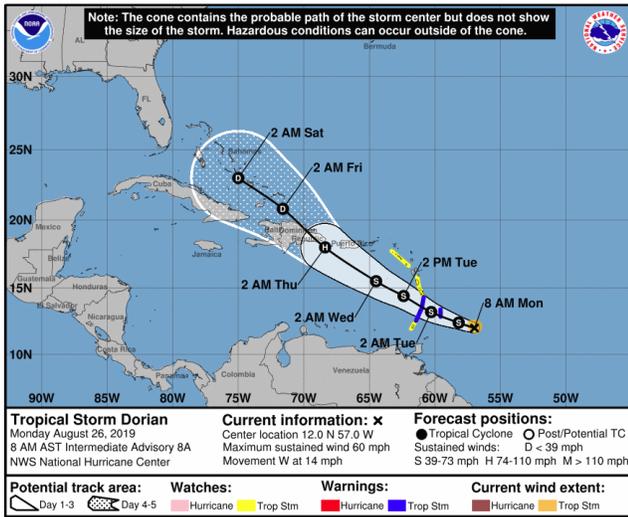




Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for August 26, 2019 - Update 1

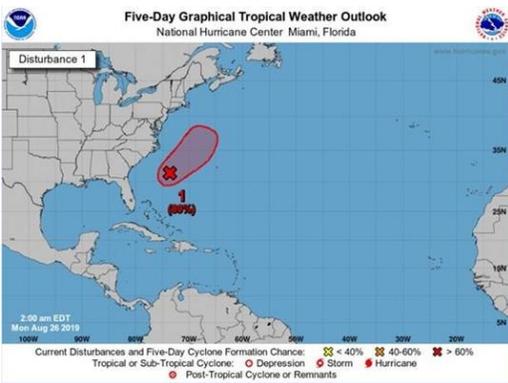
Tropical Storm Dorian could be a hurricane by Tuesday as it approaches Puerto Rico



(CNN) Tropical Storm Dorian is churning just east of the Lesser Antilles today and could turn into a hurricane by Tuesday.

It's expected to bring tropical storm conditions to the Windward Islands later Monday and pour up to 4 inches of rain over the islands as well as Barbados and Dominica through Tuesday, according to the National Hurricane Center. Some areas in Barbados and the Windward Islands may see up to 6 inches of rain, the center said. Dorian is a "small tropical cyclone," the center said, with tropical-storm-force winds that extend outward for up to 45 miles from its center.

Read more: <https://www.cnn.com/2019/08/26/weather/tropical-storm-dorian-monday-wxc/index.html>



There is another Tropical Disturbance off the US coast

As of 0200ET, 26Aug19, an elongated low pressure area centered about 280 miles south-southwest of Cape Hatteras, North Carolina, has become a little better organized this morning. A tropical or subtropical cyclone is likely to form within the next few days while the system moves slowly northeastward, well offshore of the southeastern United States. Interests along the coasts of South and North Carolina should continue to monitor the progress of this system. Formation chance through 48 hours is high at 80 percent.

Link to latest: <https://www.nhc.noaa.gov/gtwo.php?basin=atlc&fdays=5>

Related: President suggested nuking hurricanes; later denies it

(Newser) – The man in charge of the world's most powerful nuclear arsenal is denying a report that he suggested using it to control the weather. Sources told [Axios](https://www.axios.com) that President Trump has repeatedly told national security officials that they should look into bombing hurricanes to prevent them making landfall in the US. One source says that during a briefing, Trump said: "I got it. I got it. Why don't we nuke them?" The source says that after Trump suggested dropping a nuclear bomb into the eye of the hurricane, he was told: "Sir, we'll look into that." Axios notes that the idea has been around since the Eisenhower administration.

Trump himself in a [tweet](https://twitter.com) early Monday. "*The story by Axios that President Trump wanted to blow up large hurricanes with nuclear weapons prior to reaching shore is ridiculous. I never said this. Just more FAKE NEWS!*"

[NOAA](https://www.noaa.gov) has a page explaining that it might not affect the storm, and also "neglects the problem that the released radioactive fallout would fairly quickly move with the trade winds to affect land areas and cause devastating environmental problems." "Needless to say, this is not a good idea," NOAA says.

