

RC/PIO News & Notes 2-9-2024

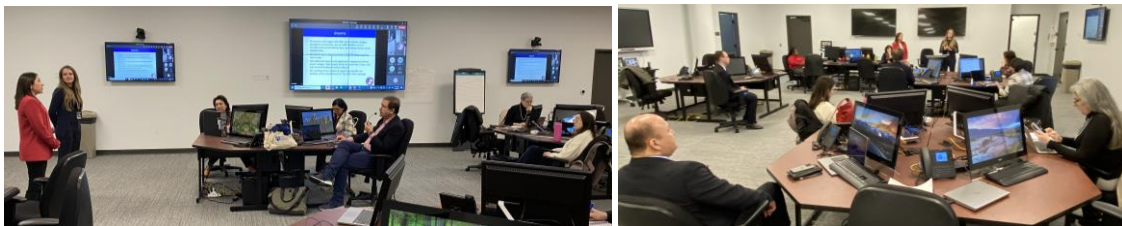


FROM Eric Jens, GA DPH Risk Communicator
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News and Notes

We have more variety in store for highlights this week.

International Visitors



On Wednesday we welcomed international visitors from Uzbekistan to the DPH Emergency Operation Center. Amanda Feldpausch and Jessica Pavlick shared some aspects of their roles within epidemiology. Through the help of translators, we learned more about the recent changes to the public health and emergency response structures in Uzbekistan, along with the strong emphasis on Communication's role and how media interactions take place. In the near future we look forward to speaking directly with the country's public health communications director. The group's three-week visit is being coordinated by the Georgia Council for International Visitors within the U.S. Department of State.



DPH Annual Risk Communicators meeting

The DPH Risk Communicators annual meeting will be held March 19 at the Dougherty County Health Department (the same location as the CERC training March 20). There is still room on the agenda for additional topics and speakers so if you have suggestions, please pass them along.

Media / CERC training

Registration is open for the March 20, DPH Media / Crisis and Emergency Risk Communication class at the Dougherty County Health Department. Once registration closes, everyone registered will receive an agenda and short pre-test. If anyone needs an agenda sooner for travel purposes, please reach out. The training is designed to bring together Subject Matter Experts, Communicators and anyone who may have direct interaction with the public so they can learn from each other the nuances associated with delivering powerful and effective messages. So far we have 42 registered to attend. A wait list will be established if we get to the point where we are over capacity, but at this point there are still open seats.




Register here: <https://ga.readyop.com/fs/5aoH/3d2c8fb9>

HURREX






The Georgia Emergency Management Agency conducted its annual hurricane preparation event known as HURREX on Wednesday. GEMA led the plan briefings for partner state agencies and talked about how all 17 of the Emergency Support Functions work together to plan for and respond to tropical storms and hurricanes. More than 100 individuals took part either virtually or at the State Operations Center. Discussions centered on what to expect in terms of flooding, strong winds, power outages, evacuation plans, sheltering and more.



Section 6: Evacuation

- Question #3: What routes should people take to evacuate?
 - Hurricane Evacuation Routes





Section 2: Concept of the Operation

- When do we activate the TCIA?
 - GEMA/HS Director decides the risk to Georgia is such that an SOC Activation is warranted.
 - There are three levels of SOC Activation status:
 - Level 3 (GREEN) - Normal Operations
 - Level 2 (YELLOW) - Partial Activation
 - Level 1 (RED) - Full Activation
 - There are 5 State Operating Conditions (OPCONS)

Workshops

Thanks to Saneika Thomas for the thorough reports on recent workshops:

2024 Training and Exercise Coordinator Workshop, January 25-26:

The annual Training and Exercise Workshop is where all the district Training and Exercise Coordinators come together to learn new ideas and concepts to help assist them in their roles. This year we had a variety of topics: Food and Ag Emergency Preparedness (Venessa Sims), Purpose of USAR Teams in GA (Ali Mims), ReadyOP, WebEOC and GETS cards (Valeria Attell), This is a T.E.S.T. - a Community Reception Center Game (Lauren Finklea, Denise Tevis, Tiffany Addison), Gamification as a way to leverage partners and buy-in (DPH PHEP Operational Readiness and Ashton Shiver (District 5-2)), Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP) game for understanding concepts (DPH EPR Operational Readiness Team), Power of Partnerships (Chris Sills, District 9-2), Engaging Partners through "Did You Know" newsletters (Katherine Jenkins, District 2), Tracking Trainings (Ashton Shivers, District 5-2) and the Nuances of HSEEP (Thalia Kennedy). Special thanks to our partners (and) EPR Leadership.



CDC facilitated This is a T.E.S.T. game which focused on Community Reception Centers (CRCs) in response to a radiological event. Special thanks to Lauren Finklea (CDC and developer of CRC: This is a TEST game), Denise Tevis (CDC) and Tiffany Addison (CDC). Games may seem trivial to some but are a great way to provide education, gain buy-in, and test and validate plans. Games are categorized as discussion-based exercises per the HSEEP guidelines.

Strengths-Based Management workshop

The Strengths-Based Management Workshop was taught by Dr. Ariela Freedman with MavenTree Consulting for EPR managers and district ECs or designer along with some partner agencies. This was Day 1 (1/24/24) and Day 2 will be March 13, 2024.



Next Week Preview

Much of next week is about getting set for many events to be held in March, April and May.

About "News & Notes"

"News & Notes" is a weekly communication aimed at risk communicators and public information officers within Georgia's 18 public health districts. The goal of the communication is to increase preparedness through the exchange of information about significant events, training and other planned activities. Some information herein may be considered FYUO or For Your Use Only. Please be judicious when forwarding. For questions, comments or to submit information for inclusion, contact Eric Jens at Eric.Jens@dph.ga.gov