

RC/PIO News & Notes 9-5-2025



FROM Eric Jens, GA DPH Risk Communicator
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News and Notes

This is Environmental Health Professionals week, and the start of Preparedness Month.

Preparedness Month

'Preparedness Starts at Home' is the theme for this year's National Preparedness Month. Each September, efforts to promote preparedness amongst communities, individuals and families are conducted nationwide. When disasters wipe out electrical power, transportation routes, and other daily necessities, it is helpful to have a three-day supply of non-perishable foods, water, medicines, and other staples on hand. Communication plans, batteries, and items specifically for family members of all ages and pets are also invaluable.

Promotions for preparedness efforts have been conducted throughout the state including Health Districts in Dalton, Clayton, Fulton, Gainesville, and others. In the Coastal Health District, preparedness includes maintaining the Hurricane Registry, a tool to assist those who may need help during hurricane evacuations. That was the topic of the "Health District Half-Time" show on WSAV last Friday. Todd Wyckoff and Ginger Heidel were featured on the inaugural edition:

[Health District Half-Time](#)



Health District Half-Time: The Hurricane Registry



The National Weather Service Tuesday hosted an introduction session on their newly updated on-line [Flood Inundation Mapping](#) tool. It now covers 60 percent of the country, up from 10 percent two years ago. Expectations are to reach 100 percent by October of next year.

Value of FIM Services - Actionable Visualizations

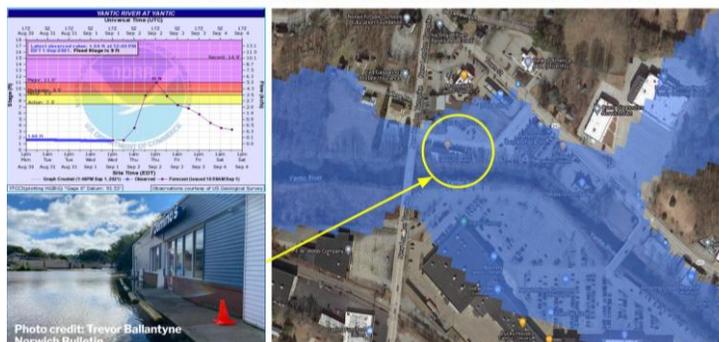


Photo credit: Trevor Ballantyne
Norwich Bulletin

One Health

Thanks to Vanessa Sims for sending us the update and images from the One Health Symposium held Wednesday and Thursday at Georgia Southern University.

- **Key topics** including zoonotic diseases, mental health, education and policy, and other cross-cutting One Health challenges
- **Dynamic sessions**, panel discussions, and networking opportunities
- **Collaborative opportunities** to foster joint research and strengthen statewide partnerships



988

Monday is 988 Day in Georgia. The suicide and crisis lifeline is expanding and having a positive impact. *"We know 988 can save lives," said Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities Commissioner Kevin Tanner. "But awareness and trust are everything."* In the past two months, 393 individuals registered and completed 988 training. Additionally, 204 organizations across the state were represented to ensure workplaces, service providers and community groups were better connected.



Risk Communicator quarterly meeting

Tuesday morning at 10:30 is the next statewide DPH Risk Communicators quarterly meeting to be held virtually. Guest speakers will talk about plans for the Georgia Public Health Association Communication Section, upcoming full-scale exercises, Emergency Communications planning, impact statements, and more. Thanks to those who have agreed to present. If anyone needs a meeting invite, please reach out.

POD Games

State DPH EPR team members took part in game called 'This is a Test – POD (Points Of Distribution) edition' this week. The activity is designed to walk players through the process of successfully moving many people through the POD from start to finish, with multiple stations and challenges posed by inject cards along the way.



Next Week Preview

Tuesday is the aforementioned Risk Communicators meeting, with a State Health Board meeting later that day. Next week there will be webinars hosted by the National Academy of Medicine and the Southern Regional Disaster Response System, and meetings to plan for upcoming events.

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