

Overview of Emergency Preparedness in
the North Dakota Health System
for Long Term Care

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BACKGROUND

Preparedness Grants Funding :

- **PHEP**-Public Health Emergency Preparedness
- **HPP**-Hospital Preparedness Program

- Originated after 9/11 and the Anthrax attacks of 2001

Where We Started

- We introduced ourselves to our partners
- We drafted Department Emergency Operations Plans
- We started training and exercising
- We trained with our partners(Forensic Epidemiology)
- We learned the language
- We identified our response needs

PREPAREDNESS

"Always plan ahead. It wasn't raining when Noah built the ark."

Richard C. Cushing

- Hurricanes Katrina - elderly population accounted for 15% of the New Orleans population, but 70% of the deaths .
- Storms highlighted the challenges of evacuating long term care facilities :
 - Absence of evacuation plans
 - Transportation problems
 - Lack of alternate housing
 - Staff stress and shortages
- Even facilities with solid plans were challenged by the loss of community infrastructure.
- Many would not receive outside support for 72 hours or longer.

NORTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT of EMERGENCY SERVICES

DES

- Administers Homeland Security Program
- Administers State Radio services-911 for 22 counties
- Has a 24/7 duty officer ("react")
- Supports Local Response and Recovery

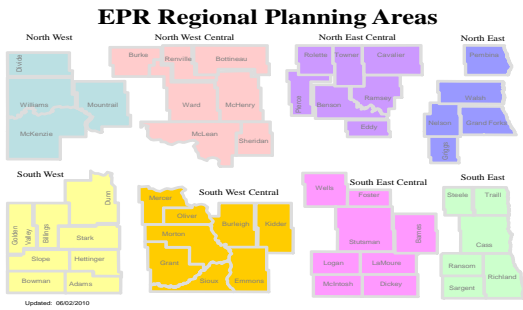
LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGERS

- Each county has an emergency manager (part or full-time)
- Key role in coordinating response and recovery
- Provides situational awareness
- Determines resource requirements

ND DEPARTMENT of HEALTH

- Emergency Preparedness and Response Section
 - Public Health Preparedness Division
 - Hospital Preparedness Division
 - Emergency Services and Trauma Division
- 24/7 Case Manager-contacted through state radio

PLANNING and RESPONSE REGIONS



EMERGENCY RESPONSE REGIONS

- **8 Public Health Response Regions**
 - 1 Emergency Preparedness and Response Coordinator (EPR)
 - 1 Environmental Health Practitioner (EHP)
 - .5 Public Information Officer (PIO)
- **4 Hospital Regions**
 - Hospital Bioterrorism Coordinators
 - Safety and Emergency Management

EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTERS

- State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC)
- ND Department of Health Department Operations Center (DOC)
- Local City/County Emergency Operations Center (EOC or LEOC)
- Local Public Health Department Operations Center (DOC)
- Hospital Department Operations Centers

EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLANS (EOP)

“Plans are nothing; planning is everything”.

Dwight D. Eisenhower

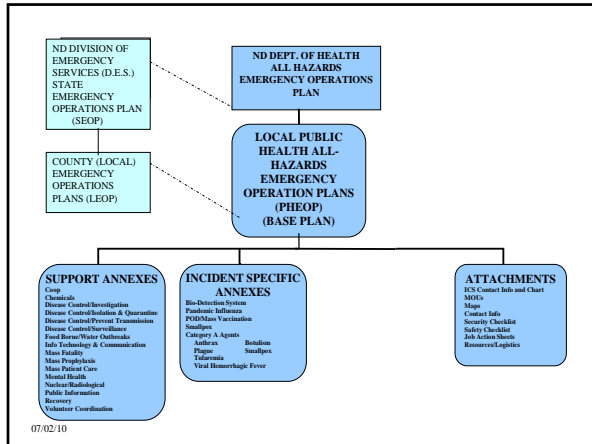
- ND DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN (EOP)
- County EOP
- ND Department of Health EOP
- Local Public Health EOP
- Hospital EOP
- Agency EOP

ELEMENTS of an EOP –just DO IT

“A good plan today is better than a perfect plan tomorrow.”

George S. Patton

- Start with: Vulnerability Assessment
- Unique feature of your agency: staffing, food, water, pharmaceuticals, communication
- How to reduce human injury and damage to property in an emergency
- Who may put the plan into action(authorities)
- Duties, responsibilities, and resources




TOOLS

- *Emergency Preparedness Checklist for Nursing Homes, Assisted living Facilities, and Group Homes*
 – Montgomery County Advanced Practice Center for Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response

PARTNERSHIPS

- Build trust among partners in advance
- Build relationships BEFORE an emergency
- Partners may vary depending on the event
- Consider everyone a potential partner
- Meet the people you'll be working with and depending on



PARTNERSHIPS

- Fire departments
- Environmental Health
- EMS
- Red Cross
- Law Enforcement
- Group Homes/Assisted Living
- Hospitals/Clinics/Long Term Care Agencies
- Utility companies
- Association partners
- Mental health
- Government agencies

ACRONYMS

Acronyms common to Emergency Preparedness & Response Planning include:

