

RC/PIO News & Notes 9-6-2024



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News and Notes

Apalachee High School – There are no words to accurately describe the horrific events that occurred Wednesday in Barrow County where a 14-year-old is accused of fatally gunning down two students, two teachers and wounding nine others at his school. Thousands responded locally and statewide to the mass shooting. GBI's Nelly Miles had a strong role in disseminating information. Peki Prince helped coordinate EMS response. Josh Bowman provided timely updates from DPH District 10. A WebEOC incident was created by Valerie Attell. Kalie Burke and LaKieva Williams helped disseminate psychological first aid resources.



Resources in Response to the Apalachee High School Shooting

In response to the shooting at Apalachee High School in Winder, Georgia, the National Child Traumatic Stress Network has developed resources to help children, families, and communities navigate what they are seeing and hearing, acknowledge their feelings, and find ways to cope together. These resources include:

- [For Teens: Coping After Mass Violence \(in ASL\)](#)
- [For Adults: Coping after Mass Violence \(in ASL\)](#)
- [Talking to Children about the Recent Shooting \(in ASL\)](#)
- [Parent Guidelines for Helping Youth after the Recent Shooting \(En Español\)](#)
- [Tip Sheet for Youth Talking to Journalists about the Shooting](#)
- [Talking to Children: When Scary Things Happen \(En Español\)](#)
- [Creating Supportive Environments: When Scary Things Happen \(En Español\)](#)

Psychological First Aid

The NCTSN also has resources for responders on [Psychological First Aid](#) (PFA; [En Español](#)). PFA is an early intervention to support children, adolescents, adults, and families impacted by these types of events. [PFA Mobile](#) and the [PFA Wallet Card \(En Español\)](#) provide a quick reminder of the core actions. The [PFA online training \(En Español\)](#) course is also available on the NCTSN Learning Center. Resources for implementing PFA in schools include:

- [Psychological First Aid for Schools](#) (PFA-S) – field operations guide
- [Providing PFA-S: For Health-Related Professionals](#) – handout
- [Providing PFA-S: For Principals and Administrators](#) – handout
- [Providing PFA-S: For School Support Staff](#) – handout
- [Providing PFA-S: For Teachers](#) – handout
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Disaster Helpline

SAMHSA has a [Disaster Distress Helpline](#) – call or text **1-800-985-5990** (for Spanish, press “2”) to be connected to a trained counselor 24/7/365.

Cold Weather Preparedness

Autumn is two weeks and two days away. Weather in Georgia is starting to show signs of not being quite so hot. A couple of events held this week were intended to prepare for severe winter weather. The National Weather Service hosted a Cold Weather Preparedness webinar Thursday. Updates to terminology are expected to take place October 1, with a larger revamp to come later.

Hazard Simplification Overview

On or about October 1, 2024, the NWS is simplifying its suite of cold weather products to improve messaging of these hazards and provide better decision support services

Extreme Cold Consolidation and Renaming		
Current		Upcoming
Extreme Cold Watch	Consolidated to	Extreme Cold Watch
Wind Chill Watch		
Extreme Cold Warning	Consolidated to	Extreme Cold Warning
Wind Chill Warning		
Wind Chill Advisory	Replaced with	Cold Weather Advisory

Freeze Consolidation		
Current		Upcoming
Hard Freeze Watch	Consolidated to	Freeze Watch
Freeze Watch		
Hard Freeze Warning	Consolidated to	Freeze Warning
Freeze Warning		

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Also on Thursday, state planning team members continued preparing for a multi-discipline tabletop exercise featuring an ice storm scenario, entitled 'EPR on Ice.'

Media/CERC Training

Registration is now closed for the DPH Media / Crisis and Emergency Risk Communication training to be held at Georgia Highlands College in Rome, Thursday, September 19. If you would like to attend, but haven't registered yet, please email me directly so we can keep an accurate count as the day draws near. It should be an exciting event and an excellent learning opportunity with one of the best cross section of disciplines in attendance. An organizational meeting was held earlier this week. There are currently 50 registered to attend.

Next Week Preview

Next week there is a review of the Highly Infectious Disease plan along with multiple meetings to prepare for events in the next two months.

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