



School-Based Emergency Preparedness: *Tackling Family Reunification*



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PRESENTED
BY

JASON HENRY
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICER



Emergency Management Staff



- Jason Henry
 - – Corporate Emergency Management Officer
- Greg Reed
 - – Emergency Management Lead – Cox Branson
- Samson Porter
 - – Emergency Management Lead – Cox Monett





Additional Key Staff

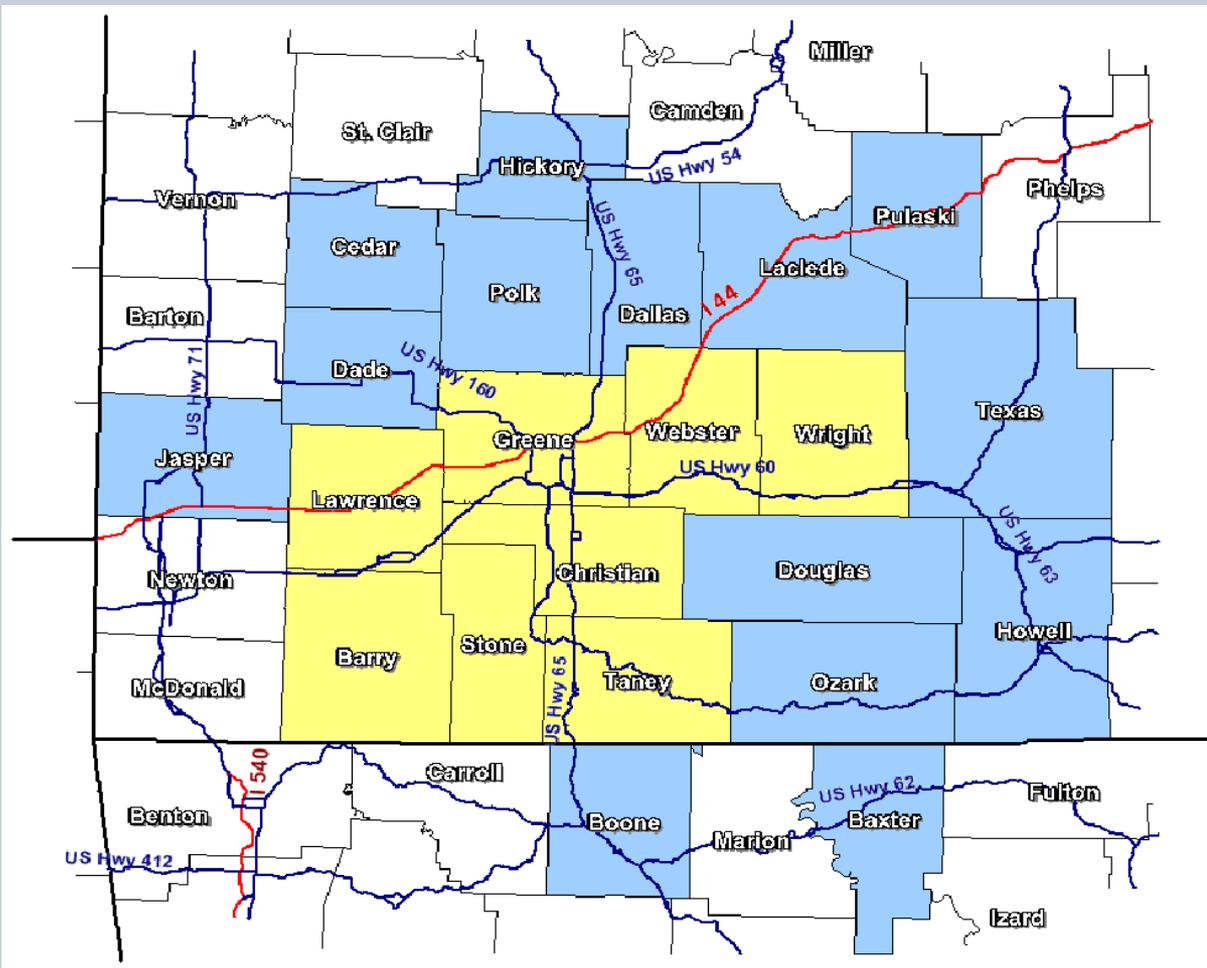


- John Archer
 - – Administrative Director, ED Springfield
- Fehron Bivens
 - – Lead HazMat Instructor
- Bill Breshears
 - – Mobile Communications Leader

