

Articles, News, or Resources Related to Children in Disasters IAEM Bulletin, 2005-present

2005

February 2005: “Emerging Lessons and Concerns From Asian Tsunami,” by Gideon F. Mukwai, CBCP, SEM, Principal, Xtra Mile Continuity, Singapore. The author discusses the most important concerns following the Dec. 26, 2004 Asian tsunami, noting that the number one concern is **child trafficking**. He states, “It is estimated that about one-third of the casualties were children. There are also children who have become orphans as a result of the calamity. Some groups or individuals have been preying on the orphans of both locals and tourists by attempting to traffic them through syndicates. This issue, coupled with persistent wanton adoption cases, has caused authorities to rule against the proliferation of such cases.”

February 2005: “Efforts To Assist Tsunami/Earthquake: Disaster of the Decade,” by Kay C. Goss, CEM, Senior Advisor for Homeland Security, Emergency Management, and Business Continuity, Electronic Data Systems Corporation (EDS). The author states, “When we see the children, we know that they have lost their childhoods and will never be the same. In some cases, they are endangered by unsavory adults wanting to take advantage of their vulnerability.”

February 2005: EM Resources column. **New Ready Campaign Focuses on Family Emergency Preparedness Plans.** The U.S. Dept. of Homeland Security has launched a new Ready campaign focusing on encouraging citizens to create their own family emergency plans. “The start of a new year is a time when many Americans are inclined to think about ways to make improvements for the future,” said DHS Secretary Tom Ridge. “Creating a family emergency plan is a great place to start. Families can create a plan that will allow them to know how best to communicate with one another in the event of an emergency.” DHS and the Ad Council have begun running new Ready campaign public service announcements featuring **children** questioning parents about what to do during an emergency of any kind. Learn more and download a free family emergency plan template at www.ready.gov.

April 2005: “Disaster Services and “Special Needs” – Term of Art or Meaningless Term?” by June Isaacson Kailes, Disability Policy Consultant, Associate Director, Center for Disability Issues and the Health Professions, Western University of Health Sciences. Author states, “The term *special needs* is widely used within the emergency management world. It generally refers to an extremely broad and heterogeneous population, including people with disabilities, minority groups, people who do not speak English, children and the elderly. Given this lack of specificity, it is conceivable that *special needs* could cover over 50 percent of the nation’s population, rendering the term meaningless.” Kailes says that the needs of these various groups, including the needs of children, should be considered with more precise, segmented groupings.

April 2005: “Local Response Plans: Do They Include the Disabled?” by Wendy McDonald, RN, MPH&TM, and Kevin Parsons, MD, National Center for Biodefense Solutions, San Clemente, California. Author includes children as part of special needs populations: “While all victims of disasters require the basic needs of food, water, clothing and shelter, 40-50 percent have requirements beyond basic needs and can be better referred to as “special needs” populations. These special needs populations include the disabled, chronically ill and infirm, non-ambulatory, elderly, and pregnant women and children – as well as those with sensory impairments, such as the deaf, blind and non-English speaking populations.”

June 2005: “Weather the Storm,” by Scott Hiipakka, Patriot Services Corporation. The article discusses steps that private sector organizations should take to plan ahead. The author says that “as emergency management professionals, we must encourage private sector organizations to take certain steps.” If the work place has a day care facility on site, there should be a plan for reunification of parents with their **children**.

July 2005: “Searches for Victims of Apparent Stranger Abduction: The Military Support Perspective,” by LTC Eric Waage, Chief, Operations Division, J-3 (Director of Military Support), Joint Force Headquarters, Minnesota. Author states, “Missing person searches have been one of the most frequent State Active Duty missions for the Minnesota National Guard. Most involve lost **children**, overdue hikers, missing aircraft or patients with mental disorders. Unfortunately, a growing number in recent years have been cases of apparent stranger/non-family abduction.”

