



NET

November 30, 2006

**BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS FOR
READINESS, RESPONSE, AND RECOVERY**

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DEAR FRIENDS OF NYDIS:

Welcome to **NYDISnet**, our bi-weekly e-newsletter. We hope this resource will keep you updated about the work of NYDIS and developments in disaster readiness, response and recovery initiatives here in New York City.

When an emergency situation arises in New York City - our office will send out a **NYDISnet ALERT** to all subscribers. The alert will include all official information available through the NYC Office of Emergency Management and news from our members and partners.

Please feel free to copy and distribute any information from **NYDISnet** that you find helpful. If you would like to distribute **NYDISnet** to your agency staff or faith community leaders please let us know - we're happy to provide that service free of charge.

Faithfully, Peter

PETER B. GUDAITIS, M.DIV.
Executive Director & CEO

If you have some news to share or an upcoming event to publicize please contact yperry@nydis.org

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NYDIS NEWS AND EVENTS

■ NYDIS ED Panelist at DHS G&T Conference in DC

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) invited Executive Director Peter Gudaitis to speak at the "2006 Office of Grants and Training National Conference: A Partnership for Preparedness" on November 28 to 30 in Washington, DC. Peter Gudaitis spoke on three panels in



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a series called, "National Priorities: Strengthen Planning and Citizen Preparedness Capabilities" where he spoke about NYDIS' mitigation education and preparedness training, NYDIS' Homeland Security AmeriCorp program and planning and training partnerships with government. The conference focused on homeland security preparedness programs and gave the participants from federal, state and local agencies a platform to discuss emerging preparedness efforts. Additionally, Keith Rothfus, Director of the Center for Faith-Based and Community Initiatives at the DHS helped Gudaitis secure funding support for NYDIS' proprietary database for houses of worship and to procure grants for faith-based preparedness partnerships with local, state and federal government. Gudaitis presented these proposals to Admiral Harvey Johnson, Director of Operations for FEMA, Jay Hein, Director of the White House Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives, Ellie Edson, Legislative Fellow for Senator Clinton, and Carol Hall, Director of the American Red Cross' Homeland Security and Federal Coordination.

■ **NYDIS & NYCOSH Publicize Worker Comp Deadline**

NYDIS is joining the NY Committee for Occupational Safety and Health (NYCOSH) in collaboration with the NYS AFL-CIO, WTC Medical Monitoring Program, the Laborers' Health and Safety Trust Fund, the Business and Labor Coalition of New York, workers' compensation law firms, the UCC-National Disaster Ministries, and Wall Street Rising, is mounting a media campaign to inform workers throughout the country about the necessity of registering for workers' compensation. Joel Shufro, NYCOSH Executive Director, said, "We know that tens of thousands of people are at risk of becoming ill as a result of their exposure toxic air and to psychological trauma while doing rescue, recovery or cleanup work after 9/11. We want to ensure that every one of them registers with the Workers' Compensation Board before the August 14, 2007, deadline. And if they don't know about the program, they won't register, it's that simple."



For guidelines for registering, in English and Spanish, and all the necessary forms:
866.WTC.2556

Download a flyer (pdf):

www.nycosh.org/911info/Flyer-06%20o25.pdf

www.nycosh.org

■ **NYC 9/11 Recovery Resources Online**

A comprehensive list of news, updates and resources for 9/11 victims and injured recovery workers, updated weekly:

www.nydis.org/recovery/11.php

■ **NYC 9/11 Unmet Needs Roundtable Updates**

- **Online 9/11 Client Inquiry Form**

To access the form, go to:

www.nydis.org/unmetneeds/7.php



- **NYC 9/11 In-Service Training for Case Workers**

In-Service Training is required for case workers who have never presented a case at the Roundtable, and is recommended as a refresher for experienced case workers who have previously presented cases. All training sessions take place at NYDIS ([map](#)).

- **Monday, December 11 – 1:00-3:30 pm**
- **Tuesday, December 26 – 3:00-5:00 pm**

- **NYC 9/11 Unmet Needs Roundtable Schedule**

The NYC 9/11 Unmet Needs Roundtable brings together donors with agencies providing case management to 9/11 victims. Case Workers who would like to present a case must sign-up by Friday prior to the meeting of the Roundtable. Due to the influx of cases which need presenting, the 9/11 Unmet Needs Roundtable will be adding an additional Wednesday date each month. There will now be three meetings a month, instead of two.

- **Wednesday, November 29 – 9:30-12:00 noon**
- **Thursday, December 7 – 9:30-12:00 noon**
- **Thursday, December 14 – 9:30-12:00 noon**

To sign up for In-Service Training or to present a case:
Maggie Jarry, Moderator
212.669.6105
mjarry@nydis.org

- **NYC Katrina Evacuee Resources Online**

A comprehensive list of news, updates and resources for Katrina evacuees in NYC, updated weekly:
www.nydis.org/katrina

- **NYC Katrina Unmet Needs Roundtable**

- **NYC Katrina In-Service Training for Case Managers**

Case managers working with Katrina or Rita survivors are required to attend an in-service training prior to presenting at the Roundtable. The purpose of these trainings is to provide case managers with a better understanding of the workings of the Roundtable and to help increase the likelihood that a client's needs could be funded.



