



Omaha Metropolitan Medical Response System

Committees

Alternate Care Facility (ACF) Subcommittee

This committee works with the clinics associated with the hospital facilities that will be challenged to assist with triage of the walking wounded and worried well in the event their Emergency Departments become overwhelmed. Clinic assessments have been completed and a determination on implementation is currently being formulated.

Phase 1: Clinics connected to the hospital or close to the hospital

Phase 2: Clinics free standing in outlying areas

Phase 3: D-Mat requested through Local Emergency Management Agency

Phase 4: Pandemic Influenza Planning / Surge Capacity in conjunction with Public Health

Badge Subcommittee

This committee, in conjunction with the Emergency Management Agencies in the OMMRS area has developed a badge system for solicited and unsolicited volunteers wishing to assist during a disaster in our community. The system developed provides an identification badge to workers that need quick access to an area and provide time sensitive badges for the event. The Metro Omaha Medical Society (MOMS), State of Nebraska Licensing and Credentialing Board, community non-profit agencies, fire department and law enforcement have been consulted and involved in this project. Badge making equipment has been purchased and training conducted on its use. United Way of the Midlands has taken on the responsibility of the development and training for the badge system.

Behavioral Health Subcommittee

This committee has been working on addressing the Behavioral Health needs that would arise in the event of a major disaster and have established a Behavioral Health Command Center. Staffing for all sites that mental health professionals would be needed is a major issue. More Behavioral Health workers are needed. Educational and training needs are being evaluated. If in the event the Dispensing and Vaccination Education Sites (DAVES) were to be opened two Behavioral Health Professionals would be required at each site per state policy. Twenty one potential sites have been identified in the Douglas County area that could be set up. Behavioral Health Professionals would also be needed at various other locations such as, but not limited to: Family Assistance Centers, Receiving Staging Storage site (RSS), Mass Fatality sites, Mass Care sites, Personnel Processing Point (PPP) sites, and the Alternate Care Facility (ACF) sites.

Communications Subcommittee

This committee has established a communication system to be utilized in the event normal lines of communication are not available.

Phase 1: Radios/Antennas are installed at all Omaha-Council Bluffs Metropolitan area and neighboring community hospitals as well as designated community agencies. Trained amateur radio and Radio Emergency Associated Communications Team (REACT) operators cooperate to staff these sites and ensure regional voice communications.

Phase 2: Currently completing Packet radio (wireless digital messaging) equipment installation for all hospital sites.

Phase 3: Collaboration with area hospitals, Douglas County Health Department, Emergency Operation Centers, Mobile Communications, Inc., and Douglas County Communications Chief, to complete Douglas County 800 MHz system public health, hospital, and selected community agency 800 MHz radio deployment and training.

Communications: Recruitment and Training Subcommittee

This committee sponsors and designs annual training for licensed amateur (or “ham”) radio operators and Radio Emergency Associated Communications Team (REACT) personnel. The training covers Weapons of Mass Destruction (WDM) agents, the National Incident Management System and privacy and confidentiality issues. Training is also provided utilizing the sets of three radios purchased by the Communications Subcommittee and placed at each hospital. Currently this committee is working on recruitment tools for enlisting those who may be interested in becoming involved. This would include those who would like to become a licensed ham or REACT operator or those who would be willing to assist in other communication identified needs.

Community Plan Subcommittee

This committee incorporates OMMRS plans into county plans once they are written, approved, and tested to ensure that OMMRS plans are not in conflict with County, Local, State, or Federal plans. Letters of Resolution have been signed by each of these counties.

OMMRS/UASI Drill/Exercise Design Team Subcommittee

Omaha is an Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) city. The OMMRS Drill/Exercise Design team is the exercise design team for all required UASI exercises. The committee works with community agencies to design and conduct drills/exercises as required by all regulatory agencies and is responsible for testing all OMMRS plans and procedures.

All problem areas identified with drills/exercises are evaluated for resolution. Within the last two years five tabletop exercises have been conducted, two workshops, and two full-scale exercises. The third full scale exercise was conducted on October 27 and 28, 2006.

