

We are Making Strides in Strengthening the Region's Overall Health System

Moving Forward

Planning is essential in developing a robust public health infrastructure and providing resources to manage the dramatic increase in requirements. During the fiscal years 2003 and 2004, the Region has been awarded nearly \$3 million for development and implementation of the regional plan. These resources have been and will be distributed to hospitals and EMS agencies to enhance preparedness and response capability. Accomplishments include:

- Approval of Region 2 North Plan
- Adoption of MEMS plan with modifications
- Approval of pre-event and post-event Small Pox Plan
- Distribution of 125 sets of Personal Protective Equipment to 28 hospitals and related facilities

Sponsored a Smallpox Education Seminar for health care workers, April 2003

More than 600 people attended this event co-sponsored with Region 3 South. Participants learned more about the many aspects of smallpox, including:

- History of the disease
- Preparedness issues and challenges
- Medical management
- Hands on Practicum

Co-sponsored a seminar with Region 3 in October, 2003

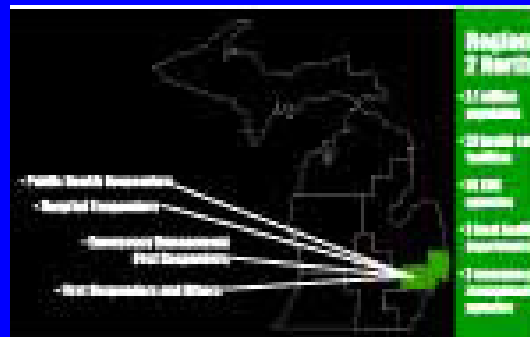
The program focused on Hospital Pharmacist Role in Bioterrorism Response. More than 100 participants were afforded an in-depth look at:

- Grant Initiatives
- Emergency Management Structure
- Federal Strategic National Stockpile Program
- MEMS (Modular Emergency Medical System)
- SNS Exercise 2003



Unique and Focused

Region 2 North is charged with equipping and training hospital and pre-hospital personnel to successfully respond to acts of bioterrorism and related disasters. Our focus is on strengthening the overall health system while recognizing the unique characteristics and challenges of our region. Due to the distinctive nature of our area, we face special challenges including: a dense population, robust industry and commerce combined with multiple waterways and international borders. As a result, we are continually working with our partners to find new and innovative ways to prepare health care providers in our region for potential threats to our safety and security.



Looking to the Future

Overall preparedness is key as we look beyond isolated incident preparation to all hazardous event planning. We will provide comprehensive assessments of a hospital's ability to respond to a potential disaster and enhance the coordination of planning in partnership with emergency medicine and community health. Emphasis will continue to be on:

- Communication
- Training/Education
- Awareness
- Regional Exercises

Our diverse task force is aggressively prioritizing needs and creating effective protocols. These planning efforts are essential in developing a robust public health infrastructure and providing resources to manage the dramatic increase in requirements.

Mission Statement

Develop and implement a regional response plan that functions within an Incident Command Structure in conjunction with local Emergency Preparedness, Public Health agencies, hospitals and EMS agencies in order to effectively mitigate, respond to, prepare for, and recover from Biological Weapons incidents, pandemics and other disasters resulting in mass casualties within the region.

