

READY COMMUNITIES PARTNERSHIP
BEST PRACTICES



PUBLIC/PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS

TO STRENGTHEN COMMUNITY PREPAREDNESS

www.ciprr.org

Blu-Med Response Systems©



Mobile Field Hospitals

<http://www.blu-med.com/>

In 2007, the State of California's Emergency Medical Services Authority (Cal EMSA) developed and fielded three 200-bed Mobile Field Hospitals. The hospitals were assembled and delivered by BLU-MED Response Systems, a Kirkland, Washington-based company that specializes in customized field deployable medical facilities. The BLU-MED systems are modeled after the US Air Force Expeditionary Medical Systems (EMEDS) and have been used in civilian disaster response and military missions, such as after Hurricane Katrina and the tsunamis in Indonesia.

Each Mobile Field Hospital is outfitted with state-of-the-art mobile medical equipment and includes: an emergency department with a separate major resuscitation area, ward space for patients, an operating suite, medical and surgical intensive care units, a step-down unit, a lab, digital radiography, and a negative pressure isolation ward. The three fully-equipped mobile hospitals constitute the largest U.S. civilian medical response facilities of their kind.

BLU-MED's hospitals help to facilitate the efficient distribution of resources because the State of California identified that they would be working multiple "high-priority" issues and may not have the time, resources or immediate expertise to organize the logistical mission that must accompany deployment of such a multi-functional response asset.

To ensure a predictable response, BLU-MED maintains a trained set-up crew and the necessary logistical equipment. This logistical capability was tested in California during the state's annual "Rough and Ready Exercise." One complete 200-bed hospital was dispatched from Sacramento to Los Alamitos (more than 400 miles away) and set-up in less than 72 hours.

ESRI

GIS and Real-Time Location Information

<http://www.esri.com/>



ESRI has been a world leader in the geographic information system (GIS) software industry for more than 30 years. ESRI provides powerful GIS solutions to more than 300,000 clients around the world. Headquartered in Redlands, California, ESRI has regional offices throughout the United States, several subsidiary companies overseas, and more than 2,200 business partners, which include 400 authorized instructors and partner education centers who work with ESRI to provide software, data, and hardware that complement ESRI's suite of GIS software.

Working with location information, ESRI's GIS software and solutions give first responders the power to solve problems while organizations around the world, that include local, state, and federal government agencies, are using ESRI GIS software to make smart and timely decisions.

Software developed by ESRI is built on standard and open information technology and has been designed to operate with all relational database management systems.

ESRI software is developed with open (nonproprietary) development tools, and is built on new, modern, object-component software standards that are easily customized and embedded for a wide range of application needs. From desktop GIS to GIS for the enterprise, ESRI Internet software revolutionizes the way users can access and interact with Internet mapping and GIS data at the desktop, making the promise of distributed GIS a reality that is easy to accomplish.

ESRI will continue to be a leading provider of mapping technology that meets the needs of today's competitive market.



American Red Cross

Helping to Organize Community Preparedness and Response

<http://www.redcross.org>

The American Red Cross Preparedness Team provides programs and services to help prepare individuals, families, schools and businesses for natural, human-caused and public health disasters and emergencies.

Working through chapters, education and training is disseminated to the American public by teaching communities about specific threats such as hurricanes, fires, earthquakes, terrorism or pandemic flu.

American Red Cross' goal is to build a culture of preparedness by encouraging Americans to understand their individual risk and geographical threats, and then take action to adopt specific preparedness behaviors needed to become safer and more prepared when disasters occur.

Last year, over 10,000 Community Disaster Education (CDE) facilitators reached more than 5 million Americans participating in disaster education sessions offered through American Red Cross chapters.

Over 1 million school-aged children were reached through Masters of Disaster, a curriculum taught through schools, scouting groups, boys/girls clubs, and other youth centered organizations using lesson plans to teach about disaster and at the same time learn math, science and language arts and other subjects that meet national education standards.