- **NYC Katrina Unmet Needs Roundtable**

The NYC Katrina Unmet Needs Roundtable aids case managers in securing cash assistance and to share resources to best meet the unmet needs of disaster victims so that they may regain self-sufficiency and recover from the impact of a disaster. The Roundtable helps to facilitate long-term recovery by supporting clients' recovery plans.

For more information contact:
Adja Sakho, Moderator
212.669.6108
asakho@nydis.org

■ Upstate NY Flood Recovery Resources Online

A comprehensive list of news, updates and resources for upstate NY flood recovery, updated weekly:
www.nydis.org/recovery/12.php

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COMMUNITY NEWS AND EVENTS

■ LMDC Expands WTC Site Redevelopment

The boundaries of the WTC redevelopment project were expanded on November 9 by the Lower Manhattan Development Corporation (LMDC) to include the 7 WTC parcel immediately to the north, across Vesey Street. This could eventually permit the reopening of Greenwich Street, between Vesey and Barclay Streets, as a two-lane southbound roadway. It is now a dead end, used for drop-offs at 7 WTC. South of Vesey Street, Greenwich Street is to be recreated through the main WTC site as a four-lane southbound roadway. It was closed in the 1960s to make way for the WTC superblock.



Read the NY Times November 10 article:
www.nytimes.com/2006/11/10/nyregion/10mbrfs-MANHATTANWOR_BRF.html

www.renewnyc.com

■ DOHMH Issues Summer 06 Heat Wave Report

On November 15 the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH) released a report on the deaths related to NYC's heat wave this past summer, finding that 100 people died, more than previously reported. Originally counted were the 40 people who died from heat stroke, but for the first time, the DOHMH also calculated the number of "excess deaths" - how many more deaths occurred during the heat wave than would be expected during ordinary summer weather. There were 100 excess deaths from July 27 to August 5: 40 from heat stroke, and 60 more where the heat played a contributing role. In that 10-day period, the overall death rate in NYC was 8% above normal for the time of year. Health Commissioner Thomas Frieden said, "Older people and those who are mentally or physically ill were at higher risk of heat stroke death and need extra assistance during extreme heat. Air conditioning can save lives, particularly for the elderly people who have medical problems." The 2006 July-August heat wave was the longest and hottest in many years, lasting 10 days with temperatures above 100° F for three consecutive days.



Download the Report (pdf):
www.nyc.gov/html/doh/downloads/pdf/survey/survey-2006heatdeaths.pdf

For more information on heat wave preparedness:

www.nyc.gov/html/oem/html/hazards/heat.shtml

www.nyc.gov/html/doh

■ NYC OEM Commissioner's Statement on Heat Wave Report

On November 15 NYC Office of Emergency Management (OEM) Commissioner Joseph Bruno announced that OEM will begin to explore the use of the coastal storm advanced warning system (AWS) to alert vulnerable New Yorkers about impending heat waves. The AWS links government agencies and not-for-profit entities with a pre-existing client base in the elderly and disabled community and gives them the ability to warn these populations 24 to 48 hours in advance of an impending emergency. OEM will test the use of the AWS in the 2007 heat season. "As a result of the DOHMH Heat Wave Report, OEM along with partner agencies will explore the use of the coastal storm advanced warning system to alert the most vulnerable New Yorkers about impending heat waves," said Commissioner Bruno. "...ensuring that our most vulnerable communities have the most advanced warning of an impending heat emergency is critical. In addition, we will increase targeted pre-season messaging to vulnerable populations through OEM's 'Beat the Heat' program."



Read the November 15 NYC OEM Press Release:

www.nyc.gov/html/oem/html/pr/06_11_15_heat_response.shtml

www.nyc.gov/oem

■ FEMA Gives \$30M for Western NY Storm Recovery

On November 15 Governor Pataki announced that NYS has secured \$30.4 million in immediate needs funds from FEMA to help the city of Buffalo and Erie County begin paying expenses associated with the October 12-13 storms. "As we continue to do everything possible to help western New Yorkers recover from the storm," said Governor Pataki, "this immediate needs funding from FEMA is welcomed news and will fill the financial yoke from the backs of taxpayers to help the County and Buffalo meet payroll, contracting and other storm-related costs."



Read the November 15 SEMO Press Release (pdf):

http://www.semo.state.ny.us/uploads/2006_1115_Gov_Secures_30.4M.pdf

■ Mental Health Crisis Strains New Orleans

Mental health problems soared after Katrina, just as New Orleans' ability to handle them plummeted. Because of the storm damage, only two of NO's eleven hospitals are fully functioning. People who need medication can't find it or can't afford it, and the storm's aftermath has made life more stressful, observed James Arey, a psychologist who commands the police crisis negotiation team. A federally funded study published in the Bulletin of the World Health Organization (WHO) found that mental health problems in the region roughly doubled in the months after Katrina, to 11.3%. Before Katrina there were 480 psychiatric beds, now there are perhaps 200. Arey said police are answering an



average of 185 mental-health calls a month. The downsized police force looks for hospitals willing to accept the mentally distressed among five area hospitals with working emergency rooms, though none specializes in mental crisis. Emergency room doctor Richard Manthey said before Katrina they examined about one patient a day undergoing a psychiatric crisis, and now they see 12 a day, as the crisis in mental health care has overwhelmed the city's few operating hospitals.

