

ALABAMA'S

A PUBLICATION OF THE ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

HEALTH

VOLUME 37

NUMBER 8

APRIL 2004

Second state oral rabies vaccine distribution held in central Alabama

Distribution of oral rabies vaccine baits began April 5 throughout Autauga County and in portions of Chilton, Dallas, Elmore and Lowndes counties. Baits were dropped from a low-flying airplane and distributed by hand.

The department is a cooperator in this federally funded project intended to help stop the westward movement of raccoon rabies by orally vaccinating wild raccoons.

Vaccine drops have been used successfully since 1989 in the U.S. and Canada with approximately 40 million baits distributed without any major problems. This is the second oral rabies vaccine drop effort in Alabama. The first was in five counties in northeast Alabama last November.

The United States Department of Agriculture, Wildlife Services; the Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries; and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention are also cooperators in this project. U.S.D.A. currently works with 15 states to distribute oral rabies vaccine baits. The bait distribution will take two weeks, weather permitting.

“Our goal is to halt the spread of the raccoon rabies variant,” said John Kelliher, D.V.M., associate state public health veterinarian. “Vaccine-laced baits are protective against rabies when raccoons eat them. The bait density is expected to average one bait over an area the size of two to four football fields.”

Dr. Donald Williamson, state health officer, kicked off the public information campaign about the distribution with a news conference in Montgomery held along with

wildlife officials Frank Boyd and John Forbes. Rabies is a virus that attacks the brain and causes a fatal disease in raccoons. Symptoms of rabies in raccoons include unusual behavior, an inability to eat or drink, balance problems, circling, seizures, coma and finally death.

By vaccinating raccoons against rabies, the number of animals that can serve as reservoirs of the disease and infect other wildlife, domestic animals or humans will be significantly reduced.

The baits consist of small vaccine packets placed inside fishmeal blocks which are tasty to raccoons. People and pets cannot get rabies from coming into contact with the baits, and people are asked to leave the bait cubes undisturbed if they encounter them. However, if a bait is intact it can be moved if it is found where children and pets play.

Damaged baits should be placed in a bag and discarded in the trash. Persons are advised to wear gloves



Leigh Salter, public health environmentalist with the Elmore County Health Department, tosses a bait into a wooded area.

Rabies.....continued on page 2

Computer Systems Center uses IP technology to reduce phone costs

The Alabama Department of Public Health has become the first department within the Capitol Complex to begin the process of converting to a Voice Over Internet Protocol communication system. This new system allows the department to use its existing data network to serve both data and voice telephone system needs. Employees can keep the same telephone numbers and the department will reap the savings of transported messages through the Tower Network and the Internet rather than the public switched telephone network.

With the department's need to reduce administrative costs, the Computer Systems Center looked to reduce telephone charges as a way to save money. With monthly bills from BellSouth for the RSA Tower offices averaging \$34,000, there was an acknowledged need to cut costs. The monthly cost for the new system, including maintenance and amortized purchase price, is expected to be approximately \$12,500. This is a monthly saving of at least \$21,000 for the department or \$250,000 annually.

Computer Systems Center staff will also be deploying the system to county health departments. The Chilton County Health Department became the test pilot for IP phones because its previous telephone system was destroyed by lightning one year ago. Some problems resulted from the switch, but the kinks have largely been worked out now. Problems included an unwanted echo,

Technology.....continued on page 3



Computer Systems Center employees working on the transition are (seated, left to right) Ronnie McLendon, IT Systems specialist associate; Cliff Boyd, IT Systems technician senior; (standing) Tracey Cannon, IT systems technician; David Newman, network engineer; and Joseph List, IT systems technician.

Rabies.....continued from page 1

or use a paper towel when picking up a bait. Then they are to throw the intact bait into a fence row, wood lot, ditch or other raccoon habitat area. Finally, they should wash hands after any skin contact with damaged baits.

Persons having questions about a bait they have found have been advised to call the toll-free number found on the bait itself or 1-800-677-0939.

Alabama Department of Public Health

Mission

To serve the people of Alabama by assuring conditions in which they can be healthy.

Value Statement

The purpose of the Alabama Department of Public Health is to provide caring, high quality and professional services for the improvement and protection of the public's health through disease prevention and the assurance of public health services to resident and transient populations of the state regardless of social circumstances or the ability to pay.

