

the heppc REPORT

"Dedicated to enhancing public health preparedness levels through educations, resource and best practice sharing."

Version 6.4

Page 1 of 4

COMINGS AND GOINGS

Farewell to an extraordinary HDM Manager



Debbie Morton

On November 2nd, the Health Disaster Management Division will say goodbye to Planning Manager Deborah Morton, RN, BSN, MPH. Deborah will retire after 15 years of dedicated service to the Orange County Health Care Agency. Prior to working in the public sector, Deborah and her family served as missionaries in Liberia and the Republic of Guinea for almost a decade.

Deborah is a licensed registered nurse who holds a Bachelors of Science in Nursing and a Masters in Public Health. She started her county career in Los Angeles where she served for 3 years as a Generalist Public Health Nurse. In 1997, she accepted a position with the OCHCA as a Supervisor overseeing Community and Social Worker Assistants in the Pulmonary Tuberculosis (TB) Program.

By 2002, Deborah was selected as one of five people to be assigned to a new unit entitled the Bio Terrorism Preparedness and Planning Program. Her first assignment was to write the Health Care Agency's Small Pox Plan. Over the past decade, she has assumed many important roles, including managing the CDC Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) Cooperative Agreement, mentoring interns,



Deborah Morton and Pharmacist Mark Chew

managing key exercises and drills, and engaging our community in specific events.

Deborah has been a valued employee and has earned the respect and admiration of those that had the privilege of working with her. To many, she is not only considered a colleague but a friend who will be missed by all. HDM wishes Deborah Morton a fond farewell and best wishes in all her future endeavors.

con't page 2

Gearing up for the Annual Statewide Medical and Health Tabletop Exercise

On October 2nd HDM hosted a Statewide Medical and Health tabletop exercise at the Care Ambulance Training Center. Over 75 representatives from local hospitals, long term care/skilled nursing facilities (LTC/SNF), community clinics/health centers, outpatient surgical centers, Community Based Organizations (CBO), and dialysis centers attended the exercise.

The purpose of the tabletop was to assess, determine, and evaluate current response plans and capabilities for a power loss as a result from earthquake. The exercise provided a forum for the healthcare sectors to share, collaborate, and learn from each other the "best practice" approach in mitigation and response efforts to a power loss. Subject matter experts from the Southern California Edison and the Operational Area discussed critical issues regarding potential power losses and how this may impact our community in a real world event. con't page 2



Deborah Morton and Maureen Robles

IN THIS ISSUE

- Comings and Goings
 - New Acting Director of Medical Services
 - New Interim Health Disaster Management (HDM) Division Manager
 - New Hospital Preparedness Program (HPP)
 - New Community Preparedness Team Manager
 - Farewell to our CDC Manager
- HEPPC County News
 - Gearing up for the Annual Statewide Medical and Health Tabletop Exercise
 - OCHCA 7th annual Point of Dispensing (POD) Exercise
 - The Orange County Health Care Agency's Website gets new look
 - Social Media, Get Connected
 - Are you registered on Alert OC?
 - OC MEDS
- HEPPC Federal News
 - New CERT Training Tools Webinar
 - Anthrax Vaccine Trial Distribution Could Begin in 2013



Disaster Coordinators from Hospitals, LTC, and CBO's participated

Have Information to Share?

We want to hear about it! Send us a brief paragraph and pictures of an event, training, or activity that you or your organization has conducted and we will highlight your efforts.



County of Orange,
Health Care Agency
Health Disaster Management

HDM Division continued from page 1

Acting Director of Medical Services

Holly Veale has assumed the role of Acting Director of the Health Care Agency's Medical Services. The Medical Services department oversees the Health Disaster Management Division and Medical Services Initiative (MSI). During her tenure with the Health



Holly Veale

Care Agency, Holly has served in several roles including Manager of Municipal and Community Relations, HDM Division Manager, and Medical Services Operations Chief. Please feel free to contact Holly Veale at hveale@ochca.com

Interim Health Disaster Management (HDM) Division Manager



Lydia Mikhail

In February 2012, HCA welcomed Lydia Mikhail to the Health Disaster Management Division. Lydia, who holds a Masters in Business Administration, has over 20 years of experience in a public health laboratory setting and has worked as the Orange County Public Health Laboratory Manager for four years. In August, Lydia was selected to serve as the Interim Division Manager of the Health Disaster Management Division, in addition to overseeing the Risk Based Planning Project.