September 2005: “Does She, or Doesn’t She?” by Cathy Diehl, Emergency Manager/Planner, Weber State University Office of Emergency Management. The author states, “Women who have chosen roles in emergency management have become articulate about issues involved in disaster mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery. Their ability to conceptualize a disaster situation from the eyes of women and **children** is a positive driving force.”

October 2005: “Time for Schools To Learn About Emergency Planning,” by Rosanna Briggs, MSc, Dip EP, MEPS, Deputy County Emergency Planning Officer, Essex County Council, United Kingdom. The author discusses the development of a flood safety curriculum package for teachers and **children**, and how it was used to raise the awareness of children in Essex County, UK.

December 2005: “Family Welfare Checks During Major Disaster Events,” by Lyn Gross, CEM, Director, Emergency Services Coordinating Agency, Brier, Washington. Author discusses the need to develop an employee family welfare checklist when employees are expected to remain at work or report to work, leaving family members at home. She recommends the development of “forms for each employee with emergency contact information that can also be used to gather welfare and availability information. Include the following: full employee information, including emergency contacts and essential family information; spouse; **children**; work and school addresses and phone numbers; cell phones; and pagers.”

2006

January 2006: “Hurricane Katrina Resource Center,” by Ronald D. Campbell, Coordinator, Guilford County Emergency Management, North Carolina. Author states, “Guilford Child Development provided child care during the process to allow parents an opportunity to receive information without having to entertain the children. All children who came to the Center were registered and provided with a quiet room in which to play and watch movies.”

March 2006: EM Resources Column. **Ready Kids Program Is Launched.** The U.S. Department of Homeland Security and The Advertising Council in February launched Ready Kids, a familyfriendly tool to help parents and teachers educate children, ages 8-12, about emergencies and how they can help their families better prepare. The Ready Kids program launched at Andrew Jackson Language Academy in Chicago with a roundtable discussion led by Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff and an interactive presentation for families by local first responders. Ready Kids is the newest addition to the successful Ready campaign, a national public service advertising campaign designed to educate and empower Americans to prepare for and respond to emergencies, including natural disasters and potential terrorist attacks. “As we have encouraged families to prepare for emergencies, parents and teachers have often asked if there is information appropriate to share with children, so we are pleased to share Ready Kids in response to these requests,” said Secretary Michael Chertoff. “We hope the Ready Kids Web site and in-school materials will help facilitate discussions about this important subject and encourage all families to get an emergency supply kit, make a family emergency plan and be informed about the different emergencies that can happen.” The Ready Kids Web site at www.ready.gov features fun games and puzzles as well as age-appropriate, step-by-step instructions on what families can do to better prepare for emergencies and the role kids can play in that effort. In addition to the interactive games for children, the Web site also has resources for parents and teachers on emergency preparedness and response.

April 2006: “We Need More VIP Citizens and Responders: Vigilant, Informed and Prepared,” by Ted Jarboe, MS, CEM, EFO, MIFireE, Deputy Chief (ret.), Montgomery County, Maryland Fire and Rescue Service. The author states, “Get your school system on board with a VIP program for children and teens, such as “VIP Kids 4 USA” and “VIP Teens 4 USA” programs.

May 2006: EM News Column. **National EMS Week Set for May 14-20.** Emergency Medical Services Week brings together local communities and medical personnel to publicize safety and honor the dedication of those who provide the day-to-day lifesaving services of medicine’s “front line.” EMS Week activities will focus on raising public awareness about **the need for specialized emergency care for children.** To obtain an EMS Week kit, visit www.acep.org/emsweek.

June 2006: EM Resources Column. **National Public Health Week: Apr. 3-9.** In its 11th year, National Public Health Week is being celebrated in every state in the United States. This year, the focus of National Public Health Week is **children** and the built environment, and the tagline is “Designing Healthy Communities: Raising Healthy Kids.” Organized by the American Public Health Association, it is hoped that this week’s activities will inspire Americans to build healthier communities and healthier kids. Each day will focus on the relationship between the built environment and a core children’s health issue, with additional focus on effective solutions based on case studies from model communities. Materials, including a comprehensive toolkit, are available online at www.nphw.org.