Read the November 8 Seattle Post Intelligencer article:

seattlepi.nwsource.com/national/1110AP_New_Orleans_Psychiatric_Care.html

Read the WHO Bulletin article, "Mental Illness After Hurricane Katrina" (pdf):

www.who.int/bulletin/volumes/84/10/06-033019.pdf

www.who.int/bulletin/en

■ Sign-Up Now – WTC Medical Exams for Responders

The WTC Medical Monitoring Program offers free, complete medical examinations. To date, 30,000 responders have been screened under the Program, which is open to responders in NY and across the country who served at Ground Zero. Eligible responders who have not yet been screened are urged to enroll in the program. What doctors learn from monitoring the health of thousands of these workers will help future disaster relief workers.



Contact for an exam:

1.888.702.0630 from 9:00 am-5:00 pm

wtcexams@mssm.edu

Download the Brochure (pdf):

www.wtcexams.org/pdfs/wtc_brochure_english_20060828.pdf

www.wtcexams.org

■ Avian Flu Conference at Baruch College – December 1

The Robert Zicklin Center for Corporate Integrity at Baruch College will present the "Avian Flu: Ethical, Financial, and Management Implications for Business" conference on Friday, December 1 from 9:00 am-5:00 pm at 55 Lexington Avenue in Room 14-220. The challenges facing businesses will be discussed.



To register contact Matthew LePere:

646.312.3231

cci@baruch.cuny.edu

zicklin.baruch.cuny.edu/ci-avian-flu

■ Chinese Avian Flu Expert to Head WHO

On November 9, the executive board of the World Health Organization (WHO) chose China's Margaret Chan, a bird flu expert, to be its next Director-General. She fills the post vacated by the sudden death of Lee Jong-wook in



May. She took over as WHO's influenza pandemic chief in 2005 and became WHO's assistant director-general, leading the organization's efforts to fight the spread of communicable diseases and prepare to fight a pandemic if bird flu mutates into a strain easily transmitted among humans.

www.who.int/en

■ **Global Outbreak Alert & Response Network**

The Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network (GOARN) is a technical collaboration of existing institutions and networks which pool human and technical resources for the rapid identification, confirmation and response to outbreaks of international importance. The Network provides an operational framework to link this expertise and skill to keep the international community constantly alert to the threat of outbreaks and ready to respond.



www.who.int/csr/outbreaknetwork/en

■ **Interfaith Recovery Group Helps NY Snowstorm Survivors**

A new long-term recovery organization has been created in western NY to help people in the wake of last month's snowstorm and flooding. The NY nonprofit, Disaster Recovery Interfaith Network of Western New York, will coordinate interfaith response for long-term recovery, provide spiritual and emotional resources for storm survivors and access to individual assistance to those whose needs are not met by federal or state aid. For now, the group is trying to identify unmet needs in the wake of the extended power outage and flooding. Organized under the incorporation of the Network of Religious Communities.



For more information:

www.religiousnet.org/news/details.asp?Item_ID=460

If you wish to become a partner in the Network group, contact Joanne Hale, Church World Service Emergency Response Program: jhale@churchworldservice.org
716.773.7935

www.religiousnet.org

■ **Enroll in WTC Health Survey**

The WTC Health Registry is a comprehensive and confidential health survey of those most directly exposed to the events of 9/11/01, and will give health professionals a clear picture of the health consequences of 9/11/01.



For a copy of the WTC Health Registry Survey:

healthinfo@wtcsurvey.org

Contact the WTC Health Registry:
212.442.1585 or 866.692.9827

wtdhr@health.nyc.gov

■ Church's Relief Center Still Helping NY Flood Victims

Dottie Baer, coordinator of Conklin Presbyterian Church's Flood Relief Center, estimates volunteers have helped 800 to 900 families since this summer's devastating flooding in Binghamton, NY, but she worries the public has forgotten about the hundreds of families still in need. Much of the recovery has moved into the rebuild and repair stage, but there are still homes that have not been touched. "We got a home just last week that was full of black mold and the family is still living in it," she said. "They've been waiting for an assessor to come and for help." June's flooding destroyed hundreds of homes in the region and damaged thousands of others. Conklin Church helped families in the immediate aftermath by feeding and distributing supplies. They also sent out clean-up teams. Now the teams are installing drywall and doing other rebuilding tasks. More skilled volunteers are needed.



Read the November 14 DNN article:

www.disasternews.net/news/news.php?articleid=3377

www.conklinpres.org/?mode=flood

■ NEMA Releases 2006 Report on Emergency Management

The National Emergency Management Association (NEMA) in its just-released 2006 Biennial Report, examines funding, spending, organizational and operational issues for state-level emergency management and offers a non-partisan perspective on emergency management policies and programs that affect the ability of states to prepare for, respond to and recovery from disasters and hazards of all kinds. Its main purpose is to outline the current state of emergency management and highlight issues that could impact it in the future. It also found that the mutual aid system continues to strengthen. The Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC), which allows support across state lines when a disaster occurs, played a key role in Katrina and Rita response.