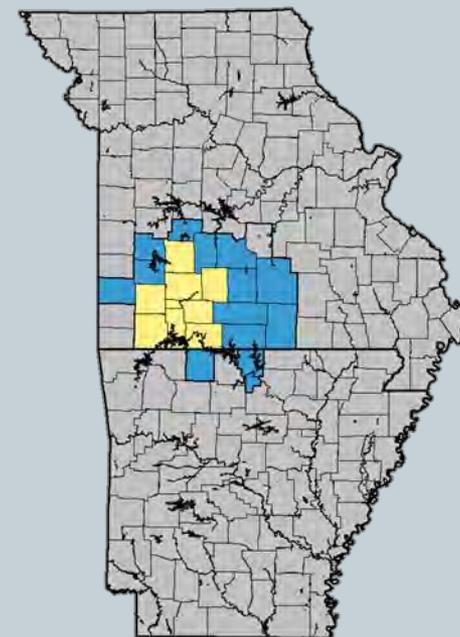




Emergency Management Coverage Area



25- County
Service Area
Organizationally





Emergency Management Coverage Area



Staff:

- 10,148 Employees
- 677 Staff Physicians
- 1,194 Volunteers
- 954 Licensed Beds

Facilities:

- 5 Hospitals
- 12 Multi-story buildings
- **15 EMS "Barns"**
- 83 Regional Clinic locations



What is “Family Reunification”?



Family Reunification is defined as:

Simplest Form:

“process of returning children to their parents [and/or legal guardians]”.

Complex Form:

“the considerations, strategies, & actions vital to the reestablishment and reuniting of families after a variable period of involuntary separation”.



Do We Really Need a “Process”?



Everyday Statistics

- Children account for 25% of the **Nation’s population**
- Any given weekday, 67 million children are in schools or daycare settings away from their families
- 63% of parents surveyed, say they would disobey evacuation type orders to find their children during emergencies





Still Not Convinced?



Everyday Statistics

- Last 2 decades, over 800 million people adversely affected by disasters: Half were children
- Last 5 years, 75 million children impacted by catastrophic events
- **“Complex humanitarian emergencies” more prevalent:**
 - Civil Unrest
 - Economic Collapse
 - Population Displacement





Real-World Incident Examples



Hurricane Katrina 2005

- National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) Hotline received over 34,000 calls
- Post-Katrina, several federal acts & mandates were issued related to child reunification
- Unaccompanied Minors Registry (UMR) formed
 - Ability to collect, store, report, and act on information related to children during disasters
 - Remains open at all times
 - Managed by the NCMEC
 - State and Local emergency planners can access the UMR



Real-World Incident Examples



Sandy Hook 2012

- “Approximately” 700 students present in the school at time of incident
- 20 Kindergartners and 1st Graders were murdered, along with 6 adults
- Nearby firehouse becomes the “rally point” for parents & children