June 2006: EM Resources Column. **Disaster Preparedness Booklet for Children With Special Needs Available Online.** The Florida Institute for Family Involvement (FIFI) has developed **Disaster Preparedness for Families of Children With Special Needs.** The 10-page booklet is organized to assist families to prepare and be ready. It is divided into three sections: thinking ahead, disaster planning and preparation, and response and recovery. You can download the booklet at www.fifionline.org.

July 2006: Mid-Year Meeting Report. George Haddow led a presentation on Save the Children’s post-disaster programs to aid victims of the Gulf Coast hurricane disaster and the organization’s wish to network with IAEM members on preparedness and mitigation activities.

July 2006: EM Resource Column. **IOM Releases Three Reports on the Future of Emergency Care.** Three reports from the Institute of Medicine’s (IOM) “The Future of Emergency Care in the U.S. Health Care System” project were released on June 14 during a press briefing in Washington, D.C. The reports address three key focus areas of the study – prehospital, hospital-based and **pediatric emergency and trauma care.** The pediatric report examines the unique challenges associated with the provision of emergency services to **children and adolescents,** and evaluates progress since the publication of the IOM’s 1993 report Emergency Medical Services for Children. The full commissioned reports will be available in mid-July through the National Academies public access file. Directions for accessing the public access file are available at www.nationalacademies.org/emiweb/is/is703.asp.

July 2006: EM Resources Column. **Pediatric Disaster Tool Kit Posted for Public Comment.** The New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene has posted for public comment the **Pediatric Disaster Tool Kit: Hospital Guidelines for Pediatrics During Disasters.** This evidence-based resource is intended for general hospitals that have limited or no pediatric care infrastructure and/or staff. This is not a clinical resource, but rather guidelines for administrative organization of personnel, space and equipment. The toolkit is currently divided into 11 sections: security, dietary, surge considerations, equipment, training, transportation, staffing, decontamination, pharmacy, psychosocial considerations/legal concerns and infection control. For more information about the tool kit, visit www.nyc.gov/html/doh/html/bhpp/bhpp-focus-ped.shtml.

July 2006: EM Resources Column. **University of Kentucky Launches Pediatric Terrorism Awareness Level Training.** The University of Kentucky's Terrorism and Response program has developed Pediatric Terrorism Awareness Level Training, an online course that targets federal, state and local emergency public safety and law enforcement officials; emergency responder nurses; and emergency medical personnel, agencies and authorities (including hospital emergency facilities). The course objectives include reviewing potential terrorist weapons, including the most likely agents in each class; **identifying the characteristics that make children more susceptible to the various forms of terrorism;** reviewing the recognition, evaluation and management of pediatric victims of terrorist incidents; and discussing the various specific agents of terrorism, including the mechanisms of injury or illness, expected signs and symptoms, and evaluation and treatment of victims. For more information or to access the online course, go to www.kiprc.uky.edu/trap/peds.html.

August 2006: "Bring Work Home With You!" by David Stuhan. The author states, "Your family deserves to have you bring your work home with you when it comes to emergency planning." He talks about the importance of having a family emergency plan and to exercise it so that all family members, including **children**, are aware of what to do should disaster strike.

August 2006: EM News Column. Urban Institute Issues Reports on Katrina. An Urban Institute team headed by senior fellow Rudy Penner is analyzing many of the issues raised by Hurricane Katrina. The Urban Institute has posted reports related to **children** and families, cultural vitality, the economy and taxes, education, government and social services, health policy, housing and non-profits. See www.urban.org/afterkatrina/.

