Farmers are getting prepared - are you?

Even farmers have to be prepared....

2022 World Cup Preparation

The Center for Preparedness Education is involved in the 2022 FIFA World Cup.

“When you are prepared the sky is the limit”

Photo Credit - Tonya Ngotel
Do you have a picture that depicts Nebraska’s preparedness? Maybe you are a budding author? Here’s your opportunity to shine.

The Center would like to highlight your exercise, drill, training, or real event in our next issue.

Submit articles, pictures, or ideas by September 1, 2018 to center@preped.org or call (402) 552-2529.
My baptism into the world of Disaster Medicine came literally by fire on 28 August 1988 in Ramstein, Germany. As a young Army Pediatrician, I had just completed my first tour of duty at Fort Hood, Texas, and was being reassigned to the Landstuhl Army Medical Center, across the autobahn from the airbase at Ramstein. I had only arrived in Europe the day before. Jet-lagged, knowing no one in Germany, and with little else to do on a weekend (offices were closed and we were living in a hotel awaiting housing), I ventured over to the hospital to scope out my new place of employment. I was walking the unfamiliar corridors when the public address system suddenly demanded that all hands report to the emergency room. While I had no idea where the ER was even located, and certainly didn’t possess active hospital credentials, I managed to find my way. The trauma surgeon in charge there had little patience for timidity, however. Two aircraft (part of an Italian Air Force display team) had just collided in midair during an airshow, showering burning metal and jet fuel on the spectators below. In the end, 70 would die and another 346 would suffer serious injuries. I spent the day treating badly burned children and adults, inserting peripheral and central intravenous catheters.

Thirty years later, with far more experience (and far rustier technical skills), I can look back on my involvement through the lens of ‘Disaster Preparedness’, a field unfamiliar to me at the time. To use the military construct, I like to think of our roles in the preparedness field as falling into three broad categories: the Tactical, Operational, and Strategic. At Ramstein, I functioned at the tactical level; that is, at the level of the individual provider. While I hope that my interventions alleviated a little suffering and maybe even saved a life or two, I had no idea what was taking place beyond the patient in front of me. But, undoubtedly, much was taking place.

At the operational level (i.e. the level of the institution), caregivers were being mobilized, bed space being freed up, surge plans being put into effect. The Hospital Incident Command System (HICS), which had its birth at around the time of the Ramstein disaster, would codify those efforts today. Similarly, at the strategic level (i.e. at the level of the ‘system’), German and US Military authorities were establishing command centers, activating public affairs operations, and coordinating system-wide response efforts. While it hadn’t yet been born in 1988, the National Response Framework (NRF) would guide many of those efforts today.

Most of us who practice in the Preparedness field will never be so lucky (or unlucky, as the case may be) as to be personally present at a disaster at the moment it occurs. And none of us can simultaneously engage in all aspects of the response to a disaster. But, for those of us entrusted with the important task of preparing, it is imperative that we thoroughly understand these aspects on all three levels. It is only by doing so that we will maximize our ability to intervene successfully and minimize the cost in morbidity, mortality, and economic loss. I’m delighted that you’ve chosen to be a partner in this important field, and I very much look forward to working with you.
The title **UnCentered** was chosen by our team to describe thinking outside the box or Center, if you will -- uncharted territory from traditional theories and methodologies.

ELAYNE SAEJUNG
Assistant Director, Center for Preparedness Education
We at the Center for Preparedness Education consider the Symposia Series to be the highlight of the year, the best part of our jobs, and a great opportunity to showcase the best of public health preparedness efforts in Nebraska! This year we discussed topics ranging from national disasters, radioactive fall out, opioid trends and the art of moulage.

Dr. Tom Williams, Chief Medical Officer from the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, started off the workshop with an overview of the current state of preparedness. He spoke of the strong partnerships in Nebraska and reviewed trends in influenza.

"I’m pleased to be able to assist with the symposium. This is a well planned and executed program benefiting diverse professions involved in emergency preparedness planning and response. It is important for Nebraskans and Nebraska!"

Dr. Williams

UNMC showed off their new Simulation In Motion - Nebraska, or SIM-NE, truck. Attendees got a first hand view of the new training resource, which includes an emergency room and an ambulance module. (Pictured bottom left.)
Our trainings are known to be interactive and hands-on, and the Symposia Series is no exception. Attendees discussed the need to evacuate a medical facility and the importance of including pharmacy in short and long term planning. The above left picture shows our exercise pharmacy, complete with simulated medication.

Leslie Scofield, Director of First Responder Education, demonstrated the art of moulage in her session. Melanie and Jim show off their wound creation before heading over to the pharmacy for pain management. (Pictured top right and bottom left.)

