Health Care Coalitions: The Benefits of Working Together

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San Diego Healthcare Disaster Coalition: Strengthening Healthcare Relations for Disaster Response and Recovery

Objectives

1. Describe the development of a countywide health care coalition
2. Identify best practices in implementing coalition relationships to ensure mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery for various disaster incidents
3. Describe steps to health care resiliency during disasters
San Diego Healthcare Disaster Coalition

History:
• 1997–2000
  – San Diego hospital representatives met routinely to discuss disaster preparedness
• Informal meeting structure
• Titled “Disaster Interest Group”
• Informally shared disaster related “best practices”

San Diego Healthcare Disaster Coalition (cont.)

Hospital reps wanted to write plans and set policy
• Decision made to become a more formal group
  – Strengthen health care partnerships
  – Develop and write plans
• Partnered with San Diego County Emergency Medical Services and Public Health
San Diego Healthcare Disaster Coalition (cont.)

- Name, Bylaws, Charter were developed
  - San Diego Healthcare Disaster Council (SDHDC)
  - Elected Co-Chairs (2-year term)
    - 1 Clinical
    - 1 Operational
  - Regular meeting time and place
  - HPP Grant deliverable and technical assistance
    - Equipment standardization and demos

San Diego Healthcare Disaster Coalition (cont.)

Coalition membership:
- Hospitals
- Community Clinics
- Office of Emergency Services
- SD County EMS
- American Red Cross
- Law Enforcement
- Fire
- Navy and Marine Corps
- FBI
- Amateur Radio
- DMAT
- Puget Sound Naval Shipyard
San Diego Healthcare Disaster Coalition (cont.)

- 2014: SDHDC reviewed the federal coalition recommendations
- Updated bylaws and charter and became an official health care disaster coalition

San Diego Healthcare Disaster Coalition (cont.)

Expanded Coalition Focus:
- Invited additional health care organizations to include skilled nursing facilities
- After-action debriefings
- Development of subcommittees
- Showcased partner programs and job roles
- Monthly guest speakers
- More frequent sharing of best practices
Regional Hazard Vulnerability Assessment

• Poll all hospitals for top 5 HVA rankings
• Compile and aggregate top 5 hazards by hospital
• Compile and rank top 5 events for county
• Package data and letter for The Joint Commission

The San Diego Experience

• Three major firestorms
  – 2003
  – 2007
  – 2014
• 2009 H1N1: first documented U.S. case
• 12-hour countywide total blackout: 2011
Decontamination Project

- 1999: State of California distributed tobacco tax dollars to CA Counties for preparedness
- San Diego County:
  - Purchase decontamination equipment
  - SDHDC decision to purchase the same equipment for all hospitals

Hospital MOU Project

Develop a Memorandum of Understanding for all San Diego hospitals:
- Share staff
- Share resources
- Never expires
- Utilized during the 2003 and 2007 wildfires
Airport Communications Project

Established a partnership with the San Diego Airport and airlines
- To ensure accurate communications and location of victims should an aviation event occur
- Hospitals and airlines share contact information
- Hospitals agree to identify the location of patients by airline manifest

Airport Communications Project (cont.)

- Hospitals and airport partner for mandated airport disaster exercises
- AIREX 2017 — October 23rd
Evacuation Project

Coalition Subcommittee
• Developed the Perinatal Evacuation Plan
• Developed a comprehensive plan to identify transport needs for all patient populations utilizing Stanford’s NICU TRAIN tool
• Developed a “Situation Status Report” used by all San Diego County hospitals

Active Shooter Project

Coalition Subcommittee
• Surveyed San Diego health care regarding active shooter preparedness, training, drills
• Provided breakdown of emergency codes used for active shooter (codes vs. plain language) in hospitals
• Frequency of drills and public safety involvement
Community Clinic Project

Hospital partnering with community clinics to provide:

• Disaster planning, response and recovery educational workshop
• Technical assistance in writing an EOP
• Working together on the 2017 Statewide Medical and Health Exercise

Coalition Newsletter

Monthly newsletter developed by Coalition members

• Share disaster related news
• Improve communications with members
• Showcase best practices
• Education and training calendar of events
Benefits of a Coalition

- Wide range of agencies, disciplines & expertise
- SD County EMS and Public Health support
- Regional planning approach
- Train, drill and exercise together
- Venue to share
- Collaborate and support each other
- Technical assistance
- Equipment and training standardization
- HVA Standardization
- It’s all about relationships

Questions?

Don’t forget to complete your evaluation!

If you do not have access to the app, please see CHA staff for a printed evaluation.

CE certificates will be emailed within two weeks of the conference.
Thank You!

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