The NEMA Biennial Report is available at:

www.nemaweb.org

www.nema.org

■ UN Reports \$1 in Mitigation Saves \$7 in Relief/Recovery

After decades of international disaster response, an important new truth has lately been discovered: Prevention is better than cure. Says Jan Egeland, UN Under-Secretary General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, one dollar invested in disaster reduction today can save up to seven dollars tomorrow in relief and rehabilitation costs. Egeland points out that "risk reduction must be woven into the fabric of international development and lending policies, if we actively employ risk reduction measures, deaths from natural disasters can be cut dramatically in the coming decades."



Read the Reuters Foundation article:

www.alertnet.org/db/blogs/22781/

■ Report on Compensation for Losses from 9/11 Attacks

The "Compensation for Losses from the 9/11 Attacks" report by Lloyd Dixon and Rachel Kaganoff Stern for the RAND Institute for Civil Justice examines the benefits received by those who were killed or seriously injured in the 9/11 attacks and the benefits provided to individuals and businesses in NYC due to 9/11. The authors provide insight into the perceived shortcomings of the current compensation system in responding to losses caused by an event on the scale of 9/11 and the performance of the four basic mechanisms of the compensation system: insurance, the tort system, government programs, and charity.



Download the Report (pdf):

www.rand.org/pubs/monographs/2004/RAND_MG264.pdf

www.rand.org

■ Re-Building NO Takes a United Effort

The Unified New Orleans Plan (UNOP) is the single, comprehensive recovery and rebuilding plan for Post-Katrina New Orleans, and will be implemented under the auspices of the NO Community Support Foundation. Major funders are The Rockefeller Foundation and the Greater NO Foundation. There is a series of 4 district-level meetings and 3 city-wide meetings being held this Fall. Efforts are being made to videotape these meetings so that they can be viewed online and to establish resource centers at public libraries where displaced residents can view the videos and additional materials.



The next meetings are:

Community Congress 2: Dec 2 (Citywide recovery scenarios; this will occur simultaneously in 5-6 cities)

District Meeting 3: Dec 16-17 (Review draft district plans)

District Meeting 4: Jan 6-7 (Final district plans)

Community Congress 3: Jan 13 (Complete draft recovery plan)

For questions about the planning process and rebuilding:
1.877.527.3284

www.unifiedneworleansplan.org

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FROM OUR MEMBERS AND PARTNERS

● ARC-GNY Opens New Headquarters in Manhattan

The red ribbon cutting ceremony on November 14 officially opened the new Manhattan headquarters of the American Red Cross in Greater New York (ARC/GNY). Mayor Bloomberg joined Theresa Bischoff, CEO of ARC/GNY, and OEM Commissioner



Joseph Bruno, at the dedication ceremony to commemorate more than 100 years of service to the people of NYC. "With this new state-of-the-art headquarters, the American Red Cross in Greater New York will be even better equipped to work with the city to prepare for and respond to emergencies," said Mayor Bloomberg. The new headquarters is located at 520 West 49th Street.

Read the November 14 Press Release:

www.nyredcross.org/viewnews.php/prmMediaTypeID/38/prmMID/206/prmID/115

www.nyredcross.org

- **ARC Offers Mental Health Aid to All Katrina Evacuees**

The Access to Care program is an initiative of The American Red Cross' (ARC) Hurricane Recovery Program and is administered by Link2Health, a non-profit subsidiary of the Mental Health Association of NYC. Coverage is retroactive to August 30, 2005 and will cover services received on or prior to April 1, 2008 for those who lived in a pre-disaster area designated by FEMA for individual assistance following Katrina, Rita or Wilma and suffered significant impact.



Enroll before October 1, 2007:
866.794.4673

www.a2care.org/ssl/prescreen.html

www.a2care.org

- **NYC OEM Advise on Building Collapses & Explosions**

An essential way to prepare for emergencies is to get informed. Take some time to familiarize yourself with potential NYC hazards. Learn from NYC Office of Emergency Management (OEM) about what to do in the event of a building collapse or explosion, which can be the result of structural damage, gas leaks, or sabotage.



To get more information about building collapses, explosions, and fire safety and to learn about gas supply disruptions:

www.nyc.gov/html/oem/html/hazards/hazards.shtml

www.nyc.gov/oem

- **ARC-GNY Preparedness Presentation December 7**

Prepare New York is a free 45-minute emergency preparedness presentation teaching NYC residents how to create a plan, build a supply kit, and keep loved ones safe and informed during times of disaster. Participants receive an interactive CD that can be used to create a customized evacuation plan and brochures from the ARC and NYC OEM. The next presentation is on Thursday, December 7 from 6:15 pm to 7:15 pm at 520



West 49th Street.

