



NNE MMRS Update

Winter 2006-2007

Steering Committee

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New Hampshire Strike Team Exercises Acute Care Center

Team's First Deployment a Success

The New Hampshire Medical Strike Team, along with Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center (DHMC) and the Town of Hanover, NH, held a very successful emergency response exercise on November 15, 2006. The exercise simulated an infectious disease mass casualty event in order to test the hospital and surrounding community's response capacity and capabilities. The exercise included the establishment of an Acute Care Center (ACC) at Dartmouth College's Leverone Field House to simulate a community-based surge capacity facility. There was also a triage station established at DHMC, and both the hospital and the Town of Hanover opened and staffed their Emergency Operations Centers (EOC). External observers from across New Hampshire and Vermont, as well as Vermont Governor Jim Douglas, were in attendance.



NH Strike Team Member Ed Consentino provides care to Dartmouth College student Derrick Harrison in the ACC.



ACC set up in Leverone Field House

Sixteen NH Strike Team members participated in the day-long exercise. The team provided care to the victims, who were played by local high school and college students, and coordinated with Hanover Fire to set up the ACC. Basic medical supplies were provided by DHMC, and the Town of Hanover supplied cots and additional personnel.

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The Strike Team piloted HC *Standard*™ software during the exercise to track and triage 50 patients at both DHMC and the ACC using handheld devices. HC *Standard*™ was also used to demonstrate the mass distribution of critical medications and supplies from a Strategic National Stockpile Point of Distribution (SNS-POD), as might occur during a mass casualty event. Team members got to play victims during the morning POD exercise.



Strike Team member Donald Pfaefflin with medical supplies at the ACC

The Regional Office would like to thank the Strike Team members and all others who made this day a success!

Vermont Strike Team Meeting Planned for January

The Vermont Strike Team will be holding a team meeting on Monday, January 8, 2007, at 6:00pm. The meeting will be at the St. Mike's Rescue Building in Colchester, VT. All VT team members are encouraged to attend. Refreshments provided!

The meeting agenda will include:

- Completion of any necessary forms
- Uniform sizing and distribution
- Photos taken for formal team ID's
- Applications for leadership roles

Please contact Christine at the Regional Office if you have questions.
(603) 653-1550 or Christine.a.tolis@dartmouth.edu

Steering Committee Meetings

The Fall Steering Committee Meeting was held on Sunday, October 29, and Monday, October 30, 2006 at the Lake Morey Resort in Fairlee, Vermont. Over 15 members of the committee attended along with several staff from the Regional Office. There were significant discussions about the Strike Teams as well as review of current and upcoming projects.

Save the Date!

The Spring 2007 Steering Committee Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, March 4 and Monday, March 5 in Southern Maine. Watch your email for further details.

Required Training for Northern New England MMRS Strike Team Members

All strike team members, regardless of your specific discipline or role, must complete the following trainings: **IS100, IS200, IS700, and IS800.**

If you have taken these, please make sure we have copies of your certificates on file. If you have not taken these yet, please do so when you get a free moment. IS100, 700 and 800 take about an hour each and IS200 takes a little longer, depending on your familiarity with ICS and NIMS.

These are available online at the FEMA website:

http://www.training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/ICSResource/ICSResCntr_Training.htm

Please remember to forward copies of all training certificates to the NNE-MMRS Regional Office. These include FEMA courses, CBRNE courses, and any other class or training that pertains to our mission. If you are involved in any Homeland Security/Emergency Management/CBRNE or Public Health Exercises, please forward proof of this also.

If you have any questions, please contact either Olan (603-653-3439) or Christine (603-653-1550) at the Regional Office.

Free Online Emergency Preparedness Courses

Yale New Haven Center for Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Response

The Yale New Haven Center for Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Response offers a series of online courses on emergency preparedness topics for health care workers. The courses are free and available to all health care workers. Each course concludes with a brief quiz that tests your comprehension of the material and documents your completion of the course. Available courses include: Bioterrorism Preparedness for Clinicians, Incident Command Systems, and Mental Health Aspects of Emergencies and Disasters for Non-Mental Health Professionals.

You can view descriptions of available courses by going to

<http://ynhhs.emergencyeducation.org>

Homeland Security Course Offered at Fletcher Allen

A Homeland Security AWR 160 WMD Awareness course will be offered on Saturday, January 13, 2007 at 8:00am in the McClure Conference Room at Fletcher Allen Health Care in Burlington, VT. The course will cover recognition, avoidance, isolation, and notification in a WMD event. The course is free. Please contact Steve Trala directly (steve.trala@vtmednet.org) if you are interested.

Medical Clearance Required for All Strike Team Members

All strike team members must be medically cleared in order to participate in exercises and deployments. Forms have recently been distributed to New Hampshire and Vermont team members, and Maine team members should receive them soon. If you need a medical form or have questions, please contact the Regional Office at 603-653-1189 or info@nnemMrs.org.

Health information is reviewed only by Occupational Medicine providers at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center. Please include any appropriate immunization or medical records with your paperwork.

Strike Team Application Process and Information

Strike Team application packets are available from the regional office, which is coordinating the application process by collecting all required documents and verifying credentials with the respective state licensing boards. The office will forward all applications to the State Team Commander for approval. After approval, applicants will receive a confidential healthcare questionnaire. The Occupational Medicine Department at Dartmouth-Hitchcock will screen team members to ensure their safety while providing care.

We are in the process of designing a new, comprehensive database of strike team members and applicants. We ask for your patience, especially for current Team members!

All three Strike Teams are looking for physicians, nurses, EMTs, logistics and support staff. If you are not yet a Strike Team member, we encourage you to complete an application. If you know someone who would be an asset to the team, please give them an application.

For more information or an application, please call (603) 653-1189 or email info@nnemMrs.org

New NECEP website

Check out the new NECEP website at <http://dms.dartmouth.edu/necep/> to find out about all of our different projects and partners.

NECEP Staff

NECEP has had some staff changes, so we want to re-introduce the regional staff:

Robert Gougelet, MD, is the Director of NECEP and the NNE MMRS. He is also the Regional Strike Team Commander and provides Medical Direction for emergency response efforts in New Hampshire and Vermont.

James Geiling, MD, is the Assistant Director of NECEP. He is the Chief of Medical Services at the White River Junction VA Medical Center and Assistant Professor of Medicine at Dartmouth Medical School.

Kendall Hoyt, PhD, is an Assistant Professor of Medicine at Dartmouth Medical School. Dr. Hoyt studies international biosecurity strategy and biodefense research policy.

Olan Johnston, EMT-P, is the Medical Strike Team Coordinator for the NNE MMRS. Olan recently joined the New England Center for Emergency Preparedness from the Maine Emergency Management Agency.

Colleen Minier, BSN, RN, MPH, is a research support specialist at NECEP. She is responsible for education and training opportunities.

Reiley Lewis, MPH, is a research assistant at NECEP, focusing on surge capacity.

Christine Tolis, MPH, is a research support specialist with the NNE MMRS.