Real-World Incident Examples



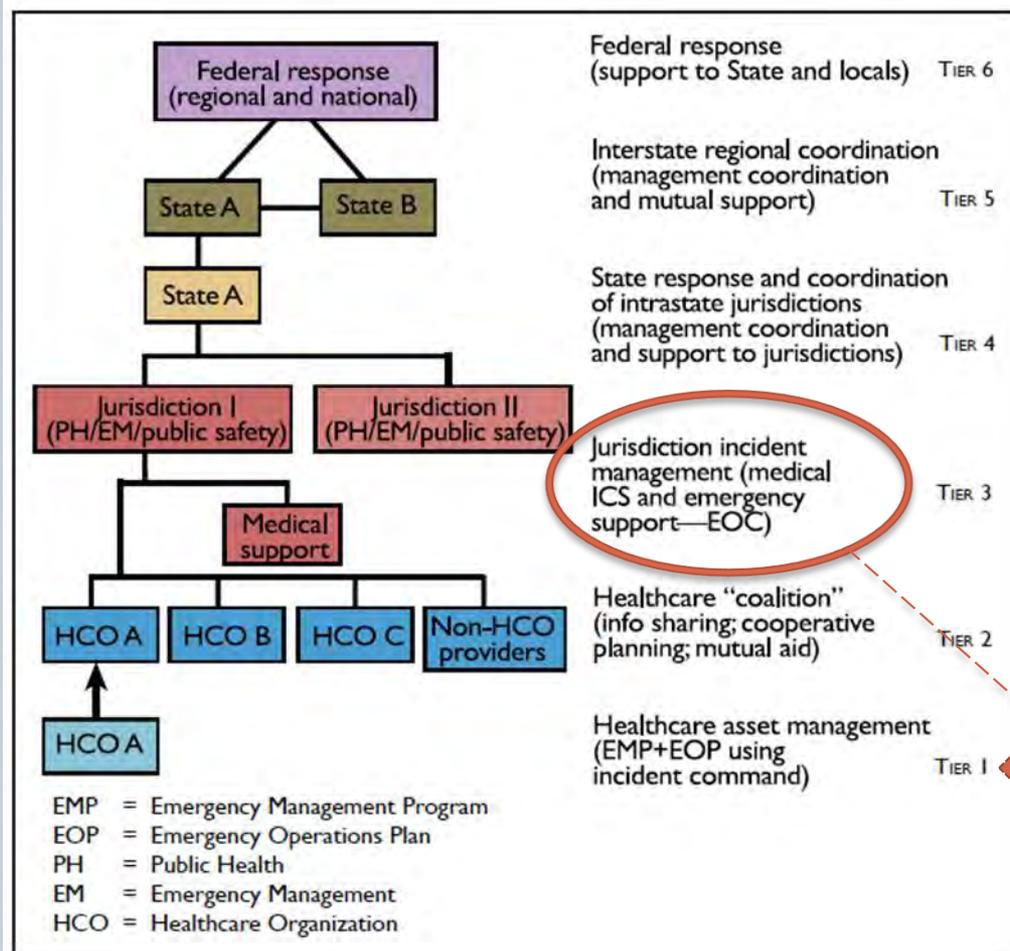
Moore, OK Tornado 2013

- Massive EF5 tornado hits
- Direct impact to 2 local schools:
 - Plaza Towers (7 drowned)
 - Briarwood
- Each school had approximately 500 students in attendance
- Evacuated to nearby churches (before & after)





How Do We Respond?



Single Entity



What is a Healthcare Coalition?



- Primary Role:
 - To Communicate and Coordinate activities within the health sector prior to, during, and after an all-hazard type incident
 - Not to interfere with official command and control structures authorized by local and state emergency management
 - Has evolved over the last several years
 - ✦ Official seat in the Greene County Emergency Operations Center at the ESF-8 (Public Health and Medical) desk
 - ✦ Primary liaison within the Region D - MACC



