Georgia Public Health
Emergency Preparedness and Response

Presented by: Betsy T. Kagey, PhD
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Georgia Tech Climate Change Workshop

We Protect Lives.
Outline..

• Georgia Public Health and Emergency Preparedness

• Public Health’s Role in responding to events of public health significance

• Public Health’s response role during the 2007 Drought
Georgia Public Health

- Health Promotion and Disease Prevention
- Maternal and Child Health
- Infectious Disease and Immunization
- Environmental Health
- Epidemiology
- Emergency Preparedness and Response
- Emergency Medical Services
- Pharmacy
- Nursing
- Volunteer Health Care
- Office of Health Equity
- Vital Records
- State Public Health Laboratory.

We Protect Lives.
Georgia Public Health
Emergency Preparedness and Response

• **Public Health Emergency Preparedness** - preparing for, responding to and recovering from events of public health significance.

• **Hospital/Healthcare Preparedness** - provides support and training that will ready hospitals and supporting health care systems to deliver coordinated and effective care to victims of terrorism and other public health emergencies.

• **Emergency Medical Service (EMS)** – regulatory agency for licensing EMS personnel and ambulances. Develops standards for pre-hospital triage and transport of patients and emergency preparedness planning of medical responses to disasters.

• **Trauma** – oversees the designation and monitoring of 16 trauma centers within the state, Trauma Registry data feeds into the National Trauma Databank.
Public Health’s Role in Response Emergency Support Functions (ESF)

- ESF #1 - Transportation
- ESF #2 - Communications
- ESF #3 - Public Works and Engineering
- ESF #4 - Firefighting
- ESF #5 - Emergency Management
- ESF #6 - Mass Care, Emergency Assistance, Housing and Human Services
- ESF #7 - Logistics Management and Resource Support
- **ESF #8 - Public Health and Medical Services**
- ESF #9 - Search and Rescue
- ESF #10 - Oil and Hazardous Materials Response
- ESF #11 - Agriculture and Natural Resources
- ESF #12 - Energy
- ESF #13 - Public Safety and Security
- ESF #14 - Long-Term Community Recovery
- ESF #15 - External Affairs

ESF 8 - coordinates and/or delivers medical, environmental health and mental health services; accesses or seeks health-related private resources, supplements overburdened health service delivery personnel and resources.
Role of Public Health
Emergency Support Function (ESF) 8

- Disease Surveillance and Monitoring
- Health Information and Communication
  - General Health Impacts
  - Vulnerable Populations
- Support to Healthcare Facilities
- Guidance
...Four Seasons of Climate Change...

- Drought
- Floods
- Wildfires
- Ice storms
Georgia Drought: 2007
Governor Asks For Federal Assistance,
Water Use Restrictions Ramped Up

GAINESVILLE, Ga., Oct. 20, 2007
Drought Response Unified Command (DRUC)

The Governor’s October 20, 2007, Executive Order declared a drought emergency and activated the Georgia Emergency Operating Plan (GEOP) establishing a command structure for responding to the drought emergency.
Role of Public Health during Drought

- Disease Surveillance and Monitoring
- Health Information and Communication
  - General Health Impacts
  - Vulnerable Populations
- Support to Healthcare Facilities
- Guidance/Testing for Private Well Owners
Georgia Public Health Drought Guidance

Public Health Considerations

• Water Quantity and Water Quality
• Water Borne Disease
• Potential changes in chemical constituents
• Susceptible Populations
• Healthcare Facilities
• Food Safety
• Other Potential Health Risks: recreational water use, West Nile Virus
## Drinking Water and Health

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contaminant</th>
<th>Susceptible Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Microbes</td>
<td>Elderly, children, immune suppressed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disinfection Byproducts</td>
<td>Elderly men, pregnant women, Dialysis patients</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aluminum</td>
<td>Dialysis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lead</td>
<td>Fetus, children</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nitrate</td>
<td>Pregnant women, infants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sulfate</td>
<td>Infants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sodium</td>
<td>Hypertensives</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Dialysis and Drought

- **Water intake/week**
  - Healthy Person: 14 liters/week
  - Dialysis patient: 350-500 liters/week

- **Contaminants of Concern**
  - Aluminum, calcium, magnesium, copper
  - Disinfection byproducts; Chloramines
  - Nitrates
Dialysis Unit Water Treatment System

Monitoring Your Water Treatment System

Art Work Courtesy of Byron Roshto and Renal Care Group Northwest
SAVE WATER. SHOWER IN ANOTHER CITY.
Dialysis …on ice
Questions?

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