

RC/PIO News & Notes 4-26-2024



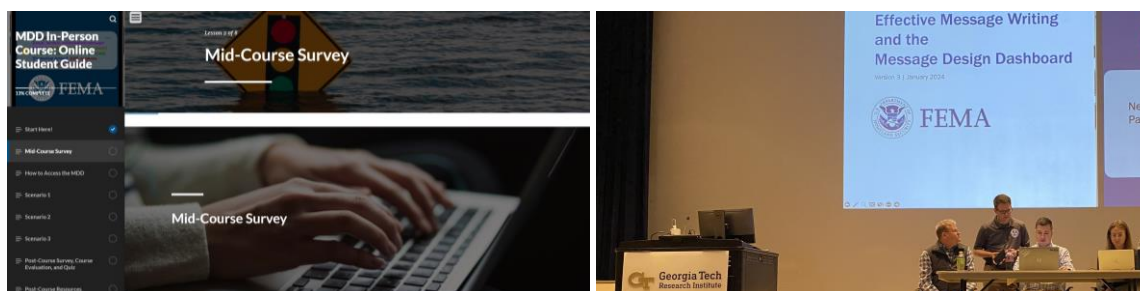
FROM Eric Jens, GA DPH Risk Communicator
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News and Notes

There were a handful of interesting updates this week to spotlight. Be sure to check out the last section (Next Week Preview) for what appears to be a rather busy week ahead.

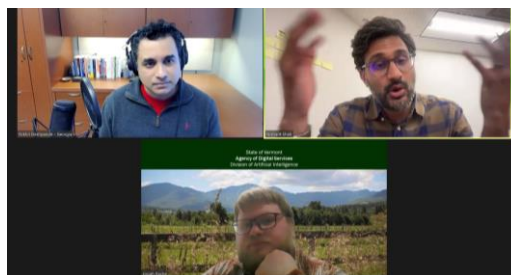
Emergency Alerts

Writing effective messages for emergency alert systems was the focus of a training held Wednesday at Georgia Tech. Each alert message should contain a source, hazard, location, protective action, and time, with additional information as space allows. The new Message Design Dashboard helps ensure all of these elements are included, and greatly speeds up the process. This FEMA sanctioned course has been coordinated and hosted by the Atlanta-Fulton County Emergency Management Agency (AFCEMA) and the Georgia Tech Office of Emergency Management & Communications at the Georgia Tech Research Institute (GTRI) Conference Center, with instructors from the University at Albany, New York.



GovChats AI

GovChats hosted a webinar Tuesday featuring the latest information related to Artificial Intelligence. It seems AI has become a common abbreviation on the calendar these days and has about an equal chance of standing for Artificial Intelligence, as in this case, as it does Avian Influenza, although the two are rarely related. The discussion moderator from Georgia spoke with representatives from Maryland and Vermont. Vermont established a Division of Artificial Intelligence in 2022, and released its first Guidance for State Employees in February of the following year.



EH Strike Team Training

Thanks to Byron Lobsinger for providing a report on the latest strike team training session:

The Environmental Health Strike Team (EHST) Spring Training was conducted this week at the Georgia Public Safety Training Center (GPSTC). Team members from around the State heard from Peki Prince and Michelle Archer, and also demonstrated adult and pediatric CPR competency after receiving instruction for this life saving skill. Additional training included use of AED (Automated External Defibrillator), stop the bleed training, and what to do for someone choking. The dummies never lost their heads while playing an important role with adequate compressions indicator lights and optional mouth to mouth breathing barriers.



DeKalb Honors 100

Thanks to Eric Nickens for sending us this report and pictures from a milestone event this week:

On Wednesday, April 24, DeKalb Public Health (District 3-5), turned 100 years old! To celebrate, a Centennial Celebration was held at the DeKalb History Center in downtown Decatur, GA, with local and state officials, community leaders, including Commissioner Toomey and our emcee, Atlanta broadcast news legend Moncia Kaufman Pearson. The DeKalb County Health Department, now known as DeKalb Public Health, was officially formed on Wednesday. Originally located in an old house on Ponce de Leon Avenue in Decatur, its original staff consisted of the health officer, a school nurse, a maternal health nurse and a clerk. Throughout the decades, as DeKalb County has grown, so has DeKalb Public Health; tackling new health concerns and issues, while continuing to provide established services. Today, over 300 staff members provide services in six health centers.



Maui Wildfires

The Homeland Security Information Network hosted a webinar Thursday featuring some of those who lead the response last year to the Maui wildfires. There were 60 to 70 firefighters on duty when the fires started, and the Maui Emergency Management Agency consisted of eight people. Other than personnel shortage challenges, there was the struggle with firefighting equipment. They said in some instances, the fire hydrant infrastructure simply melted.

Teaching ICS on Kauai the week before helped



HSIN
Homeland Security
Information Network

All Hazards L969

Communications Unit Leader (COML)

- Students were from all counties in Hawaii
- Three of the instructors were later deployed to Maui
- We later used class roster as a “shopping list” for staff
 - At least three students were deployed to Maui
- Nothing like just in time training



Next Week Preview

On Monday next week state DPH will welcome 9 international visitors from African nations to the Emergency Operation Center at Twin Towers. The rest of the week will entail a plethora of activities at Jekyll Island for the annual meeting of the Georgia Public Health Association. Look for updates next week on all the highlights, including the latest happenings with the GPHA Communications Section.

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