Local EOC Involvement

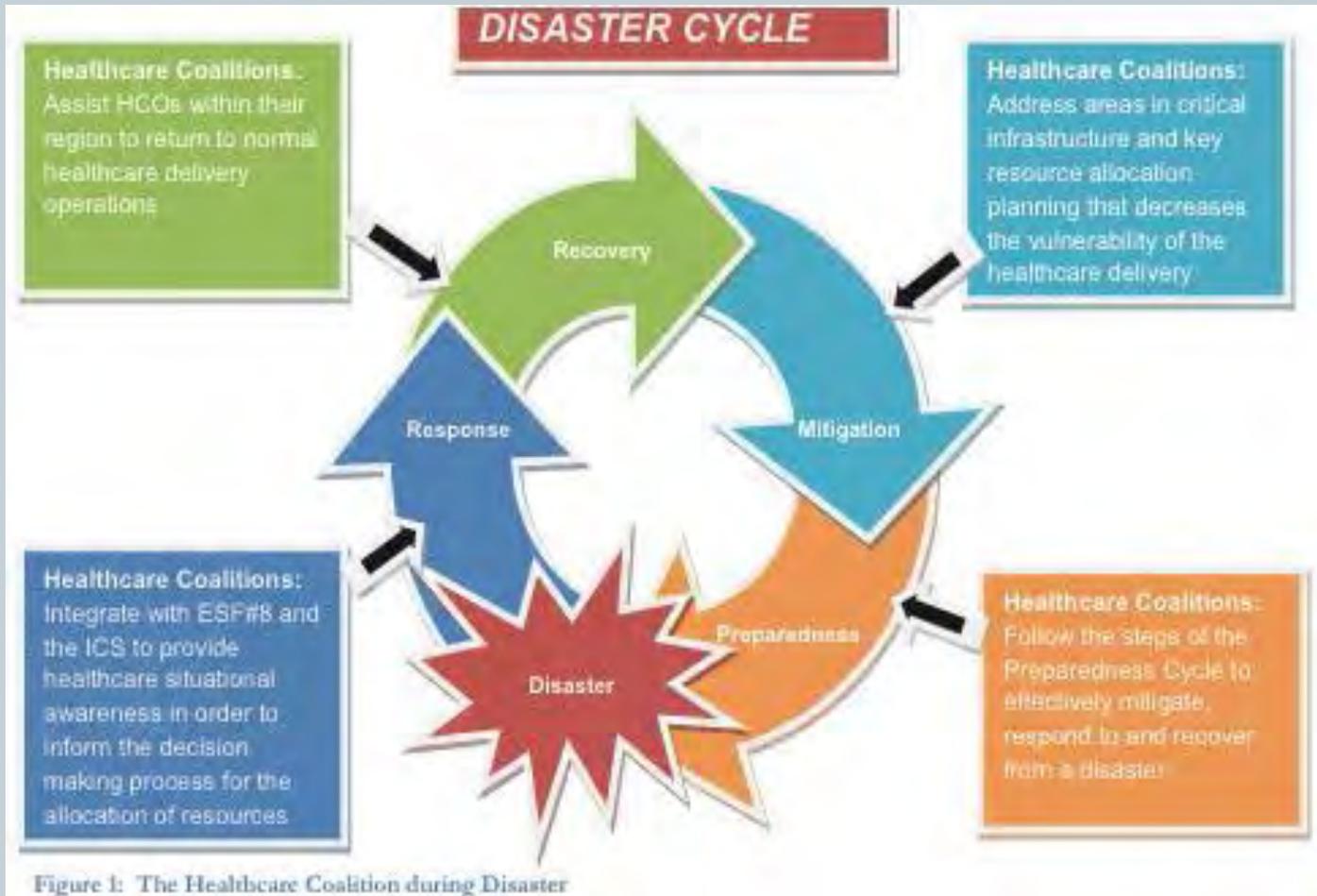
Coalition and/or Individual Healthcare Entity

- Seat at the Emergency Support Function (ESF) – 8 Desk
- Public Health
- EMS
- Additional healthcare partners as needed