To date, several OMMRS plans have been tested including, but not limited to:

- Emergency Operations Center (EOC) Medical Table Design
- Receipt of the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS)
- Setting up a Distribution and Vaccination Education Site (DAVES)
- Setting up a Receiving, Staging, and Storage Site (RSS)
- Testing the radios installed for the Ham Operators to utilize with Communication
- Review of the Behavioral Health Plan
- Review of the Personnel Processing Point (PPP) plan
- Notification plan
- Badge System
- ACF
- Communications
- Pharmacy
- Central Briefing Sites

Emergency Operations Center (EOC) Medical Table Subcommittee

This committee is responsible for the functions associated with the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) Medical Table in the event that the EOC is opened with a major disaster. The Omaha Fire Department will serve as the Coordinator of Medical Resources and Supplies (CMRS). Participation from the five health care systems, Veterans Affairs, Offutt AFB, mental health providers, medical suppliers and transportation partners will assist the CMRS to fulfill demands as indicated by an event. Job descriptions have been established and training is ongoing. The EOC Medical Table has the following Job Assignments:

- Coordinator of Medical Resources and Supplies
- Assistant Coordinator of Medical Resources and Supplies
- Medical Communication Leader
- Medical Personnel Processing Point Leader
- Medical Resource Distribution/Allocation Leader
- Medical Transportation Leader
- Medical Pharmacy Leader
- Medical Behavioral Health Leader
- Messengers

The EOC Medical Table will be set up with a full activation of the EOC but may be activated on a partial basis upon request to the EOC Director from any of the hospitals or Public Health.

Equipment and Training Subcommittee

This committee evaluated decontamination equipment and set up training sessions for equipment purchased. All hospitals in the Omaha Metropolitan area have the same equipment and have completed the same decontamination training.

All five healthcare systems have instructors trained to keep the Decontamination teams annual reviews updated and for replacement of those who leave the team. This committee conducted an educational conference on Weapons of Mass Destruction for health care providers and Hospital Emergency Incident Command System (HEICS) training. Radiation detection equipment and training has been provided for all hospitals in the OMMRS area. The committee is responsible for assessing and evaluating all Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) that has been or will be purchased for Omaha Metropolitan Area Hospitals. Negative Pressure Portable Units have been evaluated and purchased for area hospitals as was a smaller BioSeal System unit for contaminated bodies. An IsoPod containment system has been purchased for infected victim transfer. Evaluations are currently underway of ventilators which could be used for surge capacity.

Hospital Subcommittee

This committee completed a manual entitled “Omaha Metropolitan Medical Response System (OMMRS) Hospital Manual for Weapons of Mass Destruction”. This manual includes information on Nuclear, Biological, and Chemical agents and is to be used as a resource for the metropolitan area hospitals in the development of their own facility plans. A copy was provided to all metro area hospitals as well as those in Dodge, Washington and Saunders Counties. Mutual Letters of Understanding have been signed by Omaha Metropolitan area hospitals and long term care facilities and Erhling Bergquist. This committee has revised the “Hospital Patient Status” form that will be utilized in a major disaster.

Law Enforcement and Security Subcommittee

This committee has evaluated and assessed the security needs that will be needed in the Omaha Metropolitan area in a major disaster event. Hospital, Mass Care, Mass Fatality, Morgue, Alternate Care Facility Sites (ACF), Personnel Processing Point (PPP), and the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) security needs have been evaluated. Plans have been established with the Douglas County Health Department for security needs related to the receipt of the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) for the Dispensing and Vaccination Education Sites (DAVES), the Receiving Staging and Storage Site (RSS) and the Transportation Hub Sites. Currently underway is an evaluation of hospital security issues.

Mass Care Subcommittee

This committee addresses the needs that would arise for sheltering and feeding in the event of a major disaster for the Omaha Metropolitan Area. The Red Cross is not allowed to do the decontamination procedure or allow anyone who is contaminated into a shelter site. The committee is currently addressing the issues of decontamination for shelter site(s), sheltering of children in the schools and family pet sheltering. Other areas addressed include assessment of plans currently in place, identification of food and water resources and warehousing of supplies.