Christian Appalachian Project

Direct Community Involvement During the First 72 hours

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

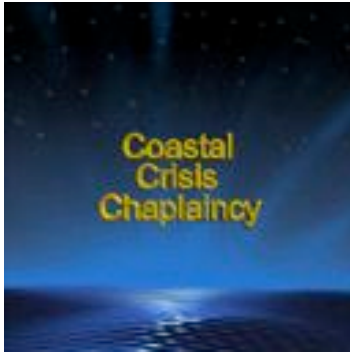
Christian Appalachian Project (CAP) is the twelfth largest human services charity in the United States. CAP provides a wide variety of direct services to some of the poorest and most at-risk populations in the nation while at the same time providing services designed to respond to the extensive needs of entire communities in the first 72 hours of a disaster.

CAP has been providing direct donations of in-kind goods, collection sites, trucking and distribution of disaster related relief and recovery supplies. CAP's Operation Sharing, a major gifts-in-kind program, has proven to be a critical component of CAP's disaster response and recovery services by providing trucking capacity, warehousing, distribution and delivery of goods and emergency relief supplies to a disaster site.

Building on its experience, CAP has significantly expanded its service area for disaster relief while developing significant additional capacities in its ability to provide response and recovery services within the Appalachian Region:

CAP cultivates and provides a comprehensive, collaborative network for grassroots, faith-based, non-profits, community-based and non-government organizations performing supportive or direct services that assist in disaster preparedness, response and recovery efforts. To enhance and support federal, state and local efforts related to response initiatives, it responds to mitigate the impact and facilitate the recovery of individuals, families and their communities.

CAP is experienced in swift reaction, rapid and accurate assessments of situations and draws upon its own substantial resources and connections as a part of its response activities.



Coastal Crisis Chaplaincy

Helping Spiritual and Mental Health Recovery

During an Emergency

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

Coastal Crisis Chaplaincy provides counseling to responders and victims who are affected by disasters so that mental and spiritual recovery can take place. Chaplaincy during the first 72 hours of a disaster brings the skills to help provide the victims the mental care they need.

During the recent fires in Southern California, Coastal Crisis Chaplaincy founder Rev. Rob Dewey traveled to the state to train Episcopal priests to help with recovery and response operations. The tools Rev. Dewey provided helped the church community and local community assist the federal, state and local fire and EMS personnel to stay focused, healthy and ready.

These relationships with local and national agencies should be established and nurtured before the disaster occurs. It is essential that proactive Spiritual Care be available as a part of the responding system whether it is "minor" or "major". The clergy, trained by Coastal Crisis Chaplaincy, attend regular training sessions and are seen as an asset to the emergency responders and to the victims of disasters.

Part of this training includes Incident Command courses through FEMA. In making chaplains part of the local and national system, there is an inclusion on all levels of service in a disaster. Chaplains involved from the beginning of a disaster situation assist in mitigating the possibility of a person experiencing a long-term spiritual and psychological crisis. The beginning goal when responding to a scene is to offer a "Ministry of Presence" in the midst of chaos.

Additionally, Rev. Dewey is seeking to incorporate spiritual preparedness and a "Ministry of Presence" by teaching disaster ministry at seminaries around the U.S. It is Rev. Dewey's hope that by teaching the skills early, seminarians will incorporate those lessons into their greater mission.

The Rev. Rob Dewey is the Founder and Senior Chaplain of the Coastal Crisis Chaplaincy located in Charleston, SC. He also serves as a Chaplain with the FBI, ATF and the Disaster Mortuary Operational Response Team.

Community of Minneapolis

Real-Time Information Sharing and Community Involvement During I-35W Bridge Collapse

<http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/>



Recent technological upgrades to Minneapolis' infrastructure have helped emergency officials gain the upper-hand when working to mitigate or respond to a disaster. A new municipal wireless service, upgraded 911 calling capabilities and enhanced dispatcher technologies helped improve the response to the I-35W bridge collapse in August of 2007. Because of the quick response time and the coordination and communication efficiencies, many lives were saved.

