

Region 2 Emergency Preparedness Update

November, 2011

INDEX

Meeting Update.....Page 1
 Training.....Pages 1
 Drills/ Exercises.....Page 1-2
 Goals/Projects.....Page 2
 State Directives.....Page 2
 Resources.....Page 3
 Recent News.....Pages 3-4
 Grants.....Pages 4-5
 Meetings..... Page 5
 Council Representatives Contact Information.....Page 6

MEETING

The meeting of the Region 2 Emergency Preparedness Council was held on November 9, 2011 at the Pizza Ranch in Mason City. Representatives in attendance included: Carl Vogeler (Healthcare), Merrill Meese (EMS), Kip Ladage (Homeland Security Board), Matt Hobson (Public Health), Heather Johnston (LEIN/Fusion Center) and Elizabeth Faber (Public Health). Individual discipline updates were given and compiled on this update sheet.

TRAINING

Healthcare

Crisis Intervention

The Region 2 hospital representatives will consider facilitating region-wide training for non-violent Crisis Intervention for their staff. They are exploring bringing a Train-the-Trainer format to a central location so all interested hospitals can maximize their money spent on training.

Emergency Medical Services

Moving forward with EMS transition

The EMS Bureau implementation/transition plan officially began August 1, 2011. Process information and deadlines can be found at www.idph.state.ia.us/ems, select the Transition Tab. Work continues to develop the process for the EMS Bureau to pay the NREMT fee for the first certification examination attempt for the I-85 and I-99s that transition to levels that require written examination. Below is a table showing the dates of transition completion of each level:

Current	Transition Level	Date
1st Responder	Emer Med Responder	9-30-13/14
EMT – Basic	Emer Med Technician	3-31-14/15
EMT – Interm	Adv Emer Med Tech	3-31-2016
EMT – Paramedic	Paramedic	3-31-2018
Paramedic Spec	Paramedic	3-31-14/15

DRILLS/ EXERCISES

Healthcare/Public Health

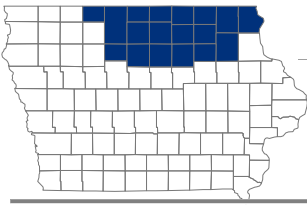
Grant exercise requirements

This year’s preparedness grant for both hospitals and public health requires a minimum of an exercise workshop culminating in a definitive product and a tabletop exercise addressing the various aspects of the grant. Most hospitals typically use the tabletop exercise format to set the stage for a later functional or full-scale exercise.

Emergency Management

Homeland Security and IDPH collaboration

Staff from the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) Center for Disaster Operations and Response (CDOR) attended the Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management training “Training and



Region 2 Emergency Preparedness Update

November, 2011

Exercise Workshop”. Local representatives from each of Iowa’s homeland security regions attended also. One outcome of the meeting is that local Emergency Managers (EM) will likely hold similar workshops at the regional level. In the future, Iowa’s Homeland Security & Emergency Management Department (HSEMD) will work with EMs to demonstrate the need to bring HSEMD funded classes to local agencies through After Action Reports and other assessments.

GOALS/PROJECTS

Healthcare

Job Action Sheets

Community Memorial Hospital in Sumner, has taken on the task of completely revising their Job Action Sheets (JAS) to make them site-specific and also to provide a template for other hospitals to use. This need was identified in their last exercise’s Improvement Plan. The majority of the revisions have been completed and after being rolled-out to staff, the JAS will be offered to others to be used as needed.

Homeland Security

Recent Exercises

Regional: A communications exercise was conducted in October.

Local: Many local exercises have been conducted across the region. Emergency Managers continue to offer to participate in partner exercises as needed.

Special Exercise – Through the Extreme Makeover project in Fayette County, Fayette County Emergency Manager Randy Frank was able to receive exercise credit for:

- Pre-event planning
- Communications test during the project
- Working at the scene outside of West Union.

- For those counties participating in all three events, all exercise requirements for EMPG have been met. Thanks Randy!

“Julia” Project

Several counties in the region have been working with Wartburg College on a project to create a volunteer database for emergency response. A press conference will be held in the near future.

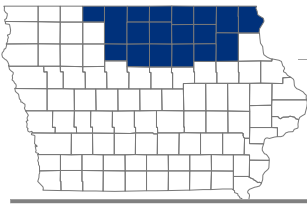
STATE DIRECTIVES

EMS

EMS Service Program Renewal

EMS service program reauthorization will now coincide with the onsite inspection. Currently, service authorization is renewed and onsite-inspection conducted every three years, however the inspection and renewal have not always occurred at the same time. The new process will ensure services are reauthorized when the online application is completed (at least 30 days prior to expiration) and when full compliance is noted following an onsite inspection.

