

KHELPS *News*

In Times of Need, Kentucky Helps

VOLUME 1 ISSUE 2

SPRING 2011

World Equestrian Games: A Public Health Success

Isaac Joyner, MPH

Preparedness Branch, Kentucky Department for Public Health (KDPH)

The World Equestrian Games (WEG) was held at the Kentucky Horse Park from September 25 to October 10, 2010. Although, KDPH did not anticipate a major incident to occur, it was necessary for Fayette County and the Commonwealth of Kentucky be to prepared for a response. Since the event involved many local jurisdictions, a coordinated effort was needed to prepare for the national event.

One of the early steps in planning for the WEG was to develop a risk assessment using existing epidemiological literature from previous mass gathering events (such as the Olympics). Attendance ranged from 20,000 to 40,000 daily. Roughly 800 horses and 1,000 riders participated.

Potential risks were analyzed considering the incident occurring with the likely impact on public health. The list included incidents that had a high probability of occurring and low public health impact (e.g. physical injuries) and others that had a low probability of occurring but high public health impact (e.g. bioterrorism). The top five items on the risk assessment included: food-borne diseases, sexually transmitted diseases, weather-related illnesses, bioterrorism, chemical/radiation events, and physical injuries.

In order for Public Health to be able to respond quickly, it was necessary to activate the Department Operations Center (DOC) at the Lexington-Fayette County Health Department, the lead agency. The DOC remained operational for the entire sixteen days of the WEG. This lengthy operational period was an opportunity to practice Incident Command System skills, which is sometimes a challenge during the rush of a real-world event or a short duration exercise. During the WEG, the DOC followed a defined daily schedule (or "battle rhythm"), held daily briefings, produced a formal situation report including a detailed surveillance report, and used formal job action sheets to guide staff activities. WebEOC, an incident management software program, was used for real-time situational awareness at the Site Operations Center, Joint Operations Center, and DOC. Partners, such as Lexington-Fayette County Division of Emergency Management, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, used WebEOC to monitor activities during the WEG. Staffing positioned for response included Lexington-Fayette County Health Department, KDPH, U.S. Food and Drug Administration, and other county Local Health Departments.

Medical surge is the capability to rapidly expand the capacity of the existing healthcare system, including long-term care facilities, acute care facilities, and public health departments. Medical surge planning involved several partners, including UK HealthCare (UKHC), Region 13/14 Healthcare Planning Coalition (HPC) and Kentucky Emergency Management (KyEM). UKHC served as the onsite medical provider and participant trauma care provider. UKHC provided care to nearly 1,000 patients. 37 people were referred for hospital care, one for a critical illness.

KyEM was a key partner ready to respond to a mass casualty event. KyEM and the National Guard were poised for transportation and logistical support, air space control, air support services, communication support, and coordination and deployment of state wide and federal assets. Prior to the event, KyEM also held a series of multi-partner tabletop exercises on topics including a hazmat spill, food-borne illness outbreak, civil disturbance, severe weather event, and a mass equine casualty event. Region 13/14 HPC prepared itself for a WEG response by reviewing surge plans and ensuring local hospitals were ready to coordinate the implementation of their surge plans, if necessary.

Participants, including federal observers, noted that planning for and executing this response showed exemplary cooperation among federal, state, and local partners.



KDPH Preparedness Branch at the Kentucky Horse Park.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Veterinarians Role in Response Efforts 2

Eastern KY Workshop 2

KCCRB 3

Spotlight—Green River District MRC 3

KHELPS Potpourri 3

At Risk Populations 4



*I am only one,
but I am one. I
cannot do
everything, but I
can do
something. And
I will not let
what I cannot do
interfere with
what I can do.*

*~Edward Everett
Hale*

Response, from a Veterinarian's Point of View

During the spring of 2010 I found time to attend the Community Emergency Response Team/Medical Reserve Corp (CERT/MRC) 10-week training in Woodford County. It was a very valuable experience. The training introduced me to first responder agency personnel and provided the opportunity to learn from their expertise. The CERT Course included: reducing hazards in the workplace and home, triage and disaster medical response, light search and rescue, fire safety, the emotional response of the individual that responds, county specific plans for points of dispensing and receipt of Strategic National Stockpile supplies for a public health emergency.

The trainings concluded with a disaster simulation exercise that tested and challenged the skills of the group. The trainings gave me a greater sense of what it takes for emergency agencies to respond to an event, large or small, and the resources needed. They taught me the need for volunteers and ways they would be utilized. I learned that planning for an emergency means planning to be able to take care of the immediate needs of my family and pets. The classes made me more aware of personal and family preparedness, so I can plan now, to be able to help my family if something happens.

