

PUBLIC HEALTH MATTERS

Third Quarter
2011



MISSION STATEMENT

BRAZORIA COUNTY WILL BE PREPARED FOR AND READY TO RESPOND TO A HEALTH AND MEDICAL EVENT DUE TO EITHER A MAN-MADE OR NATURAL DISASTER

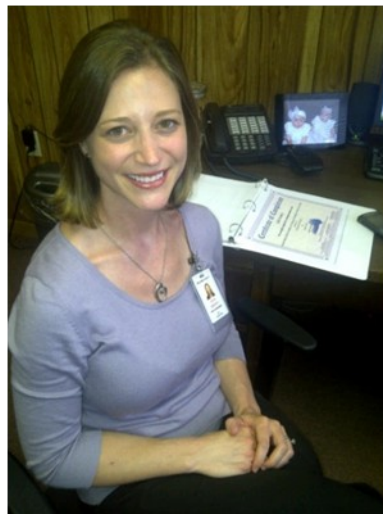
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Public Health at a Glance

Welcome Julie!



Julie Ondrey is the newest member of the PHEP team and joined us May 2011. Julie graduated from Texas A&M University in 2002 with a B.S. in Kinesiology. She worked as an Exercise Physiologist at St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital for six years. In 2010, Julie earned her B.S. in Nursing from Texas Woman's University. Before joining us, Julie worked as a Registered Nurse on the organ transplant floor at St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital. She is excited about her new role and looks forward to working with the emergency preparedness team and community.

Please join us in welcoming Julie Ondrey as Brazoria County's Disease Surveillance Specialist!

Happenings Around Brazoria County & More

Hurricane Preparedness Meetings:

City of Angleton Law Enforcement, Wednesday, May 18, 2011

Lt. Mike Jones held a hurricane preparedness meeting for local businesses and first responders. He showed video clips from <http://www.texasprepares.org>.

To receive important information and updates during an emergency visit <http://www.angletonpd.net> to sign-up with CTY.

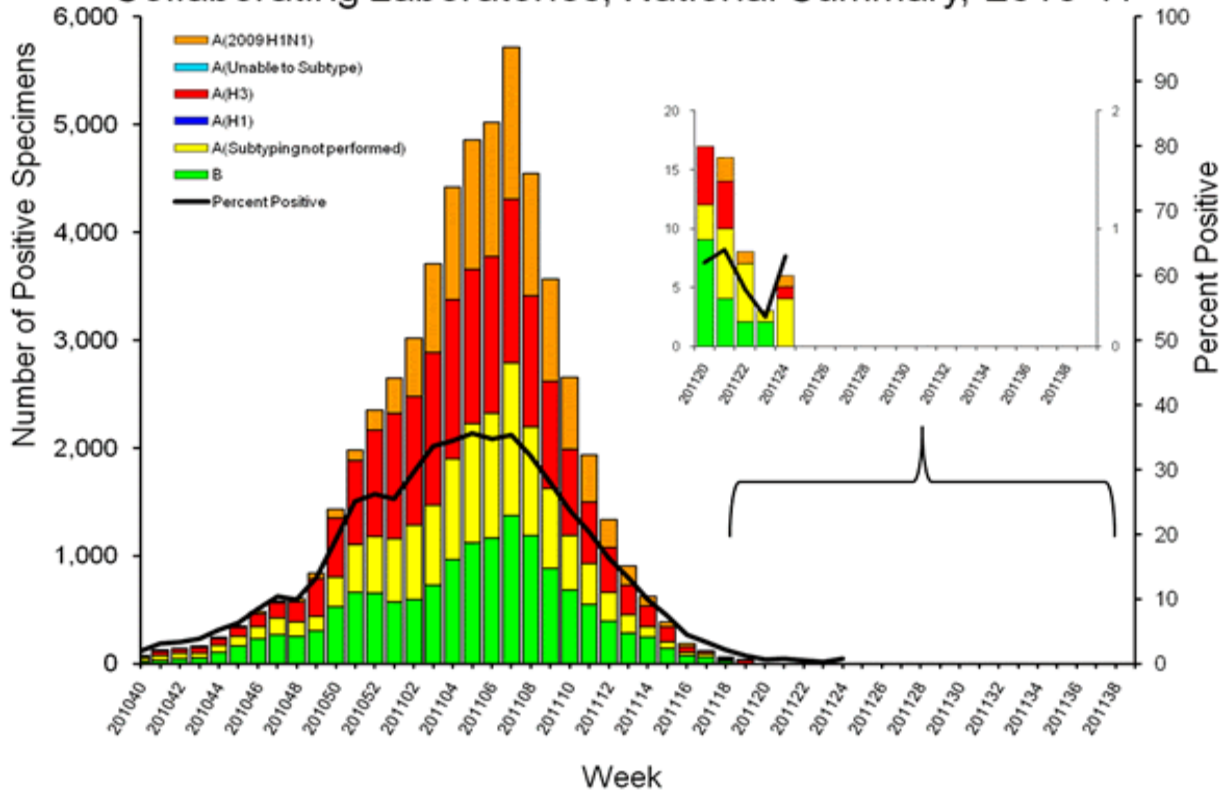
Brazoria County Emergency Management, Thursday, June 2, 2011