State and local responders were able to use citizens' resources such as camera phones, blog updates and videos posted to YouTube to help with the response, recovery and investigation of the bridge's collapse.

Minneapolis officials said later they were pleased by the level of cooperation and coordination shown during response operations and the recovery process. Partners from the Red Cross helped to triage victims being pulled from the rubble while the implementation of the City Emergency Response Plan allowed for quick assessment, resource allocation and effective communications among those responding.

The city's response capabilities are grounded in a new computer-aided dispatch (CAD) 911 call system which came online in March of 2007. That system is supplemented by the Automatic Vehicle Location System (AVL) which allows dispatchers to visually identify response vehicles on a map. The AVL system also transmits field and dispatch reports to give firefighters a report before they reach the location of a disaster.



Envisage Now

Connecting Responders in the First 72 Hours through the *Acadis Readiness Suite*

<http://www.envisagenow.com/>

<http://www.envisagenow.com/acadis.asp>

Envisage has over 10 years of experience in handling specialized management training and resource allocation for military, federal law enforcement agencies, the Departments of Homeland Security and Justice and state law enforcement training organizations.

To help train first responders, Envisage has developed its *Acadis Readiness Suite* - an enterprise software system to collect, store, search and disseminate information on emergency personnel and physical assets to respond to critical incidents in the first 72 hours of a crisis. The system can be used to identify personnel with the specific skills sets required to effectively respond to a critical incident.

Training and skills data from *Acadis* can be directly loaded onto a credential (smart ID badge) allowing crisis managers to instantly identify who is in a staging area, allow/deny passage into hot zones, and provide vital skill data to incident commanders. Furthermore, *Acadis* may be used to communicate with other systems, via XML data exchange, supporting interagency coordination and mutual aid agreements.

The coordination of human capital and physical assets during a crisis, coupled with the ability to measure readiness, is an integral component to a community's survivability during and after the first 72 hours of crisis. Access to the tools and technology required to share vital information with local, State and Federal response organizations can be a significant factor in saving lives and rapidly recovering from crisis.



L-3 Communications

Real-Time Three-Dimensional Situational Awareness

<http://www.l-3com.com/>

L-3, one of the fastest-growing and largest defense companies in the United States, provides multiple homeland security, first response, information and technological solutions for communities from the state and local levels to the federal government. By providing solution services for all levels of government, L-3 is able to help identify specific problems, goals and actions all communities can take to prepare for and respond to emergency situations when they arise.

In January, the Department of Homeland Security chose L-3's Advanced Three-Dimension Locators to help federal first responders gain increased situational awareness. Manpower and resources can now be tracked using the Indoor Navigation Technology developed by L-3 subsidiary Interstate Electronic Corporation.

All responders at the scene of an emergency wear a global positioning satellite beacon which gives field and emergency management the ability to see all those responding, even when they are inside a building. The new technology will help give state and local responder agencies the ability to tell their federal and private sector partners who is responding, where they are working, and what resources are being used.

This kind of situational awareness and real-time knowledge of the current state of a response will increase local, community, state and federal agencies' ability to create more effective emergency operation management and response plans.



Mercy Medical Lift

Homeland Security Emergency

Air Transportation System

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

Sometimes during the first 72 hours of a disaster, access to affected communities is cut-off because of damage to roadways and Interstates.

The Homeland Security Emergency Air Transportation System (HSEATS) is a nationwide first-responder system of on-demand specialized aviation support. It is an organized preplanned civil aviation response to disasters. HSEATS is managed by

Mercy Medical Airlift, a non-government organization.

Foremost, HSEATS promotes quick responses by providing airlift transport to evacuate special populations from a disaster area to distant medical centers, long-term care facilities or hospitals.

During the response to Hurricane Katrina, HSEATS flew more than 2,600 missions in total safety. This aviation disaster response support was second in scope only to the U.S. military.