Full compliance occurs when there is resolution to any deficiencies and all fields of the System Registry are complete and up to date. This means that IDPH EMS personnel will email a service to schedule an onsite inspection the next time an EMS service reauthorization is due. At that time, instructions will be given about what is needed to renew the service authorization. After the inspection is completed and confirmation of compliance occurs, the service authorization will be renewed and a certificate of authorization with a new expiration date will be issued via email. Please contact your regional EMS field coordinator with questions.



RESOURCES

Healthcare/Public Health

Emergency Preparedness for Special Needs

Following up on information from the June, 2011 “EnableUS” conference relating to emergency preparedness for special needs populations, the hospitals are working with members of the Iowa State Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf to present their available resources at a regional steering committee meeting. We are tentatively planning for the January 15, 2012 meeting and hoping that both public health and hospital staff can participate. An invitation will also be extended to the region 2 Emergency Management Coordinators as well.

EMS

Patient Care Protocols

The Quality Assurance Standards and Protocols (QASP) committee continues to work to develop consistent language and formatting throughout the protocols. The 2011 protocol revisions may include a specific trauma protocol that includes shock and a cardiac arrest protocol that includes post-resuscitation with induced hypothermia. QASP has recommended the IDPH EMS procedures document currently found on the EMS Bureau website be removed since the document has not been revised since 2006 and most services have procedures or SOPs based on the equipment specific to their service.

RECENT NEWS

Public Health/Healthcare

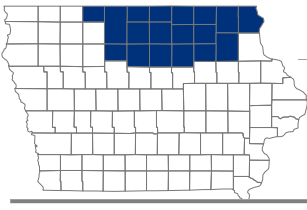
PIO Network Update

The Region 2 PIO Network is a group of Public Information Officers from the 18 counties in Region 2 that will serve during times of emergency. The following disciplines are currently represented: county government, emergency management, law enforcement, fire, hospitals, public health, environmental health, private industry, schools, and elected officials. Goals of the group are to network, provide education, create templates, participate in drills, and locate other resources for effective risk communication. All are welcome to be involved in this free group. There is a currently a small committee of representatives, along with regional and state staff, planning a Joint Information Center exercise for early March 2012. The next meeting of the PIO Network will be via webinar on November 15, 2011. Contact Elizabeth Faber at efaber.region2@gmail.com for more information.

Regional Alliance

Ensuring statewide preparedness for public health emergencies focusing on biological threats has been funded for Iowa since 2002 through federal programs for Public Health and Hospital Emergency Preparedness. As with many programs developed post-September 11, 2001, the funding for these programs is steadily declining each grant cycle.

The Regional Alliance Committee was convened by the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) to ensure local concerns for public health and hospital preparedness efforts are examined and carefully prioritized. This committee finished its work and published its report to the IDPH director in August, 2011. Some of the aspects of preparedness given highest priority are as follows:



Region 2 Emergency Preparedness Update

November, 2011

Page 4 of 6

- Communications (HAN, 800 mHx radio system, etc)
- IDPH staff to administer Preparedness program
- Regional Epidemiologists
- Regional Planners (CDC and HPP) and Education/Exercise Coordinators
- Iowa Disease Surveillance System
- Local planning and exercise contracts
- Environmental Health

Many other initiatives are listed as important to Iowa's preparedness efforts also.

Public Health

Influenza

Influenza season is coming soon...So far Iowa has had 2 confirmed cases of "typical" influenza diagnosed this fall. It is anticipated that H1N1 influenza, along with another strain or two, will come to Iowa in the next few months. Fortunately H1N1 and the other likely strains that might arrive are included in the seasonal influenza vaccine.

Recently, three cases of a new variant swine origin, triple reassortant H3N2 influenza has been identified in three children in central Iowa. This is a strain different than other H3N2 strains circulating and it is uncertain that current vaccine will be effective for this strain, although there may be SOME protection from current vaccine. At this point, there is no evidence of this strain active anywhere else in Iowa and it has not caused severe disease.

Everyone 6 months old or older should receive a flu vaccine each year. There appears to be plenty of vaccine available and since it takes two weeks or so for vaccine to protect an individual, now is the time to get immunized.

Emergency Medical Services

Federal legislation - HR 3144

This bill:

- Recognizes the federal Dept. of Health and Human Services (HHS) as the primary federal agency for EMS/trauma care oversight.
- Establishes an Office of Emergency Medical Services and Trauma under HHS. The responsibilities of the Office of EMS and Trauma include field EMS programs, regionalization of emergency care pilots and

emergency service training, equipment, assistance, etc

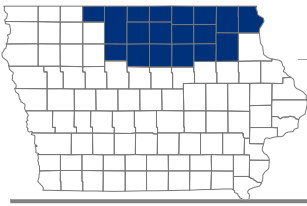
- Requires HHS to develop a cohesive national EMS strategy to strengthen EMS development at federal, state and local levels, taking in consideration the recommendations of the National EMS Advisory Council (NEMSAC) and the Federal Interagency Committee on Emergency Medical Services (FICEMS). The strategy must address patient and practitioner safety and EMS standardization of licensing and credentialing.