The Department of Public Health works closely with the community to preserve and protect the public's health and to provide caring quality services.

ALABAMA'S HEALTH

Alabama's Health is an official monthly publication of the Alabama Department of Public Health, Bureau of Health Promotion and Chronic Disease. If you would like to receive the publication or wish to submit information for future articles, please telephone requests to (334) 206-5300. Articles may be reprinted provided credit is given to the Alabama Department of Public Health. The department's web site is

<<http://www.adph.org>>

- Donald E. Williamson, M.D. State Health Officer
- Jim McVay, Dr. P.A. Director, Bureau of Health Promotion and Chronic Disease
- Arrol Sheehan, M.A. Editor
- Takenya Stokes, J.D. Contributing Editor
- Toni Prater Graphic Designer
- Marion Wilford Photographer

Informational materials in alternative formats will be made available upon request.

2003 State Combined Campaign honors leaders



The Alabama Department of Public Health was recognized for its participation in the 2003 Combined Campaign. State Health Officer Dr. Donald Williamson (second from left) presented certificates to Agency Campaign Chairperson Tracy Klein (left), Carlisha Lane (third from left) and Randy Jones (right). Ms. Lane was chairperson for the Center for Health Statistics which had 99 percent employee participation and Jones was chairperson for the Center for Emergency Preparedness which recorded 100 percent participation. The department raised \$31,980.73, which is 86.81 percent of its goal. Information about this campaign which touches many lives statewide is available at the following Web site: www.statecombinedcampaign.org.

Technology.....continued from page 2

and concerns about the paging system and the Medicaid swipe machine. CSC completed the installation of IP phones at the Talladega County Health Department office in Talladega on March 19.

With the new IP system, voicemail will be installed as needed and recorded voicemail messages also will appear on Lotus Notes. The new CISCO Systems phones feature 25 different ring tones.

Ronnie McLendon, IT Systems specialist associate, said, "We learn every day. Instead of ordering features and lines,

we program here. Another great feature is the portability of lines, no matter where a phone is plugged in"

With the contract vendor, it took up to five days to move a phone line, and now this can be accomplished in less than one hour. Another popular feature is the built-in online directory. Caller identification is visible when an employee is on the phone and is receiving another call.

Users are advised to contact the Help Desk to take care of any problems regarding the IP phones.

Nurse Pat Schloeder and Montgomery County Health Department praised for helping Korean families

What happens when a host of Korean families comes to a community and needs immunization certificates for their children to enter school?

In April 2002 Hyundai Motors announced that Montgomery would be the site of its first North American production facility. During the summer, immunization records would need to be reviewed before the children of the plant executives could enter school.

None of these families yet had private physicians, and all had international immunization records that needed to be interpreted and transcribed onto the Alabama “blue slip” form.

The family support coordinators for the new Hyundai production facility in Montgomery sent a letter praising nurse Pat Schloeder, R.N., for personally reviewing more than 120 of these immunization records, assisting with making appointments when needed, preparing other staff for their arrival and sorting out payment issues when they arose.

“Without her assistance, I believe the school enrollment process would have been traumatic, if not overwhelming, for some of our Korean families,” said Jeanne Charbonneau in the letter of commendation. “She truly went ‘above and beyond’ the proverbial call of duty in assisting these families. No doubt she does this for everyone in need of her services, but her impact on the reception of our new Korean neighbors has been significant. Notably, this high level of support has continued without interruption over the 20 months these families have been arriving and departing.”

Karen Ehrhard added, “We are truly overwhelmed with Pat Schloeder’s assistance under short timelines.”

The coordinators expressed their “sincere appreciation for the support provided by the Montgomery County Health Department” on behalf of the families and the City of Montgomery.

Commendations

Health department employees who are listed here have received letters of commendation recently. To recognize other employees, please send letters through your supervisors or the state health officer to *Alabama’s Health*.

Tonya Blankenship

Health Provider Standards

From Debbi Nerstad, R.N.
Florence, Ala.

Evelyn Jackson

Betty Strickland

Center for Health Statistics

from Frederick L. Lawson
Pittsburgh, Pa.

Dorothy Harshbarger

Center for Health Statistics

from Kenneth B. Sekinger
Glen Burnie, Mary.