HSEATS also facilitates delivery of key personnel and high priority small cargo to disaster locations and overflight inspection of disaster by key government or NGO officials. HSEATS utilizes both small private aircraft and larger corporate jet aircraft.

MMA began by providing help to those who cannot afford travel costs to access distant specialized medical evaluation, diagnosis or treatment.

MMA works to ensure relief - be it in response, supplies, operations or access to distant hospitals - for all compelling human need and homeland security emergencies.

MMA is a member of the Air Charity Network, a national charitable aviation network that matches people with "free" flights.



Medical University of South Carolina

Helping to Establish the National Center for Disaster Mental Health Research

<http://www.musc.edu/>

The Medical University of South Carolina has begun a collaboration to create the National Center for Disaster Mental Health Research with Dartmouth Medical School, the University of Michigan, Yale University and the University of Oklahoma.

The new center's goal is two-fold. First, it seeks to establish the disaster research infrastructure needed to conduct a comprehensive research study of a major disaster. Secondly, after the infrastructure is in place, an actual study of a future natural disaster or terrorist attack can take place as it unfolds.

Many of the investigators from Dartmouth who will be working on the NCDMHR are affiliated with the current National Center for PTSD, while others from Michigan's School of Public Health are skilled in post-disaster epidemiology and survey research.

Yale scientists have been credited with "expertise in the neurobiology of human stress response." The University of Oklahoma's Health Sciences Center will help develop a child epidemiology and services research center inside the NCDMHR.

In November of 2006, MUSC participated in the Southeast Regional Meeting of the NCORP Advisory Council hosted by the National Council for Readiness and Preparedness, the City of Charleston, Charleston County Emergency Preparedness, and the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control. MUSC's role was vital in showcasing the "community fusion" model of participation among community stakeholders and local, state and federal agencies to increase community preparedness and response operations.

NC4

Information-Sharing and Resource Allocation for Federal, State, Local and Community Response



<http://www.nc4.us/nc4/index.php>

NC4 is a global leader in Situational Readiness solutions, offering situational awareness, situational response and secure communications and collaboration solutions to businesses and government to improve awareness, prevention, protection, response and recovery.

NC4's ESP Group, a subsidiary, manages the Essential Public Network (EPN), a secure communication and collaboration extranet portal. EPN is a forum of more than 120 public and private sector leaders coordinating to develop a stakeholders' partnership for creating a secure network for non-governmental users. This secure network supports the coordination of private sector organizations in response to a terrorism event or natural disaster. The EPN system has been certified and accredited for handling data at the Sensitive But Unclassified (SBU) level, providing a secure platform for federal agencies to disseminate SBU threat information to enhance national situational awareness, prevention and protection capabilities.

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) recently selected NC4 to deliver a secure web-based extranet portal. The HSIN-Intelligence portal provides DHS Intelligence & Analysis with a trusted secure platform for the rapid dissemination of intelligence data at the Controlled Unclassified Information (CUI) level to 10,000 users including representatives from the DHS Intelligence Enterprise as well as a nationwide community of State, Local, Tribal, and Private Sector (SLTP) customers, and Federal and International partners. The portal will also be utilized to support State Fusion Centers by providing a secure environment as well as a suite of core tools for collaboration at the CUI level amongst intelligence analysts nationwide. NC4 provides the **Extranet Secure Portal (ESP)** service via its secure application service provider model.

NC4's **External Situational Awareness (ESA)** offering provides customers with a higher level of preparedness. NC4 monitors global incidents around-the-clock through its NC4 Incident Monitoring Centers (NIMCs), advising customers when an incident might impact their business operations, based on customized key risk criteria. Customers are alerted within minutes to incidents near their facilities that could potentially pose a threat to their employees' lives and safety, their physical assets and their continuity of business operations.

When a significant incident occurs, NC4's Situational Response offering **E Team** allows emergency response personnel to collaborate and manage efforts across multiple organizations, from a single common view and coordination point. E Team is a leading incident management solution with proven interoperability and real world experience.



