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UAB Hospital: Emergency Planning

Sarah Nafziger, MD
Co-Chair, UAB Hospital Emergency Management Committee

UAB Hospital Emergency Management Committee

- Co-Chaired by Physician (Sarah Nafziger) and Administrator (Don Lilly)
- Works very closely with Hospital Safety Officer (Dennis Stanek)
- Broad representation from all hospital departments
- Operational Committee that meets quarterly to oversee activities related to Emergency Planning for the hospital
UAB Hospital Emergency Management Committee

• Oversee biannual drills
  ▶ Joint Commission requirement
  ▶ Includes at least one community drill annually
  ▶ Stand up Command Center
• Responsible for oversight of Emergency Management Standards for hospital
• Assist with Joint Commission compliance
  ▶ e.g. Hazard Vulnerability Analysis
• Address new potential threats

Joint Commission: Emergency Management Standards

• EM Standard’s Elements of Performance has increased from 37 to 66 effective Jan 1, 2008!
• Focus on 6 critical areas:
  ▶ Communication
  ▶ Resources and Assets
  ▶ Safety and Security
  ▶ Staff Responsibilities
  ▶ Utilities Management
  ▶ Patient Clinical and Support Activities
• 96 Hours of Self Sufficiency or Evacuation Plan

Preparation Strategies

• Use HVA approach
  ▶ Natural, Technological, or Human Events
• Review Intrafacility Disaster Plans
  ▶ Are they in agreement housewide?
  ▶ Are they reasonable?
Preparation Strategies

• Review MOA’s for supply lines
  ♦ Do we have supply agreements for things we may need in a disaster?

• Community-wide approach
  ♦ MOA between local hospitals for evacuation
  ♦ Pre-existing mutual aid agreements

Preparation Strategies

• National Incident Management System (NIMS) Command Structure
  ♦ Assure leadership familiar with “lingo” and procedures (fema.gov)

• Command Center Practice
  ♦ Hospital Incident Command System (HICS)
  ♦ Tailor your plan to suit your hospital’s needs

Communication

• Test your communication systems
• Have at least 2 backup plans
Resources and Assets

- Inventory of Assets (Equipment and Personnel)
  - Who in my hospital can tell me how many ventilators we have?
- Do we have enough food to last for 96 hours?
- Can we take conservation measures such as diverting non-potable water for things like flushing the toilets?

Safety and Security

- How can we secure our facility if we need to?

Staff Responsibilities

- Plans for reallocation of personnel
- Plans for taking care of your staff (and their families) during event
- Streamlining of resources to focus on critical functions
- Who’s in charge?
Utilities Management

• Can we function without electricity?
• How much fuel do we have for our generators?
• Do we have enough bottled water on hand to last for 96 hours?

Patient Clinical and Support Activities

• Patient care comes first
• Special needs patients
• Mental Health issues
• Mortuary Services
• Medical Records

Thanks!