Contact:
212-875-2424
Garciag@arcgny.org

www.nyredcross.org/page.php/prmID/32

- **Families of September 11th Partners with StoryCorps**

Families of September 11th (FOS11), StoryCorps, Safe Horizon, and the WTC Family Center are partnering to offer a special opportunity for FOS11 members to share and record their stories. Through StoryCorps' September 11th Initiative, anyone closely impacted by 9/11 is invited to participate in a StoryCorps interview to record the life stories of those who were lost on 9/11. Participants receive a CD copy of their 40-minute recording; and with participants' permission, these recordings will become part of the StoryCorps archive at the Library of Congress and the permanent collection at the WTC Memorial Museum. There is no cost and please call to make reservations. Counseling will be available to participants at both locations. StoryCorps recording booths are also located in the WTC PATH station and in Grand Central Terminal.



WTC Family Center, Rockville Centre, LI
Thursday, November 30
Margie Miller 516.678.2700

Safe Horizon, Manhattan
Tuesday, December 5
26 Broadway, Suite 767
Nicole Robinson or Emily Lohman 212.747.8581

If you are unable to visit any of the locations, learn how you may record an interview on your own:

www.storycorps.net

- **Abraham's Day: National Day of Goodwill**

On Saturday, January 6, 2007, ICNA Relief USA will present "Abraham's Day: A National Day of Goodwill Towards Mankind". Local human service and religious organizations will work together to support the needy and homeless in our communities. Volunteers are wanted to collect and distribute new winter clothes such as coats, hats, gloves, warm blankets, and boots. Also collected will be toys and diapers, and non-perishable food items such as canned goods, rice, flour, baby food, and formula. Local drop-off centers will be set up to collect these donations in participating cities, which will then be distributed at local shelters and mosques. NYDIS, a proud co-sponsor of this effort, reminds you that these are the supplies to keep on hand in case of emergencies.



To learn how you can volunteer and to get more information, please contact Sr. Malika Rushdan:
718.658.7028

malika@icnarelief.org

Download the Flyer (pdf):
[www.nydis.org/resources/materials/
NYDISnet_52_Abrahams.pdf](http://www.nydis.org/resources/materials/NYDISnet_52_Abrahams.pdf)

www.icnarelief.org

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PREPAREDNESS INITIATIVES

- **Downloadable Ready NY Preparedness Guides**

OEM's Ready NY preparedness campaign is designed to help New Yorkers better prepare for all types of emergencies. The following preparedness guides and brochures are available online:



- Beat the Heat
- Emergency Planning for Small & Mid-Sized Companies
- Hurricanes and New York City
- Pet Preparedness
- Ready NY Household Preparedness Guide
- Ready NY: Pocket Guide
- Seniors & People with Disabilities

To download these guides, [click here](#).

www.nyc.gov/html/oem

- **Prepare for Heating Season**

As cooler temperatures arrive, NYC OEM encourages New Yorkers to learn safe heating practices for their homes. Improper heating can lead to gas leaks and fires, and safe heating can prevent such emergencies.



Guidelines:

[www.nyc.gov/html/oem/html/hazards/
winter_tips.shtml#safeheating](http://www.nyc.gov/html/oem/html/hazards/winter_tips.shtml#safeheating)

www.nyc.gov/html/oem

- **FEMA's Helpline Telephone Numbers**

Information on the status of disaster assistance and other needs is just a phone call away. The Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) and NYS's toll-free helpline numbers are available for those who have questions once they have registered. Callers may check the status of their application for assistance from the Upstate NY storms and floods; and get answers and referrals to applicable agencies and organizations.



The FEMA Helpline is 800.621.FEMA (3362) and is open 8:00

am-8:00 pm daily.

Learn how to get help:

www.fema.gov/news/newsrelease.fema?id=29719

- **Hurricane Preparedness**

- **NYC OEM Practices Hurricane Evacuation in Brooklyn**

The NYC Office of Emergency Management (OEM) and the NYC Department of Homeless Services (DHS) hosted HURREX, a major multi-agency field exercise last month designed to test the City's response to a hurricane or large scale storm. HURREX was staged in Brooklyn and involved the opening of an evacuation center and two hurricane shelters. Staffed by NYC employees that would participate in sheltering operations during a real coastal storm emergency, HURREX had over 900 participants. Mock evacuees were registered and screened for medical conditions before being transported to hurricane shelters; and arrangements for family reunification and pet sheltering were also available. "HURREX allowed us to put the key parts of the City's Coastal Storm Plan into practice," said NYC OEM Commissioner Joseph Bruno. "Exercises like this help make NYC the most prepared city in the country."



Read the NYC OEM Press Release:

www.nyc.gov/html/oem/html/about/drills_hurrex.shtml

- **DHS Launches New Family Emergency Planning Ads**

The US Department of Homeland Security (DHS) unveiled new public service advertisements on November 14 to support the Ready Campaign, designed to educate and empower Americans to prepare for and respond to emergencies. All of the new ads highlight the fact that many families have not yet taken the steps needed to prepare for emergencies including getting an emergency supply kit, making a family emergency plan and learning more about different emergencies and their appropriate responses. "These new ads will encourage all Americans to take some basic steps to prepare their families for emergencies," said DHS Secretary Michael Chertoff. "By simply taking a little time to sit down together and make an emergency plan, families can help answer important questions, such as where to meet, how to communicate with each other and what to do in the event of an emergency."



