2013 EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND BUSINESS CONTINUITY CONFERENCE.

Would you like to be a Sponsor or Exhibitor at this exciting event? This is going to be the event of the year, and you do not want to miss out.

November 26th- 28th, 2013
Sheraton Wall Centre Hotel , Vancouver

The Pacific Northwest Preparedness Society and Emergency Preparedness for Industry and Commerce Council have come together to host a joint conference in order to expand opportunities for, and bring a broader perspective to, the development of emergency management. The conference will continue to cultivate information of specific relevance to the various practitioner groups within the emergency preparedness and business continuity fields.

This will be the premier emergency management conference in the Pacific Northwest. It will appeal to practitioners in the areas of emergency management, health, business continuity, first response, emergency social services and volunteerism. For further information and updates please visit www.epicc.org.

We will be launching our next website this month, which will give you all the details, program, speakers, costs, registration etc. Stay tuned for more information and reasons why you should be a part of this event.

If you are interested, please contact Lesley Carew 604-312-9490 or email info@epicc.org

CDC’s Solve the Outbreak App Turns People into Digital Epidemiologists
By: Hilton Collins

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s free app, Solve the Outbreak, may help public health officials educate Americans about massive sickness and treatment.

The app is an interactive, question-and-answer game that educates players about how medical professionals identify mysterious illnesses that strike large populations. Though Solve the
Outbreak doesn't have much replay value, it's still an informative experience.

People play as disease detectives in three missions and investigate clues to discover what's happened to make people sick in scenario. Each clue offers information about the outbreak and asks players what to do next.

In one case, for example, a mysterious stomach bug strikes a bunch of college students, and the player must choose one of three options that will lead them to discover what the illness is. Do they question each victim to find out what they have in common, do they quarantine the students, or do they simply tell them to rest and stop partying so hard?

By answering questions and diving deeper into cases, players gain insight into how the government handles mysterious illnesses.

With only three static missions that don’t change after playing, however, Solve the Outbreak lacks the features necessary to keep people coming back play multiple times.

This article was originally published by Government Technology.


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Flood Preparedness Tips

All of us here at EPICC are thinking of those affected by the Alberta floods. Many of us have friends and family who were a part of this tragedy. We thought it would be a good reminder and refresher to go through some of the tips on Flood Preparedness with our members, because it could happen again and this time in your area. Floods are the most frequent natural hazard in Canada. They can occur at any time of the year and are most often caused by heavy rainfall, rapid melting of a thick snow pack, ice jams, or more rarely, the failure of a natural or man-made dam. Here are some useful tips on what to do during a flood, taken from the Canadian Government’s Preparedness website.

During a Flood

• Keep your radio on to find out what areas are affected, what roads are safe, where to go and what to do if the local emergency team asks you to leave your home.
• Keep your emergency kit close at hand, in a portable container such as a duffel bag, back pack, or suitcase with wheels.

If you need to evacuate

• Vacate your home when you are advised to do so by local emergency authorities. Ignoring such a warning could jeopardize the safety of your family or those who might eventually have to come to your rescue.
• Take your emergency kit with you.
• Follow the routes specified by officials. Don’t take shortcuts. They could lead you to a blocked or dangerous area.
• Make arrangements for pets.
• Time permitting, leave a note informing others when you left and where you went. If you have a mailbox, leave the note there.

Never cross a flooded area

• If you are on foot, fast water could sweep you away.
• If you are in a car, do not drive through flood waters or underpasses. The water may be deeper than it looks and your car could get stuck or swept away by fast water.
• Avoid crossing bridges if the water is high
and flowing quickly.
If you are caught in fast-rising waters and your car stalls, leave it and save yourself and your passengers

For more information on Flood Preparedness visit

Canadian Volunteer Team Embraces ‘Second Tier Response’
By: Elaine Pittman
Associate editor of Emergency Management magazine

When the Ontario Volunteer Emergency Response Team (OVERT) was started about 20 years ago, it focused on providing a traditional search-and-rescue team to aid operations in the greater Toronto area. The group of unpaid professionals embraced its mission of providing well trained searchers to assist law enforcement looking for lost or missing persons. But then the severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) epidemic hit Canada in 2003 — 800 people were killed worldwide including 44 in Canada — marking the first big community incident that OVERT was involved in.

“Our public health department found themselves without the manpower or resources to deal with a lot of the problems,” said OVERT Coordinator Glen Turpin. “And it was solving basic issues, things such as delivering food to quarantined homes and assisting with triage at hospitals.”

Essentially there was a need for “extra bodies” during the SARS response, Turpin said. Seeing the need during the public health emergency, combined with fewer calls to conduct ground search and rescue due to advances in technology and training (which Turpin said is a good thing), OVERT re-examined its mission. “It seemed a good fit to engage our personnel within the same realm but something that communities were addressing more and more, and that was emergency management or disaster response,” he said.

OVERT still provides ground search and rescue, and expanded in that area to also do light and heavy urban search and rescue, but has integrated into the emergency management plans of Toronto’s communities. Now the team provides personnel at a range of events, involving support functions from assisting at evacuation centers to helping with triage to working with police officers on traffic control.

“Basically we are kind of the go-to people,” Turpin said. “We do medical, facility management or location management, where our front-line emergency services are going to be overwhelmed.” And aiding the front-line responders led to OVERT’s vision of providing what it calls “second tier response.” The first responders and spontaneous volunteers make up the first tier, and all those who follow fall under the idea of second tier responders.

OVERT’s responses have since included helping with sandbagging communities, checking homes to make sure that people have evacuated and helping remove debris from homes. “We’re not pigeon-holed,” Turpin said. “We basically will do whatever is needed, but without trying to jump into other people’s areas of expertise.”