"The Symposia series is a way for us to reach out to our counterparts across the state and showcase the efforts of public health preparedness."

Elayne Saejung, Assistant Director Center for Preparedness Education

This year’s attendees included members from public health and health care, hospital, emergency management, and law enforcement. Laughter was contagious when Dr. Ted Cieslak spoke on nuclear fallout, while tears flowed when Hillary Devlen spoke of her experience during the Sonoma Fires that affected her prize show horses.

The symposia continues to be a highlight in our program. If you would like to help plan next year’s series, please reach out to Rachel Lookadoo at rachel.lookadoo@unmc.edu

Lancaster County Sheriff’s Office Investigator Jeremy Schwarz shares his expertise on the Opioid Crisis affecting the Midwest.
In May, Center for Preparedness Education staff Elayne Saejung and Tonya Ngotel instructed a two day FEMA HSEEP training course in Omaha. Attendees from Nebraska and neighboring states with backgrounds in public health, emergency management and long term care participated in the course.

HSEEP defines the instrumental steps in designing preparedness exercises and is required by many federal grants.

Attendees walked through the process of creating, implementing and evaluating exercises and used the exercises defined handout created by Tonya Ngotel, shown to the left, as an exercise tool.

More exercise resources can be found on our website (www.preped.org) or by calling (402) 552-9724.
HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Each year, hundreds of thousands of men, women, boys and girls are impacted by human trafficking in the United States. Emergency medical services personal, disaster responders and all medical staff are an important piece to help recognize and report trafficking situations to the proper authorities. First responders, who are often the first to arrive at a scene and disaster responders need to know that emergencies and disasters increase the risks of human trafficking. Medical staff can encounter victims in emergency rooms, at medical appointments and also dental offices. ALL can learn to look for red flags and indicators to help identify potential victims and might possibly save a life.

Traffickers exploit others for profit and prey on the vulnerable, particularly those from low socio-economic backgrounds, an unstable home life, youth in the child welfare system who go missing from care or those who have a history of physical or sexual abuse.

There are two primary factors that drive human traffickers: high profits and low risk, making human trafficking one of the most profitable criminal industries in the world.

Human trafficking is the trade of humans, most commonly for the purpose of sexual slavery, forced labor, or commercial sexual exploitation for the trafficker or others.

Recognizing potential red flags and indicators of human trafficking is a key step in identifying victims and helping them find the assistance they need. (Article continued on p. 16)
In April, I had the pleasure of joining some of my Center for Preparedness Education colleagues and attending the 2018 Preparedness Summit in Atlanta, Georgia. Dr. Sharon Medcalf, Elayne Saejung, Tonya Ngotel, and I spent the week attending informative learning sessions and connecting with other preparedness professionals. There were quite a few familiar faces at the Summit, as we frequently ran into friends and coworkers from Nebraska. (I think we were all pretty excited to escape the long Nebraska winter and experience some warm spring weather!)

The Summit sessions covered a wide variety of topics by dynamic speakers from a range of backgrounds. One particular highlight was hearing from Dr. Robert Kadlec, the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR), and other top leaders of government preparedness agencies, who spoke about the future of public health emergencies and how to strengthen national health security. Another session highlight was hearing the Center’s own Elayne Saejung speak regarding her recent deployment to Rockport, Texas in response to Hurricane Harvey. Additionally, the Center was well-represented by poster presentations from Dr. Sharon Medcalf and Tonya Ngotel.

Overall, it was a fantastic week of learning, making new connections, and strengthening relationships with colleagues in the field. I know I speak for all of us when I say, we’re already looking forward to the 2019 Summit!
**PURPOSE**

We provide all-hazards education that optimizes emergency preparedness for organizations and communities.

**MISSION**

Enhancing Community Resilience through:

- Innovative Educational Programs
- Exercise Design Services
- Preparedness Consulting

**INNOVATION**

We pride ourselves on creating in-house, one of a kind training using experts in the field.

**1000'S**

Of professionals are trained every year in Emergency Preparedness

Subject matter experts design and facilitate programs created with individual needs in mind. No two trainings are ever the same, we improve and grow with every course.

**16 CONSECUTIVE YEARS OF SYMPOSIA**

The capstone of our programs - each year the Symposiums are focused on current events and issues facing our state, include national topics and engaging workshops.

**10 MINUTE DRILLS**

Using innovation and creativity, staff came up with multiple 10 minute exercises that can be adapted to an office setting, health care facility or a volunteer organization.