Public Engine and Crime Reports

Identifying Crimes within a Community: Geographic Situational Awareness for Communities

<http://www.crimereports.com>

CrimeReports, a service of Public Engines, Inc., provides web-based communications services for law enforcement agencies to manage and control communications directly with citizens. Using the CrimeReports services, law enforcement agencies can post and map daily local crime information to CrimeReports.com and communicate directly with citizens any time, within minutes, via email.

CrimeReports has a proven history of helping law enforcement provide simple, direct communications with citizens in multiple locations across the U.S. The CrimeReports service is inexpensive, easy to implement, and can be instantly activated allowing law enforcement agencies to manage and control communication directly with citizens for timely, efficient and actionable information directly from their local law enforcement agency.

Although CrimeReports is a daily crime reporting tool, law enforcement agencies can use the CrimeReports service in times of emergency to send emergency alert email messages to citizens in support of local emergency response activities.



National Federation of Independent Business

**Empowering Small Business Resiliency
through Preparedness**

<http://www.nfib.com/page/home>

The backbone of the U.S. economy is small business, giving a community its vitality and strength. During times of crisis and emergency, small businesses provide a valuable service by helping federal, state and local emergency management officials within the first 72 hours to mitigate possible dangers to a community.

The National Federation of Independent Business has partnered with Corporate Crisis Response Officers Association to provide a mechanism for private sector and non-profit communities to share resources and information so that valuable assets are protected and communities can remain resilient.

The Essential Public Network allows the transfer of information and data, communications, resources and news to travel between the private, public and non-profit sectors through trusted channels of communication over the Internet.

Close to 70 percent of all Americans are employed by small businesses. Leveraging small business assets and resources through collaborative partnerships like the Essential Public Network will help communities prepare, mobilize and respond during the first 72 hours of a crisis.



Siemens

Helping the Gulf Coast Infrastructure Recover from Hurricane Katrina

<http://www.usa.siemens.com/entry/en/us/index.htm>

Since Siemens was founded more than 150 years ago, its corporate responsibility programs at the local and international levels have contributed to communities where employees live and work through programs like Caring Hands and Siemens Generation21.

To help with recovery efforts on the Gulf Coast, Siemens has been working with the American Red Cross to generate more than \$2.8 million in donations, in addition to helping rebuild by giving power generators to hospitals in Houston and Louisiana, telecommunications equipment to emergency control centers, water treatment and heart-imaging equipment to Houston-area hospitals.

Siemens provides a broad range of systems, products and services to the nation's most technologically advanced enterprises: Public Safety and Homeland Security; Integrated Building Solutions and Energy and Environmental Solutions; Public Health, Information and Communication; Transportation and Water and Wastewater Solutions; and to private businesses.

Siemens is a world leader in automation and control, information and communications, lighting, medical, power, transportation and water technologies.

Sustainable success is Siemens' number one priority - a focus on meeting the needs of its customers and creating value for communities and employees. Innovations generated in its laboratories in cooperation with customers, business partners and universities are its greatest strength. Siemens' global network of innovation is developing new products and services for a world that – while limited in resources – is boundless in possibilities.



Cisco

**Network Emergency
Response Vehicle (NERV)**

<http://www.cisco.com/>

Communications are always vital. During natural and other disasters, however, they become an absolute necessity. Cisco is in the IP communications business and has identified a need for a ready-to-go, plug-in solution for command center communications during emergencies.

The outcome: The Network Emergency Response Vehicle (NERV), a mobile communications vehicle which can act as a command center for on-the-ground disaster management as well as a central processing center for communications for that effort.

Through Cisco's IPICS technology, disparate radio systems are able to communicate with each other via IP translation.

The NERV also facilitates TelePresence, video surveillance, Wi-Fi, satellite communications, and IP telephony on-board.

This kind of capability allows those in the first 72 hours of an emergency to establish quickly much-needed communications links between responders, communities and agencies. NERV also provides an opportunity for emergency operations management and personnel to establish a framework for communication while allowing for access to information and resources.



