

Ebola in US spurs concern; states question quarantine

by **Antonia Salisbury**
Opinion Editor

As Ebola becomes an increasingly dangerous health risk worldwide, its representation in the news has boomed. Because it can only be spread through the transfer of bodily fluids or blood, rather than through water, air, or food, Ebola is not as large of a health risk as some make it out to be. However, there are a few situations in which Ebola and methods of Ebola containment are incredibly serious issues that could prove to be fatal if not handled correctly.

A potential nightmare for the US, Ebola has found its way into the streets of New York City. Though American doctors have already seen cases in other states, disease experts from Risk Management Solutions predict that, at its worst, the US will experience around 130 cases of Ebola by the end of 2014. On the other hand, experts note that an outbreak in any large city, such as NYC, would be especially hard to deal with. The main reason for concern surrounding Ebola in combination with large cities is the historically rapid spread of disease due to close-quartered living and high population density.

Recently, a major concern regarding Ebola containment has been quarantine. A significant component of this issue's controversy can be attributed to whether or not quarantine can be court-ordered by the federal government, state government, or

anyone for that matter. The choice is between public health and an individual's right to move about freely. Unexpected by the government, many people who have been asked to stay in quarantine, house-bound for 21 days, have refused to do so. For example, Kaci Hickox, a nurse in Maine, has repeatedly refused to comply to government-ordered quarantine, despite admitting that she faced several symptoms of Ebola. Hickox saw her mandated quarantine as a governmental overreach and an intrusion on her constitutional rights.

So how will the US deal with the potential Ebola outbreaks to come? Though quarantine is currently the most widely accepted way medical professionals deter the spread of Ebola, many argue that its enforcement should not be a state or federal matter. The federal government has formally announced that, at this point in time, the Supreme Court has ruled against mandatory quarantine. But, they have also stated that "the laws of the state on the subject are (presumptively) valid."

The most recent, and by far the most extreme, worry concerning Ebola has been news of its possible use as a bioweapon. Members of the terror group, ISIS, have reportedly discussed their intentions of terrorizing the West with the use of bioweapons in several online chat forums. Though many credible sources, including US Homeland Security Secretary

Jeh Johnson, say that there are few pieces of evidence to back this claim, bioweapon experts from Spain, such as Spain's State Secretary for Security

Francisco Martinez, would argue that all evidence points in this direction.
(Sources: RT News, CNN, SF Business Times)



HAPPY AND HEALTHY: Nina Pham, the first person to contract Ebola in the US, receives a hug from the President after surviving the disease.

Lava approaches homes in HI

by **Danika Lyle**
News Editor

As of Oct. 29, hundreds of citizens from Pahoā, Hawaii, are evacuating their homes due to an approaching lava flow that threatens the area. As a result of an ongoing eruption of the volcano Kilauea, magma is slowly covering the town's land at 8 to 11 yards per hour. Not only does the boiling liquid threaten the safety of the population, it also harms the environment, transportation, and everyday life of all the citizens.

Kilauea is one of the most active volcanoes in the world and has been continuously erupting since 1983. Though most of the magma usually flows into the ocean, a new spewing has sent magma headed towards the small town of Pahoā.

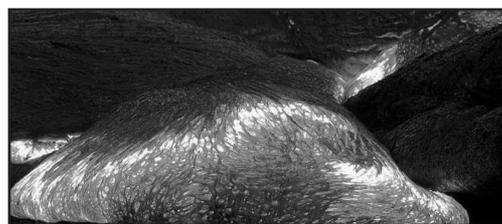
The magma is a huge safety concern to residents of Pahoā. Smoke given off from the lava harms residents with respiratory conditions. Tim Orr, a US Geological Survey geologist, says, "A lot of smoke [is] coming off the front, a lot of cracking noises, methane explosions are going on." Deadly methane gas is being released into the air with each explosion, which also threatens the safety of residents.

Resident Matt Purvis states that all the citizens are worried. "We can see the smoke and kind of a glow, especially at night," said Purvis. "The whole town is really concerned and is nervous, and I am too. It's definitely concerning." Homeowners have been warned that evacuation will be necessary once the lava reaches the residential community. 900 schoolchildren in the area are already expected to be displaced.

As lava creeps forward it begins to affect transportation. Major roads have been closed off to the public, but left open to the residents who live in the area. Scientists are still using the roads in order to give reports on the flow's progress. As of Oct. 30, 80 members of the Hawaii National Guard are patrolling roadblocks. The lava is slowly cutting off residents from the only supermarket in Pahoā, causing several citizens to move to the other side of town.

