



NEWSLETTER



DAY ONE



The West Virginia Public Health Emergency Management Association recently held their spring conference together with the WV Association of Sanitarians and the Nursing section at the Canaan Valley Resort April 22-24, 2026.



Joe Klass and Cindy Murphy kickstarted the WVPHEMA Mid-Year conference with a presentation on Decontamination 101, exploring such topics as difference between exposure and contamination, types of decontamination, what the most effective method and where it should take place.

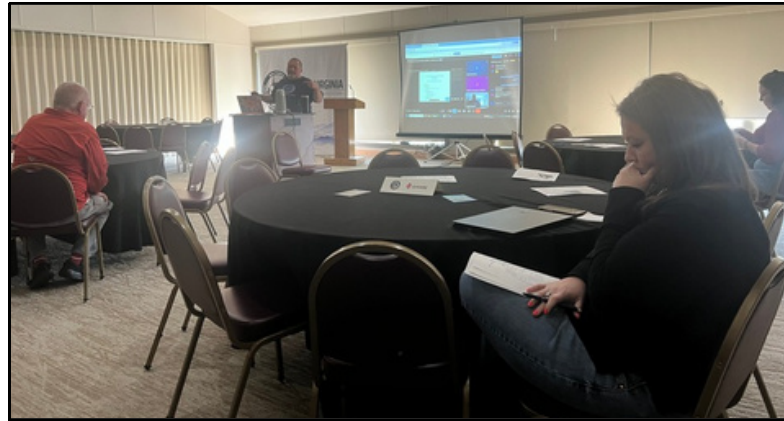


The WV National Guard 35th Civil Support Team finished the first day's events with a presentation on what the CST can do to help in the event of weapons of mass destruction happening, including technical and emergency decontamination for small scale response, modeling and downwind hazard predictions, availability for rapid deployment, an analytical laboratory system for biological and or chemical agents and substances.

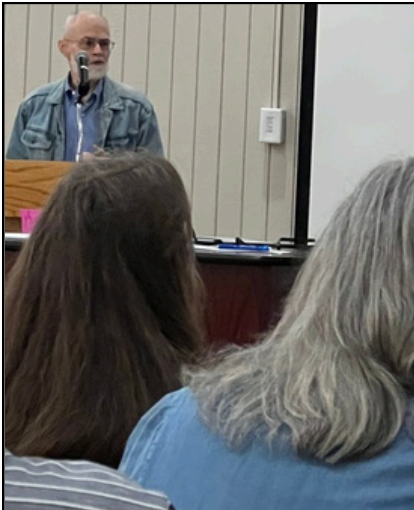


DAY TWO

The Plenary Session for Both WVPHEMA and WVAS kicked off Thursday with Vincent Radke, MPH, RS, CP-FS, DLAAS, CPH, former president of the National Environmental Health Association and former working for the CDC and WHO, speaking on public health challenges through the Nine Lessons Learned on Being a Better Ancestor.



A WV PHEMA Business Meeting was held immediately after the guest speaker. Jamie Moore, Wayland Harris and Brian Bell led the meeting.



Representatives from Juvare Blake Beasley and Brian Nickolaus did some hands-on training and call down drills for WVPREDI and WVPHAN. REDI topics covered included creating missions, creating groups/filtered groups, how to pin templates to the front page, and how to work badges. Similar topics were explored within the WVPHAN system, and call down drills were done with both.



To wrap up Day Two's events, Joe Klass gave a presentation on Respiratory Protection Plans. Hazards such as aerosols, vapors, and particulate were discussed as well as the correct filters to use with each, as well as which respirators offer the best protection in different situations.



DAY THREE



The final day of the conference saw clear skies and the culmination of the conference with the joint Environmental Health, Nursing, and Threat Preparedness exercise. Health Department members sat together to work out problems related to a Response to a Low Probability, High-Impact Chemical Incident, and to work together to find solutions.



We are looking for new members to join our organization. If you know of a hospital coalition, local health department, emergency manager, EMS, or other public health-related member that may be interested in joining, please share this newsletter with them.



Membership applications are available on the website below. Membership dues are now \$35 for the remainder of the year.