Mass Fatality Subcommittee

This committee addresses how mass fatalities would be handled in the community. The committee has developed a plan that deals with procedures and protocols at the site of the disaster and at the mortuary annex. The plan provides for the proper care of the deceased so that they can be identified, prepared and returned to their families. It addresses such issues as transportation and storage of the remains, equipment and personnel needed at the disaster site and mortuary annex and identifies the additional resources that would be required to successfully return the deceased to their families. Also contained in the plan are protocols for preserving evidence in the event that the disaster is a result of criminal activity, handling the remains, body parts, and personal effects of the victims and for returning the possessions of the victims to their families. The plan was developed with the main goal of accomplishing the task in a compassionate and dignified manner. In addition to developing the plan, the committee has taken steps to provide materials and identify local resources that would be needed in a mass fatality event. . The committee has also identified primary and secondary sites for the mortuary annex and arranged for transportation resources to transport and temporarily store the deceased.

Media Subcommittee

This committee evaluated the Omaha Metropolitan area for central locations that could be utilized with regional and national media for medical briefing sites. Each identified site has been evaluated for what is available and what may be needed to accommodate the media. Letters of agreement with the identified sites have been obtained. Public Relations volunteers in the Omaha Metropolitan area are assisting the committee with staffing, and equipment plans, training and pre-scripted messages. A packet of information addressing biological agents and chemicals agents has been distributed to area media outlets. The committee has offered assistance for the ongoing development of a Joint Information Center (JIC).

Personnel Processing Point (PPP) Subcommittee

This Committee, led by the United Way of the Midlands, works to develop sites that could be opened to process volunteers coming to the Omaha Metropolitan area to assist with a disaster. At the PPP, credentials would be checked, short medical history and demographics obtained, and assignments made according to the volunteer's expertise and training. Reassignments would be done as indicated and thank you's sent upon termination of the event. The committee works with the Metropolitan Omaha Citizens Corps (MOCC), to develop a core of retired Police, Fire and Military personnel to assist with security needs. Through a federal grant received in 2003, a Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) has been developed with a current database of over 500 persons. Statewide recruitment efforts are underway.

Pharmacy Subcommittee

This committee evaluates existing pharmaceuticals and purchases drugs needed to treat victims of a nuclear, biological, and chemical (NBC) event. An agreement was made with a regional pharmaceutical supplier for quick delivery of additional drugs as needed. Mark I Kits have been placed in 24/7 rescue squads and area hospitals. Distribution is currently being expanded to all fire departments in the OMMRS area. A Mark I Kit training video was developed and distributed with the Mark I Kits.

An NBC reference library was developed and located at the Nebraska Regional Poison Center. NBC treatment guidelines were developed and distributed to physicians and other health care professionals, emergency rescue workers, and mental health professionals. These guidelines are regularly reviewed and updated. The committee works with public health officials to plan the receipt and distribution of medications and supplies from the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) throughout the designated region and continues to track and update local pharmaceutical caches to ensure that there are adequate supplies of treatment medications in the area.

Public Health /Infection Control Subcommittee

This committee developed information for the biological section of the hospital manual including the notification process, infection control guidelines, and guidelines for specimen collection. Public Health developed plans for delivery of vaccines and/or antibiotic prophylaxis in the event of a biologic incident. The committee reviewed and enhanced notification and communication plans and procedures from hospital microbiology laboratories to Nebraska Public Health Laboratory (NPHL) and Douglas County Health Department. The committee worked with the NPHL to establish a diagnostic testing algorithm for agents of bioterrorism. Additional activities include hospital laboratory training and education related to the establishment of UNMC and NPHL's ability to test for chemical and radiological agents of terrorism in clinical specimens.

Transportation Subcommittee

This committee is currently in the early stages of development. The purpose will be evaluation of the community transportation needs in a major disaster. Issues to be addressed include transportation assistance with disaster site transfers, ACF transfers, evacuations and special needs populations.

Veterinarian Subcommittee

This committee is being re-organized. This committee evaluated how information would be obtained regarding the animal population that could be affected by WMD agents. Staff members of the Nebraska Humane Society (NHS) have been primary points of contact for OMMRS. NHS has adopted the national animal disaster response plan. A surveillance tool for tracking and reporting unusual animal mortality rates was utilized for evaluation in the initial phase of the committee.