

# RC/PIO News & Notes 7-11-2025



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## News and Notes

The national Access and Functional Needs Symposium was held this week. Upcoming trainings will improve the use of digital platforms during disaster response. This will have more people better prepared as Hurricane Season ramps up. Recent floods in Texas are a stark reminder of the devastation severe weather can create.

## Access and Functional Needs Symposium



The 4<sup>th</sup> annual Access and Functional Needs (AFN) Symposium was held virtually Wednesday and Thursday this week. Houston educator Angela Wrigglesworth shared her story of surviving Hurricane Harvey, arriving just in time at a hotel that could accommodate her wheelchair and her dog. Colorado AFN Coordinator Sadie Martinez emphasized how planning *with* communities is more effective than planning *for* communities. California AFN Chief Vance Taylor talked about ways emergency management can be approached to make it inclusive and accessible.

## Radiation Injury Treatment

A webinar this morning entitled 'Emory Radiation Injury Treatment Network' provided an update on the latest strategies for response. Dr. Ziad Kazzi said this takes into consideration incidents ranging from a radioactive source accident in which 0 to 100's of deaths would be anticipated, to a military grade nuclear device with anticipated fatalities in the millions. Dr. Sam Shartar said this growing network should not be considered first responders, but treatment centers with enhanced capabilities.

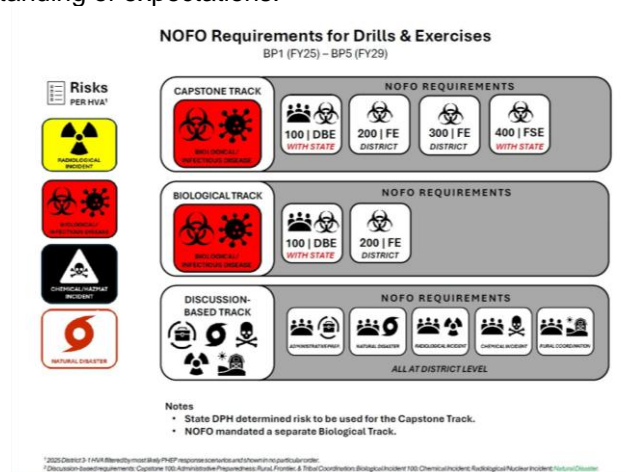
### RITN is preparing to...

- Accept casualties from a distant incident
- Provide supportive care for casualties with marrow toxic injuries
- Provide treatment expertise to practitioners caring for casualties at other locations
- Collect data on casualties treated at their treatment facility
- Facilitate marrow transplantation for the small percentage of casualties who require hematopoietic stem cell transplantation



# Training Coordinators Meeting

Tuesday's monthly statewide DPH Training Coordinators meeting included a variety of topics including exercise requirements, planning updates, newly created templates and more. Saneika Thomas facilitated group discussion from each health district, with a focus on aligning efforts and improving the understanding of expectations.



## Tranquil Passport Reviews



Review and analysis of the Tranquil Passport Full Scale Exercise and the Portable Biocontainment Unit (PBCU) continued this week. Monday, state DPH participants talked about the need for more detailed patient information prior to their arrival in Atlanta. Tuesday, an ASPR Clinical Rounds session provided details on development and capabilities of the PBCU. ASPR held a hot wash Thursday to collect feedback from each site that participated in the exercise.

## Next Week Preview

Tuesday morning is the next monthly state DPH EPR in person meeting. The Mid-Planning Meeting for the Vigilant Guard exercise is one week from today. There are sessions next week and beyond in which Valerie Attell will be training folks on the use of Web EOC and Ready Op.

### 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)