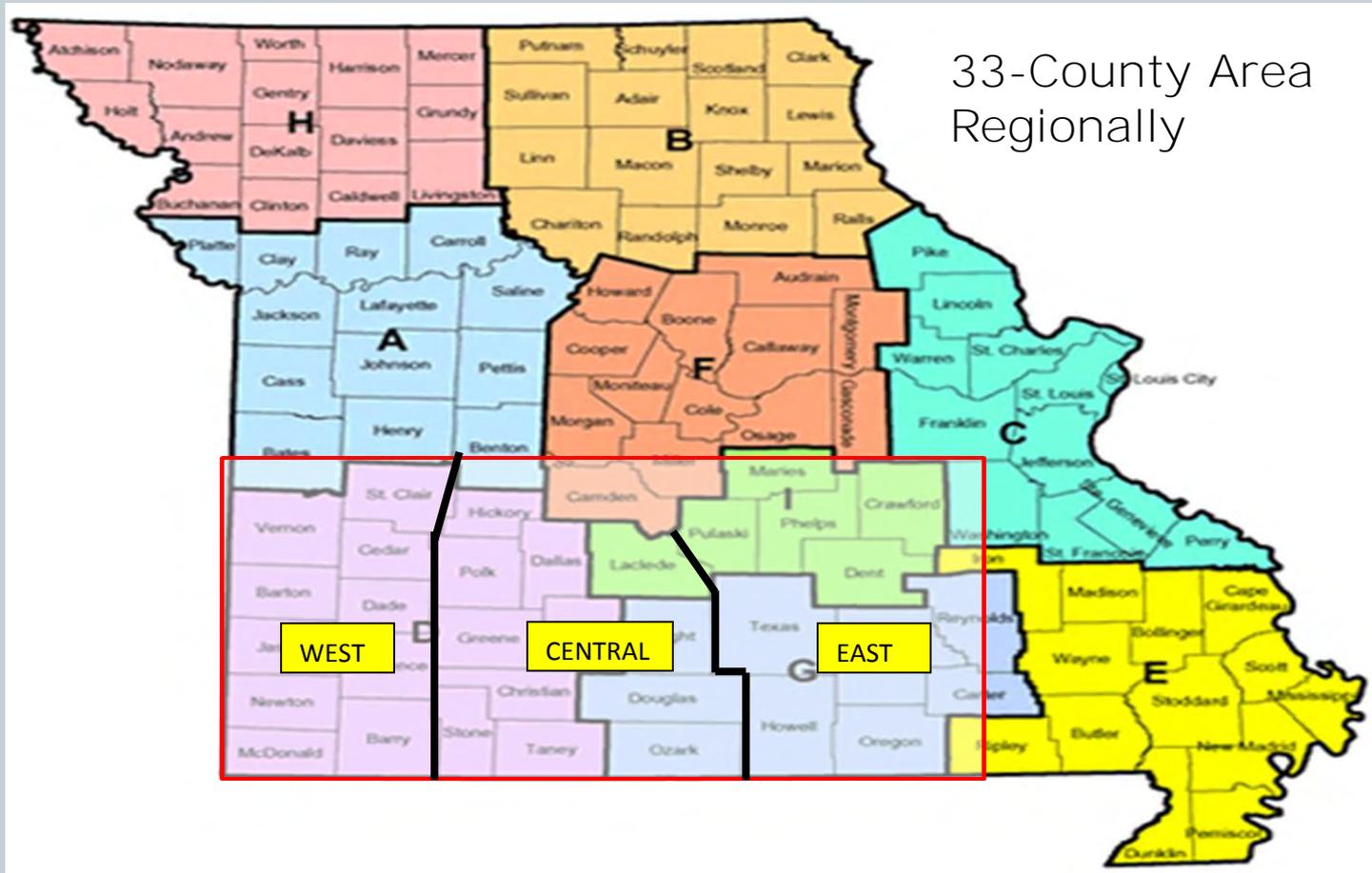


The Coalition Disaster Cycle





Southwest Healthcare Coalition





Coalition Triggers and Priorities



Trigger Examples:

- HazMat Incidents
- Aircraft Emergencies
- MCI > 5 total patients
- Pandemic/Epidemic
- Closed ED or Hospital
- Activation of other Regional Coalitions

Priorities:

- Severe Winter/Ice Storm
- Pandemic/Epidemic
- Adverse Weather – Tornado
- HazMat Incident
- Patient Surge/ Mass Casualty



Additional External Involvement

Local:

- Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)
- Community Organizations Active in Disaster (COAD)
- Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT)
- Highly Infectious Diseases Planning Committee

Regional:

- Regional Homeland Security Oversight Committee (RHSOC)
- Southwest Missouri Emergency Support Organization (SMESO)
- Regional Decon Training Facility



Additional External Involvement



State-Level:

- State Advisory Council
- EMResource State Advisory Council
- Decon State Advisory Council
- Coordinating Council
- HCC Partnership (DHSS and Hospitals)
- Pandemic Ethics Network
- Pediatrics in Disaster
- Intelligence Liaison Officer (ILO) Program



Tools We Use

EMResource

- Provides an immediate snap-shot
- Customizable
 - Coalition-based
 - Organizational
 - Type-specific
- Sends Alerts/Queries
 - MCI
 - HaVBed
- Run Reports



The screenshot shows the EMResource software interface for the State of Missouri. The main content area displays a table titled "Region D" with a green header "2-1-16 CDC Health Advisory Flu Season Begins". The table lists various healthcare entities and their operational statuses.

| Healthcare Coalitions | Status Type | Status | Comment |
|---------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|--|
| Southwest Healthcare Coalition | MO Coalition Operational Status Duty Officer | Normal Operations See Comments | West - Russ Conroy (C) 417-773-0361 (W) 417-820-7159 East - Debbie Halinar (C) 573-368-0111 (W) 5... |
| Region D Hospitals | Status Type | Status | Comment |
| Barton County Memorial Hospital | ED Diversion Status (Region D) Facility Operational Status | Open - | |
| Cedar County Memorial Hospital | ED Diversion Status (Region D) Facility Operational Status | Open 1. Fully Operational | Daytime Surgery Only. No Emergency Surgeon Available |
| Citizens Memorial Hospital—LIII | ED Diversion Status (Region D) Facility Operational Status | Open 1. Fully Operational | |
| Cox Medical Center Branson | ED Diversion Status (Region D) Facility Operational Status Incident Command Status | Open -- Not Activated | Normal operations. Point of contact is Greg Reed @ 417-536-4007 |
| Cox Monett | ED Diversion Status (Region D) Facility Operational Status | Open 1. Fully Operational | |
| Cox North | ED Diversion Status (Region D) Facility Operational Status | Open 1. Fully Operational | Normal operations. |
| Cox South—L1 | ED Diversion Status (Region D) Facility Operational Status | Open 1. Fully Operational | |
| | Incident Command Status | Not Activated | |



