e-Merge Info Tech News

The Newsletter for CSEPP Emergency Preparedness and Public Affairs Community

Welcome to the fourth edition of the. . .

Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program (CSEPP) e–Newsletter

The purpose of this e-Newsletter is to:

- provide updates on technology, presented at both basic and advanced courses held in Oak Ridge, Tennessee
- encourage you to use the e-Newsletter to share information about how you are incorporating and expanding technology to improve your site's communication process

CSEPP 2006 Highlights

The National Conference: Racing Toward the Finish Line

"Setting the Pace in Preparedness"

Carrying forward the racing theme from the CSEPP National Conference in Indianapolis, the Emergency Management Laboratory (EML) pit crew worked tirelessly to help the CSEPP race team overcome potential informational gridlock during an emergency event by providing hands-on training. In so doing, we set the pace in preparedness during 2006 by incorporating the latest, off-the-shelf technology for use within the CSEPP's public affairs and emergency management community. As this race season comes to an end, let's reflect on what a memorable season we experienced.

Capturing the Pole with the CSEPP Public Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Course

The Penske Race team, representing EML, conducted two interactive sessions at this year's national conference, *Capturing the Checkered Flag Using Handheld Technology* and *Blogging in the Brickyard*, both designed to kick start the wireless, Web-based horsepower and race to the informational finish line.

Capturing the Checkered Flag Using Handheld Technology provided race fans with an overview of the WeB-MEDIS application. Meanwhile, *Blogging in the Brickyard* provided insight and skills for developing blogs using FrontPage and creating palm-friendly Web sites.

2006 Public Affairs and Emergency Management Course Highlights

CSEPP Public Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Course

The CSEPP community got a head start on their competitors by attending the CSEPP Public Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Course, led by the infamous Jim "Mario Andretti" Noey and assisted by the queen of the track Mary "Danica Patrick" Connelly. To capture the checkered flag, racers negotiated through a series of turns and an occasional fender bender, which enabled them to learn innovative ways to prepare for and respond to emergencies through the use of technology in conjunction with the Joint Information System. Racecar drivers learned skills to assist personnel involved with the design and deployment of a Mobile Joint Information Center (JIC), to provide a portable and flexible communication alternative for the Joint Information System, and to comply with National Incident Management System requirements.

The race ran smoothly, but as racers continued to zoom around the track, race officials issued an occasional yellow caution flag during the development of Web sites. These Web sites were designed to communicate and coordinate responses during an emergency and included dynamic, Web-based status boards, forms, checklists, links, and interactive maps. Harrowing turns on the track required drivers to hone their driving skills to maintain control of their vehicles. Not only did each driver capture the checkered flag, but the a grand prize was awarded to each driver for using a Palm Operating System database application, for placing communication and coordination technology in the hands of mobile responders, and for developing applications accessible from wireless, handheld devices in remote locations. Since Wi-Fi is common for Indy 500 racers, each driver used wireless technology to connect to others with advanced wireless applications, to communicate between response facilities and functional teams, and to integrate applications during the final "PowerPlay" lap.



Deseret Exercise

Capturing the Checkered Flag: Using Handheld Technology with the Medical Response and Emergency Preparedness Workshop

Using handheld technology and a wireless tracking application called WeB-MEDIS developed by EML, the Medical Response and Emergency Preparedness Workshop is well on its way to becoming a driving force in patient tracking for the CSEPP community.