Emergency Manager Steve Rosa held a hurricane preparedness meeting for Brazoria County residents. For more information on Hurricane Preparedness turn to page 4.



Look for other happenings throughout this newsletter...

Influenza Positive Tests Reported to CDC by U.S. WHO/NREVSS Collaborating Laboratories, National Summary, 2010-11



Disease Surveillance Happenings....

61st James Steele Conference on Diseases in Nature Transmissible to Man,
 Corpus Christi, TX, Wednesday-Friday, June 15-17, 2011
 PHEP attended sessions on everything from zoonotic diseases to food-borne pathogens.

“Big Six” Disease Lecture, Manvel Fire Department, Thursday, June 23, 2011
 Jan PreJean, PHEP Director, spoke on needle-stick injuries and the reportable “big six”
 diseases to Manvel’s firefighters.



“No health department, state or local, can effectively prevent or control disease without knowledge of when, where, and under what conditions cases are occurring.”

—Public Health Reports, 1946

PHEP TEAM

Cathy Sbrusch, RN, BSN, CIC	Health Services Director
Jan Prejean, RN	PHEP Director
Stephanie Smith, MPH, RD	SNS Coordinator
Tamara Tisdale	Assets Analyst
Julie Ondrey, RN	Disease Surveillance Specialist

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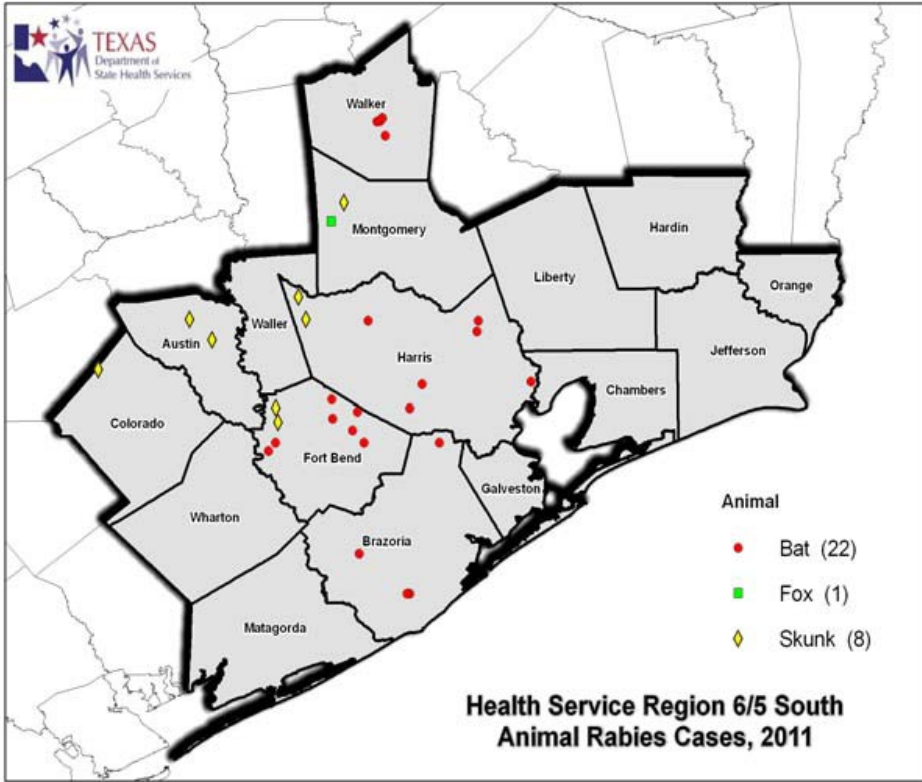
WE’RE ON THE WEB

www.PublicHealthMatters.net



Zoonosis Control

Region 6/5 South Summer Update: Rabies



From January 1-June 22, 2011, zoonosis control kept track of rabies cases throughout Texas. Within Brazoria County, there were 9 bats submitted for testing whose results came back positive for rabies. No skunk or fox rabies cases were reported within the county.

