



The **“Emergency Management Weekly Briefing”** is designed to increase the awareness of Baylor employees to the types of emergencies, disasters, and close calls affecting hospitals nationwide. It is not intended to be a complete list, but rather a snap shot of the incidents occurring each week. This information is sent to Baylor Emergency Response Team (BERT) members and emergency management partners within Baylor Health Care System.

To be added to the distribution list please send an email to the Emergency Management Department, emergencymanagement@baylorhealth.edu. These reports may be shared with other Baylor employees if desired. Previous briefings can be found on the Baylor Emergency Response Team (BERT) webpage at www.mybaylor.com/BERT.

Links:

- [FEMA National Situation Report](#)
- [TDEM Situation Reports](#)
- [Emergency and Disaster Declarations](#)
- [US-CERT Cyber Security Tips](#)
- [CDC Weekly Flu Report](#)
- [CDC Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report](#)
- [CDC Safe Healthcare Blog](#)
- [FDA Drug Shortages](#)
- [FDA Food, Drug, and Medical Device Recalls](#)
- [State Department Travel Warnings](#)
- [Baylor Public Safety Crime Bulletins](#)
- [National Weather Service](#)
- [National Hurricane Center](#)



Current Weather Forecast:

| This Afternoon | Tonight | Tuesday | Tuesday Night | Wednesday | Wednesday Night | Thursday | Thursday Night | Friday |
|--|---|---|--|--|---|---|--|---|
|  10% Slight Chc Showers Hi 50 °F |  Cloudy Lo 45 °F |  Cloudy Hi 62 °F |  20% Slight Chc Showers Lo 58 °F |  70% Tstms Likely Hi 71 °F |  50% Chance Tstms Lo 50 °F |  Mostly Sunny Hi 63 °F |  Mostly Cloudy Lo 44 °F |  20% Slight Chc Rain Hi 55 °F |



Health Care Emergency Management News:

This section contains information relating to the Joint Commission's six critical functions for emergency management (communication, logistics, safety and security, human resources, utility management, and patient management). Each article represents a case that has disrupted or has the potential to disrupt hospital operations, public health, or the environment of care.

1. *December 5, Decision Health* – (National) **CDC: Office doctors' HER use up – comfort with it, less so.** The Centers for Disease Control's National Center for Health Statistics has surveyed office-based doctors on electronic health records systems (EHR), and finds they're used by 57% of them. But are they satisfied with their EHR? Come to think of them, are you satisfied with yours? That 57% compares favorably with last year's CDC finding of 50.7% EHR use. (In 2003 it was 17.3%.) The usage trend is very much positive. And most of those doctors say they're going for EHR meaningful use incentives from CMS. But only about 34% of them "reported having a system that met the criteria for a basic system," says CDC. While that's up from the 25% who said so last year, it suggests that many physicians who have the tool aren't exactly comfortable with it.
Source: <http://daily.decisionhealth.com/Articles/Detail.aspx?id=501527>

2. *November 29, Emergency Management* – (North Carolina) **WiFi platform sends lifesaving data between ambulances, hospitals.** Seconds can save lives — especially when a patient is being rushed to a hospital. And Wi-Fi platforms that transmit a patient's medical information from the ambulance to the hospital are helping to save time. By installing this technology in its ambulances, Rowan County, N.C., is sending vital information to hospitals before a patient arrives, thus enabling better preparation and health-care response.
Source: <http://www.emergencymgmt.com/health/Wi-Fi-Platform-Sends-Lifesaving-Data.html?elq=efb13595c9754251b6b9278a831c4bbc>



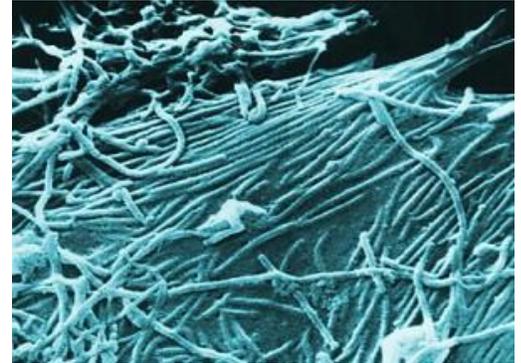
3. *December 5, WPVI 6 Philadelphia* – (Pennsylvania) **Dozens suffer eye irritation after event at Father Judge.** Hazmat crews were trying to find the source of a problem at Father Judge High School in Northeast Philadelphia, where several people have been taken to the hospital with severe eye irritation December 4. Those affected had gone to a cheerleading competition. After the competition, they started complaining of serious eye problems. They were treated at local hospitals. Philadelphia Fire Department haz-mat crews concentrated their search for the problem in the school auditorium and surrounding area.
Source: <http://abclocal.go.com/wpvi/story?section=news/local&id=8454827>
4. *December 2, Arizona Republic* – (Arizona) **13 hospitalized after ammonia explosion in Yuma.** An ammonia explosion December 2 at Yuma Express Cooling in Yuma, Arizona resulted in 13 people being taken to hospitals, including two who were flown to treatment centers in Phoenix. Yuma Fire Department confirmed several people were exposed to varied degrees of ammonia. Eleven patients were evaluated and taken to Yuma Regional Medical Center, a spokesman said. In addition, three Yuma Fire Department and four Rural Metro personnel were also decontaminated and evaluated for their exposure to contaminated patients. A hazmat team was at the scene to ensure the safety of those exposed. The facility was evacuated and leaks had been contained by



the evening of December 2. Officials believe the ammonia leak resulted from a failure of a connection to a condensing coil on a cooling tower.