Previstar

The Continual Preparedness System

<http://www.previstar.com>

Previstar's Continual Preparedness System (CPS) is a web-based information management system that enhances situational awareness, strategic level decision support, and tactical execution for all-hazard preparedness, response, recovery and reimbursement. CPS is the only incident management solution driven by NIMS and ICS and is Safety Designated.

Military personnel, first responders, emergency managers, and medical organizations have used Previstar CPS to protect schools, prepare for bioterrorism attacks, safeguard the Salt Lake City Winter Olympics, and recover from the multiple 2004 Florida hurricanes and Hurricane Katrina.

Previstar takes users beyond status boards by providing a single, integrated solution that combines:

- All hazards step-by-step incident planning wizard
- Online training of standard industry courses and user defined curriculum such as specific roles, functions, and organizational plans
- Exercise capability that tests and validates plans
- Comprehensive resources management including resource needs and shortfall reports
- Mass casualty scenario based predictive modeling
- Strategic and data driven decision support
- Common operating pictures, multi-dimensional situational awareness, GIS mapping
- Multi-level, incident activated notifications
- Dynamic and integrated ICS Forms
- Operational work flow, tracking, and on demand reporting

The systems web based and modularized architecture provides a flexible and scalable solution that enhances stakeholder interoperability, both vertically and horizontally across organizational boundaries.

By combining architecture with a unique suite of capabilities, CPS facilitates a unified approach to planning and response by enabling agencies with different political, legal, geographic, and functional responsibilities to coordinate, plan, and interact effectively for all hazards incidents.

Finally, organizations with preexisting systems can select from the CPS capability suite to augment functional gaps and create more comprehensive solutions for their communities.

Sprint



Providing Fast On-the-Ground Communications

<http://www.sprint.com/index.html>

In the first 72 hours of a crisis, Sprint's main objective is to help a community's businesses and customers regain communications using the Enterprise Incident Management Team and the internal Business Continuity Program. Through response, restoration, resumption, and recovery, the company's Field Operations personnel help to coordinate with local authorities and provide initial damage assessments.

Sprint also works to help businesses streamline and hone their continuity of operations (COOP) strategies through utilizing high-speed wireless data services for teleworking and teleconferencing for real-time situational awareness and field reporting.

Sprint uses several tools to help leverage existing community resources; namely the Direct Connect, Priority Connect, Wireless Priority Service (WPS) services, Direct Talk units, GPS enabled handsets, camera phone, laptop wireless card, and Blackberry devices.

Even if the conventional communications infrastructure is damaged, Sprint's capabilities through Direct Connect help to connect response operations communications through handset-to-handset communication. The technology provides two-way communications over a range of about six miles.

Federal, state and local responders as well as government agencies utilize this walkie-talkie service. Currently, the service is used by 50,000 federal law enforcement and homeland security employees and more than 1,000,000 state and local first responders.

Because the communications infrastructure can be complex, Sprint's specialized Emergency Response Teams help train and assist emergency operations every day of the year across the entire country. The ERTs can implement Rapid Deployment Solutions quickly, delivering equipment and personnel to help manage and maintain communications.

And if all communications infrastructure fail, Sprint can deliver Satellite Cell Sites on Light Trucks (Sat-COLTs) which provide a complete mobile capability that can be deployed anywhere for several weeks without maintenance.



Operation Safeguard

Partnering with Public/Private Sectors to Practice Emergency Response Operations

During the summer of 2007, members of the public and private sectors gathered in Monroe County, Michigan to test their response and communications abilities in an emergency situation. The emergency response exercise, called Operation Safeguard, involved representatives from the local, state and federal governments, railroad companies, the American Red Cross, the National Guard, the Department of Agriculture, police enforcement agencies, EMS and other responder agencies.

The exercise was the first large scale UASI - Urban Area Security Initiative exercise in the region. The UASI consists of City of Detroit, Wayne, Washtenaw, Monroe, St. Clair, Macomb and Oakland Counties. This very large SE Michigan exercise's main focus was to regionalize plans and procedures to share resources and training events to improve the preparedness of organizations, government agencies, communities and businesses for emergency incidents.