Read the DHS November 14 Press Release:

www.dhs.gov/xnews/releases/pr_1163518483290.shtm

www.ready.gov

- **Flu Preparedness**

- **National Flu Vaccination Week November 27-December 3**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announced on November 13 the designation of the week after Thanksgiving as National Influenza



Vaccination Week. This event is designed to raise awareness of and foster greater use of flu vaccine through November, December and beyond. CDC is recommending that people take this opportunity to be vaccinated and is hopeful that flu vaccine providers will use this time to enhance flu vaccine availability by scheduling additional clinics; extending clinic hours; and enabling a larger role for mass vaccination at places such as retail locations. 77 million flu vaccine doses have already been distributed and vaccine supply is expected to reach an all-time high. Flu vaccine manufacturers expect 110-115 million doses of flu vaccine to be distributed this year.

www.cdc.gov/flu

- **CDC Learns from Katrina to Plan for Pandemic**

"Katrina was more than a test of CDC's hurricane response...that storm provided a 'road map' through which the agency can gauge and improve its performance and achieve its urgent mission during the next emergency," said Dr. Julie Gerberding, CDC Director. What CDC learned in its response to Katrina is helping the agency prepare for the world's worst potential infectious-disease emergency: pandemic influenza. A draft action guide focusing on emergency care for people with chronic diseases has been developed, and a CDC work group with multiple external partners has formed to continue improvements. Along with FEMA regions, CDC is coordinating the Emergency Mutual Aid Compact, in which states join together for inter-state relief activities in emergency situations.

Read the November CDC Press Release:

www.cdc.gov/about/news/2006_11/katrina.htm

www.cdc.gov

- **Test Detects H5N1 Infections: Quick, Accurate, Inexpensive**

Scientists from the University of Colorado at Boulder and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have developed an inexpensive "gene chip" test based on a single influenza virus gene



that could allow scientists to quickly identify flu viruses, including avian influenza H5N1. The MChip could provide a significant advantage over available tests because it is based on a single gene segment that mutates less often than the flu genes typically used in diagnostic tests. As a result, the MChip may not need to be updated as frequently to keep up with the changing

virus. The raw materials for the MChip cost less than 10 dollars and discussions are under way to commercialize its manufacture.

Read the November 14 NIH Press Release:
www.nih.gov/news/pr/nov2006/niaid-14.htm

www.nih.gov

www.PandemicFlu.gov

- **Report on DOD Preparations for Pandemic**

The Government Accountability Office (GAO) found that the Defense Department (DOD) has made significant progress in planning its response to a flu pandemic, but it has more work to complete. In a recent report, GAO recommended that DOD: define and communicate roles and responsibilities, oversight mechanisms, goals and performance measures; establish a framework to request funding tied to goals; decide which types of employees to include in any vaccine or antiviral drug distribution, and communicate that information; and implement a comprehensive department-wide communications strategy.



Read the GAO Report (pdf):
reform.house.gov/UploadedFiles/d061042_1.pdf

www.dod.gov

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SAVE THE DATE

- **Latino Competency Training for Caseworkers/Agencies**

Monday, December 4
9:30 am to 12:30 pm
110 William St. 18th Floor (I.D. required)



Elba Montalvo, Executive Director of Committee for Hispanic Children & Families (CHCF) will be providing a cultural competency training for agencies working with Latino clients and families. This half day training will help caseworkers working with 9/11 clients have a better understanding of Latino culture and family dynamics and how that may influence or affect the work.

To RSVP, contact Tamara Velasquez:
212.206.1090
tvelasquez@chcfinc.org

www.chcfinc.org

- **The Salvation Army-GNY's Annual Luncheon in December**

Wednesday, December 6
Hilton NY Grand Ballroom
New York, NY



The 59th Annual Salvation Army of Greater New York Annual Luncheon is on Wednesday, December 6 at the Hilton NY Grand Ballroom. This NYC tradition since 1948 features holiday music performed by the Army's world-renowned New York Staff Band, special speakers and presentations. The "Pinnacle of Achievement Award" honoree is Steven S Reinemund, Executive Chairman of PepsiCo.

Luncheon Information:

www.salvationarmy-newyork.org/luncheon/2006/index.htm

www.salvationarmy-newyork.org

- **HSC Annual Leadership Awards December 7**

Thursday, December 7
5:00 to 7:30 pm
Pace University
New York, NY



The 11th Annual Leadership Awards Reception is on Thursday, December 7 from 5:00 to 7:30 pm at Pace University in Manhattan. The Human Services Council of Greater NY (HSC) builds recognition and support for the contributions of the not-for-profit human service sector to the citizens and the fabric of NYC. This year's honorees are Alan Siskind, Executive President of the Jewish Board of Family & Children's Services, and Charles Wang, President of the China AIDS Fund.

Contact Cecelia Burchett, HSC:
212.836.1230

burchettc@ujafedny.org

www.humanservicescouncil.org

- **Emergency Preparedness and Response Conference**

Wednesday, December 13-Thursday, December 14
Omni Shoreham Hotel, Washington, DC



The Homeland Defense Journal and National Organization on Disability's Emergency Preparedness Initiative conference will address emergency management planning and response for people with disabilities, the elderly, pediatrics, and animals. National experts will discuss evacuation, early warning and communication, workplace safety and service animals. You will learn new concepts for addressing disability planning in their jurisdictions and how to incorporate special needs into your emergency management plan.

