

RC/PIO News & Notes 8-9-2024



FROM Eric Jens, GA DPH Risk Communicator
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News and Notes

Multi-tasking has been the theme as of late. As such we have more volume and variety to highlight this week.

Debby



Full damage assessment is yet to be determined for the South and Coastal counties in Georgia hit by heavy rain stemming from Hurricane Debby. Debby made landfall in Florida early Monday. Shelters were opened, roads were washed out, and power outages were the norm for the first half of the week. Thanks to everyone for effectively sharing updates. And thanks to Chandler McGee in the Waycross district for the pictures of shelter set up and the tree that fell next door. Flooding has been a top concern although hopes of drier conditions in the week ahead should help the recovery efforts.

International Visitors

Wednesday afternoon a group of six health professionals from Kazakhstan and their interpreters visited the state DPH EOC. They asked numerous insightful questions and heard about the emergency response support structure as it relates to Georgia. Byron Lobsinger shared his knowledge from an Environmental Health perspective. Herman Albertie brought the Hurricane Debby Web EOC incident onto the screens. We all learned more about the threats and challenges commonly faced by our visitors hosted by the Georgia Council for International Visitors.



Media/CERC Training

Registration is open for the DPH Media / Crisis and Emergency Risk Communication training to be held at **Georgia Highlands College in Rome, Thursday, September 19:**

<https://ga.readyop.com/fs/5avp/f83d01eb>

The objective of the training is to bring Communicators and Subject Matter Experts and anyone who has the potential of interacting with the public and/or the media together to learn from each other. Message development and dissemination is most effective if everyone involved understands their role and the roles of others. This training will cover the most effective ways of providing specific audiences with the most accurate, timely, effective, consistent, and actionable message. As of yesterday, we have 18 signed up to take part.



Skills Day



The Region C Healthcare Coalition hosted a Skills Day at Georgia Highlands College in Rome Tuesday. Participants learned about Active Shooter response, Life-Flight operations, and proper use of fire extinguishers. Other topics included Emergency Preparedness for nursing homes, bomb dog tactics, and more.



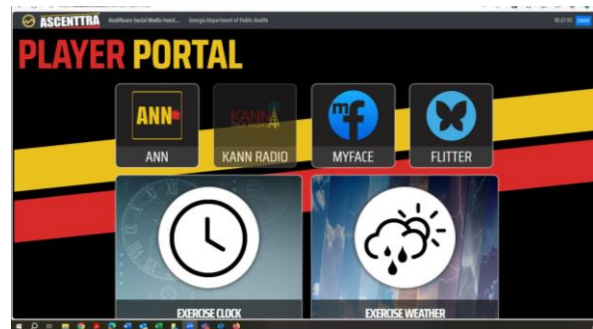
Job Transition

The good news for the Albany district is that their new Training and Development Specialist will begin that role one week from today. Unfortunately, that also means that the Gainesville district Risk Communicator/PIO Bobby Ward will no longer be in that position. Bobby has been actively engaged in many district activities and contributed to the Communications efforts overall statewide. We'll miss seeing him as often but glad he'll still be with DPH. He wish him all the best as he makes this transition.



Fulton Functional Exercise

The Fulton County Board of Health and state DPH took part in a functional exercise Wednesday that included the use of a multi-media simulation desk. Participants navigated the information platforms, responding to a simulated chlorine spill stemming from an accident on I-285.



Next Week Preview

The Georgia Public Health Association Communications Section will hold a meeting at 10:00 Tuesday morning. There will be various meetings, webinars, and hopefully clear skies throughout the next week.

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