



## THE BETHESDA HOSPITALS' EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS PARTNERSHIP

### ASSURING SUSTAINED PREPAREDNESS – A MILITARY, FEDERAL AND COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

#### What is BHEPP?

- The Bethesda Hospitals' Emergency Preparedness Partnership (BHEPP) is the first military-federal-civilian hospital preparedness partnership in the Nation.
- Established in 2004, BHEPP has pioneered the process of improving hospital preparedness among diverse organizations and developed a model that can be used by other communities.

#### Why was BHEPP conceived?

- Disasters result in injuries and illness - and hospitals must be prepared to care for those affected.
- The leaders of Bethesda, Maryland's three hospitals recognized they may be called upon to care for mass casualties in the event of an emergency in the National Capital Area.
- The BHEPP partners joined forces to improve the Bethesda community's ability to respond effectively.

#### How does BHEPP improve community preparedness?

- By using a collaborative leadership structure and integrating emergency planning and response.
- By sharing resources to provide an immediate and sustained emergency response.
- By standardizing policies, practices and equipment.
- By conducting joint disaster response exercises, joint strategic planning, and sharing surge capacity.
- By conducting disaster research to develop innovative strategies for emergency preparedness and response.

#### Who are the BHEPP partners?

- **National Naval Medical Center** - the Navy's Flagship hospital with over 3,500 staff and a wartime and peacetime mission.
- **Suburban Hospital/Johns Hopkins Medicine** - an acute care, Level II trauma center with 228 inpatient beds and over 120,000 emergency and outpatient visits annually.
- **National Institutes of Health Clinical Center** - the Nation's largest hospital dedicated solely to clinical research with 242 beds and over 7,000 admissions each year.
- **National Library of Medicine** - the largest medical library in the world whose mission is to collect, organize and provide access to health information.

#### What has BHEPP accomplished since its establishment in 2004?

- Conducted large scale, annual Collaborative Multi-Agency Exercises (CMAX) linking municipal, regional and federal emergency response agencies.
- Enhanced surge capacity by purchasing two fully equipped 25-bed 'Rapid Response Shelters'.
- Strengthened communications interoperability by joining the Joint National Capital Region Enterprise Land Mobile Radio (ELMR) network.
- Initiated studies of potential vulnerabilities including water management and inter-hospital transportation.
- Instituted Continuity of Operations (COOP) planning to ensure delivery of vital healthcare services.
- Initiated 11 disaster research and development projects aimed at sustaining communications, reuniting families with loved ones, and improving patient records management in disaster.

#### How can BHEPP benefit other communities?

- The BHEPP model contains elements that can be transported to other communities who desire to combine the preparedness efforts of diverse organizations.
- Many BHEPP activities are low- or no-cost strategies to improve preparedness, essential in resource-constrained environments.



National Naval Medical Center ♦ Suburban Hospital/Johns Hopkins Medicine  
National Institutes of Health Clinical Center ♦ National Library of Medicine  
For more information: [www.bhepp.org](http://www.bhepp.org)