**Dr. Phil Smith**

The Center for Preparedness Education was created in 2002 from a vision by Dr. Phil Smith, who early on identified the need for continued public health emergency preparedness education and the potential for growth within the field.
UNMC, NEBRASKA EXTENSION OFFERS TRACTOR SAFETY COURSE TO TEENS ACROSS NEBRASKA

ARTICLE BY VICKI CERINO, UNMC MEDIA RELATIONS

"The most common cause of agricultural-related deaths in Nebraska is overturned tractors and ATVs."

Members of the Central States Center for Agricultural Safety and Health in the University of Nebraska Medical Center College of Public Health will provide a tractor safety course in May and June in 12 towns across Nebraska in partnership with Nebraska Extension. The course provides extensive training on tractor and all-terrain vehicles safety with a variety of hands-on activities. Instilling an attitude of ‘safety first’ and respect for agricultural equipment are primary goals of the course.

Teens 14 or 15 years of age who work on farms are encouraged to register for the Nebraska Extension Tractor Safety & Hazardous Occupations Course. Anyone under age 14 is not eligible to take the class.

Federal law prohibits youth under 16 years of age from using certain equipment on a farm unless their parents or legal guardians own the farm. However, certification received through the course grants an exemption to the law allowing 14- and 15-year-olds to drive a tractor and to do field work with certain mechanized equipment.

The most common cause of agricultural-related deaths in Nebraska is overturned tractors and ATVs, said Susan Harris-Broomfield, University of Nebraska Extension educator in Kearney and Franklin counties. "Employing uncertified youth, under age 16, who will be operating tractors and ATVs is a liability risk for farmers," she said.

Cost of the course is $60 and includes educational materials and instruction, supplies and lunch.

The first day of class will cover the required elements of the National Safe Tractor and Machinery Operation Program, hands-on participation, concluding with a written test, which students must pass to attend the second day of training.

The second day of training will include a driving test and equipment operation and ATV safety lessons. Students must demonstrate competence in hitching and unhitching equipment and driving a tractor and trailer through a standardized course. Instructors will offer an ATV simulator experience about safe behavior and laws for ATVs and utility-task vehicles (UTVs).

Instructors for the course are members of the Central States Center for Agricultural Safety and Health: Aaron Yoder, Ph.D., Ellen Duysen, Daniel Kent, and UNMC graduate student Lucy Finocchiaro.
UNMC, NEBRASKA EXTENSION OFFER TRACTOR SAFETY COURSE TO TEENS ACROSS NEBRASKA

Classes begin at 8 a.m. End times vary depending on the number of participants.

Dates, training site locations and site coordinator phone numbers are below:

May 22 & 23 - Geneva, Fairgrounds (402) 759-3712;

May 24 & 25 - Hastings, Fairgrounds (402) 461-7209;

May 29 & 30 - Kearney, Fairgrounds (308) 236-1235;

May 31 & June 1 - Auburn, Fairgrounds, (402) 274-4755;

June 5 & 6 - Ainsworth, Evangelical Free Church, (402) 387-2213

June 7 & 8 - O’Neill, Plains Equipment (402) 336-2760;

June 12 & 13 - North Platte, West Central Research and Extension Center, (308) 532-2683;

June 14 & 15 - Gering, Legacy Museum (308) 632-1480;

June 19 & 20 - Wayne, Fairgrounds (402) 375-3310;

June 20 online & June 21 at Gordon, Fairgrounds (308) 327-2312;

June 21 online & June 22 at McCook, Farignounds (308) 345-3390;

June 29 & 30 - Weeping Water, Fairgrounds, (402) 267-2205.

For more information or to register, contact the appropriate Extension Office above. The registration form can be found at https://extension.unl.edu/statewide/kearney.

We are Nebraska Medicine and UNMC. Our mission is to lead the world in transforming lives to create a healthy future for all individuals and communities through premier educational programs, innovative research and extraordinary patient care.
The Center for Preparedness’s role in the 2022 World Cup

Successful health security is about partnerships in a shrinking global arena. We are fortunate to have a Dean that is well connected to the global preparedness network. In late 2016 Dean Khan asked the Center for Preparedness Education (in the College of Public Health) to represent him for the planning of a workshop to be hosted in Doha, Qatar. Drs. Sharon Medcalf, Ted Cieslak, and Elayne Saejung worked with Qatar’s National Committee for the Prohibition of Weapons of Mass Destruction, to design and conduct an interactive workshop in April of 2017. Qatar will host the 2022 World Cup. In anticipation, the city is building an infrastructure of stadiums, transportation, and healthcare to support the surge in population for the games. To that end, they are eager to collaborate with the College of Public Health as they prepare and plan for public health emergencies that may arise during this momentous event.