Nicole Henderson

Veronica Moore-Whitfield

Center for Health Statistics

from Dennis M. Wiggins
Lusby, Mary.

Nicole Henderson

Center for Health Statistics

from Dana George
Montgomery, Ala.

Angela House

Chilton County Health Department

Lois Kelly and Life Care Staff

Russell County Health Department

Connie King

Russell County Health Department

Rebecca Moten

Montgomery County Health Department

Geli Windham

Russell County Health Department

Commendations.....continued on page 6

Plant thanks Public Health Area 10 staff after powder scare

Employees of the GE Motors Plant in Dothan signed a large thank you card, which was prepared in appreciation of public health employees' role during a suspected anthrax incident.

The huge card was presented to Assistant State Health Officer for Disease Control and Prevention Dr. Charles Woernle and Ray Sherer, director of the Center for Emergency Preparedness. The plant personnel expressed their special gratitude to Russell Killingsworth, Area Administrator for Public Health Area 10, and Lesa Smith, area emergency preparedness coordinator/surveillance nurse, for the professional and helpful manner in which they handled the powder threat, especially for keeping them informed.

Working behind the scenes at the Houston County Emergency Operations Center were Eileen Rogers, area nursing director, Joseph Ellington, disease intervention director and Emergency Planning Area X director; and Kevin Hicks, emergency preparedness environmentalist consulting with and coordinating directives from Dr. J. P. Lofgren to the hospital and other agencies as well as the duty officer for the state. Deb Coxson, administrative support assistant, provided help with the numerous telephone calls.

Killingsworth explained that he received a call at 1:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 11, when he was working in Geneva and spent the next couple of days dealing with the situation. Earlier that morning employees at the manufacturing plant had discovered a suspicious white powder substance in a zipped plastic bag contained in a shipment from Mexico which was accompanied by a "less than nice" note.

The Dothan plant makes GE motor parts. The nine plant employees in the room where the package arrived had been decontaminated with cold water and sent to a hospital for evaluation. They were decontaminated again once they arrived at the hospital. All the water used to decontaminate them had to be contained.

A half-hour after being notified, Killingsworth arrived at a mobile unit set up at the plant site where he talked with agents from the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The FBI pronounced it a credible terrorist biological sample, which qualified it for laboratory testing. The FBI contacted the state lab by phone to inform them the specimen was being sent there for testing.

When he arrived, the suspicious package had been triple bagged and was going to be sent to the Bureau of

Clinical Laboratories in Montgomery for testing. A member of the Dothan Bomb Squad, under directives of the FBI, took the sample by car to Ozark and it was taken by helicopter to the parking lot at the Auburn University at Montgomery campus which is adjacent to the state lab.

The 46th Civil Support Team (consisting of 55 personnel) was brought in to test the powder on Friday. Once the state lab had stated the powder was not anthrax, verification was needed of what the powder actually was. This crucial information was needed by the plant and by the Dothan Bomb Squad to open the plant and to clean up equipment used in the response. Testing revealed that the white powdery substance was nondairy coffee creamer. Once the FBI found this incident did not constitute a credible threat, the agents were reassigned to other projects.

The local agencies that responded to the event stated that this particular incident was classified at the highest threat level they had ever dealt with. Agencies working on the incident included the Dothan Fire Department, Dothan Police Department and Houston County Emergency Management Agency. The high level precautions were taken because the specimen was sent third party, was sent from Mexico and was considered a crude threat to Americans in general.

The sample arrived at about 4:30 p.m. (after the lab had closed). BCL Microbiologist Sharon Massingale conducted a preliminary test to identify the sample. Rod-like bacteria were present, but it would take another 48 hours of testing to make sure the powdery substance was not harmful.

Jerry Callan, Ph.D., director of the Bureau of Clinical Laboratories, returned to the facility and he and Ms. Massingale worked on various tests on the substance, but a confirmatory test would take another two days to complete. Although they were 99 percent sure the sample was not anthrax, it was decided that the plant would be closed for a second day on Friday as a precaution.

Among those contacted were Sherer, Houston County Emergency Management Director Shelby Womack, and the State Department of Emergency Management.

