

# RC/PIO News & Notes 7-3-2025



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## News and Notes

Tomorrow is the Independence Day holiday; hence, News and Notes is going out today. We'll include highlights from the latest group of international visitors who came to the state DPH EOC on Wednesday. We'll also have more pictures from the Tranquil Passport full-scale exercise last Friday.

## International Visitors



Thanks to the Georgia Council for International Visitors who brought a group of 12 health professionals from Pakistan to the state DPH Emergency Operation Center on Wednesday. We enjoyed sharing how our public health and emergency preparedness systems work in Georgia. The group asked great questions and shared some of their own experiences from their home country. We learned about their weather-related threats, response structures, and communication methods.



## 4<sup>th</sup> of July Safety

Among the features of the National Public Health Information Coalition News Highlights this week serves as a good reminder to keep safety in mind during this holiday. Be sure to click the link for some creatively designed infographics:

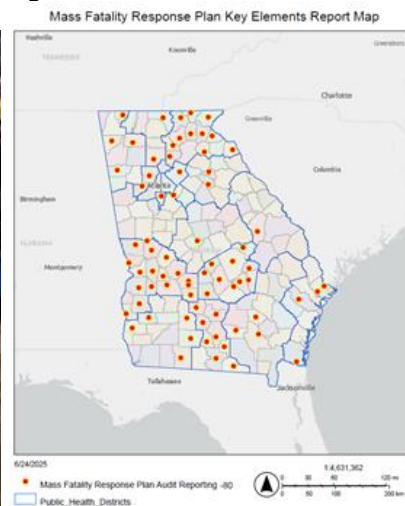


*The American Pyrotechnics Safety & Education Foundation (APSEF) provides free educational tools designed for youth, parents, and educators to encourage safe and responsible fireworks use. Their online resource hub includes safety tip sheets, engaging videos, printable posters, and ready-to-share social media graphics. These materials are ideal for raising awareness and reducing fireworks-related injuries during festivities. Find the assets from APSEF [here](#).*

## Mass Fatality Updates

Thanks to Byron Lobsinger for sharing updates on extensive new developments he has been spearheading recently:

- Mass Fatality Management Plan Key Elements Review reporting tool, which allows county and regional planners to share key plan elements, to enhance local and regional support planning. Over 50% of the counties have reports, thus far.
- The Morgue Bed Availability Reporting (MBAR) Hub is intended for local and regional use during a mass casualty/fatality disaster response exercise. The pdf guidance documents include two just-in-time demonstration video training links; one for facilities with a morgue, and the second for emergency managers: [https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLHp0\\_39lqo2deQlKqF6Bmyv5rDkmvbj65](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLHp0_39lqo2deQlKqF6Bmyv5rDkmvbj65) Facilities with a morgue may enter data at any time to get familiar with using the disaster reporting tool. A brief drill document has been created to support exercising the Hub locally.
- A drill was successfully conducted using one of the two DPH Mortuary Enhanced Remains Cooling (MERC) Systems during a real-world activity, to enhance disaster response planning. MERC system's cool human remains without cooling the entire room. The MERC-8 unit (blue cage image below) can be transported by box truck and accommodate cooling up to eight bodies.



# Tranquil Passport



The hot wash for the Tranquil Passport Full Scale Exercise was held Friday afternoon. This followed transportation and use of a Portable Biocontainment Unit (PBCU) at Emory's Executive Park. A number of the players indicated this exercise helped enhance partnerships. There were also moments where communications could be improved. Players cited wearing full Personal Protective Equipment and speaking to operators in multiple locations was a challenge at times. More on the exercise from: [Emory News](#).



## Next Week Preview

The 4th annual National Access and Functional Needs symposium will be held Wednesday and Thursday. Next week will also bring various planning meetings, webinars and other 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](mailto:Eric.Jens@dph.ga.gov)