We provided up to date information on biological agents of concern and emerging infectious disease threats, conducted a tabletop exercise, and an interactive activity to test the healthcare sectors’ capabilities to manage a surge of patients with an infectious disease. The workshop was a huge success, and our hosts in Doha requested a follow-on workshop in April of 2018, attracting three times as many participants as the first year. This year we added training on public health surveillance for infectious diseases, crisis communications, and incident management to the portfolio of topics. Local workgroups were formed to continue the planning that will be imperative to reach target preparedness goals by 2022.

Conversations are in progress for the third workshop in 2019 as well as other consultative projects. These are a testimony to the importance of relationship building on a global scale because health security challenges are never confined to country borders. We are proud to call Qatar a partner in the quest to ensure that all countries are better prepared to respond to and recover from infectious disease outbreaks and other public health emergencies.

by Sharon Medcalf, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Department of Epidemiology, Director, Center for Biosecurity, Biopreparedness, and Emerging Infectious Diseases, College of Public Health, University of Nebraska Medical Center
Members of the Health Care Coalitions (HCCs), hospitals and long term care facilities participated in a state wide functional exercise the week of April 23rd. As a requirement for funding HCCs played in this low/no notice exercise that was coordinated by Center staff.

“The Coalition Surge Test provided healthcare coalitions across the country the opportunity to test both their evacuation and patient surge plans. Any time we exercise, we tend to focus on the things that could have gone better, rather than what went well. That’s probably human nature. And, with this being the first time to do this kind of exercise, we had lots of challenges and lessons learned. To me, the most impressive part of the exercise was the communication and cooperation between organizations. Every person involved took the exercise seriously and did their part. Every designated evacuation facility got their census quickly and started making transportation and relocation plans immediately. I was impressed!”

Barb Dodge, Director of Hospital Preparedness, Center for Preparedness Education
Making ICS a virtual part of UNMC's M.S. in Emergency Preparedness


The activation of the Emergency Incident Command System (ICS) involves multiple entities working together to achieve a productive and successful response across multiple entities (local, state, federal, tribal, etc.) The goal of this e-module is to assist the learner in better understanding the roles and responsibilities in the activation and implementation of the ICS. Better retention of course assignments will be accomplished through visualization and interactive knowledge checks regarding the basic premise of ICS roles and responsibilities, multi-level responses, and lead to a strengthened understanding of course material.

By utilizing the Activation of the Incident Command System (ICS) e-module to enhance basic comprehension, the learner will be able to actively participate in classroom dialogue and confidently complete assignments. Through interactive knowledge checks and a final certificate of completion, instructors can assess the effectiveness of this ICS module (in conjunction with the IS-800 FEMA course) on improving the understanding of the learner.

The ICS module utilizes clear, casual language and engaging visualizations to enhance the understanding of an ICS activation, the roles fulfilled during an activation and responsibilities to be fulfilled during an emergency. The ICS is used to organize both near-term and long-term field-level operations for a broad spectrum of emergencies including small to complex incidents, both natural and manmade. By completing this module, health-care professionals will achieve at a basic, but essential, understanding on how the ICS is activated, obtain knowledge on who will be activated to complete specific tasks during an emergency response, and how each role carries out its responsibilities.

UNMC’s E-Learning offers an opportunity for students to create modules that support faculty programs such as the MS in Emergency Preparedness. The ICS module will be used in conjunction with other FEMA independent study courses, says Dr. Sharon Medcalf faculty advisor for the program.

This module not only supports UNMC’s e-learning concept but also allowed these students to gain knowledge in course creation and refined their skills in instructional design.
There is "a flourishing sex trade in Nebraska" - Governor's Task Force on Human Trafficking.

As public health and medical professionals it's our responsibility to realize there's a problem, recognize the signs and respond as necessary.

DHHS has trained over 800 professionals in trafficking identification - I would challenge YOU to become one of them.

REALIZE - RECOGNIZE - RESPOND

Common Work and Living Conditions:
- Is not free to leave or come and go as he/she wishes
- Is under 18 and is providing commercial sex acts
- Is in the commercial sex industry and has a pimp / manager
- Is unpaid, paid very little, or paid only through tips
- Works excessively long and/or unusual hours
- Is not allowed breaks or suffers under unusual restrictions at work
- Ows a large debt and is unable to pay it off
- Was recruited through false promises concerning the nature and conditions of his/her work
- High security measures exist in the work and/or living locations

Poor Mental Health or Abnormal Behavior
- Is fearful, anxious, depressed, submissive, tense, or nervous/paranoid
- Avoids eye contact
- Poor Physical Health
- Lacks health care
- Appears malnourished
- Shows signs of physical and/or sexual abuse, physical restraint, confinement, or torture