Becky Armstrong with the Center for Emergency Preparedness called at 9:40 p.m. Friday to notify Killingsworth about the findings. After heaving a sigh of relief, Killingsworth started telephoning a long list of

Powder.....continued on page 6

Commendations.....continued from page 4

from Bobby Bryan
John McKissic
James Martin
Public Health Area 8

Susan List

Center for Health Statistics

from Faye Cockrell
Haleyville, Ala.

Major James K. Reid

Health Care Facilities

from Col. James N. Stewart, USAFR
Montgomery, Ala.

Georgia Reynolds

Center for Health Statistics

from Bobbie Ann Smith
Phenix City, Ala.

Charlene Thomas

Center for Health Statistics

from Angie Keener
Talladega County, Ala.

Wendy Washington

Center for Health Statistics

from Stephani Stenson
Dunwoody, Ga.

Lynn Williams

Health Promotion and Chronic Disease

from Rosemary Hataway
Jasper, Ala.
Jill Sanderson
Montgomery, Ala.

Retirees

The following Alabama Department of Public Health employees retired effective April 1:

Dorothy Anderson - Health Statistics

Mollie Cloud - Lee County Health Department

Kathleen Estes - Office of Program Integrity

Sarah Hurst - Talladega County Health Department

Mary Lambdin - Montgomery County Health Department

Teresa Magouyrk - Public Health Area VI

JoAnn Robinson - Houston County Health Department

Powder....continued from page 5

agencies to share the good news.

This cleared the hazardous materials crew and local emergency personnel to clean up the mess created by the decontamination. The Dothan Police Department no longer was treating this as a crime scene.

Although the entire process resulted in losses and the expenditure of an estimated \$25,000, Killingsworth said this incident served as "one of the best exercises we could possibly have" because it fostered a much better working relationship among the different agencies involved in dealing with such threats. Had federal authorities alone been required to deal with the situation, Killingsworth said, the plant might have been closed for as long as three weeks.

The person responsible for writing the threatening note and sending the powder will be difficult to trace because the package was unattended at different points.

"Public Health Area X would like to express appreciation to the Center for Emergency Preparedness, Dr. Woernle and Dr. Lofgren for guidance received in responding to this event," Ms. Smith concluded. "As a result of this incident, the Alabama Department of Public Health is adjusting its response policies to better assist public health areas in responding to such events."

Education stressed to combat STDs

STDs, including syphilis and gonorrhea, can have serious consequences if left untreated. These include blindness, birth defects, damage to male and female reproductive organs that result in sterility, and other health problems. Women are more susceptible to STD infections, are less likely to experience symptoms than men and are more difficult to diagnose.

"STDs affect as many as one in five adults, and so we stress education as a way to combat them," said Maxie Fleming, director of the STD Division. "Symptoms to watch for vary depending upon the type of infection. If you suspect you may have an STD, seek help right away from your doctor or local health-care clinic."

STDs can be transmitted to sexual partners, and mothers may give the infection to their unborn babies or to their newborns during delivery. Knowing about sexually transmitted diseases can help people avoid contracting them. STDs can be prevented by abstaining from sex and by having a sexual relationship with only one sex partner who is also not infected. Using a condom during sexual activity greatly lowers a person's risk of acquiring an STD.

Many STDs place the infected person at high risk for
Education.....continued on page 9

ADPH joins in celebrating Nurses Day on May 6 and Nurses Week, May 6-12

Approximately 600 nurses are employed with the Alabama Department of Public Health, and the department joins in observing the week of May 6 through 12 as Nurses Week. The theme for this year's observance is "Nurses: Your Voice, Your Health, Your Life." Gov. Bob Riley has proclaimed this week and May 6 as Nurses Day in Alabama, declaring the following:

- There are 2.5 million registered nurses in the United States; and
- There are 48,000 registered nurses in the state of Alabama; and
- Through their skills, knowledge and compassion, nurses are able to make a positive difference in the lives of their patients; and
- The demand for nursing services continues to increase as the population of older people grows and as health care continues to change to meet the needs of today's society; and
- Professional nurses are an essential element of quality in health care.



Nurse Janice Smiley (left) of the Worksite Wellness Division, Bureau of Health Promotion and Chronic Disease, takes the blood pressure of Shirley Henley and provides counseling.



Life Care Manager Doris Washington of Dallas County Lifecare assists a patient.