It is a great feeling to know that Woodford County's course graduates are volunteers in one of the largest CERT/MRC programs in Kentucky. Volunteers are encouraged to register as a MRC medical or non-medical volunteer in the KY Healthcare Emergency Listing for Professionals for Surge (KHELPS) Database <https://khelps.chfs.ky.gov>. The database is maintained by the Kentucky Department for Public Health. Many volunteers with medical and non-medical backgrounds will be needed in time of disaster. The database provides a quick way to alert potential volunteers of an emergency, provide situation updates and request assistance. Registering and becoming an approved volunteer in the database does not mean you must be available to help.

I am the only veterinarian with an active license to have participated in the Woodford County CERT/MRC Training. Veterinarians are a needed resource for county emergency management. Volunteers may work with emergency management, the health department and other emergency agencies in time of disaster.

I am challenging all KY Veterinarians and non-licensed support individuals to take these courses so our professional services, and those of support personnel, can be utilized helping our counties in times of disaster. For additional information, in Woodford County please contact Sarah Cunliffe, Preparedness Coordinator at the Woodford County Health Department (859-873-4541) sarahe.cunliffe@ky.gov or Keith Slugantz, Director, Woodford County Emergency Management (859-873-3170) eoc@woodfordem.com.

For information outside of Woodford County contact your local health department or emergency management office or Jodie Weber, KY Department for Public Health KHELPS / MRC Coordinator (502-564-7243 ext 3729 / jodie.weber@ky.gov).

Cheryl Nelson, DVM; nelson.reproductive.services@gmail.com

Eastern KY Regional Workshop— A Quality Experience



*Lloyd Peniston, Kentucky
Department for Public Health
explains a dispensing station at a
POD.*

In July of 2010, a regional MRC workshop was held at Lake Cumberland District Health Department. Participants split into breakout sessions: Medical and Non-Medical. The medical group discussed Point of Dispensing sites (POD) from a medical perspective; adding information detailed to what a medical professional may be asked to do in a POD. PODs were the topic of conversation in the non-medical breakout session as well, with the focus on what a non-medical volunteer may be asked to do in a POD.

Following lunch, participants were divided into two groups for a POD Exercise. One group acted as the POD staff while the other acted as "patients." Both groups were briefed on

the expectations of the exercise. Each group had the opportunity to play both roles prior to the end of the exercise

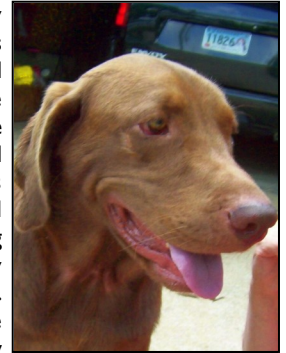
Once the exercise had ended, all participants were brought back together to discuss the day's events. Opportunities were provided for participants to share feedback on the event. Pre- and post-tests were utilized to gauge participant knowledge following the session; evaluations were also disseminated and participants provided positive feedback for the day's events.

We are hopeful that future workshops similar to this will be held in various regions throughout Kentucky.

KCCRB...Passing It Forward

On September 12, 2010 the Kentucky Community Crisis Response Board (KCCRB) received a request for services from the Powell County Superintendent, Ms. Evelyn Neely. Ms. Neely stated that Ms. Lisa Watkins, a 25-year teacher at Powell County Middle school was involved in a fatal motor vehicle collision on Saturday, September 11, 2010. On Monday, September 13, 2010, the Kentucky Community Crisis Response Team (KCCRT) consisting of Sr. Judy Yunker, Ms. Pat Seybold, Ms. Cindy Barker, and Ms. Nancy Wilson were deployed under the coordination of KCCRB Deputy Director, Mr. Tim Lucas. The KCCRT members; Seybold, Barker and Wilson make-up a specialized strike team for KCCRT with their trained K9 partners Lionel, Domino and Ciara. These KCCRT members and their dogs have been trained and certified by the National Animal Assisted Crisis Response Association (NAACR) and the KCCRB. The unique strike team, along with fellow team member Sr. Judy Yunker, provided crisis counseling services to the faculty and students of the Powell County Middle School. Superintendent Neely expressed her appreciation and commented on how well the events of the day went, particularly the comfort that the dogs and KCCRT members brought to

the children and school staff. Ms. Neely was very complimentary of the crisis counseling services provided by the crisis response team and noted that her expectations were far exceeded. The administration and faculty were so moved by the services provided by the KCCRT that they offered to sponsor the training for an additional crisis response dog to increase the number of trained members of the specialized strike team. In doing so, this would allow more schools and community members an opportunity to utilize their services. In less than 10 days, the school collected the money and Sr. Kathy Burke met "Lisa", a new recruit already trained as a therapy dog. Lisa and her handler will be taking the necessary training through KCCRT and NAACR to become a certified crisis response dog team. The memory of Ms. Lisa Watkins, a beloved teacher who touched so many lives will continue on with her namesake "Lisa" as she provides comfort to those who are recovering from crisis. For more information on KCCRB and KCCRT, please visit their website <http://kccrb.ky.gov>



Lisa, therapy pup, aids children with the grieving process.

