



RC/PIO News & Notes |

February 13, 2026

A Weekly Update from **Eric Jens, Risk Communicator** – Georgia Department of Public Health
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News & Notes

For highlights this week we have Healthcare Coalition meetings, a Winter Storm Fern hotwash, and a networking night hosted by Emory last night.

Regional Healthcare Coalition Meetings

Thanks to LaKieva Williams for sending us the (*top right image*) from the Region D Healthcare Coalition meeting last week.

On Tuesday the Region C Healthcare Coalition met in Waco (*lower right image*) and heard updates on epidemiology statistics, GHA endeavors, DBHDD initiatives, and learned more about individual communication styles.



CERC Training Update

The next DPH Media / Crisis and Emergency Risk Communication training will be held April 10 in Macon at the North Central Health District office. Registration should open in about two weeks so look for the registration link to be posted in News and Notes at that time. The annual statewide Risk Communicators meeting will be held at the same location the previous day, April 9. Thanks to the ten speakers who have agreed to provide updates for this year's meeting, and we look forward to hearing from everyone at this valuable event.

Quarterly Risk Communicators meeting

A hot wash of the Winter Storm Fern and subsequent week's snow event was held Wednesday. DPH district and state representatives and those representing Healthcare Coalitions reported their experiences before, during and after the activations. Many reported that internal and external communications were a strong points, and said ReadyOp use and pre-established partnerships were valuable assets. Some said they would have liked more WebEOC training for everyone, and would feel better if they had access to more working generators.



Stay safe during winter weather.

Heat your home safely.

Have at least one of the following heat sources in case the power goes out:

- ▶ Extra blankets, sleeping bags, and warm winter coats.
- ▶ Fireplace that is up to code with plenty of dry firewood or a gas log fireplace.
- ▶ Portable space heaters or kerosene heaters. Check with your local fire department to make sure that kerosene heaters are legal in your area.

! If you plan to use a wood stove, fireplace, or space heater, be extremely careful. Follow the manufacturer's instructions.

Light your home safely.

If there is a power failure:

- ▶ Use battery-powered flashlights or lanterns rather than candles, if possible. Candles can lead to house fires.
- ▶ If you do use candles, never leave lit candles unattended.
- ▶ Keep a fire extinguisher handy, and make sure your family knows how to use it.

Listen to weather forecasts regularly and learn more information at:
bit.ly/40mQUCJ

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Among the guest speakers was Elena Jordanov from J. Michael Consulting, who had great insights and advice about how to make connections and help to strengthen public health and expand access to critical resources.

Emory Green Networking Night

Hundreds attended Thursday night's Green Networking Night at Emory University. Students, professors, and professionals from various fields had the opportunity to share ideas and discuss potential future partnerships. The focus was on green energy, sustainable advancements, and protecting the health of future generations.



Next Week Preview

The monthly state DPH EPR staff meeting will be held Tuesday, at which I'll be presenting DPH social media, along with a few other communication components of interest. The Atlanta Urban Area Security Initiative PIO input session will also be held that morning, with numerous meetings in the afternoon including FIFA planning, tactical communications workgroup and a strengthening communities webinar. More FIFA planning meetings are slated for Thursday. Wednesday is Mental Health Day at the Capitol.

About "News & Notes"

"News & Notes" is a weekly communication aimed at risk communicators and public information officers within Georgia's 18 public health districts. The goal of the communication is to increase preparedness through the exchange of information about significant events, training and other planned activities. Some information herein may be considered FYUO or For Your Use Only. Please be judicious when forwarding. For questions, comments or to submit information for inclusion, contact Eric Jens at Eric.Jens@dph.ga.gov.

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