

Don't miss out!

EPICCC News!

EPICCC's 5th Annual BCP Seminar

**Hurry! Seats are filling up fast for
1-Day Seminar in Victoria, BC**

*"People are your most important asset
... WORKFORCE CONTINUITY ...*

Do you have it covered in your BCP?"

September 18, 2009

\$80.00 EPICCC MEMBER

\$120 NON MEMBER

More info available @ www.epiccc.org



To register for the seminar please
email Lesley Carew- info@epiccc.org or

15 Steps to Earthquake Readiness

Involving staff is critical to making the plan work- talk to them about what needs to be done and why, as you follow these steps.

So far we've reviewed steps **1,2,3,4,5,6**

- 1: Brief Staff**
- 2: Emergency Supplies**
- 3: Assess Building Vulnerability**
- 4: Reduce Hazards**
- 5: Dangerous Goods or Hazardous Materials**
- 6: Assign Tasks to Staff**

Step: 7
Resources.

*Determine the critical resources of your business (e.g. supplies, equipment, stock).
Establish a backup supplier, preferably from out of town (i.e. outside of impacted area).*

Step: 8
Transportation

Consider how critical resources could be shipped or transported if normal routes are not available.

Please continue to check out the newsletters, because each new issue will cover two more of the Steps to Earthquake Readiness.

While preparing for an earthquake is important, one should also prepare for more frequent emergencies, such as fires, floods, power failures and storms. Being ready for these will help cope with a major earthquake.



Mark Your Calendars!

The CRHNet is a not-for-profit organization that was established in 2003 in response to a growing demand to promote and strengthen disaster risk reduction and emergency management in Canada. The Network creates an environment in which the hazards research, education and emergency management practitioner communities can effectively share knowledge and innovative approaches that reduce disaster vulnerability.

Reducing Risk through Partnerships calls attention to the need for creating partnerships among academics, the hazards research education, and emergency management practitioner communities, across all sectors. The network seeks to enhance the understanding of, and provide tools for, the development of comprehensive programs to mitigate, prepare for, respond to and recover from all types of disasters - natural, technological or human-induced.

The primary objectives of the CRHNet are to:

1. Initiate the development of a Canadian inter-disciplinary and cross-sectoral network of researchers, academics and practitioners to enhance understanding of emergency management in all dimensions and help build Canadian capacity to deal effectively with threats and consequences from all hazards.

2. Create a Canadian annual forum for dialogue focusing on disaster risk reduction and facilitate policy formulation and adoption of best practices in Canada.

3. Provide a Canadian venue to learn from the experiences of other countries by inviting internationally reputed scholars, practitioners, and participants to the Symposium and to

share Canadian experience and efforts in disaster reduction.

6th Annual CRHNet Symposium/Conference will take place in Edmonton from November 23-26 2009 at the Fantasy Land Hotel at West Edmonton Mall.

Submitted by:

Caitlin McElhone

ComLinks Events

For more information, registration or to submit an abstract for presentation please visit www.crhnet.ca.

Current Opportunities!

Specialist, Disaster Recovery Planning

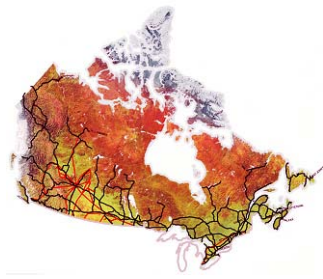
Loblaw Companies Limited is Canada's largest food distributor and a leading provider of general merchandise products, drugstore



and financial products and services. The company is known for the quality, innovation and value of its food offering.

Loblaw Companies Limited is currently seeking a Specialist, Disaster Recovery Planning to support the Information Technology department within the corporate head office. To see if you or someone you know is a successful candidate for this posting click to view the [Overview and General Duties](#)

*Please forward resumes to:
ronda.cooke@loblaw.ca*



Hazards to Canadian Critical Infrastructure: Reducing the Risk in British Columbia

Centre for Natural Hazard Research, SFU

Natural Resources Canada

Justice Institute of British Columbia

Pearces 2 Consulting

Public Safety Canada

Workshop

September 28, 2009

Simon Fraser University

Harbour Centre Campus



Purpose

This one-day workshop assesses systems that reduce the risk of disastrous damage to critical infrastructure from natural events in western Canada (earthquakes, floods, landslides, severe storms, tsunamis). We will discuss through the World Café format how to improve existing remediation systems and will explore new ways to reduce damage from natural disasters. The focus will be on building resilience through prevention, rather than response.

Who should attend

Critical infrastructure owners, managers and stakeholders; in particular, persons with knowledge and experience mitigating the risk to critical infrastructure from natural hazards, and want to share their ideas to prevent natural disasters.