Please feel free to contact Lydia Mikhail at lmikhail@ochca.com

Did you know?

Everyone has their own ways of dealing with stressful situations. The ability to adapt to a situation can help manage stress and feelings of anxiety. Everyone can develop this ability and involves thoughts and actions that can be learned and practiced over time. To learn more go to: <http://www.bt.cdc.gov/preparedness/mind/>

County News continued from page 1

Key outcomes achieved:

- Practical planning strategies among healthcare systems
- Partnership collaborations and sharing of "best practice" methodologies
- A venue to prepare and plan for the Statewide Medical and Health Functional Exercise scheduled for November 15, 2012



Mary Massey, RN, the California Hospital Association's Hospital Preparedness Coordinator and our OCEMS Coordinator, Mike Steinkraus, facilitated the table top exercise.

For more information, please contact 2012 Exercise Directors, Jocelyn Argame at 714-834-3388 / Email: jargame@ochca.com or Mike Steinkraus at 714-834-3124 / Email: msteinkraus@ochca.com



The OCHCA Website Receives a Face Lift!

The Health Care Agency has partnered with the County to transition the website to a new platform. The website redesign will provide great tools like mega menus for easy navigation, program specific calendars that automatically feed into a general HCA calendar, and a countywide brand that will be visible throughout all County of Orange websites. The process began in March 2012 and is anticipated to go-live in December 2012.

Are you registered on Alert OC? Sign up today by clicking on this link www.alertoc.org



AlertOC is a mass notification system designed to keep Orange County residents and businesses informed of emergencies and certain community events. By registering with AlertOC, time-sensitive voice messages from the County or City in which you live or work may be sent to your home, cell or business phone. Text messages may also be sent to cell phones, e-mail accounts and hearing impaired receiving devices.



The Orange County Medical Emergency Data System "OC-MEDS" is on its way to permitting

the Orange County Emergency Medical Services (OCEMS) system to discontinue its paper-based Prehospital Care Report (PCR) forms by early fall 2013. The OC-MEDS electronic Prehospital Care

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OCMEDS continued from page 2

Report (ePCR) software will allow the OCEMS system to move to paperless technology utilizing mobile data collection devices such as Windows based tablets and iPads that will assist in the dissemination and collection of important patient medical data.

Since the first ePCR was completed and posted by an Orange County Fire Based EMS Provider back in February 2012, nearly 3,000 PCRs have been added to the system by fire department field personnel; approximately 3% of the average countywide monthly 9-1-1 EMS call volume (*n = 14,000 calls per month*). The OCEMS continues to work with fire departments to encourage agency implementation of the ePCR with a target monthly average of at least **10% by spring 2013**. If you have any questions about this innovative program, please contact Laurent Repass, NREMT-P, EMS Coordinator, OCMEDS Project Lead at (714) 834-2964, lrepass@ochca.com

Great ShakeOut – October 18, 2012 (need picture)

The Great California Shakeout is an annual opportunity to practice how to be safer during big earthquakes: “Drop, Cover and Hold On.” The ShakeOut has also been organized to encourage you, your community, your school, or your organization to review and update emergency preparedness plans and supplies.

While some areas of California are more likely to have earthquakes than others, all of California is at higher risk compared to the rest of the country. You could be anywhere when an earthquake strikes: at home, at work, at school, or even on vacation.

Last year, Orange County had 795,000 registrants. According to the Orange County Register 926,000 people signed up to participate. Businesses, public agencies, and schools, including Target stores countywide, participated in this largest earthquake drill in California.

To read more, go to www.Shakeout.org

Stay Connected



Social Media, Get Connected: The American Red Cross launches its official Earthquake App, putting help right into the hands of Southern California residents and visitors. The new **American Red Cross Earthquake App** available to the entire community (at no cost).

