

# RC/PIO News & Notes 1-31-2025



FROM Eric Jens, GA DPH Risk Communicator  
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## News and Notes

Highlights this week include a multi-disciplinary state tabletop exercise, and a visit with health and emergency response leaders from Brazil. We've also been receiving a large collection of pictures already this year, so we'll include a sample of those pictures that space has limited heretofore.

## EPR on Ice



A winter storm has impacted virtually all of Georgia, burying some under snow, icing roads that hamper or prevent critical transportation and extreme cold temperatures for others who struggle to maintain water and electricity. The situation may seem somewhat similar to recent events, but on Thursday this was just a simulation for a tabletop exercise: EPR on Ice, held at the state DPH EOC. Players talked through what their anticipated actions and reactions would be throughout the scenario. Plans and interactions were assessed within Communications, Nursing, Epidemiology, Environmental Health, Pharmacy, and Emergency Preparedness. More than 40 took part in the exercise as either evaluators, notetakers, players, and/or took part of the exercise planning team that spent considerable time and effort organizing the event. Thanks to all who contributed. This was the fourth rendition of this exercise series. The scenarios were: 1. Hurricane, 2. Hurricane, 3. Novel Virus (held Feb. 2020), and now 4. Severe Winter Weather. Unofficially some of us have been told to stop planning exercises based on the likelihood of the scenarios becoming real world events.



## International Visitors



Thursday afternoon we welcomed international health professionals from Brazil to the state DPH EOC. Leah Hoffacker, KT McKnight and Sean Graham responded to many of their questions, explaining how Public Health and emergency response is structured in Georgia. We shared numerous experiences of recent disasters and lessons learned from both countries.



## January Photos

We had quite a plethora of pictures submitted from events held in the first month of 2025. Here's a small sample of some that we've wanted to share:





## Next Week Preview

The Region C Healthcare Coalition meets in Carrollton Tuesday. We will hopefully be able to share more details on events that may be coming up in February.

### 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](mailto:Eric.Jens@dph.ga.gov)