Sept. 2006: IAEM: Working for You Column. **IAEM Supports Kids Affected by Katrina.** Vikki Stempkowski, CEM, IAEM Secretary, University of Louisville Dept. of Environment, Health & Safety, let IAEM HQ know about a need among kids relocated to Louisville after Hurricane Katrina. "The University of Louisville adopted Katrina victims who were relocated to this area who had children in school, along with other underprivileged children whose parents cannot afford to buy their school supplies," Vikki noted. "I thought if IAEM could donate any extra conference registration bags from prior years, the university could reimburse for shipping." IAEM has cleaned out its closets and donated 100 old conference "reg bags" for the cause. So picture 100 kids in Louisville, Kentucky, who are toting their books to school in bags that say "IAEM" on the front. Maybe there is a future emergency manager somewhere in the crowd!

October 2006: EM Resources Column. **Anthrax in Children Difficult to Detect and Treat, New Report Finds.** Difficulties in diagnosing anthrax may lead to dangerous delays in caring for children infected with this oftendeadly disease, according to a new report from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ). Treating pediatric anthrax also is a special challenge because most currently recommended therapies have not been widely used to treat children with the disease. Since anthrax exposure

occurs rarely in the United States and most of the recent cases have been naturally occurring, clinicians may not have firsthand knowledge about the disease and might have difficulty diagnosing it. Additionally, symptoms of pediatric anthrax can be confused easily with those of more common illnesses. For more information, visit www.ahrq.gov/news/press/pr2006/pedanthpr.htm.

October 2006: EM Resources Column. **NOAA Public Alert Radios Distributed to U.S. Schools.** NOAA Public Alert Radios were distributed to U.S. public schools to help **safeguard the children** by alerting school personnel to severe weather conditions, terrorist threats and other emergencies, even when other communication lines are unavailable. This school distribution program was sponsored by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security/Citizen Corps; the U.S. Department of Commerce/National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA); and the U.S. Department of Education/Office of Safe and Drug-Free Schools in recognition of September as National Preparedness Month. Learn more at <http://publicalert-radio.nws.noaa.gov/proginfo.htm> .

November 2006: “When Disaster Hits Home Preparing Emergency Responders for Disasters That Affect Their Families,” by Eric Leath, Terrorism & Disaster Preparedness Planner, North Carolina Emergency Management, Logistics Division. The author states, “Preparation actually starts with the mental and emotional preparedness of the responder and his/her family as a unit. The spouse and **children** of the responder need to know well ahead of time that during a disaster that affects the community in which they live, the family may have to act without their firefighter/police officer family member.”

November 2006: “Free Web-Based Training Courses and Videos Available to Responders,” by Bill Firestone, FPPEM, EM Training, Inc. The author lists the National Emergency Response and Rescue Training Center. The Texas A&M University System operates NERRTC and offers **10 courses for responders** that include: WMD/Terrorism Awareness for Emergency Responders; Public Works (PW) for WMD Incidents: Basic Concepts; Basic EMS Concepts for WMD Incidents; WMD Incident Management/Unified Command Concept; Mass Prophylaxis; **Children and Nerve Agents**; Canine Emergency Medical Care; Emergency Management; Medical Effects of Primary Blast Injuries; and Bacillus Anthracis. Registration is required to access courses. Go to www.teexwmdcampus.com/index.k2?CFID=1228490&CFTOKEN=78171800 .

December 2006: EM Resources Column. Web-Based Resource on Children With Special Needs Published. The Champions for Progress Center has announced the release of its “Focus on Progress,” a Web-based reference tool that provides a concise snapshot of each U.S. state’s system of care for children and youth with special needs. Learn more at www.championsforprogress.org.

2007

January 2007: “Mass Casualty Identification and Safety Issues During the Lee High School Bus Accident,” by Cathy Carter Dempsey, FEMA Disaster Assistance, Huntsville, Alabama. The author offers her observations on the scene at the hospital, as well as lessons learned related to mass casualty identification of children.

February 2007: “Citizen Corps Councils and School Outreach,” by Kathleen Henning, CEM, IAEM Region 3 President, IAEM Liaison to National Citizen Corps Council, KGHenning & Associates The article discusses Citizen Corps and Schools, children’s safety through better awareness and planning, and school-age camps to raise awareness among children, among other activities involving outreach at schools.

