

Public Health Emergency Preparedness
BRAZORIA COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

PUBLIC HEALTH MATTERS

March 2010



MISSION STATEMENT

BRAZORIA COUNTY WILL BE PREPARED FOR AND READY TO RESPOND TO A HEALTH AND MEDICAL EVENT DUE TO EITHER A MAN-MADE OR NATURAL DISASTER

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March 12-30 is National Poison Prevention Week

Bats and Rabies

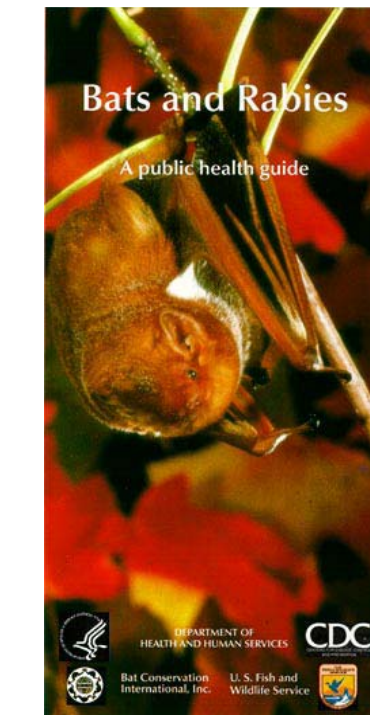
Rabies is an infectious viral disease that affects the nervous system of humans and other mammals. People get rabies from the bite of an animal with rabies (a rabid animal).

Any wild mammal, like a raccoon, skunk, fox, coyote, or bat, can have rabies and transmit it to people. It is also possible, but quite rare, that people may get rabies if infectious material from a rabid animal, such as saliva, gets directly into their eyes, nose, mouth, or a wound.

Because rabies is a fatal disease, the goal of public health is, first, to prevent human exposure to rabies by education and, second, to prevent the disease by anti-rabies treatment if exposure occurs. Tens of thousands of people are successfully treated each year after being bitten by an animal that may have rabies. A few people die of rabies each year in the United States, usually because they do not recognize the risk of rabies from the bite of a wild animal and do not seek medical advice.

Most of the recent human rabies cases have been caused by rabies virus from bats. Awareness of the facts about bats and rabies can help people protect themselves, their families, and their pets. This information may also help clear up misunderstandings about bats.

When people think about bats, they often imagine things that are not true. Bats are not blind. They are neither rodents nor birds. They will not suck your blood and most do not have rabies. Bats play key



roles in ecosystems around the globe from rain forests to deserts, especially by eating insects, including agricultural pests. The best protection we can offer these unique mammals is to learn more about their habits and recognize the value of living safely with them.

DISEASES REPORTED TO BRAZORIA COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT BY MONTH FOR 2010

Reportable Diseases	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Bacterial Meningitis													0
Campylobacteriosis	1	4											5
Chlamydia	19	10											29
Clostridium difficile		1											1
Cryptosporidiosis													0
Dengue													0
Gonorrhea	6	3											9
Guardiasis													0
Haemophilus Influenza		1											1
Hepatitis A, acute	2												2
Hepatitis B, acute	2	2											4
Hepatitis C, acute	11	4											15
HIV infection, Adult													0
Legionellosis													0
Lyme Disease													0
Malaria													0
Meningitis (Viral)	1												1
Pertussis													0
Salmonellosis	4	5											9
Shigellosis													0
Streptococcus pneumoniae, invasive	5	2											7
Syphilis	2												2
Tuberculosis	1	1											2
Varicella -Chicken Pox	11	1											12
West Nile Virus													0

PHEP TEAM

Leo D. O’Gorman , MD, MPH	Health Authority
Jo Mapel, RN, BSN, MPH	Team Leader
Jan Prejean, RN	Disease Surveillance
Barbara Perkins	Facilitator
Tamara Tisdale	Office Manager
	SNS Coordinator
Chasey Reed-Boston	H1N1 Project Manager
Stephanie Smith	H1N1 Facilitator

CONTACT US

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WE’RE ON THE WEB
www.BrazoriaCountyFlu.com

WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION

Police hunt man seeking mustard gas antidote

By Duncan Gardham

Counter-terrorism police are hunting a terror gang suspected of trying to manufacture mustard gas.

A nationwide alert has been sent out after a Libyan walked into an accident and emergency unit asking for an antidote for the gas.

The man said he needed the antidote for a "friend back home" who had been affected by the gas, but police do not believe his story.

The incident at a hospital in Manchester last week has sparked fears that a terror cell may have set up a chemical bomb factory.