Tools We Use



eICS

- Provides electronic incident documentation
- Customizable
 - Build own ICS Chart
 - Set own Objectives
 - Add websites as needed
- Alert Notifications
- Print in ICS Forms for reimbursement

The screenshot displays the eICS web application interface. At the top, it shows the user's position as 'Documentation Unit Leader' and the incident title 'CoxSouth: Severe Weather Potential - April 8th 6p-3a'. Below this is a navigation menu with options like Summary, ICS Chart, Event Log, Files, Objectives, Messages, Contacts, Facility Status, Map, and Improvement Plan. The main content area is a table listing incident entries with columns for Time, Type, Details, Created By, Edits, Comments, and Priority. The table contains several entries, with one entry on 09 Apr 2015 highlighted in red.

| Time | Type | Details | Created By | Edits | Comments | Priority |
|-------------------|-----------------|--|-------------|-------|--------------------|----------|
| 07 Apr 2015 14:45 | Manual Entry | Notification - Message delivered to Severe Weather Group via email yesterday: | Jason Henry | | No Comments Add | Normal |
| 08 Apr 2015 10:29 | Manual Entry | Notification - Message delivered to Severe Weather Group via email this morning: | Jason Henry | | No Comments Add | Normal |
| 09 Apr 2015 11:16 | Manual Entry | Notification - Updated weather information shared with Severe Weather Group via email: | Jason Henry | | No Comments Add | High |
| 08 Apr 2015 17:52 | Manual Entry | Notification - Jason Henry called Eric Clay via mobile to discuss Security communication issues and to offer Incident Command radio redundancy if needed. Eric stated Rayfield Communications was on-site and they | Jason Henry | | No Comments Add | Normal |
| 08 Apr 2015 18:12 | Incident Update | Severe Weather Potential - April 8th 6p-3a is Active. An incident related to severe weather is likely to occur and the CoxHealth Incident Management Team is being placed on standby until further notice. A virtual | Jason Henry | | No Comments Add | Normal |
| 08 Apr 2015 18:12 | Location Update | CoxNorth Hospital is a Hospital at 1425 N. Jefferson, Springfield, MO, 65804. Lat: 37.22577, Long-93.28912 | Jason Henry | | No Comments Add | Normal |
| 08 Apr 2015 18:12 | Location Update | CoxSouth Hospital is a Hospital at 3801 S. National Ave, Springfield, MO, 65807. Lat: 37.14477, Long-93.28036 | Jason Henry | | No Comments Add | Normal |



Tools We Use



WebEOC:

- Provides electronic documentation within entire Region
- Increases information sharing
- Provides immediate situational awareness
- Resource request process