EMS System Standards

David Luers, Fire Chief for Fort Dodge Fire Dept. has been appointed by the EMSAC committee to chair the EMS System Standards subcommittee.

The System Standards Committee will have a booth near the Bureau of EMS at the IEMSA Convention and Trade Show next year. The booth will be staffed with personnel able to answer EMS Standards questions.

An educational program has been developed to present to local EMS groups wanting more information about the Standards. Contact Evelyn Wolfe, SE Regional EMS Field Coordinator at 319-624-9085 or evelyn.wolfe@idph.iowa.gov



Region 2 Emergency Preparedness Update

November, 2011

Page 5 of 6

GRANTS

Healthcare

Hospital Preparedness grant

With the new, FY11-12 Preparedness Grant underway, hospitals are planning on how best to use their grant funds to meet the requirements of the grant and at the same time, add value to their overall preparedness program. Some of the Region 2 hospitals are considering the purchase Notification Software – some of which also

contain emergency planning, incident management and exercise tools as well. Various vendors for these products have presented at recent regional meetings.

Public Health

FY 11-12 PHEP Meeting

In August, the FY 11-12 preparedness grant year began. This year is the first of a 5 year grant period. (Hospitals begin a similar 5 year grant period NEXT year).

This year, local public health agencies are tasked with working on 3 public health capabilities. They have the option of choosing from 5:

Capability 3: Emergency Operations Coordination

Capability 4: Emergency Public Information and Warning

Capability 6: Information Sharing

Capability 8: Medical Countermeasure Distribution

Capability 13: Public Health Surveillance and Epidemiological Investigation

Each county must demonstrate full completion of ONE capability and build/sustain at least two additional capabilities. In addition, requirements include maintaining NIMS compliancy, participating in one workshop and one tabletop exercise,

responding to HAN alerts and 800 MHz radio tests, and completing required reports.

Emergency Management

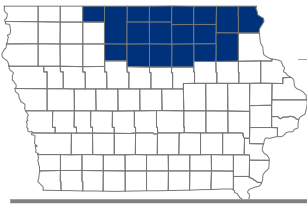
EM Grant funding

Funding for Emergency Management in Iowa has been reduced dramatically. Management of homeland security grant funds is now done by a fiscal entity for all regions (not a state person). Citizen Corps/CERT grant funds for the region continue to be managed at the regional level.

MEETINGS

Region 2 Public Health Emergency Preparedness Steering Committee meeting via webinar
Tuesday, December 20, 2011
1:00 p.m.- 3:30 p.m.
Contact Elizabeth Faber- efaber.region2@gmail.com
for more information

(No meeting in December for Hospitals)



Region 2 Emergency Preparedness Update

November, 2011

Region 2 Emergency Preparedness Council

The Region 2 Emergency Preparedness Council was formed in April 2005 in response to a need for increased collaboration and communication among the different agencies focusing on preparedness in the Region. The regional model of collaboration was adopted to model such planning at the local level.

Representatives are expected to share pertinent information with local partners, resources, emergency plan details, funding sources, other meeting information, upcoming trainings, educational events, and exercises.

18 Counties We Serve:

- Allamakee
- Bremer
- Butler
- Cerro Gordo
- Chickasaw
- Emmett
- Fayette
- Floyd
- Franklin
- Hancock
- Howard
- Humboldt
- Kossuth
- Mitchell
- Winnebago
- Winneshiek
- Worth
- Wright

This update is published by R2EPC in an effort to coordinate the efforts of emergency preparedness organizations in this region, with the goal of sharing the following: resources, emergency plan details, funding sources, other meeting information, upcoming trainings, educational events, and exercises. For further information contact one of the R2EPC Representatives listed below.

Region 2 Emergency Preparedness Council Representatives

- ◆ **Healthcare (Hospitals) Regional Planner:** Carl Vogeler, bt2cv@imonmail.com
- ◆ **Public Health- Regional Director and Education/Exercise Coordinator:** Elizabeth Faber, efaber.region2@gmail.com
- ◆ **Hospital Education and Exercise Coordinator:** John Carter, region2eec@gmail.com
- ◆ **Region 2 Epidemiologist:** Matt Hobson, matt.hobson@idph.iowa.gov

- ◆ **EMA - District 2 Representative:** Darrell Knecht, Howard County, dknecht@co.howard.ia.us
- ◆ **EMS - Merrill Meese,** merrill.meese@idph.iowa.gov
- ◆ **Region 2 Homeland Security Board -Rep:** Kip Ladage, Bremer County, kladage@co.bremer.ia.us
- ◆ **Public Safety/LEIN- Heather Johnston,** hrichard@dps.state.ia.us
- ◆ **HazMat - Region V Administrative Coordinator** Peg Stickrod, regionvlepc@yahoo.com