two tested homes, which showed lead levels above the federal cap of 15 parts per billion, failed to work properly; the city plans further tests with a larger sample size. Full report: <https://www.newser.com/story/279017/this-city-just-got-more-bad-news-about-its-drinking-water.html>

FDA now probing 127 reports of seizures and other neurological issues possibly related to e-cigarettes

(KY Forward & KY Health News) The U.S. Food and Drug Administration is investigating 127 reports of seizures, tremors, fainting or other neurological symptoms that may be related to electronic cigarettes, and is asking people to report if they have such symptoms, the agency announced last week.

"The FDA is continuing its scientific investigation to determine if there's a direct relationship between the use of e-cigarettes and a risk of seizure or other neurological symptoms," Dr. Ned Sharpless, the acting FDA commissioner, said in a [news release](#).

The release notes that users can report any unexpected health or product issues experienced with e-cigarettes or any other tobacco products through its [Safety Reporting Portal](#). The FDA wants all submissions to include detailed information such as the brand name; whether the product had been modified in any way; if any other tobacco products, medications or substances were being used at the same time; underlying medical conditions; and usage patterns.

Kentucky teens are using e-cigarettes at alarming rates, with use nearly doubling from 2016 to 2018. Kentucky's high-school seniors report the highest use, with 27% reporting in 2018 that they had tried the product, [according to the Kentucky Incentives for Prevention survey](#).

Kentucky lawmakers plan to pre-file a bill for the 2020 legislative session to [tax electronic cigarettes](#) just like other tobacco products as a way to curb youth use. At the federal level, U.S. Sen. Mitch McConnell has a bill to [raise the legal age](#) to buy tobacco products to 21 nationwide.

Full story: <https://www.kyforward.com/fda-probing-127-reports-of-seizures-and-other-neurological-issues-possibly-related-to-e-cigarettes/>

[Muhlenberg Supports 911 Dispatchers Under First Responder Classification](#)

(SurfKY) Muhlenberg County Fiscal Court adopted a resolution this week to recognize Muhlenberg 911 Dispatchers as first responders rather than the federal designation as clerical staff. The resolution to recognize local dispatchers as emergency responders is something staff hope would become a state and national movement.

"...Muhlenberg County Fiscal Court recognizes Public Safety Telecommunicators are far from just clerical and supports the national movement to re-classify telecommunicators as first responders and truly recognize the work they do. Additionally, the county of Muhlenberg supports the 911 Saves Act to properly classify the profession of 911 Telecommunicators" the Fiscal Court's resolution said.

Full story: <https://www.surfky.com/index.php/muhlenberg/news-muhlenberg/142575-muhlenberg-supports-911-dispatchers-under-first-responder-classification>

More on the "911 Saves Act": <https://www.theodysseyonline.com/911-saves-act>

Bill status: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/1629/text>

Police remind residents to always lock vehicles; rate of firearms stolen from vehicles is increasing

Read more: <https://www.kyforward.com/police-remind-residents-to-always-lock-vehicles-rate-of-firearms-stolen-from-vehicles-is-increasing/>

Female healthcare leaders say workplace harassment is often ignored

(Modern Healthcare) About a quarter of female healthcare leaders have experienced workplace sexual harassment and many said nothing was done when it was reported to leadership.

A Modern Healthcare survey that found 26% of the nearly 1,000 participants experienced workplace sexual harassment and about 32% have experienced gender discrimination. The survey also found many organizations ignore the problem. Of the respondents who experienced harassment or discrimination, 35% said no action was taken when they reported it to their employer. The survey, released at the 9th annual Women Leaders in Healthcare conference, included responses from 911 workers in leadership positions across the industry.

Although blatant acts of sexual harassment or gender discrimination may have abated modestly, microaggressions against women or minority populations are still a problem, said Dr. Janis Orlowski, chief healthcare officer at the Association of American Medical Colleges. In fact, Modern Healthcare's survey found nearly 19% of participants said promotions at their organizations are based on favoritism instead of merit.

Read more (may require a subscription): <https://www.modernhealthcare.com/labor/female-healthcare-leaders-say-workplace-harassment-often-ignored>

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 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 KHEREF are supported by US DHHS ASPR HPP funds through a contract with Kentucky Public Health.