Source: <http://tucsoncitizen.com/arizona-news/2011/12/02/13-hospitalized-after-ammonia-explosion-in-yuma/>

5. *December 7, Homeland Security Newswire* – (National) **Progress made toward a vaccine for Ebola.** On 26 August 1976 a time bomb exploded in Yambuku, a remote village in Zaire (now the Democratic Republic of the Congo). A threadlike virus known as Ebola had emerged, soon earning a distinction as one of the most lethal, naturally occurring pathogens on earth, killing up to 90 percent of its victims, and producing a terrifying constellation of symptoms known as hemorrhagic fever. Now, Charles Arntzen, a researcher at the Biodesign Institute at Arizona State University, along with colleagues from ASU, the University of Arizona College of Medicine-Phoenix, and the United States Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases, Fort Detrick, Maryland, have made progress toward a vaccine against the deadly virus.



Source: <http://www.homelandsecuritynewswire.com/dr20111207-progress-made-toward-a-vaccine-for-ebola>

6. *December 7, San Francisco Chronicle* – (National) **Billion-dollar weather disasters smash US record.** The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration added two disasters to the list Wednesday, bringing the total to 12. The two are the Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona wildfires and the mid-June tornadoes and severe weather. NOAA uses \$1 billion as a benchmark for the worst weather disasters. Extreme weather in America this year has killed more than 1,000 people, according to National Weather Service Director Jack Hayes. The dozen billion-dollar disasters alone add up to \$52 billion.



Source: <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/n/a/2011/12/07/national/w080126S39.DTL&type=business>

7. *December 8, NOLA.com* – (Louisiana) **FEMA allocate \$52 million to repair New Orleans streets and sidewalks damaged by Hurricane Katrina.** An ongoing reassessment of damage done to streets and sidewalks by Hurricane Katrina's floodwaters has yielded \$52 million in new FEMA financing for repairs in several New Orleans neighborhoods, Mayor Mitch Landrieu announced Thursday. The latest allocation comes after a \$45 million FEMA award in August to fix flood-damaged streets in the Lower 9th Ward.



Source: http://mobile.nola.com/advnola/pm_106721/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=VAT47Hen



Homeland Security News:

This section contains information that is generally outside of the hospital scope, but could have an impact on individual safety, national security, or government policy.

1. *December 1, Huffington Post* – (New Mexico) **Pedobear sightings concern New Mexico Attorney General's office.** The New Mexico Attorney General's Office is warning parents that an increased sighting of depictions of a cartoon-like bear that is linked to pedophiles could be an indication of increased child sex offender activity in the Albuquerque area. The bear, however, has since been embraced by pedophiles, according to the attorney general's office. The Pedobear, they allege, "has a sexual interest in underage girls" and has spread from use among an online subculture to the mainstream.

Source: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2011/11/30/pedobear-new-mexico-gary-king_n_1121711.html

2. *December 6, The Hill* – (New Jersey) **TSA says passenger disguised knife as belt buckle.** The passenger, who was flying to California, had the buckle on a belt that was packed into carry-on luggage in the loops of a pair of pants, the agency said. The item was discovered Dec. 4, TSA said. TSA spokesman Kawika Riley said the passenger surrendered the knife to airport security officials after police were called and was then cleared to fly.

Source: <http://thehill.com/blogs/transportation-report/tsa/197599-tsa-says-passenger-disguised-knife-as-belt-buckle>



Documents and Reports:

- [Institute of Molecular Biotechnology: How the bioweapon ricin kills](#)
- [FBI Law Enforcement Bulletin – December 2011](#)
- [National Domestic Preparedness Coalition Monthly Brief – December](#)
- [Emergency Response for People Who Have Access and Functional Needs: A Guide for First Responders](#)
- [Texas Emergency Management Online](#)

Significant Dates and Historical Events:

- **December 16, 1989 – A terrorist bomber begins his deadly rampage** Federal Judge Robert Vance is instantly killed by a powerful explosion after opening a package mailed to his house near Birmingham, Alabama. Two days later, a mail bomb killed Robert Robinson, an attorney in Savannah, Georgia, in his office. Two other bomb packages, sent to the federal courthouse in Atlanta and to the Jacksonville, Florida office of the NAACP, were intercepted before their intended victims opened them.

Statewide Significant Events:

- December 11 – ARLINGTON: Dallas Cowboys Football Game (119,000)
- December 24 – ARLINGTON: Dallas Cowboys Football Game (119,000)
- December 30 – UNIVERSITY PARK: Bell Helicopter Armed Forces Bowl Game (30,000)