Responding in the greater Toronto area also adds to the team’s diversity. Spanning about 9,000 square miles and being home to nearly 6 million people, the area spans from an urban downtown to a rural farm setting, which Turpin said makes OVERT probably one of the most diverse organizations in the country.

Comprised of about 120 people, the team’s members have varied backgrounds, adding to the skill sets it can provide to communities. Turpin, who has been a police officer for 25 years, said about 10 percent of the team members are professional emergency services personnel, with the rest coming from “every walk of life.” Funded completely through fundraising, OVERT acts like a professional organization — members go through an interview process and background checks followed by internal training that includes a 36-hour search-and-rescue course. After being qualified for basic functions, members can train with specialty units, with all training being done by professionals who are
also OVERT members. “When you join the team, your skill sets become one of ours,” Turpin said.

International Arm

OVERT doesn’t respond strictly within Canada — it launched the CANISAR (short for Canadian International Search and Rescue) unit to deploy small teams to other countries to help with humanitarian and disaster response. It was on standby with the New York City Sheriff’s Office following the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks and has deployed to Peru, Haiti and Indonesia.

When not working on disaster response, CANISAR focuses on a humanitarian mission in Cambodia to provide water purification systems and medical assistance to residents of a floating village on Tonle Sap, a major lake in the country. Turpin said the group also is providing a patient database for a children’s hospital in Siem Reap, Cambodia. Turpin said OVERT works with people from the United States all the time, and although the U.S. has many resources, the team is ready to help if needed. “We are right at the border, two hours from Buffalo, so if our brothers and sisters south of the border ever needed us, then absolutely we would be there.”

Responding from the Bottom Up

The U.S. and Canada may be neighboring countries, but their response structures vary greatly. Turpin described Canada as doing “everything from the ground up,” adding that in the event of a major disaster, the federal government does not have physical resources to deploy. “All they can provide is financial assistance. So the actual boots on the ground comes from our local communities or the provincial or state level.”

Police have the ultimate authority during an emergency, with officers being sworn for the whole country instead of a specific locality. When implementing an emergency management plan, Turpin said good management is to give command and control to those most experienced with the response. “Even though legislatively the police are ultimately responsible for public safety, we have an emergency management office that would assume the [incident command] position in a major community disaster just because it makes good sense and they are more focused on that component,” he said.

And OVERT is there to help the response if needed.

“Basically the model or the approach that we’ve been trying to take is we’re just trying to fill in those gaps in the safety net of our community,” Turpin said. “We’re not there to do the job of our front-line emergency response personnel; we’re there to provide them that extra bit of resource when they don’t have it, especially in your small communities.”

This story from the Emergency Management Magazine
The BCCPD has created an online course on emergency preparedness and people with disabilities in the workplace.

The link to the free course is emergprepcourse.bccpd.bc.ca

Emergency Management Exercise Design Certificate – Now Available Online!

The Justice Institute of British Columbia’s Emergency Management Division is pleased to announce that the Emergency Management Exercise Design Certificate Program can now be completed entirely online. Designing and delivering small and large scale exercises are critical components of every emergency management and business continuity program. As more government agencies and private organizations recognize the importance of exercising their emergency management and business continuity plans, the demand for personnel with specific exercise design expertise is growing. And now, with the new online format, exercise design training is more accessible than ever!

Online Format
The new online asynchronous format offers students the flexibility of working at their own pace while meeting the deadlines scheduled throughout the course period.

What Will I Learn?
Learn the fundamentals of creating and implementing both discussion-based (e.g. table-top) and operations based (e.g. full scale) exercises. Gain proficiency in all five key exercise design phases: Foundation, Design and Development, Conduct, Evaluation, and Improvement Planning.

Required Courses (8 credits needed to complete Certificate program)

- EM110-Introduction to Emergency Management in Canada (0.5 credit)
- EOC110-Introduction to Emergency Operations Centres (0.5 credit)
- CMD110-Incident Command System Level 100 (0.5 credit)
- EM150-Introduction to Emergency Management Exercise Design (1.0 credit)
- EM151-Designing & Conducting Discussion-Based Exercises (1.0 credit)
- EM152-Designing Operations-Based Exercises (1.5 credits)
- EM153-Conducting Operations-Based Exercises (1.0 credit)
- EM159-Capstone Project (2.0 credits)

Elective Options (2 credits needed to complete certificate program)

- CMD120-Incident Command System Level 200 (1.0 credit)
- CMD130-Incident Command System Level 300 (1.0 credit)
- EM170-Introduction to Business Continuity Management (1.0 credits)
Face to Face & Correspondence Electives

EOC120-Emergency Operations Centre Essentials (1.0 credit)

EM712-Emergency Operations Centre Level 3 – Operations (0.5 credit)

EM713-Emergency Operations Centre Level 3 – Planning (0.5 credit)

EM714-Emergency Operations Centre Level 3 – Logistics (0.5 credit)

EOC133-Emergency Operations Centre - Finance Section (BC Version) (0.5 credit)

CCR100-Foundations of Collaborative Conflict Resolution or CCR101-Foundations of Collaborative Conflict Resolution: Workplace Focus (1.5 credits)

For more information, visit [www.jibc.ca/emergency](http://www.jibc.ca/emergency) or contact us at emergency@jibc.ca or 604-528-5800.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

2013 EPICC Victoria Seminar

Thursday September 19, 2013

This is EPICC’s annual one day seminar that focuses on Business Continuity. Last year, we partnered with the Security Partners Forum and it was a huge success, therefore we will be collaborating again this year to put on another great event.

More details to come on the epicc.org webpage.

Please submit and questions or comments about the newsletter to Executive Administrator, Lesley Carew – info@epicc.org

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