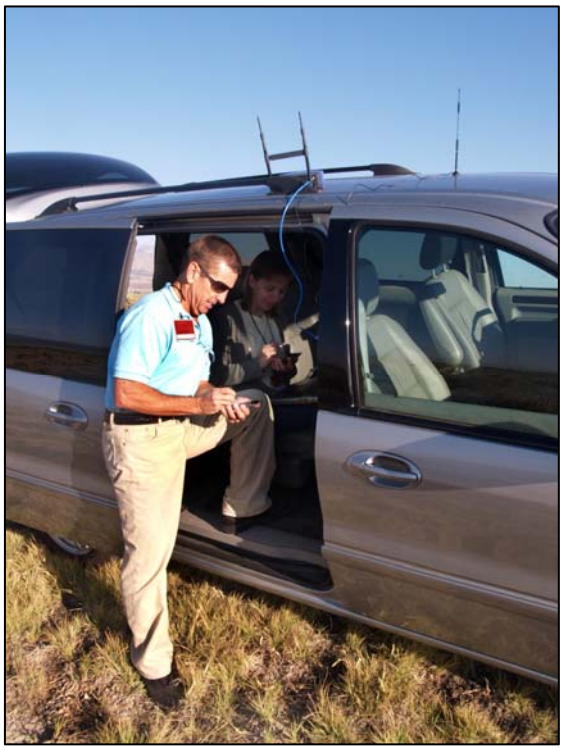
WeB-MEDIS provides first responders the ability to enter patient information quickly and efficiently at the event scene. Through wireless synchronization to a password-protected Web site, WeB-MEDIS provides immediate sharing of current patient information between first responders, ambulances, and the receiving hospital(s), which allows participating hospitals to receive advance notification about the number of patients arriving at their facility and time to prepare. Additionally, the WeB-MEDIS site provides important patient-tracking information for report generation and accountability.

EML mechanics continue to "tune up" Web-MEDIS for future uses. For more information about WeB-MEDIS, e-mail Mary Connelly at connellm@orau.gov.

A Simple Solution Makes a Life-and-Death Difference

by Jennifer Brock

EML recently gave new meaning to the phrase “do whatever it takes to get the job done.”



Ron Edmond and Mary Connelly test the strength of a wireless connection made more powerful by the cellular booster (antenna) on top of the van. The antenna, a quick-fix by Chip Hultquist when the necessary cellular signal was found to be miles away, helped transmit patient data to a local hospital via wireless technology at a recent mass casualty exercise in Tooele, Utah.

At an emergency management training exercise in remote Tooele, Utah, the group participated in a mass casualty exercise that included 100 victims and needed to transmit patient statistics to a local hospital via a wireless, cellular connection. But there was one problem—the nearest cellular tower was located on the top of a Utah mountain 22 miles away.

After some quick thinking, Hultquist took a trip to the Flying J Truck Stop and purchased a cellular signal booster and adaptor. With the help of the booster, the group’s wireless device—a Palm E2 Tungsten—and a wireless router, Hultquist and his team were able to transmit patient data to the hospital’s computer, thus saving time—and if the scenario were real, lives—in the process.

The NEW Advanced Public Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Course

As each year passes, technology becomes more and more integrated into our lives. We have become so dependent on it that it is hard to imagine how we could perform without it. Since the public has become more technologically savvy, it is important that the CSEPP community maintain the same pace and stay in tune with technological advancements as well. To help the CSEPP community expand its public information resource tool kit and remain National Incident Management System compliant, the Emergency Management Laboratory continues to research and to expand the public affairs course. As a result of that research, the NEW Advanced Public Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Course debuted in November 2006. We introduced three technologies using FrontPage: 1) how to develop and post blogs; 2) how to create and post video using Movie Maker; and 3) how to use advance, palm-friendly applications with Smart-List-To-Go. For those of you who missed it, the course will be offered again in 2007. THE EML staff will assist you with registration for the 2007 courses at the CSEPP National Conference.

Upcoming Events

EML is busy preparing for 2007. In addition to supporting the CSEPP National Conference in Chicago in June, this year’s calendar will include two CSEPP Public Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Courses in Oak Ridge and a WeB-MEDIS class in Colorado. We will also update and distribute Advisor 6.0. We are looking forward to seeing and working with you this year.

2006 Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program (CSEPP) Technological Resources for Emergency Preparedness and Public Affairs Training e–Newsletter
Article idea? Contact the Editor, Ron Edmond at edmondr@orau.gov.

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