Full Newser report: <https://www.newser.com/story/279607/report-trump-suggested-nuking-hurricanes.html>

Original Axios report: <https://www.axios.com/trump-nuclear-bombs-hurricanes-97231f38-2394-4120-a3fa-8c9cf0e3f51c.html>

Full NOAA FAQ on nuking hurricanes: <https://www.aoml.noaa.gov/hrd/tcfaq/C5c.html>

Small rural fire department in Florida pan-handle not bouncing back after Hurricane Michael On the verge of collapse, no fire house, and experiencing thefts now

Read more: <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/florida-firefighters-says-firehouse-destroyed-hurricane-michael-now-life-or-n1045071>

How the crisis in the Amazon could threaten the future of the U.S. Midwest

(NBC) The Amazon is a "weather engine," and studies show further deforestation has the ability to destabilize rainfall patterns and threaten food production.

An invisible atmospheric river that carries water vapor from the rainforest's billions of trees helps to hydrate the land, as well as provide moisture across the South American continent. However, the continued loss of vegetation in the Amazon could have a cumulative effect, [not only in contributing to climate change](#) but also affecting rainfall patterns around the globe, including the U.S. Midwest, threatening food production and destabilizing ecosystems, according to the experts.

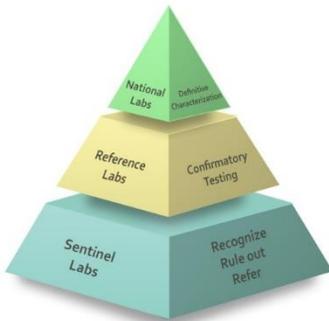
Learn more: <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/world/how-amazon-s-fires-deforestation-affect-u-s-midwest-n1045886>

CDC releases training on vaccinating homeless for hepatitis A

(AHA Today) The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has partnered with Medscape to offer free online training on its recommendations for vaccinating homeless people against hepatitis A. Intended for clinicians and public health officials who care for homeless patients, the training describes the recommendations, rationale and clinical considerations. CDC has reported more than 14,500 hospitalizations for hepatitis A since 2016 due to [outbreaks](#) in 29 states. The agency [recommends](#) that health care providers screen patients for risk factors such as drug use and homelessness, vaccinate at-risk patients, and quickly report all cases to their public health department. Register with Medscape or use your email address to access the training [here](#).

How Does USAMRIID Shut Down Impact Nation's Bioterrorism Laboratory Response Network?

(Global Biodefense) The Laboratory Response Network (LRN) is a collaborative federal effort run by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in cooperation with other federal agency and public health [partners](#).



Most state public health laboratories participate as reference laboratories of the LRN. These facilities support hundreds of sentinel laboratories in local communities throughout the U.S. and its territories, providing confirmatory diagnosis and typing of biological threats used in a bioterrorist attack or causing a public health emergency. [There is a [BSL3 lab on the University of Louisville Shelby Campus](#) that was commissioned in 2010.]

The U.S. Army Research Institute of Infectious Diseases (USAMRIID) Special Pathogens Laboratory at Fort Detrick is one of only three National Laboratories at the top of the protective umbrella of the LRN structure, along with those operated by the CDC and the

Naval Medical Research Center (NMRC), responsible for specialized characterization of organisms, bioforensics, select agent activity, and handling highly infectious biological agents.

It begs the question then, what happens when an important component of the nation's biopreparedness infrastructure [fails to meet CDC biosafety requirements and has its Federal Select Agent certification pulled](#)?

Each state has at least one designated Biosafety Level 3 (BSL-3) Reference Laboratory in the LRN, capable of safely testing for the causative agents of highly infectious diseases such as anthrax, plague, SARS, and tularemia. These labs have procedures in place to safely transport samples to other Reference Laboratories if overwhelmed by volume, during an outbreak for example, or to transfer samples to a National Laboratory for additional analysis.