February 2007: EM Resources Column. **AAP Revises Policy Statement on Emergency Care Access.** The American Academy of Pediatrics has recently revised its policy statement, **Access to Optimal Emergency Care for Children**, to include the following recommendations:

- Improve awareness, distribution and use of the resources available through the federal Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMSC) program and provide ongoing funding support to EMSC for future resource development.
- Promote development of evidenced-based guidelines to improve care consistency and quality and to reduce errors in the emergency care of children.
- Encourage availability of pediatric medical and surgical subspecialists, and mental health professionals for the optimal care of critically ill and injured children.
- Encourage emergency department and EMS system preparedness for the care of children in disasters.

The revised policy statement appears in the January 2007 issue of Pediatrics and can be downloaded at <http://aappolicy.aappublications.org/cgi/reprint/pediatrics;119/1/161.pdf>.

March 2007: EM News Column. **TSA Joins National Center for Missing and Exploited Children to Launch AMBER Alerts at Airports.** The U.S. Transportation Security Administration announced on Feb. 8 that it is partnering with the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC) to provide **AMBER Alerts** at airports across the country. Federal security directors and 43,000 transportation security officers nationwide will actively join the effort to stop child abductors. “To date 318 children have been recovered as a result of the AMBER Alert program,” said Ernie Allen, NCMEC’s president and CEO. “We believe that by partnering with TSA we can provide an even larger distribution outlet for AMBER Alerts and help to reunite even more children with their families.” TSA will distribute AMBER Alert messages through the communications system of the National Transportation Security Operations Center (TSOC). As soon as NCMEC is notified that an AMBER Alert has been issued by law enforcement, the TSOC will relay that information to federal security directors at relevant airports – providing information such as photos and descriptions of the abducted child, the suspect and vehicle.

April 2007: EM Resources Column. **ACEP Releases Materials for EMS Week 2007.** The American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP) and the Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMSC) Program have announced that the 34th Annual Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Week will be celebrated May 20-26, 2007. Wednesday, May 23, has been designated as EMSC Day. National EMS Week and EMSC Day will feature hundreds of grassroots activities coast-to-coast that will be planned around this year's theme, "Extraordinary People, Extraordinary Service," which exemplifies the excellent services provided every day, under any circumstance by the 750,000 EMS providers who serve their communities. Visit www.acep.org/webportal/Advocacy/ems/week/default.htm for more information, or to obtain a 2007 EMS Week Planning Kit.

May 2007: EM Resources Column. **NCROI Issues Report on Coping with Disasters for Children.** Natural disaster, manmade crises or medical events can affect the routine ways child welfare agencies operate and serve children, youth and families. Fortunately, many of the steps agencies might take to prepare for disasters can also strengthen systems critical to ongoing agency management. **Coping with Disasters: A Framework for Child Welfare Agencies** has a dual purpose – to help managers think through what they might put in place to cope with disasters, and to highlight how taking these steps can improve systems for serving children and families. Download a copy of the report on the National Child Welfare Resource Center for Organizational Improvement (NCROI) Web site at <http://muskie.usm.maine.edu/helpkids/rcpdfs/copingwithdisasters.pdf>.

June 2007: "Challenges to Disaster Preparedness Education: A Rural Central America Perspective," by Eric K. Black, Peace Corps Volunteer and Emergency Manager, Guatemala. The author discusses his experiences working in Guatemala for 3 years as a Peace Corps volunteer. He offered his comment on the difficulties faced by emergency management-related professionals in this developing nation. One of the biggest problems is **chronic malnutrition**. According to United Nations reports, Guatemala has some of the **world's most severe chronic malnutrition among children**.

November 2007: News Item. **Preparedness for Children in Disaster.** A recent survey of licensed U.S. prehospital EMS agencies revealed that most are unprepared to appropriately care for pediatric patients in mass casualty events. See the October 2007 issue of Pediatrics at <http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/cgi/content/full/120/4/e756>.

