

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER AT SAN ANTONIO



CENTER FOR PUBLIC HEALTH
PREPAREDNESS
AND BIOMEDICAL
RESEARCH

COMMUNITY PREPAREDNESS The Role of Information Services for Emergency Preparedness and Response



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The ability of the US health system to respond effectively to large-scale disasters rests on the quality and timeliness of the information available, the communication between critical constituencies, and the adequacy of prior planning, coordination and practice.

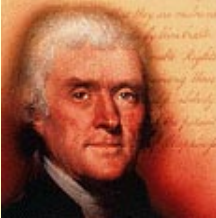
- Emergency departments, hospitals, clinics, physician offices, first responders, labs, pharmacies, school nurses, public health, mental health, medical suppliers.

Goal: Wise decisions

based on knowledge and experience supported by accurate, timely situational awareness from organized information derived from relevant data and a rapid feedback and analysis system



“The health of the people is really the foundation upon which their happiness and power of the State depends.”



-Thomas Jefferson
200 years ago



National Strategy for Combatting Terrorism

“We strive to build an international order where more countries and peoples are integrated into a world consistent with the interests and values we share with our partners – values such as human dignity, rule of law, respect for individual liberties, open and free economies, and religious tolerance. We understand that a world in which these values are embraced as standards, not exceptions, will be the best antidote to the spread of terrorism. This is the world we must build today.”

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Securing Our Homeland, Preserving Our Liberty and National Values

<u>Prevention</u>	<u>Deterrence</u>	<u>Response</u>
Winning Hearts and Minds	Instruments of Power	Authorities Plan and Prepare for Maximum Credible Event
Intelligence	Diplomatic Economic Military	
Non-proliferation WMD		



Gilmore Report December 2003

- Never an end point to America's Readiness
- Total Security is not achievable
- Managing Risk requires continuum– steady state
- Assessing threats, apply acceptable level of resources to minimize vulnerabilities

GOAL: New Normalcy – Create an environment in which current fears are ameliorated by a future confidence knowing the nation is better prepared to counter the terrorist threat.



Homeland Security

Doctrine

Training

Leader Development

Organizations

Material



Preparedness Process

- Assets to be protected
 - People
 - Infrastructure
 - Food supply
- Threats to those assets
 - CBRNE (BNICE)
- Vulnerabilities
- Risk – Consequence x Threat x Vulnerability
- Who is the accountable risk decision authority?



Dr. Fernando Guerra, Director, San Antonio Metropolitan Health District, at CPHPBR lecture series.

Preparedness Process Understanding Scenarios

- Plans – planning process, organizing coordination
- People – gap analysis, training
- Products – equipment, supplies, facilities
- Practice – individual, system of systems interfaces

System of Systems

- Intelligence/Deterrence/Protection
- First Responders (Fire, EMS, Police, Emergency Departments) (Elected Officials, Media, Volunteers)
- First Receivers (Hospitals, Referral Sites, Clinical Surge Capacity)

**Coordination and Operations Center
“The Systems Integrator”
(weak or strong decision authority)**



Critical Information Requirement

- What is happening
- Where is it happening
- What else might happen
- What are our assets
- What is needed now
- What will be needed in the future
- How do we get and share information
- How do we give directions/communicate decisions
- How confident are we of our information
- What have others learned in the past



The Role of Information Services

- Prior to an incident
 - Surveillance, detection
 - Knowledge/lessons learned
 - Training/Exercise assistance
 - Status of assets
 - Standardization of reporting/information
 - Security and Privacy of information
- During an incident
 - Organize relevant information
 - Decision Support Systems
 - Communication assistance
 - Access to knowledge and analysis
 - Asset management tracking



Attributes of Information Services in Preparing Organizations for Emergencies

- Facilitates continuous and lifelong learning
- Functions as a school house without walls
- Training is on-demand
- Globally-networked, access anywhere
- Embedded training tools/decision support



Regional Medical Operations Center (RMOC)

- Purposely located in the regional medical library for south Texas (UTHSCSA)
- All relevant health and medical entities for response across the medical continuum of care
- Systems Integrator
- Knowledge Management
- Meeting space, utility systems redundancy, security



Dr. Harold Timboe (CPHPBR), Gary Meany (NERRTC), and Eric Epley (STRAC) at Regional Medical Operations Center (RMOC) exercise.



The Texas Medical Rangers

Founded 2003

A Proud Unit of the Texas State Guard