Contact Katie Smith
703.807.2758

ksmith@marketaccess.org

Download Registration Form (pdf):

www.homelanddefensejournal.com/hdl/regform_prep.pdf

www.homelanddefensejournal.com

- **"The Ripple Effect" Preparedness Conference**

February 6-7, 2007
National Press Club, Washington, DC



"Homeland Security: The Ripple Effect" emergency disaster preparedness conference will explore the cascading impacts of terrorism and natural disasters on smaller communities and address the resources, planning, and training needed to prepare for such an event. Practitioners in emergency and disaster management, and homeland security will mix practice with policy to develop a systematic approach to assist communities in responding to future disasters. Early registration is by November 30.

For registration information:
1.888.767.5561 Toll Free
1.703.683.5561
events@apus.edu

To Register Online:
www.e-ventcentral.com/event.registry/RippleEffectSymposium
www.apus.edu/disaster

- **15th Annual VOAD Conference April 2007**

April 17-20, 2007
Albuquerque, New Mexico



"Partnerships in Motion" is the subject for VOAD's 15th annual conference. The conference will begin with the kick-off reception and dinner the evening of April 17, plenary sessions and workshops April 18 and 19, and a closing plenary the morning of April 20 that will summarize the conference outcomes and declare the priorities for the year. Information on workshops, registration, and agenda schedule will be coming soon.

www.nvoad.org

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WE RECOMMEND

- **Post Your Resources on NYDIS.org**

Do you have a useful resource for caseworkers, recovery providers and clients that you would like to submit? The [NYDIS Resource Library](#) on our website contains a large compilation of disaster resources including downloadable documents, links to useful websites, and references to printed publications. We welcome your agency's resources, which can be posted on NYDIS.org by clicking on the "Resources" Tab. You will then find



directions on how to "[Submit a Resource](#)".

www.nydis.org

- **WHO Communications Guides for Health Emergencies**

The World Health Organization (WHO) offers these effective media communication guides to be used during public health emergencies:



- **Handbook:** describes a seven-step process to assist officials and others to communicate effectively through the media during emergencies.
[Download](#) (pdf)
- **Field Guide:** is a shortened version of the Handbook that highlights the practical aspects of the seven-step approach.
[Download](#) (pdf)
- **Wall Chart:** shows the seven-step approach and provides easily recalled key information and advice.
[Download](#) (pdf)

www.who.int/csr/resources/publications/WHO_CDS_2005_31/en

- **Journal of Muslim Mental Health Free Online**

The Journal of Muslim Mental Health is available for free online, providing an academic forum for exploring social, cultural, historical, theological, and psychological factors related to the mental health of the Muslim community. It addresses the need for mental health professionals and institutions to provide a culturally and religiously responsive approach to their Muslim clients. Dr. Hamada Hamid, Managing Editor, states, "Because mental health professionals may have difficulty dealing with cultural and religious aspects of patients' lives, the Journal is intended to provide research, as well as practical advice, for patient care."



Subscribe to the Journal or order a Sample Copy:
800.354.1420 x216
customerservice@taylorandfrancis.com

Contact Dr. Hamada Hamid:
journal@muslimmentalhealth.com

www.muslimmentalhealth.com

- **Army Corps of Engineers Website Contains Resources**

The US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) website supports its efforts to continuously improve the readiness of its Emergency Management community to respond to significant events in collaboration with DHS/FEMA and other federal, regional, and state customers and partners. The Corps' Remedial Action Program (CERAP) addresses system-wide assessment and remedial action planning for the purpose of performance improvement. The website contains a calendar of



workshop events and resources that includes surveys, forms, and a reference library of reports, papers and procedures.

rsc.usace.army.mil/teeca/rapp

- **Disaster Planning Toolkit for Small Businesses**

Small businesses are especially at risk from disaster, since few have the resources or knowledge to develop full-scale property protection and continuity plans. To address this need, the Institute for Business & Home Safety (IBHS) created "Open for Business: A Disaster Planning Toolkit for the Small Business Owner" to help business owners reduce the potential for loss should disaster strike, and reopen quickly should they be forced to close. By taking the short quiz, "10 Questions: Is Your Business Ready?" then ranking preparedness based on "yes" answers, business owners will learn how disaster-ready they are. After completing the quiz, you will be directed to the free disaster planning Toolkit.



All about the "Open for Business Toolkit":
www.disastersafety.org/business_protection

To request a free single copy:
866.657.4247
info@ibhs.org

www.disastersafety.org

- **BENS: Retailers' Role in Disaster Planning**

The US Chamber of Commerce is working with businesses and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to create a formal structure in which government leaders and large private sector entities can work together on disaster preparedness and response. Business Executives for National Security (BENS) is a national partnership of over 500 business executives committed to improve the nation's security, in which companies pledge trucks, warehouses and other resources before a disaster, based on needs pre-identified by state officials.



www.bensbusinessforce.org

- **A Resource for Pediatricians in a Disaster**

"Pediatric Terrorism and Disaster Preparedness: A Resource for Pediatricians" is a practical resource that pediatricians can consult to become informed of their roles in disaster preparedness and response.