Dec. 2007: "How Well Prepared Are K-12 Schools to Meet Disasters?" by Kathleen G. Henning, MA, CEM, President, KGHenning & Associates LLC, IAEM Region 3 President, and Marian Smithey, RN, MS, NCSN, Nursing Education Director, National Association of School Nurses. This is Part 1 of a series on school exercises and coordination with nontraditional school resources.

Dec. 2007: "Safe Drinking Water Hoses," by Cathy Carter Dempsey, FEMA Disaster Generalist, Huntsville, Alabama. Article includes safety tips for both adults & **children**.

2008

Jan. 2008: “School Exercises Benefit From Response of Non-Traditional Resources,” by Kathleen G. Henning, MA, CEM, IAEM Region 3 President, President, KGHenning & Associates LLC. This is Part 2 in a series, focusing on making school exercises more realistic and incorporating nontraditional partners in school exercises.

Feb. 2008: Special Focus, “Campus Safety, Part 1”

Mar. 2008: Special Focus, “Campus Safety, Part 2”

May 2008: EM Resources Column. **Children, Youth and Environments Journal Focuses on Children and Disasters.** The Children, Youth and Environments Journal has published a special issue on the vulnerability and resilience of children and youth before, during and after disasters. The issue contains a unique collection of 20 papers from around the world. Guest editor of the issue was Lori Peek, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Sociology, Colorado State University. You can read the special issue on children and disasters at www.colorado.edu/journals/cye/18_1/index.htm.

May 2008: “Free Online Training Available to Professionals,” by Stephen P. Brunelle, MA, Emergency Management Coordinator, Jefferson Parish Emergency Management, Adjunct Faculty, Northwestern State University of Louisiana and University of Phoenix. One of the training opportunities mentioned by the author in this article was the online courses offered through the National Emergency Response & Rescue Training Center – TEEX (www.teex.com/nerrtc) “Courses available include WMD-emergency responders, EMS-basics concepts for WMD, incident management-unified command, **children and nerve agents**, canine emergency medical care, emergency concerns for first responders, medical effects of primary blast injury, bacillus anthracis, botulism, avian influenza, WMD-public works, introduction to SNS-mass prophylaxis.”

July 2008: “The Best Emergency Plans Involve Many Partners: How School Nursing Supports EMS Functions,” by Marian Smithey, MS, RN, NCSN, NASN Nursing Education Director, and Nancy Hartman, BA, NASN Communications Coordinator, National Association of School Nurses. The author notes that “**school nurses** and emergency medical services (EMS) personnel are both first responders with specific expertise to treat individual and mass casualty incident victims. Lessons learned from recent disasters demonstrate the need for school nurses, EMS and hospitals to closely work together in planning for and responding to emergencies.”

Sept. 2008: “A Creative Approach to Promoting Community Emergency Preparedness Initiatives,” by Dalton Sawyer, MSc, Emergency Preparedness Coordinator, University of North Carolina Health Care System, Chapel Hill, NC. The article describes an emergency preparedness fair that was held in the lobby of the North Carolina Children’s Hospital on the campus of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Among the resources shared was children’s emergency preparedness coloring and activity sheets from www.ready.gov and www.redcross.org.

Nov. 2008: EM Resources Column. **Save the Children Publishes Issue Brief on Protecting Children During Emergencies.** Save the Children has published “Issue Brief 4: Protecting Children During U.S. Emergencies.” **The brief takes a look at the safety of schools and child-care centers when disaster strikes.** Their new research shows that “most states have not taken the necessary steps to ensure that thousands of child-care facilities are prepared to respond to the needs of children.” The research also reviewed state standards for K-12 schools, finding that “18 states do not require K-12 schools to have written procedures for general disaster planning.” Download the brief, which includes models for change, at www.savethechildren.org/publications/reports/Disaster-Preps-Issue-Brief-Final-1.pdf.