The primary objectives of the exercise were to: 1) test the communications between the National Incident Management System and the National Response Plan with the Emergency Operations Center (EOC); 2) test how the EOC works; and 3) check the application of those commands in field operations. Military and local responders also dressed and acted as real-life victims.

Organizers said they were also looking at information-sharing and task and resource management among local and state organizations and the ability of the private and public sectors to coordinate and communicate effectively during the exercise.

After-action reports found strong use of the Incident Command System while agencies participating handled their responsibilities well. Coordination and communication was handled perfectly.

Areas for improvement included: the need for better communications capabilities among remote-locations; more radios; better Emergency Operations Center and team training over the Internet; and better knowledge and understanding of the participating disciplines' roles and capabilities.



TerreStar

**Bringing Broadband Access
to Rural Vermont**

<http://www.terrestar.com>

Limited Internet and cell phone access in rural Vermont diminishes communities' abilities to access and share information without the use of traditional telephone lines. However, a new partnership between state officials and TerreStar is designed to provide a satellite network that will link ground-based phone and data networks to improve cell phone and broadband service.

Additionally, state police officials will be able to use the service provided by TerreStar to share large amounts of information quickly and interoperably.

TerreStar's partnership with Vermont to build the network will help fill "gaps" in radio and cellphone communications. The network will be the first 4G network in a mobile environment - able to provide seamless integration between satellite and terrestrial systems over commercially available devices.

The capabilities provided by TerreStar will help rural communities obtain the access to information-sharing they need to facilitate response and recovery operations in remote areas.



The University of Texas Medical Branch

Successful evacuation of patients during Hurricane Rita

<http://www.utmb.edu/>

Only three weeks after Hurricane Katrina slammed the Gulf Coast states in 2005, Hurricane Rita raced toward Galveston, Texas. As Rita grew from a tropical storm to a hurricane, Dr. Karen Sexton R.N., PhD., CHE and Vice President and CEO of Hospitals and Clinics at UTMB oversaw the preparations for evacuation of patients from the UTMB hospital.

In a ten-hour span, remote staging areas were set up to move the patients using ground and air transportation. Medical records, medication lists, details of each patient, the location of where they were being moved and any other vital information was copied and sent to all appropriate personnel.

Once all patients were evacuated, and as the storm approached, Dr. Sexton advised all other staff to leave the hospital. Gov. Perry sent two C-130s to help evacuate the remaining medical staff. However, operating rooms in the hospital were kept open by volunteers who decided to stay on the island and help respond to any injured victims needing assistance.

UTMB's self-managed evacuation of a large institution evacuation is an example of a best practice for medical facilities and caregivers who are looking for a way to increase their ability to respond to the needs of hospital patients and the greater community.



Washington D.C. Fire and EMS

Neighborhood Corps

<http://fems.dc.gov/fems/site/default.asp>

Earlier in 2007, the Washington D.C. metro area received high marks for its first responders' ability to communicate and efficiently share information using updated interoperable emergency radios. With increased communications capabilities, Washington Fire and EMS responders are able to understand the situation at hand in real-time.

Adding to the city's communications upgrades, Washington D.C. Fire and EMS partnered with the Metropolitan Police Department, the District Department of Transportation, and the Emergency Management Agency to teach classes for the community-based Neighborhood Corps.

The Neighborhood Corps was established by the District Citizen Corps council. Classes are available at the Fire Training Academy to community members who help with the volunteer emergency teams in their communities. Should an emergency arise, residents trained by the Neighborhood Corps can help respond before emergency services arrive at the scene.

"Nothing beats being prepared and trained for the job at hand. Professionals never let their guard down. You must always do the right thing and never fly by the seat of your pants." So says veteran Fire Chief Dennis L. Rubin, a.k.a "the Rube" in Rubes for Survival.

