



RC/PIO News & Notes |

March 6, 2026

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

A chemical seminar, preparedness summit, and networking night are among our highlights for the week. The American Public Health Association last week released their annual [State of Public Health](#) session, featuring three former CDC directors and a former surgeon general on their panel of experts.

Chemical Seminar

Small Molecules, Big Impact: A Chemical Planning Seminar. That's the title of the Tuesday training held at the state DPH EOC, facilitated by Ricky Schutter and Tracy Dabbs. We learned about the "Fatal Four:" Blood, Choking, Blister, and Nerve agents, and the symptoms they cause. Examples were provided on the specific chemicals involved and how best to treat those harmed by them. Whether they are inadvertent accidents, or intentional acts of war, the history of chemical threats dates back thousands of years.



CERC Training Update

Registration is open for the April 10 DPH Media / Crisis and Emergency Risk Communication training to be held Friday, April 10 at the North Central Health District office in Macon: [register](#)

Please note that the TRS class registry system will reportedly be unavailable through March 8, so please check back after Sunday. We have space for 60. At last count this week we had 21 signed up to take part.

The objective of the DPH Media and Crisis and Emergency Risk Communication (CERC) training is to bring Communicators and Subject Matter Experts and anyone who has the potential of interacting with the public and/or the media together to learn from each other. Message development and dissemination is most effective if everyone involved understands their role and the roles of others. This training will cover the most effective ways of providing specific audiences with the most accurate, timely, effective, consistent, and actionable message. This includes best practices, as well as what potential pitfalls and challenges to keep in mind.

Emory Networking Night

Thursday night was the Media, Arts, and Communication networking night at Emory University. Students, alumni and professionals gathered to share stories of interest, plans for future professional work, and shared experiences, benefitting both groups. Among the night's speaker segments was a talk delivered by Leanna Adams (*pic above*) whose short films have aired on Fox and TBS, and her feature film 'Christmas with Jerks' is available on Prime and Tubi. Also speaking last night was Sarah Neely, who talked about how she used her experience as an event planner and server to leading marketing campaigns for Polaris, JetBlue, Chipotle, and Red Bull's early start with skateboarding and Major League Baseball.



Region N Preparedness Summit

The inaugural Regional Preparedness Summit and Training for the Region N Healthcare Coalition was held Wednesday at Jim Miller Park in Marietta. Speakers addressed topics ranging from preparation and response to events such as the Major League Baseball All-Star

Jennifer Davis of Wellstar Kennestone Regional Medical Center talked about how response at her agency during expansion construction included gas leaks, power outages and flooding, all within a matter of weeks.

Breakout sessions included topics related to epidemiology, environmental health and more. Regional Healthcare Facilitator Jenaila Hawkins welcomed the group of 150 to the event and encouraged everyone to attend future sessions and to use hand sanitizer.



game, to incidents such as Hurricane Helene.







Next Week Preview

Remember to change the batteries in your smoke detectors, and, for those who still have non-automated clocks, move them ahead an hour Saturday night. There is a variety of events planned for next week, including the Environmental Health Strike Team Training Summit in Macon Tuesday through Thursday. I'll be joining the event for a presentation virtually on Wednesday. Wednesday afternoon we will welcome our latest group of international visitors to the state DPH EOC, as hosted by the Georgia International Visitors Council.

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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