

Partnership for the Enhancement of Regional Preparedness (PERP)

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Regional Medical Coordination Center Finalized

On April 14, 2011 we held a regional medical coordination center (RMCC) education session and functional exercise at Central MA EMS Corp in Holden MA. Russell Phillips & Associates, LLC refined the RMCC plan, provided the education, and exercised the plan. Approximately 40 stakeholders representing home health agencies, hospitals, long term care facilities, health centers, local physicians, specialty care rehabilitation facilities, EMS, public health and the metropolitan medical response system (MMRS) attended the event. Participants received an overview of the operational goals and logistics of the RMCC

and the roles and responsibilities of those who may be asked to staff the RMCC during or after an emergency. Following the education was a functional exercise designed to walk through a mock response effort utilizing the RMCC. Since the event, health and medical facilities throughout the region have identified staff within their facility that could potentially respond to the RMCC if activated.

The goal of the RMCC is to more efficiently and effectively coordinate the movement of medical surge patients, resources, and staff during a large emergency or disaster. The RMCC will en-

hance and integrate health and medical response capabilities throughout the region on a multi-disciplinary scale. This resource is available to all health and medical organizations in region 2 and representatives from all organizations are encouraged to learn more.

An additional education session will be scheduled. In addition, a WebEx virtual learning session will be developed that facility staff can view online. Please visit the PERP website or contact the grant coordinator for more information.

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<http://cmemsc.org/PERP/>

Top 3 Hazards Identified in Region 2

The PERP grant has compiled hazard vulnerability analysis (HVA) documents from approximately 40 health and medical organizations located in region 2. While all facility specific information remained confidential, the top 3 hazards identified by each facility were identified and compiled to identify the top 3 haz-

ards for the region.

HVAs are an important tool to identify both man made and natural hazards that individual organizations or communities are at risk for. Moreover, this tool is used to determine planning priorities for individual organizations and the region. It is suggested all organizations conduct

an HVA and update it on a yearly basis or after an event. Once the document is reviewed and approved by the PERP executive committee, it will be posted on the PERP website:

<http://cmemsc.org/PERP/>





**The 3rd Annual
Health & Medical
Stakeholder
Meeting
will be held this
September. Look
for upcoming
emails and
invitation for
more
information.**



Harvard School of Public Health Learning Collaborative

PERP has joined a nationwide learning collaborative with Harvard School of Public Health targeted at improving emergency notification and communication. A set of standard protocols have been developed on how best to ensure stakeholder contact information is up to date and accurate.

PERP has selected long term care facilities as their first discipline to apply the pro-

cess. Over the next several months, all long term care facilities in region 2 will receive a telephone call from the PERP grant coordinator, Colleen Turpin, asking several brief questions regarding emergency contact information for the facility. Once long term care facilities are completed, the process will be evaluated and adjusted before beginning the next health and medical discipline.

Ensuring contact information is accurate is a fundamental task in effectively and efficiently communicating with the region. Please be advised that your facility will be contacted during the coming months. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact Colleen:

508-799-1764
turpinc@worcesterma.gov

Health & Homeland Alert Network

The Health & Homeland Alert Network (HHAN) was developed by the MA Department of Public Health in 2001 to ensure health and medical organizations throughout the state are notified in a timely manner of critical information. If you or someone in your organization has not yet registered to receive HHAN alerts, we

recommend you contact the following email address to become a recipient.

Alert.Network@state.ma.us

Once registered, you will receive a user name, password and profile. Your profile will allow you to customize your means of notification (email, cell phone, home phone, text message) and determine the categories

of alerts you would like to receive. The HHAN is also utilized during emergency drills and exercises. At least 2– 3 staff from your facility should be registered if possible. For questions and registration please contact:

Alert.Network@state.ma.us

Or go online to
www.mass.gov

Nicole's Law

Nicole's Law was signed by MA Governor Mitt Romney in November 2005 requiring all houses with a potential source for carbon monoxide be equipped with carbon monoxide detectors. The law was expanded in 2006 to include a variety of buildings including hotels, hospitals and nursing homes. All buildings had a 2008 deadline for installation.

Although it is important to install carbon monoxide detectors as required by law, it is equally important that your facility has a plan put in place on how to respond to a potential carbon monoxide leak or poisoning. On Thanksgiving Day 2010 a nursing home in upstate New York was evacuated due to a carbon monoxide exposure. Several residents

became ill during the morning hours, followed by one of the alarms sounding. A full building evacuation was ordered. No serious injuries resulted. Carbon Monoxide exposure is considered an uncommon emergency in a healthcare setting. As a result, it is important to put a plan in place on how to respond when an alarm sounds.

About PERP

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Emergency Preparedness Bureau awarded a health and medical partnership grant to the City of Worcester, Division of Public Health in January 2009 on behalf of Worcester and Central Massachusetts (Region 2). This grant, known as the PERP grant, is designed to enhance the health and medical collective capacity to share resources and respond to large emergencies, or disasters, throughout Region 2. PERP is governed by a ten person executive committee representing ten health and medical related disciplines including public health, the metropolitan medical response system (MMRS), local hospitals, an ACS level I trauma center, local physicians, EMS, specialty care rehabilitation hospitals, long term care facilities, health centers, and home health agencies. The executive committee welcomes participation and input from all regional stakeholders. Please contact the grant coordinator for more information.

MA Emergency preparedness Region 2 PERP Grant

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Regional Resources

Below are resources available to health and medical professionals throughout the region. Courses offered include Basic Disaster Life Support (BDLS), Advanced Disaster Life Support (ADLS), Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), Hazmat Awareness, Foundations for Local Public Health Practice, Risk Communication and many more. Most of these courses are free.

The Center of Excellence
for
Emergency Preparedness
Education and Training
("CEEPET")
@
University of Massachusetts
Medical School

For information on classes
being offered, please visit
their website:

www.ceepet.org

Be A Volunteer!

Join the **Worcester Regional
Medical Reserve Corp.**

*For information on the
WRMRC and how to apply*

please visit their website:

www.worcesterregionalmrc.org

**Local Public Health
Institute
of Massachusetts**

For information on upcoming
classes
please visit their website:

www.masslocalinstitute.org