Kay Bice, a registered nurse and long-term care surveyor, consults with Rick Harris, director of the Bureau of Health Provider Standards.



Shown working on protocols are two nurses in the Bureau of Family Health Services: Belinda Thompson, (left) newborn screening follow-up coordinator, Expanded Panel Screening; and Dianne Sims, director, Child Health Branch.

Nurse Carol Wilson works as clinic supervisor for the Autauga County Health Department.



SPEAKING OF RETIREMENT

Termination of Service

I f I am ineligible for retirement, what options do I have with regards to my retirement account?

Once you terminate employment prior to retirement eligibility, you have three options:

1. If you are vested (have at least 10 years of creditable service), retirement contributions may be left in the system until age 60 (age 52 for State Police). You may apply for service retirement to be effective the first of the month after reaching age 60 (52 for State Police).
2. With less than 10 years of service (not vested), you may leave contributions in the system for up to five years. If you have not returned to employment as a participating member, the account will be terminated and contributions plus any refundable accrued interest will be payable to you.
3. You may withdraw all retirement contributions and refundable interest. Your contributions are only refunded at your request upon termination of employment and application for refund.

If you think there is a chance you will be rehired or go to work for another participating agency, it is **strongly** recommended to leave your retirement contributions in your retirement account.

If you do withdraw your contributions and return to work with a participating agency, you may restore your previously canceled service credit after completing two years of contributing service. The cost to purchase the withdrawn service is the amount previously withdrawn plus 8 percent interest compounded from the date of withdrawal to the date of payment.

How do I go about requesting a refund?

To request a refund, contact the ERS or your payroll/personnel officer and request a FORM 7, NOTICE OF FINAL DEPOSIT AND REQUEST FOR REFUND. Instructions for completing the form are located on the reverse side of the form. You must read the SPECIAL TAX NOTICE REGARDING PLAN PAYMENTS which accompanies this Form 7. The taxable portion of the refund is subject to federal income tax withholding at the

rate of 20 percent unless the taxable amount of the refund is transferred directly (rolled-over) from the RSA to the trustee of an Individual Retirement Account (IRA), Annuity, or Qualified Retirement Plan.

If you elect to receive the refund directly, you will be refunded 80 percent of the taxable amount of the retirement contributions and refundable interest, if any. The taxable portion of the refund may also be subject to a 10 percent additional tax if the member is less than 59 1/2 years old. No portion of the refund is subject to state of Alabama income tax.

In January following the calendar year in which a taxable refund is made, a 1099-R will be issued to the member who has directly received the refund, regardless of whether the individual rolled-over the refund to a qualified plan within 60 days of the date of withdrawal.

May I receive a partial refund and how much interest will I receive?

There are no partial refunds; all contributions are refunded. Interest on the account is only refunded if you have at least three years of service. The employee is not entitled to the total interest credited to the account.

Table of Refunds

Years of Membership Service	Amount of Interest Refunded	Contributions Refunded
Less than 3 years	None	All
3 years, but less than 16 years	50%	All
16 years, but less than 21 years	60%	All
21 years, but less than 26 years	70%	All
26 years or more	80%	All

By law, interest is credited on the previous year's average balance at the rate of four percent per annum. Refunds may be subject to a federal tax penalty.

What are the consequences of having my retirement account refunded to me?

Upon withdrawal, all service credit established with the ERS is canceled. For vested members, the right to lifetime monthly retirement benefits at age 60 (52 for State Police) is forfeited. See pages 9 and 10 in your Member

Retirement.....continued on page 9

Retirement.....continued from page 8

Handbook for information about termination of service.

If I am eligible for retirement, what procedures must I follow to start receiving my retirement benefit?

If you have 25 years of service (30 years of service if your employer has not elected 25-year retirement eligibility) or age 60 (52 for State Police) with at least 10 years of service credit, you are eligible to receive a lifetime retirement benefit upon termination of service. Information about retirement procedures and the options you have at retirement is listed on pages 16 - 26 in your ERS Member Handbook.

You must submit your Retirement Application to the ERS no less than 30 days nor more than 90 days prior to your effective retirement date.

Any member eligible for disability retirement must file

their Disability Retirement Application with the ERS before termination of employment.

