

**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.

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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

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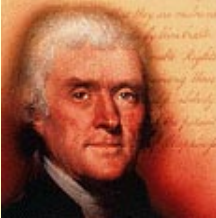
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**“The health of the people is really the foundation upon which their happiness and power of the State depends.”**



-Thomas Jefferson  
200 years ago

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### **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.”

February 2003

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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		

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## 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.

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## Homeland Security

Doctrine

Training

Leader Development

Organizations

Material

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## 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?

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

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### **Preparedness Process Understanding Scenarios**

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

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### **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)**

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### 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

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### 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

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### 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

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## 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

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

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## The Texas Medical Rangers

*Founded 2003*

*A Proud Unit of the Texas State Guard*

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