Lack of Control
- Has few or no personal possessions
- Is not in control of his/her own money, no financial records, or bank account
- Is not in control of his/her own identification documents (ID or passport)
- Is not allowed or able to speak for themselves (a third party may insist on being present and/or translating)

Other Signs to Look For:
- Claims of just visiting and inability to clarify where he/she is staying/address
- Lack of knowledge of whereabouts and/or do not know what city he/she is in
- Loss of sense of time
- Has numerous inconsistencies in his/her story
Even when a first responder or medical staff recognize that the person they are helping could be a trafficking victim, typically, victims often do not immediately seek help or self-identify due to a variety of factors, including, lack of trust, self-blame, the grooming process by the trafficker, or specific instructions by the trafficker about how to behave and respond when talking to law enforcement or health providers.

A victim centered approach should be utilized by service providers to focus on the needs and concerns of a victim to ensure compassionate and sensitive delivery of services in a nonjudgmental manner.

Practice empathy, which is the ability to understand and share the feelings of another, or to place oneself in another's position. This will help the victim know you are patiently listening, building trust and believing in them while providing support and services.

**REALIZE. RECOGNIZE. RESPOND**

In Nebraska, call the Nebraska Adult & Child Abuse & Neglect hotline at 1-800-652-1999 or local law enforcement to report trafficking situations.
For information on what resources are available in Nebraska, please visit the link below:

http://dhhs.ne.gov/children_family_services/Pages/trafficking_resources.aspx

For additional resources and source content, please see the Polaris site below:
https://polarisproject.org/human-trafficking

For additional information on the prevention of Human Trafficking, please contact:

Ivy Bloom, Program Specialist
Division of Children and Family Services
Department of Health and Human Services
Ivy.Bloom@nebraska.gov
NEBRASKA’S DISASTER PSYCHOLOGICAL FIRST AID

Written by; Ryan Lowry, Citizen Corps Coordinator
State of Nebraska, Emergency Management Agency

In 2004, researchers with the University of Nebraska Public Policy Center and behavioral health clinicians came together to develop the Nebraska Psychological First Aid (PFA) curriculum. PFA training provides essential skills for disaster responders so that they are able to educate individuals about the normal physical, emotional, and behavioral responses to disasters. It also teaches responders how to recognize when and how to refer survivors who may need additional mental health assistance.

For over a decade, teams of behavioral health specialists have received PFA training throughout the state. Behavioral health regions were targeted to receive this training as it would benefit employees or volunteers within those regions who may be called to respond to a disaster. However, there was a need to expand the PFA program to include a wider audience beyond behavioral health specialists. In 2016, the Eastern Nebraska/Western Iowa Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) collaborated with the University of Nebraska Public Policy Center (PPC) to develop a project that would expand the PFA program. With funding from the National Association of City and County Health Officials (NACCHO), the MRC and PPC developed a project to delivering PFA to a wider audience using multiple approaches.

First, a new group of PFA instructors were identified through volunteers within the MRC. These instructors received comprehensive training in order to deliver the Nebraska PFA curriculum. This new cadre of instructors then went out into the community to promote PFA. In just over a year, more than 400 individuals have received PFA training in the Omaha metro area, including health department employees, University of Nebraska – Omaha personnel, and volunteer responder groups.

The second part of the project to expand the PFA program consisted of creating an online version of the training. Public Policy Center researchers developed the Nebraska Disaster Psychological First Aid Online curriculum to complement the existing classroom-based course. The online curriculum highlights important skills that disaster responders can use as they work with survivors. The online curriculum can be used as either a refresher course for those who have previously completed the in-person training, or as just-in-time training. That is, training that is available on-demand and can be accessed when the volunteer needs it – just prior to being deployed, for example.

These two approaches have allowed a much wider audience to receive important PFA training. Future expansion of the PFA training program looks promising as other Medical Reserve Corps units have shown interest in creating a cadre of instructors within their volunteer ranks. The online curriculum was highlighted at the 2018 NACCHO Preparedness Summit in Atlanta. Exposing more people to PFA and imparting PFA skills on a wide range of responders will benefit communities in the aftermath of a disaster.

**If you are interested in the online PFA course, you can register here:**
https://go.unl.edu/ne-pfa-refresher
Similar to purchasing insurance, disaster preparedness plans are an important investment to help safeguard your business from the effects of a disaster.

Let our staff of preparedness professionals create a training specific to your needs.

For a complete list of course offerings check out our website at www.preped.org or call 402-552-2529