Zoonosis control reported that Texas as a state had more positive skunk rabies cases than over 5 years ago.

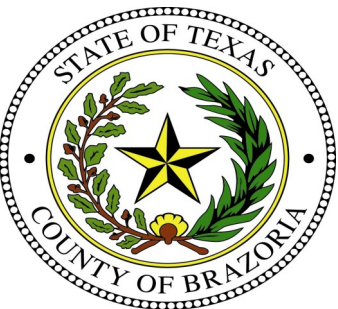
Although there were none identified in Brazoria County, rabies in skunk is possibly spreading southward. The south central skunk strain of rabies is the most common strain of rabies found in livestock that have been submitted for testing at the Texas Department for State Health Services (DSHS) lab.



Make sure all of your pets and livestock are up-to-date on their shots. You never know when they might be exposed to a rabid skunk. And do not play with bats! If you see a bat lying on the ground, do not pick it up. Call animal control right away.

The map above only shows cases identified from January 1-May 31, 2011.

For more information on rabies visit: <http://www.cdc.gov/rabies/>.



PHEP Training Course Happenings....



Weapons of Mass Destruction, July 2011

Homeland Preparedness Project held a training session for Brazoria County Health Department staff and other community members. Biological, chemical, nuclear, reactive, and explosive weapons of mass destruction were discussed. PHEP sponsored the class.



What is a Hurricane?



A hurricane is a type of tropical cyclone, the generic term for a low pressure system that generally forms in the tropics. A typical cyclone is accompanied by thunderstorms, and in the Northern Hemisphere, a counterclockwise circulation of winds near the earth's surface.

All Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico coastal areas are subject to hurricanes or tropical storms. Parts of the Southwest United States and the Pacific Coast experience heavy rains and floods each year from hurricanes spawned off Mexico. The Atlantic hurricane season lasts from June to November, with the peak season from mid-August to late October.

Hurricanes can cause catastrophic damage to coastlines and several hundred miles inland. Winds can exceed 155 miles per hour. Hurricanes and tropical storms can also spawn tornadoes and microbursts, create storm surges along the coast, and cause extensive damage from heavy rainfall.

Hurricanes are classified into five categories based on their wind speed, central pressure, and damage potential (see chart). Category Three and higher hurricanes are considered major hurricanes, though Categories One and Two are still extremely dangerous and warrant your full attention.

Before a Hurricane

To prepare for a hurricane, you should take the following measures:

1. Make plans to secure your property. Permanent storm shutters offer the best protection for windows. A second option is to board up windows with 5/8" marine plywood, cut to fit and ready to install. Tape does not prevent windows from breaking.
2. Install straps or additional clips to securely fasten your roof to the frame structure. This will reduce roof damage.
3. Be sure trees and shrubs around your home are well trimmed.
4. Clear loose and clogged rain gutters and downspouts.
5. Determine how and where to secure your boat.
6. Consider building a safe room.

During a Hurricane

If a hurricane is likely in your area, you should:

1. Listen to the radio or TV for information.
2. Secure your home, close storm shutters, and secure outdoor objects or bring them indoors.
3. Turn off utilities if instructed to do so. Otherwise, turn the refrigerator thermostat to its coldest setting and keep its doors closed.
4. Turn off propane tanks.
5. Avoid using the phone, except for serious emergencies.
6. Moor your boat if time permits.
7. Ensure a supply of water for sanitary purposes such as cleaning and flushing toilets. Fill the bathtub and other large containers with water.

You should evacuate under the following conditions:

1. If you are directed by local authorities to do so. Be sure to follow their instructions.
2. If you live in a mobile home or temporary structure—such shelters are particularly hazardous during hurricanes no matter how well fastened to the ground.
3. If you live in a high-rise building—hurricane winds are stronger at higher elevations.
4. If you live on the coast, on a floodplain, near a river, or on an inland waterway.
5. If you feel you are in danger.