Outcomes and outputs

The workshop will raise awareness of mechanisms and systems that increase resilience from natural disasters in Western Canada. It will strengthen the natural disaster prevention network in Canada, providing a share point for communication, identifying additional mitigation strategies for follow-up by agencies and institutions working to reduce risk from natural hazards.

A volume will be produced, with abstracts of presentations, and records of workshop discussion. This document and others will be hosted on the SFU Centre for Natural Hazard Research website.

Workshop atmosphere

The workshop is designed to stimulate discussion and formulate ideas for action. The morning's speakers will present examples of mitigation systems in action, to set the background for four hours of directed discussion through a World Café format. Facilitators at café tables will guide you through four thematic questions intended to focus

thinking around: 1. Governance, 2. People dynamics 3. Codification, and 4. Knowledge. As you move throughout the café setting and join each of the four conversations, your ideas will be captured by recorders, and collated and summarized at the meeting. The workshop schedule, explanations of the guiding questions, examples of strategies for mitigation, and explanation of the World Café process are available at <http://www.mhrisk.ca>

Registration

There is no participation fee. Lunch and refreshments are included for participants. **Pre-register before September 8, 2009, by email or telephone to Bert Struik, supplying your name, email address, telephone number, position title and affiliation.**

Organizing Committee

- *John Clague, Centre for Natural Hazards Research at Simon Fraser University*
- *Bert Struik, Natural Resources Canada's Public Safety Geoscience Program.*
- *Murray Day, Justice Institute of BC*
- *Laurie Pearce, Pearces 2 Consulting*
- *Larry Pearce, Pearces 2 Consulting*
- *Doug Allen, Metro Vancouver Joint Emergency Liaison Committee*
- *Wayne Hirlehey, Public Safety Canada*

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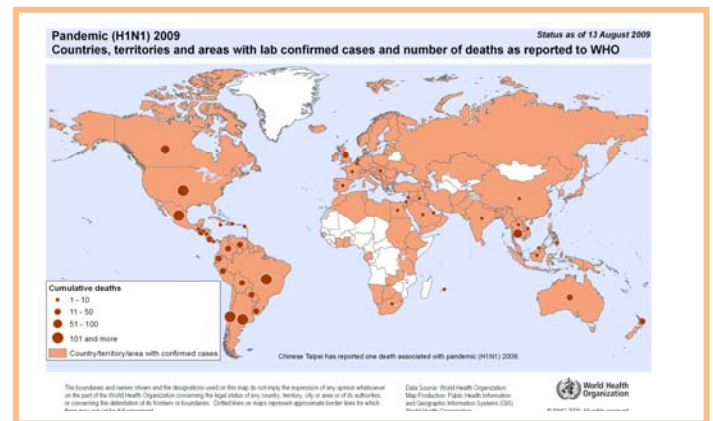
Further information available at
<http://www.mhrisk.ca>

The Lull before the Storm?

By Laurie Pearce

As of this week, there have been more than 182,000 laboratory confirmed cases of pandemic influenza H1N1, 1,799 deaths, in 177 countries and territories have been reported to WHO.... As more and more countries have stopped counting individual cases, particularly of milder illness, the case number is significantly lower than the actual number of cases that have occurred.¹

Figure 1: Cumulative Deaths from H1N1²



When the first reports of deaths in Mexico as result of the H1N1 virus made headline news, I thought to myself, "This is it! It really is happening." Many others thought so as well. Government Emergency Operation Centres opened up 24/7 and some organizations rushed to complete their pandemic plans. But as people began to understand that the H1N1 virus wasn't as fatal as first thought, interest waned. "More people die from the regular flu every year than are dying from the H1N1 virus," was a comment I heard many times.

And so the H1N1 virus dropped off the cover of the newspapers and was no longer the

¹ http://www.who.int/csr/don/2009_08_21/en/index.html

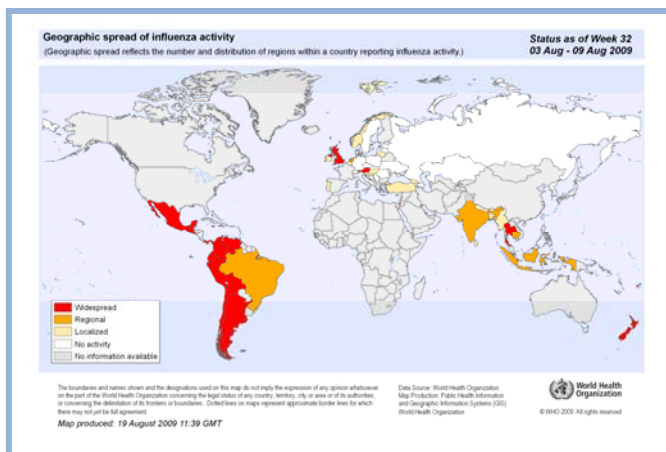
²

http://www.who.int/csr/don/GlobalSubnationalMasterGradco_lour_20090813_20090819.png