Another product of the lava epidemic is crime increase. Due to the several abandoned houses in the area, many thieves have begun to pillage through Pahoā.

Although, in past years, people have taken steps to stop the lava, officials say that there is no way to stop this flow. In the 1930's, the U.S. military tried to slow lava with bombs. These efforts proved ineffective. During the 1970's, Icelandic scientists pumped 1.5 billion gallons of seawater to cool lava flowing out of Eldefell volcano in order to save a nearby port. The port was not lost, but it is unclear if the scientists' efforts were the cause. (Sources: CNN)



GETTING CLOSER: Lava is approaching residences in Pahoā, Hawaii.

Plane lands after orbit

by **Mhairi Finlayson**
Web Editor

On Oct. 18, a US space plane that had been in orbit for 674 days on a secret mission landed in California. The X-37B space plane was launched into orbit on Dec. 11, 2012, and resembles NASA's now-retired space shuttle, though it is much smaller. It used solar panels to remain in orbit throughout the duration of its mission.

This was the plane's third mission into space, its first occurring in 2010 and its second in 2011, lasting eight and fifteen months respectively. The X-37B program is run by the Air Force's Rapid Capabilities Office, though it originated as a NASA project in 1999, and was only given to the military in 2006. The budget for the program is classified, and the only comment from the Air Force is that the space plane performs "risk reduction, experimentation and concept-of-operations development for reusable space vehicle technologies."

When asked about the program, Gen. William Shelton, commander of Air Force Space Command, would only say "X-37 is doing great. I can't tell you what it's doing, but it's doing great." There have been theories that it is spying on China's space station, however these theories have been largely debunked by experts. Though

the paths of the two occasionally cross, the speed of movement and the frequency of the crossings are not conducive to spying.

Boeing is now developing the X-37C that could hold as many as six astronauts and dock at space stations, indicating that US plans in space are not over yet. Also, NASA has agreed to give over space in the Kennedy Space Center previously used to service its space shuttles to the X-37B program, suggesting that the program will continue. Gen. Shelton has also said that US Air Force Space Command is considering many space tracks for the future.

The mysterious US space plane is surrounded with secrecy, and its true mission is unknown. However, it is clear that whatever it is doing up there is important to the Air Force, as its role only seems to be expanding. Though NASA's program to send astronauts back to the moon is over, US interests in space are clearly not.
(Sources: BBC, CBS, The Guardian)

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Washington state teenage shooter kills own friends

by **Mhairi Finlayson**
Web Editor

On Fri., Oct. 24, a student at Marysville-Pilchuck High School in Marysville, Washington, brought a handgun to school and shot five fellow students. One victim died in the cafeteria from a shot to the head. Another died the following Sunday night after being hospitalized over the weekend. A third victim died a week after the shooting, currently leaving two survivors, both cousins of the shooter.

The shooter was a fifteen year old boy named Jaylen Fryberg, a member of the Tulalip Tribe, who invited all five of his victims to eat lunch with him via text message, and once all were seated he opened fire. After the shooting, he committed suicide. Very little can be discerned about his motives for the shooting. Fryberg was a popular student who played on the football team and had been crowned homecoming prince the week before. All of the students he shot were his friends and relatives.

The gun Fryberg used in the shooting was legally obtained by one of Fryberg's relatives. The police are investigating the possibility of a

suicide note or other communication from the shooter that might reveal why a well adjusted teenager decided to open fire on five of his friends and relatives, and then commit suicide. Students have speculated that possible trouble with a girl or with his friends drove him to commit the tragic act.

Zoe Galasso, Gia Soriano, and Shaylee Chuckulnaskit, all fourteen, were those fatally wounded by Fryberg in the attack. Though Andrew Fryberg and Nate Hatch remain alive, Hatch is in satisfactory condition, while Andrew Fryberg is still in critical condition. Hatch tweeted that he loved and forgave his cousin, the shooter. This attitude seems to have been replicated by many other students at the school, and, in a controversial situation, Jaylen Fryberg has been memorialized alongside

his victims at the unofficial memorial.

The tragedy at Marysville-Pilchuck High School has resulted in a large amount of confusion from both fellow students and members of the Tulalip Tribe. No clear motive has so far been identified,

and his behavior was reported as relatively normal, even the day of the shooting. The community continues to grieve and attempt to heal from this devastating event.
(Sources: USA Today, Seattle Times)



HIGH SCHOOL TRAGEDY: Fryberg fatally shot two of his friends and seriously injured two others after inviting them all out to lunch via text message.

all photos courtesy wikimedia commons