



April 21, 2023
Weekly Situational Awareness Brief

Awareness Topics

[13 people die of heatstroke in India after attending government award ceremony](#)

“At least 13 people have died from heatstroke in India's western Maharashtra state after attending a state award ceremony on Sunday at which a senior government official was present, police officials have confirmed.”

[National Prescription Drug Take Back Day](#)

“National Prescription Drug Take Back Day is April 22, 2023 – 10AM to 2PM
The National Prescription Drug Take Back Day aims to provide a safe, convenient, and responsible means of disposing of prescription drugs, while also educating the general public about the potential for abuse of medications.”

[Strengthening Heat Action Plans in the United States](#)

“Extreme heat is a public health threat that extends beyond jurisdictions and institutions and has urgent short-term emergency and long-term mitigation components. Managing this issue can be problematic. Heat action plans (HAPs) are one policy tool used by

public health and emergency management agencies to address the public health impacts of an increasingly warming environment. The article by Randazza et al. in this issue of AJPH (p. 559) examines the common content of HAPs and identifies gaps in heat preparedness.”

Blastomycosis Investigation

“Public Health Delta & Menominee Counties (PHDM) continues to work with Billerud Paper Mill, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to investigate an outbreak of blastomycosis, a fungal infection, associated with the Escanaba Billerud Paper Mill. To date, there have been 21 confirmed cases of blastomycosis identified. A confirmed case is a person with symptoms of blastomycosis and where the fungus has either been grown (culture) or seen by microscope in a test specimen. In addition to the 21 confirmed cases, 76 people have been classified as probable cases. A probable case is a person with symptoms of blastomycosis and who has a positive antigen or antibody test. Twelve out of the 97 total cases have been hospitalized. All 97 of the cases are either employees, contractors or visitors of the Billerud Paper Mill in Escanaba.”

New Planetary Defense Strategy Outlines Key US Government Goals

"Planetary defense entered a new era last year when NASA's Double Asteroid Redirection Test (DART) mission demonstrated for the first time the ability to alter an asteroid's orbit. The successful mission was achieved with the support of a worldwide observation campaign, and growing global interest in hazardous near-Earth objects (NEOs) – asteroids and comets that could come into Earth's neighborhood. Despite these breakthroughs and growing awareness, less than half of NEOs capable of serious damage on Earth have been catalogued. That's why the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy is releasing the National Preparedness Strategy and Action Plan for Near-Earth Object Hazards and Planetary Defense."

Cities will need more resilient electricity networks to cope with extreme weather

"Dense urban areas amplify the effects of higher temperatures, due to the phenomenon of heat islands in cities. This makes cities more vulnerable to extreme climate events. Large investments in the electricity network will be necessary to cool us down during heatwaves and keep us warm during cold snaps, according to a new study led by Lund University in Sweden."

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