news of the day. But medical professionals began to notice some real areas of concern. Pregnant women were more susceptible, as were children and persons with immune deficiencies or other medical problems. Canada began to notice that our Aboriginal people seemed more susceptible. To date, according to the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC), 71 Canadians have died as a result of H1N1, four in British Columbia.³

The government of Canada made a commitment to purchase 50.4 million doses of H1N1 vaccine on behalf of the provinces, territories and federal populations through its contract GlaxoSmithKline.⁴ Work has already begun on a vaccine due to be available in November. PHAC recently recommend that there should not be widespread closures of schools;⁵ so parents need not worry that their children may unnecessarily need daycare while they work. And so, many people began to relax – “Not so bad. No need to really worry.”

Figure 2: Spread of H1N1 August 09, 2009



But a colleague of mine recently returned from visiting her family in Chile and as can be seen by looking at Figure 2, Chile has been hard hit by the H1N1 virus. “Almost

³ <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/alert-alerter/h1n1/surveillance-eng.php>

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Ibid.

everyone in my family has had it,” she said. “No one has died but some were very sick – it lasted for days.”

“The effect on the economy has been terrible. When one person in an office gets sick, they close the office – or the store or factory. People are afraid to go into work.” I wonder if that is what is going to happen here in British Columbia? Will people just not go into work for fear of catching the virus from their colleagues and bringing it home?

It is typical of people to hope for the best, and so it is not surprising that people are not taking the pandemic threat seriously – many think it was a case of “crying wolf.” But what do we know about past pandemics?

We do know that pandemics have occurred in waves – the first wave often occurring in the spring or early summer. We know that the second wave usually occurs in the fall. It appears that like many us, the virus seems to like to take a holiday over the summer – only to reoccur with a vengeance once the summer is over.

In the 1918–1919 pandemic, a first or spring wave began in March 1918 and spread unevenly through the United States, Europe, and possibly Asia over the next 6 months. Illness rates were high, but death rates in most locales were not appreciably above normal. A second or fall wave spread globally from September to November 1918 and was highly fatal. In many nations, a third wave occurred in early 1919. Center for Disease Control.⁶

So, is this the lull before the storm or will antivirals and vaccines resolve the potential problem? No one is clear, however, it is important to note that Canada along with a number of other countries has reported cases

⁶ <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/eid/vol12no01/05-0979.htm>

of H1N1 that have mutated and become resistant to some existing antivirals.⁷

No need to panic! But there is a need to be concerned and to take action. Here are just a few simple things that businesses, non-profits and governmental organizations can do:

- Now is the time to cross-train your employees. Even if you don't want to think about a 35% to 40% illness rate, do think about a 25% absenteeism rate. If one out of every four of your staff were away (and for several weeks) how would you manage? If there is at least one, preferably two staff persons who can cover the critical tasks that absent staff fulfill, your organization will be better off.
- Ask every staff person to consider what they could do from home – and what they would need to work from home. Do they have a laptop or computer hooked up to the Internet? What things could they not do from home and what are the alternatives?
- What is your corporate sick leave plan? Are your employees clear as to what benefits they are entitled to when off work. Some companies require any employee off more than 3 days to get a doctor's certificate. That may be a good policy on a routine basis, but does it make sense during a pandemic? Better to revise the policy now rather than wait and create further anxiety in your staff when they are being advised not to travel if sick and not to go to their doctor unless they exhibit a high fever, etc..



- Exercise your plan – for one morning as people walk in the door assign every fourth person as “away from the office.” Ask them to go home and see how well they continue their work from home. Can they access their files from home? Can the company's network accommodate that many people working remotely? Can those in the office manage to accomplish all the critical functions?

These are just a few of things that can be done corporately. On an individual basis PHAC recommends:

- Wash hands thoroughly with soap and warm water, or use hand sanitizer
- Cough and sneeze in your arm or sleeve
- Keep doing what you normally do, but stay home if sick
- Check www.fightflu.ca for more information
- Check www.voyage.gc.ca for travel notices and advisories
- Talk to a health professional if you experience severe flu-like symptoms

Don't get caught by the pandemic wave!



Please submit any comments to Lesley Carew, Executive Administrator info@epicc.org

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