If I have elected to participate in DROP and am involuntarily terminated, what must I do to begin receiving my DROP payment?

You must submit Form ERS 10D-E, Request for Early Termination of DROP, to the ERS.

Please contact the ERS directly with specific questions you have about your retirement account and what options you have at termination of service.

Prepared by the Communications staff of the Retirement Systems of Alabama. To have your questions answered in "Speaking of Retirement," please address them to Mike Pegues, Communications, Retirement Systems of Alabama, 135 South Union St., P. O. Box 302150, Montgomery, Ala. 36130-2150.

Education.....continued from page 6

HIV/AIDS, the most serious sexually transmitted disease. The HIV virus which causes AIDS can be given to sexual and/or needle-sharing partners, and HIV may also be passed from mothers to their babies by breastfeeding. Sexual and/or needle sharing partners should be notified and informed about the possibility of infection. A total of 13,770 HIV/AIDS cases have been reported in Alabama, and more than 3,600 state residents have died from AIDS.

Bacterial STDs can be treated and cured but are often undetected. The most common STD is caused by chlamydia. Chlamydia is a treatable bacterial infection that can scar the fallopian tubes and so affect a woman's ability to have children. More than 14,000 cases of chlamydia were reported in Alabama during 2003. Because chlamydia has no symptoms in 75 percent of cases among women and in 25 percent of cases among men, it has become the most rapidly advancing STD.

Gonorrhea, also asymptomatic in many cases, accounts for 1.1 million new infections annually in the U.S. There were more than 9,000 cases of gonorrhea in Alabama in 2003. If untreated, chlamydia and gonorrhea are particularly destructive to women, causing pelvic inflammatory disease, infertility and ectopic or tubal pregnancies.

Viral STDs, for which there is currently no cure, have a lifelong impact on physical and emotional health. An estimated 40 million Americans have genital herpes and 40 million have human papillomavirus (HPV), the cause of

genital warts. Some strains of HPV are associated with cervical cancer.

Most STDs respond well to treatment, but STDs will not go away if ignored. Get medical help as soon as possible. To avoid reinfection, make sure to follow all instructions including taking medication and returning for follow-up examinations. Make sure to avoid sexual activity until treatment is completed, and make sure all sex partners have completed treatment before resuming sexual activity.

Remember to follow behaviors that lower the likelihood of being exposed to an STD, such as abstinence; mutual monogamy with an uninfected sexual partner; and consistent and correct use of condoms.

For more information visit the agency Web site at www.adph.org. Under A-Z contents click on STDs to view fact sheets. Or you may call the National STD and AIDS Hotline at 800-227-8922 or 800-342-2437. The Spanish language hotline number is 800-344-7432 and the TTY line for the hearing impaired is 800-243-7889. These toll-free lines are staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week.



April recognized as National Sexual Assault and Rape Awareness Month

In Alabama, one in every nine women has been the victim of a forcible rape sometime during her life, often by somebody they knew. Sexual assault is a horrifying and often brutal crime of violence, power and control. During the month of April the Alabama Department of Public Health and the Alabama Coalition Against Rape want the public to realize that help is available for victims and communities throughout the state.

Currently, the Alabama Department of Public Health and the Alabama Coalition Against Rape are collaborating to combat sexual violence in the state. “We have to work together to effectively reduce sexual assault in Alabama,” said Dr. Donald Williamson, state health officer. “This is not only a public health problem, it’s a community problem.”

Sexual assault is defined as any form of forced sexual activity, whether it occurs overtly or by inferred threat. It includes rape, attempted rape, incest, child molestation, marital rape, voyeurism and exposure. Because assailants are not only strangers, but also acquaintances, friends, dates or family members including spouses, many assaults are not reported.

“It is our goal to not only provide needed services to victims, but to encourage community involvement in the prevention of sexual assault. Victims must feel assured that it’s okay to come forward without fear of negative repercussions,” said Darla Graves, executive director of the Alabama Coalition Against Rape.

Each year in the United States, approximately 249,000 sexual assaults are committed. These include 84,000 rapes and 63,000 attempted rapes. According to the Alabama Criminal Justice Information Center, in Alabama 1,567 rapes were committed in 2002. Of these cases, 69 percent of the victims knew or were related to the offender.