Spotlight—Green River District MRC Survivor Girl 2010

The Girl Scout Council of the Nation's Capital and FEMA's Citizen Corps partnered to develop the Emergency Preparedness Patch Program. The Green River District Medical Reserve Corps and the Girl Scouts of Kentuckiana Pennyroyal Service Center adapted the national curriculum into a one day event called "Survivor Girl" held on Saturday, August 7, 2010. We choose this time to ring in the celebration of September's Disaster Preparedness Awareness Month.

The patch program was offered in two age appropriate groups with daisy, brownies, and juniors in the morning and cadette and senior Girl Scouts in the afternoon. "We wanted to take this opportunity to educate and empower girls about how to protect themselves in the event of a manmade or natural disaster, teach them about what

events are considered emergencies, and bring awareness of how to help their families and their communities" said Margaret Hibbs, Unit Services Coordinator for the GRDMRC unit.

The event was held at Camp Pennyroyal, just outside of Owensboro Kentucky, where 20 members of the Green District Medical Reserve Corp waited eagerly to see girl scouts walking their way up the path into Beckley Lodge. The MRC members were anxiously awaiting the girls at 4 stations that each of the girls would have the opportunity to rotate through.

There were about 50 girls who participated in the event. The girls were broken into smaller units and took turns rotating between four stations.



GloGerm teaches the Girl Scouts proper hand washing techniques.

KHELPS Potpourri

- On October 22, 2010 KDPH initiated a volunteer call-down drill based upon an earthquake scenario. 82% of MRC Unit Leaders participated and more than 210 volunteers were positioned for response. **OUTSTANDING WORK** unit leaders and volunteers!
- ESF-8 Strike Teams applications have been updated with Incident Command System questions and Strike Team Specific Questions. To be eligible for an ESF-8 Strike Team, log-in to your KHELPS account (khelps.chfs.ky.gov) today to update your profile!
- **Training opportunity**—The 2011 National Level Exercise is an opportunity for government officials, members of the private sector and general public to prepare and coordinate a response to a catastrophic earthquake in the New Madrid Seismic Zone. For more information, visit kyem.ky.gov/nle2011.htm and cusec.org.
- In the Summer 2010 KHELPS Newsletter, the KCCRB Executive Director was incorrectly identified on Page 2. Deborah Arnold is the current KCCRB Executive Director.



COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY

Cabinet for Health and Family Services
Department for Public Health
Division of Epidemiology & Health Planning
Public Health Preparedness Branch
275 E. Main Street
Frankfort, KY 40621
Phone: (502) 564-7243
chfs.khelps@ky.gov



Who is At-Risk?

In 2009, seven significant weather events hit the Bluegrass. When the ice storm robbed our subdivision of electricity for six days, we rallied to provide hot meals to those without a grill, warmth from our generator to our pregnant neighbor and transportation to the elderly whose cars were snow-covered. Hailing from Michigan and having lived through many isolating winter storms, I now understand the need to plan ahead and consider those *at-risk*, who may not readily deal with emergency situations. Who comprise the at-risk in your community?

The National Response Framework defines the at-risk as those *populations who...may have additional needs before, during, and after an incident . . . including . . . maintaining independence, communication, transportation, supervision or medical care. Individuals in need of response assistance may include children, or those with disabilities, that live in institutionalized settings, are elderly, are from diverse cultures, have limited English proficiency, are non-English speaking, or who are transportation disadvantaged.*

Personal preparedness for the at-risk includes:

- Completion of an emergency information form containing emergency contact information, diagnosis, medication/dosage, treating physicians, allergies, critical actions to avoid, life-saving interventions, and relevant medical history.
- Contact with the Utilities Company, to give notification of existing health needs which require uninterrupted power supply (e.g. oxygen concentrators or ventilators).
- Registration with your local EMS' computer-aided dispatch system, so that first responders are aware of functional needs before reporting to the scene.
- Development of a network of people to assist during emergencies.
- Assembling an emergency kit for work, home and the car which contains food, water and supplies for at least 3 days. Home kits should include: prescription medications/glasses, infant formula/diapers, pet food, family documents/insurance/identification records in waterproof containers, cash, sleeping bag/warm blankets for each person, complete change of clothing/shoes, fire extinguisher, candles/matches in waterproof containers, personal hygiene items, mess kits, paper/pencil, and activities for children.

—Gayle J. Brown, At-Risk Populations Program Coordinator—Gaylej.brown@ky.gov; 502-564-7243, ext. 3136