[American Red Cross Launches Earthquake App!](#)

For local questions/comments, please contact: Debbie Leahy Graves, Regional Preparedness Director, American Red Cross serving Orange, Riverside and San Bernardino Counties, 714-481-5348/714-481-5300 email her at Debbie.Graves@redcross.org

Hospital Preparedness Program Aligns with Public Health Emergency Preparedness Grant Program to Promote Safer, More Prepared Communities

Highlights from U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, Office Of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR)

“Planning, preparing and exercising helps the health care and public health systems respond more effectively and use resources more efficiently and effectively. That’s what these programs are all about: helping health care and public health systems become ready to support their communities at any moment.

ASPR and the CDC worked together to align the Hospital Preparedness Program (HPP) and the Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) programs.

The integration fostered by aligning these programs is important in streamlining and strengthening the day-to-day relationships and cross-sector cooperation needed to mitigate health risks from disasters. In fact, an integrated approach is critical to achieving a resilient health system ready to face any health hazard and capable of providing the affordable, high-quality daily care that all Americans deserve.”

For more details visit **Public Health Emergency ASPR blog**.



FEMA

FEMA Launches Mobile Apps for Disaster Preparedness

Mobile application and text-message update service will help people become better prepared before emergencies happen. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has launched new mobile applications to help people prepare for emergencies just as Hurricane Irene is threatening the U.S. East Coast.

The FEMA app allows people to check off the items they have in their family’s emergency kit; enter family emergency meeting locations; review safety tips on what to do before, during, and after a disaster; view a map of shelters and disaster recovery centers across the United States.

FEMA built the application to work even when there is no mobile service so people can access the information they need to anytime on their device.

For information on FEMA Smartphone Apps: Android, Apple, & Blackberry, click on:

<http://www.fema.gov/smartphone-app>

Trend Watch

New Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT), Training Tools Webinar Tuesday, January 24, 2013 at 2:00 pm EST



The Federal Emergency Management Association (FEMA) CERT Program provides a baseline of knowledge that helps educate the public about emergency preparedness and teaches basic emergency response skills. Completing the course prepares the public to safely assist family, friends, neighbors, co-workers or fellow students before professional first responders arrive, whether or not the trainee joins a CERT team.

Register TODAY for the upcoming January 24 webinar. For more information go to FEMA's Responder Knowledge Base link at www.rkb.us or contact your local City Disaster Coordinator to discuss a CERT Program in your area.

Anthrax Vaccine Trial Distribution Could Begin in 2013

FEMA announces, nonmilitary emergency personnel could be offered the anthrax vaccine in early 2013, as part of the current administration plan to distribute unused federal stocks of the vaccine. The trial program would examine the potential of distributing the countermeasure to first responders who volunteer to participate in the initiative.

At a joint hearing on September 13, 2012, Assistant Homeland Security Secretary Alexander Garza said the DHS is putting the "final touches" on preparations for "soliciting groups who would be interested in participating in this pilot project," reported National Journal (www.NationalJournal.com)



National Crime Prevention Council - Tips on Disaster Preparedness

1. Develop a communications plan for your family. Choose someone who does not live with you (preferably an out-of-town relative or friend) whom you and other family members can contact to check on each other in the event that you are separated during a disaster. Carry that person's contact information in your purse or wallet.
2. Make sure children know their last name, phone number, address, and number for the out-of-town contact person.
3. Make sure every member of your family knows an alternate route home.
4. If family members can't get home, designate a meeting place.
5. Know your community's emergency evacuation route.
6. Learn how to shut off utilities such as gas, electricity, and water.
7. Assemble an emergency preparedness kit that will allow your family to camp out for three days. Assume you'll be without electricity and running water.
8. Store your emergency supplies in sealed containers such as plastic tubs - taped shut.
9. Keep cash on hand; automated teller machines won't be working if the power is out.
10. Learn CPR and first aid to help with medical emergencies.
11. Learn about emergency plans for your children's school or daycare center.
12. If you're a teen, find out whether your school has a group of student volunteers to help out in emergency situations. If not, offer to help start such a group. Or start a School Crime Watch.
13. Learn about your company's emergency plan. Practice the plan. Learn exit routes.
14. Work with your Neighborhood Watch or civic association to create a disaster preparedness plan.

Have Information to Share?

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