Continued on page 5.

Get Prepared!

Visit the Texas Prepares website at <http://www.texasprepares.org>. Use this site to learn more about other natural disasters and to help make a plan for you and your family and build a disaster kit.

Hurricane Preparedness (TXprepares.org)

Continued from page 4.

If you are unable to evacuate, go to your safe room.
If you do not have one, follow these guidelines:

1. Stay indoors during the hurricane and away from windows and glass doors.
2. Close all interior doors—secure and brace external doors.
3. Keep curtains and blinds closed. Do not be fooled if there is a lull; it could be the eye of the storm - winds will pick up again.
4. Take refuge in a small interior room, closet, or hallway on the lowest level.
5. Lie on the floor under a table or another sturdy object.



For additional Hurricane-related information, visit:
<http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/preparedness/hurricanes.shtm>
<http://www.fema.gov/hazard/hurricane/index.shtm>

Texas Medical Brigade



Ever wondered who gives medical aid to the victims of a hurricane?

Or who helps organize emergency shelter operation?

Or who the governor of Texas calls during an epidemic?

You might be surprised to learn that you could assist in any of these events in the State of Texas with the Texas State Guard Medical Brigade.

Visit <http://gcmrg.us> for more information.

NEW POD Training Videos



PHEP has new Point-of-Dispensing (POD) site training available for the general public and for POD core teams and volunteers. POD training videos are in an animated, PowerPoint format with a voice-over and provide an overview of PHEP plans during a biological emergency; the videos detail a timeline of events during a crisis and Just-In-Time Training (JITT) for positional roles within the POD.



If you would like to use these training modules for a group session please send a request for a CD copy to *Stephanie Smith* at stephanies@brazoria-county.com.

SNS Strategic National Stockpile



SNS Happenings....

Regional Resupply Request Exercise, Thursday-Friday, May 12-13, 2011

In the event of a biological emergency, Brazoria County Emergency Management (BCEM) and PHEP would be ordering appropriate medication. To test lines and methods of communication and supply request procedures BCEM and PHEP participated in a request exercise with Health Service Region 6/5 South jurisdictional partners to test Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) planning elements.



2011 SNS Summit, Atlanta, Georgia, July 2011

PHEP attended the SNS Summit conference. Sessions involved SNS planning elements at the local, regional, state, and federal levels.



Southeast RAC Happenings....

Southeast RAC, Rice University, Houston, Texas, week of Monday, May 16, 2011
Southeast RAC participants worked on creating a manual for set-up of their regional alternate care site and held an open house for the public to tour it.

Brazoria County Immunization Clinics

Summer is here, but before you know it, school will begin again. If your child is not up on immunizations visit a clinic near you!



County Clinics

Clinic Hours of Operations: Monday-Friday, 8 AM – 12 PM and 1 PM – 5 PM

Clinics provide **FREE** immunizations to adults and children.

No appointments necessary, but immunizations are handled on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Alvin Clinic

260 George St., Suite 200

Alvin, TX 77515

(281) 585-3024

Brazoria Clinic

203 Nevada St.

Brazoria, TX 77422

(979) 798-5806

Wednesdays Only

Manvel Clinic

7313 Corporate Drive, Suite 131

Manvel, TX 77578

(281) 756-2440

Thursday and Friday Only

Angleton Clinic

432 E. Mulberry

Angleton, TX 77515

(979) 864-1484

Tuberculosis Prevention and Control (by appointment)

Clute Clinic

200 South Hwy 288-B

Clute, TX 77531

(979) 265-4446

Pearland Clinic

2436 S. Grand Blvd., Suite 102

Pearland, TX 77581

(281) 485-5344

Keep Those Hands Where I Can See Them!

Cambodian Village, Saturday, May 28, 2011

Brazoria County first responders held a hand-washing demonstration at Cambodian Village. Community members were asked to wash their hands after rubbing them with a fluorescent gel that sticks to bacteria. If their hands were not washed well, a UV light passed over them would show all the bacteria they did not wash off adequately.

Encourage your children and employees to wash their hands thoroughly! This practice will prevent the spread of germs that cause diseases. Use soap and warm water and wash for the duration of the *Happy Birthday* song. Let's sing it: "Happy Birthday to you, Happy Birthday to you...."