Dangerous

(Photo courtesy of the U.S. Army) A bomb disposal technician from Dover Air Force Base, Del., was burned in 2004 by a mustard gas shell found in a driveway. .

have succeeded in making the gas and could use it in an attack." The source added: "Staff were alerted because it takes several days to develop symptoms, by which time it is too late to treat them, but before they could get more details the man left the hospital."

A source at Greater Manchester Police said: "We do not believe there is any concrete plot but we are continuing to investigate."

Al-Qa'eda has said for some years that it wants to obtain chemical weapons and there have been a number of arrests over the last year where men have been found with manuals on how to make explosives and chemical weapons from ingredients that can be obtained through the post.

Counter-terrorism police have been aware for some time of al-Qa'eda's ability to make the poison ricin but had no evidence that they had managed to make mustard gas.

Mustard gas, or dichlorodiethyl sulphide, causes blistering of the skin, fluid on the lungs, blindness and mutation of DNA which can cause cancer. It can be released into the atmosphere as a vapour cloud or used to contaminate water.

The gas, which has a yellowy look and smells of mustard or garlic, contaminates clothing and can remain in the environment for days.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/1567820/Police-hunt-man-seeking-mustard-gas-antidote.html>

DAVID STROUD, SNS COORDINATOR, MOVES TO MCKINNEY



David Stroud (second from left) gets good wishes from Doc Adams and Steve Rosa, Brazoria County Emergency Management, and Charlie Davis, American Red Cross, at a reception to recognize David's contribution to the Public Health Emergency Preparedness Team. David will be joining his wife Hannah and stepson Oliver.

A generation of indiscriminate dumping

Here are some of the chemical weapons of mass destruction the Army dumped into U.S. oceans from 1944 to 1970:

More than 20 leaking 115-pound mustard gas bombs were dumped into the Mississippi River's Concord Spur in New Orleans in 1944 or 1945 and were never found.

GM2 A reported 124 German phosgene bombs were dumped off Horn Island, Miss. on July 27, 1946. The bombs were probably thrown over the side of the S.S. Park Benjamin at an undetermined depth. The barrier island now is a popular national park.

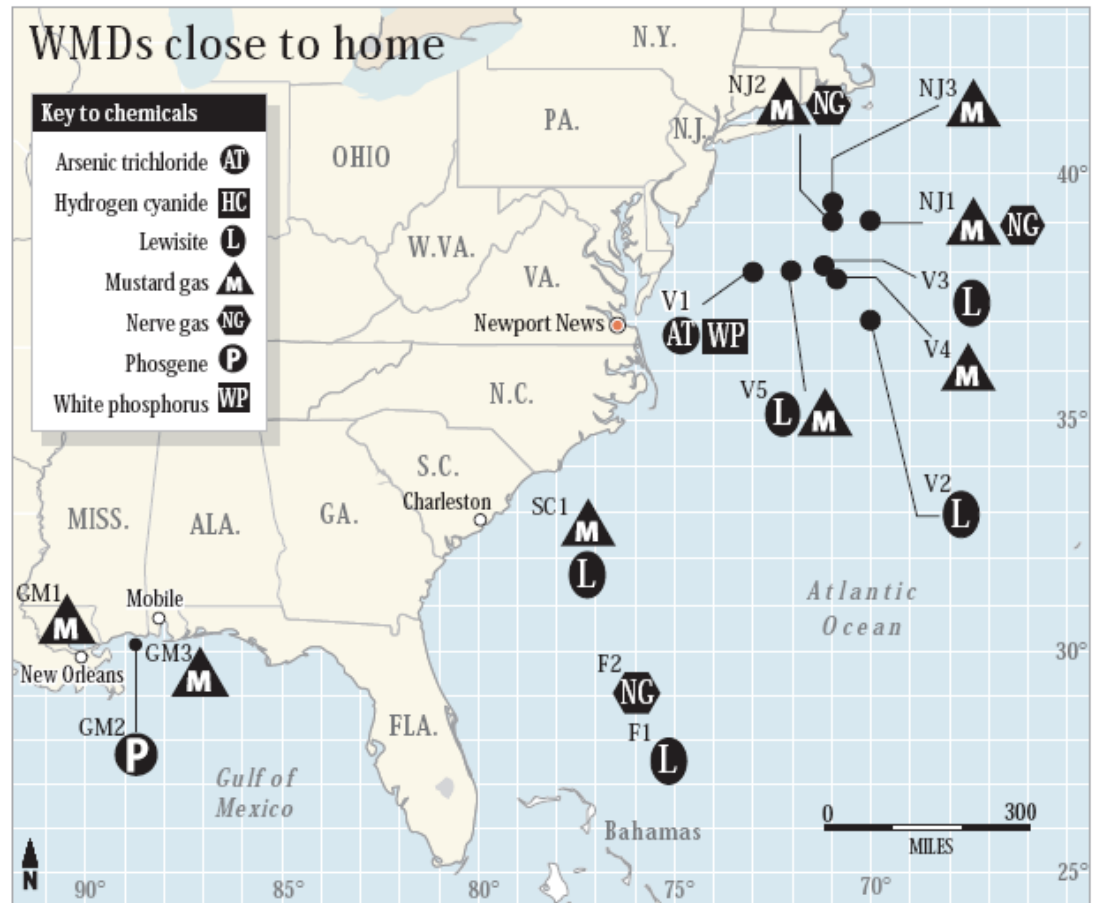
GM3 On July 13, 1946, more than 30 German mustard gas bombs were shipped by barge from Theodore Naval Magazine near Mobile, Ala., and dumped 20 miles off the coast, at a depth of 200 to 600 feet. One bomb later floated ashore. By today's standards, that is not considered deep water.