Read more: <https://globalbiodefense.com/2019/08/13/how-does-usamriid-shut-down-impact-nations-bioterrorism-laboratory-response-network/>

CDC info on the LRN program: <https://emergency.cdc.gov/lrn/partners.asp>

NPR: How Bystanders Can Help In a Bleeding Emergency

(WBUR/"Here and Now") - This links to a 5 minute podcast that promotes the "Stop the Bleed" program. Matt Levy, Chair of the national Stop the Bleed coalition is interviewed.

Podcast link: <http://www.wbur.org/hereandnow/2019/08/23/what-to-do-bleeding-emergency-situation>

Johns Hopkins: Health Security Headlines Extracts from August 26, 2019

A tourist infected with measles visited Disneyland and other Southern California hot spots in mid-August (*Washington Post*) A teenager with measles was infectious when she visited Disneyland, Universal Studios and other heavily visited sites in Southern California earlier this month, public health officials said. The teen was on a trip from New Zealand and flew into Los Angeles International Airport. She visited Disneyland and California Adventure, among other attractions from Aug. 11 to Aug. 15. She also reportedly traveled to Universal Studios, Madame Tussauds and the Santa Monica Pier during the trip, the officials said. Public health officials in Los Angeles and Orange counties said Friday they are attempting to find anyone who might have been exposed to the virus and has started showing symptoms.

Antibiotic-resistant Salmonella strain confirmed as 'superbugs' continue to worry experts (*USA Today*) A strain of Salmonella Newport in some beef in the United States and in some soft cheeses in Mexico has been found to be resistant to antibiotic treatment, according to a release from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention published Friday. Resistance to antibiotics is rare in human cases of Salmonella, however, CDC reports the results of a study demonstrating that Salmonella Newport did not response to two agents frequently recommended to treat the infection.

It was sensitive data from a U.S anti-terror program – and terrorists could have gotten to it for years, records show (*LA Times*) The Department of Homeland Security stored sensitive data from the nation's bioterrorism defense program on an insecure website where it was vulnerable to attacks by hackers for over a decade, according to government documents reviewed by The Times. The data included the locations of at least some BioWatch air samplers, which are installed at subway stations and other public locations in more than 30 U.S. cities and are designed to detect anthrax or other airborne biological weapons, Homeland Security officials confirmed.

China set to step up tear gas production as demand for crowd control weapons booms at home and abroad (*South China Morning Post*) China is expected to increase its production of tear gas and other crowd control weapons because of higher demand from domestic law enforcement and from abroad, according to manufacturers and market researchers. Although Hong Kong – where tear gas has been extensively by police during the ongoing anti-government protests – relies on foreign suppliers, mainland China produces its own supplies along with other so-called "non-lethal" weapons such as acoustic and electromagnetic equipment. These items have been used to equip both China's own military and riot police and have also been exported around the globe.

A Universal Influenza Vaccine: How Close Are We? (*ASM*) It is clear that while significant progress has been made to develop a broadly protective universal vaccine, there is still more work to be done to achieve a long-term solution to influenza. While influenza continues to strike year after year, promising work on broadly effective vaccines may ultimately break our never-ending cycle of annual influenza vaccinations.

Meet Bluetana, the Scourge of Pump Skimmers

"*Bluetana*," a new mobile app that looks for Bluetooth-based payment card skimmers hidden inside gas pumps, is helping police and state employees more rapidly and accurately locate compromised fuel stations across the nation, a study released this week suggests. Data collected in the course of the investigation also reveals some fascinating details that may help explain why these pump skimmers are so lucrative and ubiquitous.

The new app, now being used by agencies in several states, is the brainchild of computer scientists from the University of California San Diego and the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, who say they developed the software in tandem with technical input from the U.S. Secret Service (the federal agency most commonly called in to investigate pump skimming rings).

Read more: <https://krebsonsecurity.com/2019/08/meet-bluetana-the-scourge-of-pump-skimmers/>

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 (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.