

Welcome to the fifth edition of the . . .

Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program (CSEPP) e-Newsletter

The purpose of the e-Newsletter is to provide updates on technology, presented at both basic and advanced courses held in Oak Ridge. We encourage you to use the e-Newsletter to share information about how you are incorporating and expanding technology to improve your site's communication process.

■ CSEPP 2007 Highlights

The CSEPP National Conference: Harnessing the Winds of Change



Carrying forward the Windy City theme from the CSEPP National Conference in Chicago, the Emergency Management Laboratory's (EML) "kite runners" worked tirelessly to help the CSEPP team harness the winds of change on the informational gridlock during an emergency event by providing hands-on training. In so doing, we continued to incorporate the latest, off-the-shelf technology for use within the CSEPP public affairs and emergency management community. As "winds come whistling down the plains" let's reflect on what a memorable season we experienced.

Chicago Film Festival's Coming Attractions...An Emergency Management Film Production Using Windows Movie Maker

EML's version of Steven Spielberg, Jim Noey, conducted a session with Windows Movie Maker at this year's national conference. Windows Movie Maker is an easy to use program that comes with the Windows XP Operating System. This film medium provides an avenue for aspiring CSEPP movie makers to create and edit awarding winning movies from exercise raw footage. Once the footage is shot and edited, titles, video transitions, or effects can be added. Completion of these processes produces a movie worthy of a nomination for "Best Training Film-Short Subject" or a least for posting on a Web site for training purposes. And the winner is...



Disaster on the "L" – Using WeB-MEDIS to Stay on Track

All aboard! EML's own conductor, Mary Connelly kept things on track using Palm handhelds and the WeB-MEDIS patient tracking application to respond to a simulated Chicago mass casualty event based on the worst mass transit accident in Chicago's history. Real data from a 1977 "L" disaster was used to demonstrate how WeB-MEDIS Patient Tracking Application could have assisted emergency responders with patient tracking from triage and decontamination through transport and arrival at the hospital. Participants used the tools provided to manage a major mass casualty event that required quick thinking and inputting of data as well as a good dose of fun. If you would like to have a whistle stop tour of WeB-MEDIS in your community, contact Mary at mary.connelly@orise.orau.gov.

New Technologies in Crisis Communication: How We Got Here, What It Means, Where We're Going

Ironically, high wind warnings were issued throughout the greater Chicagoland area as Argonne's Chris Kramer and EML's Chip Hultquist presented information about advances in communication technology and how these technologies have changed the way the news media does business as well as how the public wants to receive their information delivered. During this whirlwind presentation, they discussed how the advent of communication technological advances allow public officials and emergency managers to tell their story directly to the public -- without having to rely upon the news media to deliver accurate and timely messages. Additionally, this session provided an historic overview of changes in communication technology and methods, and then gave participants a chance to experience some of the new tools now available to crisis communicators.

2007 Public Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Course Highlights

Back to Basics...CSEPP Public Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Course

The CSEPP community learned technology basics and innovative ways to prepare for and respond to emergencies through the use of technology in conjunction with the Joint Information System. The CSEPP Public Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Course, led by Jim Noey and Mary Connelly instructed students on the basics of Web site development using Microsoft FrontPage and Palm handheld basics using the new Palm TX. Students learn how to use these skills to assist personnel involved with the design and deployment of a Mobile Joint Information Center (JIC), to provide a portable and flexible communication alternative for the Joint Information System, and to comply with National Incident Management System requirements.

The Advanced CSEPP Public Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Course - November 07

Rapidly changing technology dictates that those of us in the emergency preparedness world change too. As a result, the EML added new technologically-enhanced components to this course. Using Microsoft FrontPage, the class learned how to post blogs (Web logs) and develop Palm-friendly Web sites, utilize Windows Movie Maker and FrontPage to create and post videos to a Web site, developed enhanced applications using Smart-List-To-Go. Additionally, participants were introduced to the CSEPP patient tracking system, WeB-MEDIS as well as CSEPP's spokesperson tool, WeB-PIO.

Exercise Support

CSEPP Medical Response and Emergency Preparedness Workshop: Applying Handheld Devices and Wireless Technology



Just as the spring thaw was occurring in Colorado, the EML team, Mary Connelly, Chip Hultquist and Ron Edmond, swept into Pueblo like a spring blizzard. But instead of snow this team was packing a punch with WeB-MEDIS Patient Tracking Application as well as the latest in handheld technology, the Palm TX. All of this was a part of the training for Pueblo County fire, law enforcement and public health officials designed to assist them with patient tracking for the Pueblo Chemical Depot's annual exercise.



Pueblo Community CSEPP Exercise 2007

The 2007 Pueblo Chemical Depot exercise provided EML staff members, Mary Connelly, Chip Hultquist and Ron Edmond with an opportunity to test the WeB-MEDIS Patient Tracking Application, the Palm TX PDA as well as the latest wireless technology. The test took place at the event scene, the Colorado State Fair Grounds located in Pueblo County, using the WeB-MEDIS software on Palm devices. The palm devices were connected to the internet via a mobile wireless network established at the event scene prior to STARTEX. As information was collected using WeB-MEDIS, first responders synchronized patient records with a remote database over the wireless network. Users at other sites (medical/hospital/Joint Information Center/Emergency Operations Center) had the ability to view the records as they were uploaded using the respective Web-browsers in real-time.