X An unknown number of mustard gas-filled bombs were sailed out of New Orleans on March 10, 1946, aboard the USS Akutan and dumped somewhere in the gulf.

X Two unspecified chemical-filled bombs accidentally sank into quicksand in the shipping channel of the Mississippi River about three miles south of Braithwaite, La., and were never recovered.

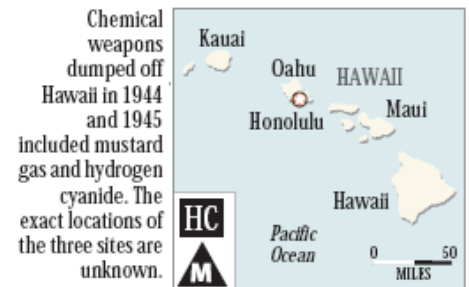
X In another dump operation, one or two barges of unspecified "toxic" munitions were loaded at Theodore Naval Magazine, taken out into the gulf and dumped. Exactly where remains unknown, and the Army has no further information on that site.

X = Unknown location



Source: U.S. Army reports

Known dumpsites in the Pacific



DAILY PRESS



Canisters of mustard gas and Lewisite head to sea from California for dumping in 1958 .

(Photo courtesy of the U.S. Army)



In 1964, mustard gas canisters are pushed into the Atlantic Ocean off New Jersey. Millions of pounds were dumped this way.

(Photo courtesy of the U.S. Army)

County Wide Vaccination Program A Huge Success!

The Brazoria County Health Department has been out in the community giving H1N1 vaccinations. So far BCHD has administered 6,347 vaccinations throughout the county! The flu comes in waves and another one is predicted in March. The CDC is still recommending people get the vaccine. Remember that all vaccines given by BCHD are FREE of charge. If your business would like us to give vaccinations to your employees and their family members please contact us by calling 979-864-1166.

If you haven't gotten your vaccination yet, there are still opportunities to do so. We will be at the following events to give H1N1 vaccinations:

Saturday, March 27th, 2010
"Salute to First Responders"
MSR Race Track north of Angleton
10 AM-4 PM



Savannah Jackson

On January 11th, Savannah's family found out she has Neuroblastoma. The tumor has already spread to her bones and her lymph nodes. Her cancer is stage 4 and high risk.

A benefit will be held for Savannah at the KC Hall in Angleton on Saturday, March 13, 2010 beginning at 11 am.

- BBQ plates \$7
- 2 pm Live Auction
- DJ Music all Day
- 5 pm Live Music

Savannah Jackson, 3 year old granddaughter of PHEP's Facilitator, Barbara Perkins.

Please keep Savannah and her family in your thoughts and prayers.



Citizen Corps is FEMA's grassroots strategy to bring together government and community leaders to involve citizens in all-hazards emergency preparedness and resilience.

Citizen Corps asks you to embrace the personal responsibility to be prepared; to get training in first aid and emergency skills; and to volunteer to support local emergency responders, disaster relief, and community safety.

There are currently **2,430** Councils which serve **227,420,866** people or **80%** of the total U.S. population.

Brazoria County has two Citizen Corps groups:

Pearland Area Citizen Corps **281-997-9777** **<http://www.citizencorps.gov/cc/showEvent.do?id=19090>**

Brazoria County Citizens Corps **281-844-3653** **<http://homelandpreparedness.org/>**



Emergencies and disasters have the potential to impact the public's health in many ways. The Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) is a community-based program that uses volunteers to respond to local emergencies or disasters.

MRC volunteers are professionals who contribute their unique skills and expertise to help local residents. Volunteers are provided with training to help prepare them for the roles and tasks they may be asked to do during an emergency. Many MRC volunteers are licensed health care professionals. However, MRC volunteers can also include students, retirees and others who are committed to helping during a time of crisis.

Medical Reserve Corp is designed to strengthen communities by preparing volunteers to assist with public health tasks during times of emergency and throughout the year.