Download the Report (pdf):
www.ahrq.gov/research/pedprep/pedresource.pdf

www.ahrq.gov

- **Tribute WTC Visitor Center Open Daily**

Daily Walking Tours led by participants in these events provide uniquely personal perspectives on the events of February 26, 1993 and September 11, 2001. The Center will remain in place until the permanent WTC Memorial and Museum are completed.



Are you interested in being a volunteer? Contact:
Rachael Grygorcewicz
212.422.3520

volunteer@tributenyc.org

www.tributenyc.org

- **NY Architect Designs Katrina Cottage**

Marianne Cusato's award-winning design for the Hurricane Katrina Cottage is specifically designed to withstand a hurricane and is an alternative to the trailers supplied by FEMA.



For more information about the Lowe's Katrina Cottage Series:
1.800.44.LOWES

Contact Cusato Cottages:

info@cusatocottages.com

www.cusatocottages.com/index_content.html

- **PlainViews: E-Newsletter for Spiritual Care Providers**

Subscribe to this bi-monthly e-newsletter offering views on Professional Practice, Advocacy, Education & Research, and Spiritual Development. Sponsored by the HealthCare Chaplaincy in NYC and edited by NYDIS Board Member Rev. Martha Jacobs.



Send your email address to:

info@plainviews.org

www.plainviews.org

- **Business Roundtable's CEO Clearinghouse**

The Disaster Response Network, a comprehensive clearinghouse of information that helps businesses better prepare for disasters, was formed by a group of CEOs that are members of the Business Roundtable. Nearly 30 CEOs have set up an "emergency protocol" with the US government and charities so they can all respond better to the next natural or man-made disaster.



Contact Maria Schneider, Manager, PDR
212.704.4482

m.schneider@respondtodisaster.org

www.respondtodisaster.com/mambo

JOB AND VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

- **NYDIS, Office Assistant/Receptionist**

NYDIS seeks an Office Assistant/Receptionist to provide daily administrative support to the executive director and receptionist functions for a staff of 13 professionals. This is a full-time position and is available immediately. Hours are flexible and well suited for students.



Duties include providing professional and friendly front office reception, answering telephones, sorting mail and preparing outgoing mail, parcels and bulk mailings, scheduling meetings in conference rooms, maintaining Email and Outlook databases, and office correspondence. A Bachelor's degree or equivalent experience is desired with exceptional oral and written communications skills, organizational skills, and proficiency in MS Word, Excel, and Outlook. Experience working with non-profits and/or religious institutions preferred. Deadline: December 15, 2006 (no phone calls).

[Download Position Details](#) (pdf)

Please email (preferred), mail or fax a Cover Letter and Resume to:

Peter B. Gudaitis, M.Div., Executive Director & CEO
NYDIS - New York Disaster Interfaith Services
22 Cortlandt Street – 20th Floor
New York, NY 10007
pgudaitis@nydis.org
Fax: 212.669.6101

- **NYDIS, Office Volunteers**

We are seeking office volunteers to support the finance and disaster preparedness/training departments, and to answer phones and perform administrative duties for 20 hours per week. Positions begin immediately.



To apply, please email your Cover Letter and Resume to: pgudaitis@nydis.org or fax to 212.669.6101.

- **Volunteers Needed for Upstate NY Flood Recovery Efforts**

Last week's new flooding piled more damage and emotional stress on western New York communities still recovering from the June floods. With hundreds of homes with water in the basements, the area badly needs volunteers who can help repair homes; and there aren't enough crisis counselors to address the mental health needs of the flood survivors.

Contact:
Dottie Baer, Conklin Presbyterian Flood Relief Volunteer

Center:
607.775.0790
www.disastervolunteers.org/ops/info.php?desc=182

Kevin Page, FEMA Voluntary Agency Liaison:
607.722.6545

Yvonne Newell, Director of Project Recovery in Broome, Tioga
and Delaware Counties:
607.770.8800

Read the November 24 DNN article:
www.disasternews.net/news/news.php?articleid=3388

- **Help Keep New Yorkers Safe - Be a Lifeguard**

The NYC Parks' lifeguard program gives you the chance to be a part of an organization that is committed to serving the public. NYC Parks beaches are open in 2007 from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day, and the pools are open from late June through Labor Day. Lifeguards work 48 hours each week.



Get more information:
[Online Information](#)
[Brochure](#) (pdf)

www.nyc.gov

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MAKE A GIFT TO NYDIS

- **Support NYDIS - Donate Online**

If you'd like to make a donation to assist NYDIS in its mission of providing faith-based disaster services, [click here](#), or send a check to NYDIS at 22 Cortlandt Street, 20th Fl., New York, NY 10007. NYDIS is a 501(c)(3) corporation and contributions are 100% tax deductible. It is a great way to honor or memorialize someone and we will send an acknowledgement of your gift.



To donate online, go to the NYDIS homepage and click "Make a Donation":

www.nydis.org

Want to receive NYDISnet via email? [Click here](#) for a free subscription!