- | | |
|-------------|------------------|
| EOC | ICS |
| DOC | PHEVR/MRC |
| NRF | CERT |
| NIMS | EOP |

EOC

Emergency Operation Centers

- Operate within the Standardized Emergency Management System
- Centralized locations of emergency management
- Provide resources to impacted areas during disaster
- Manage operations and information
- Analyze and evaluate the overall situation
- Obtain and allocate resources
- Support and implement response and recovery strategies
- Transition to normal operations

EOC Management

- Coordinates the EOC & its Sections
- Divides work and allows for “special teams” to focus on special issues
- Responsible for EOC ACTION PLAN
- Interfaces with Policy Group, PIO, Liaison, Safety, etc

DOC

The Department Operations Center

- Points of management for each critical department/agency
- Dispatch Field Staff per pre-established priorities
- Maintain own resources and staff
- Request additional resources from the EOC
- Coordinate operations with the EOC

NRF

National Response Framework

- a guide that details how the Nation conducts all-hazards response– from the smallest incident to the largest catastrophe.
- establishes a comprehensive, national, all-hazards approach to domestic incident response.
- identifies the key response principles, as well as the roles and structures that organize national response
- describes how communities, States, the Federal Government and private-sector and nongovernmental partners apply these principles for a coordinated, effective national response.

NRF cont..

- describes special circumstances where the Federal Government exercises a larger role, including incidents where Federal interests are involved and catastrophic incidents where a State would require significant support
- lays the groundwork for first responders, decision-makers and supporting entities to provide a unified national response

NIMS

National Incident Management System

What is NIMS...

- A comprehensive national approach to incident management
- Applicable at all jurisdictional levels and across all disciplines

Federal Directive Says...

- Federal Agencies must use NIMS
- State, local and Tribal Governments must comply with NIMS in order to receive federal funding

NIMS cont..

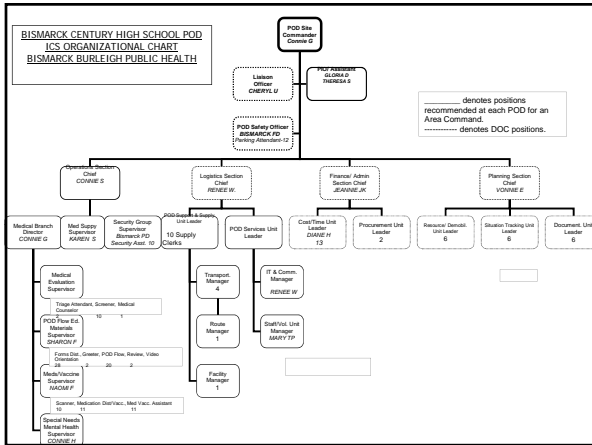
Why We Need NIMS - Lessons Learned...

- Emergencies happen daily (Response to any type of incident)
- A need for a coordinated response system (organizations working together)
- A need for standardization of organization, resources and terminology
- A need for responders to be able to work and communicate together

ICS

Incident Command Structure

- **COMMAND:** Has the overall responsibility at the incident or event
- **OPERATIONS:** Directs all resources and Conducts tactical operations to carry out the plan
- **LOGISTICS:** Provides support to meet incident needs
- **FINANCE/ADMINISTRATION:** Monitors costs related to incident, provides accounting reports, and procurement time recording
- **PLANNING:** Develops the action plan to accomplish the objective



ICS cont..

ICS System Application can be used for...

- All types of incidents
- Multi-Agency and Multijurisdictional
- Planned events
- Parades
- Conventions
- Concerts

PHEVR/MRC

**Public Health Emergency Volunteer Reserve
Medical Reserve Corps**

- a partnership between the state and local health departments and communities throughout the state of North Dakota.
- enhances the ability of North Dakota’s health and medical system to respond in a public health emergency situation.
- provides medical and non-medical personnel to assist in a public health emergency

PHEVR/MRC cont..

PHEVR/MRC

Medical Roles include:

- *Triage Nurse:* Direct patients to special areas for assistance
- *Medical Screener:* Review patient history
- *Vaccinator:* Administer immunizations

Non-medical roles include:

- *Information Distribution:* Assemble and hand out packets
- *Data Entry:* Collect registration info and retain records
- *Traffic Flow:* Maintain order in parking areas

CERT

Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT)

- Educates people about disaster preparedness for hazards that may impact their area and trains them in basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations.
- Members assist others in their neighborhood or workplace following an event when professional responders are not immediately available to help.
- Members support emergency response agencies by taking a more active role in emergency preparedness projects in their community

EOP cont..

The emergency operations plan includes:

- all possible emergencies, consequences, required actions, written procedures, and the resources available
- detailed lists of personnel including their home telephone numbers, their duties and responsibilities
- floor plans
- large scale maps showing evacuation routes and service conduits (such as gas and water lines).

EOP cont..

- Exercises and drills should be conducted to practice all or critical portions (such as evacuation) of the plan.
- A thorough and immediate review after each exercise, drill, or after an actual emergency will point out areas that require improvement.
- The plan should be revised when shortcomings have become known, and should be reviewed at least annually.
- Changes in infrastructure, processes, materials used, and key personnel are occasions for updating the plan.