The Alabama Coalition Against Rape, comprised of 15 rape crisis centers throughout the state, conducts prevention activities and empowers crisis centers to facilitate the humane, consistent and compassionate care of victims of sexual violence and their families. Services provided include the following:

- * 24-hour crisis hotline
- * Emergency shelter
- * Child advocacy
- * Counseling-individual and group
- * Court advocacy
- * Education and training (community and professional)
- * Legal assistance
- * Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE)
- * Sexual Assault Response Team (SART)
- * Support groups
- * Volunteer program

To learn more about prevention of sexual assault in the community, or to receive help for sexual assault, call the local crisis center or 1-800-656-HOPE.

Injury News
Published By
The Alabama Department of Public Health
Injury Prevention Division
Bureau of Health Promotion and Chronic Disease
Carol F. Mysinger, M.Ed., M.P.A.....Director

Funded by a grant from the Law Enforcement and Traffic
Safety Division, Alabama Department of Economic
and Community Affairs

April is Cancer Control Month and National STD Awareness Month.

Calendar of Events



April 22

Preparedness Update: What to Expect From Your Local Hospitals' Response to Emergency Events (SCCPHP), 12 noon-1:30 p.m. For more information contact Video Communications, (334) 206-5618.



April 28

HIPAA Security Update. For more information contact Video Communications Division, (334) 206-5618.

April 28-30

Alabama Public Health Association Annual Meeting; Bryant Conference Center, Tuscaloosa.

May 2

Strategic National Stockpile Training, 1-5 p.m., Birmingham Jefferson Civic Center. For more information contact Jessica Hardy, (334) 206-5226.



May 5

Bridging Traditional Environmental Health and Health Promotion: 22nd National Conference on Health Promotion and Education; ASTDHPPE Annual Meeting 1-2:30 p.m. For more information contact Video Communications, (334) 206-5618.



May 6

Transforming Vision to Reality: Potential Power of Partnership, 1-2:30 p.m., ASTDHPPE Annual Meeting. For more information contact Video Communications, (334) 206-5618.



May 6

The Future of Health Promotion and Health Education: Transforming Vision Into Reality; ASTDHPPE Annual Meeting.

May 6

Nurses Day.

May 6-12

Nurses Week. "Nurses: Your Voice, Your Health, Your Life" is the theme for this year's observance. Nurses Day is May 6.



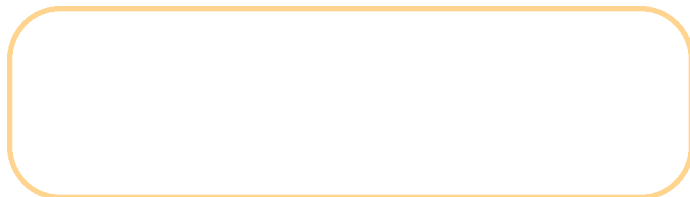
May 7

Principles for Effective Communication of Health Risks in High Concern, High Stress Situations, DHPE Annual Meeting, Orlando, Fla. For more information contact Video Communications, (334) 206-5618.

May 9-15

National Women's Health Week

Calendar.....continued on page 12



Calendar.....continued from page 11



May 12

Public Health Staff Development, 2-4 p.m.



May 18

Diabetes and Cardiovascular Risk: Affecting Change in Communities to Increase Physical Activity, 2-4 p.m. For more information contact Debra Griffin, (334) 206-2066.



May 19

Home Health Aides and Home Attendants. For more information contact Brenda Elliott, (334) 347-2664, extension 402.



June 9

Public Health Staff Development, 2-4 p.m.



June 16

Improving Male Participation in Reproductive Health, 2-4 p.m. For more information contact Annie Vosel, (334) 206-2959.



June 30

Obesity in Adolescents and Adults, 2-4 p.m. For more information contact Annie Vosel, (334) 206-2959.



July 1

ADPH Statewide Staff Meeting. For more information contact Jim McVay, Dr.P.A., (334) 206-5600.



July 14

Public Health Staff Development, 2-4 p.m.



July 21

Home Health Aides and Home Attendants, 2-4 p.m. For more information contact Brenda Elliott, (334) 347-2664, extension 402.



July 20

Topic To Be Announced (SCCPHP), 12 noon-1:30 p.m. For more information contact Video Communications, (334) 206-5618.