Although the receiving hospital lacked the ability to transmit data wirelessly from the receiving area located in the hospital parking lot, the hospital's command center and the admissions office were able to use the WeB-MEDIS Website to track incoming patients and plan for patient placement/movement within their facility. The command center's operations coordinator exported the data (entered by responders at the State Fairgrounds) to an Excel spreadsheet and used it as a tool to notify other internal offices (i.e., front desk, media center and admissions) regarding patient whereabouts in the hospital.

Overall, another successful implementation of the CSEPP WeB-MEDIS Patient Tracking System was completed at the exercise.

Anniston Exercise 2007

During the Anniston Exercise **Mary Connelly** had the opportunity to observe the patient tracking processes at the Northeast Alabama Regional Medical Center and here is a synopsis of what she learned.

- Patient information received from the radio call was handwritten and shared with the ER charge nurse.
- Patient information flow was from the depot by radio to Anniston EMS (AEMS).
- AEMS then radioed the receiving hospital where the patient information was handwritten.
- There was no patient information flow out of the hospital.
- When patients arrived, information was passed from EMS staff verbally to hospital personnel and then handwritten.
- There was limited patient information given to the EOC.

The EML would like the opportunity to test and implement the WeB-MEDIS Patient Tracking Application to more efficiently track patients from the event scene to hospital reception and also provide patient tracking information to the EOC.



Umatilla Exercise

Being early adopters in emergency public information technologies, the emergency public information folks at Umatilla set a new standard during the 2007 emergency exercise. Wanting to demonstrate the capability to operate a Mobile Joint Information Center (MJIC) that could replace the JIC, Benton County Emergency Management Agency used their incident command post to respond to the media and public regarding the simulated emergency at the Umatilla Depot. As the pictures show, all functions of the information gathering and dissemination were accomplished with the Umatilla MJIC.



UT Homeland Security Nurses Train and Test CSEPP's Electronic Patient Tracking System

by Jennifer Brock

Doctoral students from the University of Tennessee's (UT) School of Nursing Homeland Security program, which prepares graduates for response to man-made and natural disasters, recently participated in a medical response and emergency preparedness workshop led by Chip Hultquist and Mary Connelly.

After the workshop, Dr. Susan Speraw, who leads the UT program, put the WeB-MEDIS system to the test, as she and her students participated in a State of Alabama homeland security exercise held at the U.S. Space and Rocket Center in Huntsville. The scenario included a hurricane that spawned several tornadoes in the area. Advertising and public relations students from UT's College of Communications and Information served as media/reporters, while additional actors were played by space camp participants. "We were honored to be able to work with [ORISE] to pilot a program... for responders in the field," said Dr. Speraw. "The positive impact would extend beyond the responder to the survivor who is the focus of care... in a situation where time is an essential factor in recovery." Student Matthew Brayton called the WeB-MEDIS training "valuable" and a "winner."



Technology Transfer from CSEPP to the Veterans Administration (VA)

One of the goals of the EML is to integrate federal, state and local emergency management expectations and needs resulting in effective national preparedness solutions. As part of that mission, we are working with the Veterans Administration (VA) to transfer the CSEPP-developed, WeB-MEDIS Patient Tracking Application. The VA has responsibility to provide medical care to veterans as well as to military and civilians as a contingency to the military medical system and for disaster situations respectively. Specifically the VA Medical Centers (VAMCs) may be called upon to perform a variety of emergency management activities to include:

- Provide and ensure the continuity of health care delivery services to eligible veterans.
- Contingency support to the Military Medical System (under the VA/DoD) Contingency Plan, VAMCs are either designated as a Primary Receiving Center (PRC) or Secondary Support Center (SSC). Some facilities may have additional responsibilities as Installation Support Center (ISC).
- Respond to major disasters and emergencies (under the National Disaster Medical System (NDMS)). The VA can provide both emergency healthcare services and definitive medical care to disaster victims when state and local resources are overwhelmed. The system can also be used in wartime for the care of active duty military casualties, if DoD and VA treatment capacity is exceeded.

Additionally, VA Emergency Medical Response Teams (EMRT's) may be deployed during emergencies/disasters in support of NRP ESF#8 (Health and Medical Services) requirements.

To date the EML and the VA have successfully tested in VA emergency exercises Pennsylvania and Michigan. During these exercises, patient and hospital data was entered successfully and in each case receiving hospitals and EOC's were able to view patient tracking information immediately after it was entered.

The wireless systems established to operate in conjunction with WeB-MEDIS performed equally well.

All indications during these tests were that the WeB-MEDIS System could operate effectively in a mass casualty event throughout the United States.



Little Rock Medical Response Workshop



Arkansas Children's Hospital in Little Rock, Arkansas served as the location for the CSEPP Medical Response and Emergency Preparedness Workshop in December of 2007. First responders, first receivers and emergency managers from the Pine Bluff Chemical Depot spent three days learning the elements of patient tracking and how to use the WeB-MEDIS Patient Tracking System to increase efficiency of patient transportation and care.



Upcoming Events

EML is busy preparing for 2008. This year's calendar will include only one CSEPP Public Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Course in Oak Ridge, with the most current technology solutions for the CSEPP community. We will also continue testing the CSEPP WeB-MEDIS Patient Tracking System in Little Rock, Arkansas during the Pine Bluff Exercise in March 2008. We are looking forward to seeing and working with you this year.

2007 Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program (CSEPP) Technological Resources for Emergency Preparedness and Public Affairs Training e-Newsletter

Article idea? Contact the Editor, Ron Edmond at ron.edmond@orise.orau.gov.



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