MRC volunteers are not required to have any previous medical training. Volunteers can fill vital support roles including communications, logistics, and administrative roles.

Medical professionals of all kinds are needed to provide the specialized skills they have developed in their field.

MRC Training includes:

- Disaster Medical Operations
- Team Dynamics and Operations - ICS
Hygiene and protective measures



TRAINING CALENDAR

Homeland Preparedness Project works with citizens and local emergency management agencies to promote emergency preparedness and enhance the community's ability to respond to all hazards.

March 2nd Brazosport Area Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Skills Practice **6:30pm** Brazosport Dream Center 796 S. Brazosport Blvd., Clute, Texas
We will review and practice CERT fire safety skills. We will address any ideas or needs about local teams and team leaders.

March 9th Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) Orientation and update class **6:30pm** Brazosport Dream Center 796 S. Brazosport Blvd., Clute, Texas In partnership with Brazoria County Office of Emergency Management, this will inform new volunteers about Medical Reserve Corp. and also inform current members of any changes to the program and update ID's.

March 11th MRC Orientation and Update Class **6:30pm** Alvin Community College Room N111 110 Mustang Rd., Alvin TX 77511 In partnership with Brazoria County Office of Emergency Management, this will inform new volunteers about Medical Reserve Corp. and also inform current members of any changes to the program.

March 17th Alvin CERT Skills Practice Night **6:30pm** Alvin Vol. Fire Dept. 302 West House Street, Alvin, Texas 77511

We will review and practice CERT fire safety skills. We will address any ideas or needs about local teams and team leaders.

March 18th MRC Orientation and Update Class **6:30pm** Central EMS in West Columbia 400 N. 13th West Columbia, Texas 77486 In partnership with Brazoria County Office of Emergency Management, this will inform new volunteers about Medical Reserve Corp. and also inform current members of any changes to the program.

March 20th Treasure Island CERT Exercise **7am** TI Community Center Building 146 Fathom Drive, Freeport, Texas

Everyone is invited to participate in the graduation exercises for the newest CERT Teams. If you have completed the CERT training but have not participated in a graduation exercise, this is your chance to complete the training. Or, if you have already graduated, you can come out and participate in a number of ways. You can participate as a member of the team and practice your skills, you can act as an observer, or you can come play the part of a "victim". No matter how you participate, you will learn something and have fun doing it.

March 23rd Skywarn Class **7pm** Commissioner's Court 111 East Locust Street, Angleton, Texas 77515

The National Weather Service will be presenting this year's version of SkyWarn in the Commissioners Courtroom on March 23 from 7-10pm.
This training teaches citizens how to spot, interpret, and report hazardous weather. The National Weather Service relies on ground observers to get the most accurate and timely information out to the public about hazardous weather. Come out and learn how you can be part of the SkyWarn network.

March 27th Salute to First Responders **8am** Angleton Race Park 1 Performance Drive, Angleton, Texas 77545

This year we will be participating in the Salute to First Responders at the racetrack in Angleton on March 27. We'll be manning a booth and doing demonstrations throughout the day. There will be lots to see and do at this event. If you would like to help with our booth, call Robin Wofford at 281-844-3653. We'll be organizing into several shifts so everyone can enjoy the day.

March 29th CERT Skill Practice Night **6:30pm** Central EMS West Columbia 400 N. 13th West Columbia, Texas 77486 We will review and practice CERT fire safety skills. We will address any ideas or needs about local teams and team leaders.

April 6th Regional Alternate Care Site Setup Drill **9am** Alvin Community College 3110 Mustang Rd., Alvin TX 77511

April 7th Regional Alternate Care Site Drill **9am** Alvin Community College 3110 Mustang Rd., Alvin TX 77511

April 8th Regional Alternate Care Site Drill Tear Down **9am** Alvin Community College 3110 Mustang Rd., Alvin TX 77511
This deployment exercise will be to learn how to assist our local Medical 1st responders with setup, operations and tear down of the RACS (Regional Alternative Care Site) that is available during an emergency.

April 17th Friends of the River CERT Exercise 7am Friends of the River Community Center
20450 CR 510 B, Holiday Shores Subdivision (1 mile south of FM 521 bridge)

Everyone is invited to participate in the graduation exercises for the newest CERT Teams. If you have completed the CERT training but have not participated in a graduation exercise, this is your chance to complete the training. Or, if you have already graduated, you can come out and participate in a number of ways. You can participate as a member of the team and practice your skills, you can act as an observer, or you can come play the part of a "victim". No matter how you participate, you will learn something and have fun doing it.

To sign up for any of these volunteer opportunities, go to www.Homelandpreparedness.org and click on the calendar. More training and events are being scheduled. Visit our calendar for the latest updates or call 281-844-3653.