MO Reg-D Incident Activity Log

17:12:45 CST

Incident: 2016-01-19 Regional Winter Weather

| Date: | Search: | Clear Search | User Log | Position Log | ESF Log | County Log | Region Log |
|--|---|--------------|---------------|--------------|---------|------------|----------------|
| Date: 01/22/2016 00:35:23 | | | | | | | Record #: 8231 |
| Name: Jason Schaumann | A new situation report and short term forecast graphic have been posted: | | | | | | |
| Position: MO Reg-D MACC National Weather Service | http://www.weather.gov/media/sgf/EMBriefing1/EMBriefing1.pdf http://www.weather.gov/crh/nowcast?sid=sgf | | | | | | |
| ESF: | Not Submitted | | Not Submitted | | | | |
| <i>This information is not for public disclosure and is intended for authorized WebEOC users only.</i> | | | | | | | |
| Date: 01/21/2016 02:21:30 | | | | | | | Record #: 8230 |
| Name: Drew Albert | Sleet/snow showers moving northeast into the area, mostly west of MO Hwy 13. Expect the precip to continue to spread northeast inot much of the area. MODOT page indicates roads covered or partially covered quickly after the onset of precip. | | | | | | |
| Position: MO Reg-D MACC National Weather Service | | | | | | | |
| ESF: | Not Submitted | | Not Submitted | | | | |
| <i>This information is not for public disclosure and is intended for authorized WebEOC users only.</i> | | | | | | | |
| Date: 01/20/2016 15:02:33 | | | | | | | Record #: 8229 |
| Name: Michael Griffin | Good afternoon- We have issued a Winter Weather Advisory for this evening...tonight...and tomorrow morning. We are expecting more freezing drizzle and a very light wintry mix to move in from west to east this evening and overnight. This light wintry mix will continue into Thursday. | | | | | | |
| Position: MO Reg-D MACC National Weather Service | The latest situation report has been updated at 3 pm this afternoon from NWS Springfield can be found at this link: http://www.weather.gov/media/sgf/EMBriefing1/EMBriefing1.pdf Please be sure to check www.weather.gov/sgf often for the latest forecast updates. | | | | | | |
| ESF: | Not Submitted | | Not Submitted | | | | |
| <i>This information is not for public disclosure and is intended for authorized WebEOC users only.</i> | | | | | | | |
| Date: 01/20/2016 14:28:30 | | | | | | | Record #: 8228 |
| Name: Shea Lane | Catholic Charities of Southern Missouri (CCSOMO) | | | | | | |
| Position: MO Reg-D IST Logistics Section Staff | CCSOMO Situation Room active for this ops period. (417) 414-5154. | | | | | | |
| ESF: | Not Submitted | | Not Submitted | | | | |
| <i>This information is not for public disclosure and is intended for authorized WebEOC users only.</i> | | | | | | | |
| Date: 01/20/2016 12:10:30 | | | | | | | Record #: 8227 |
| Name: Michael Griffin | Good afternoon- | | | | | | |



Assets We Manage

CoxHealth Emergency Management Assets:

- Decon Trailer
- Surge Trailer
- Communications Trailer
- Respiratory Trailer
- Generator Trailer
- PPE Cache
- Med/Surge Cache
- Regional Decon Facility





CoxHealth Regional Assets

Mobile Communication:

- Provides mobile communication capabilities:
 - VHF Radio
 - UHF Radio
 - HF Radio
 - Wi-Fi
 - Satellite TV
 - MOSWIN Radio
 - Emergency Lighting
 - Re-establish Electronic Medical Records (EMR)





CoxHealth Regional Assets

Respiratory Trailer:

- DOCS 66 O2 Generator
 - Produce medical-grade O2 @ 66 liters/min
- 10 Portable Ventilators
 - Adult/Pediatric capable
- HOBS system
 - Oxygen Backup Supply
- MOST system
 - Multi-patient O2 delivery
- CODS system
 - Mobile O2 delivery





CoxHealth Regional Assets



25 KW Generator:

- Runs various assets
 - Mobile Comms Trailer
 - Respiratory Trailer
- Can be used for a variety of other needs
 - Support shelter needs
 - Other emergency functions as needed





CoxHealth Regional Assets



Regional Decon Facility:

- Provide Training for:
 - All designated CoxHealth employees
 - Regions D, G, and I
 - Awareness and Operations Level Training (OSHA)
 - Collaborate with local Fire Department HazMat Teams
 - Disease-specific response
(ie: Ebola or other Highly Infectious Diseases)





How We Worked With Schools



First:

- Met with Administrators at both schools:
 - Ozark R-VI
 - Republic R-III
- Established purpose and mutual understanding of both needs & benefits
- Conducted pre-planning meetings to outline objectives/tour facilities
- Explained process for exercise development
- Set date/time to conduct a Tabletop Exercise with key school leadership
- Conducted and evaluated the exercise(s)
- Finalized After Action Report(s)



Exercise Facilitators



- Lead Facilitator and Exercise Controller
 - Manages exercise play, keeps the flow
- Operations Facilitator
 - **Promotes discussion for those “taking care of others”, the “doers”**
- Command Facilitator
 - Promotes discussion for those in charge of the incident
- Planning Facilitator
 - **Promotes discussion for the “thinkers”**
- Logistics/Finance-Admin Facilitator
 - **Promotes discussion for the “getters” and the “payers”**
- Exercise Recorder/Time-Keeper
 - Keeps exercise play on track, on time, and photo documentation



Exercise Design



Divided Exercise into 4 Main Sections:

- Mitigation:
 - What can be done to lessen the impact ahead of time?
- Preparedness:
 - How do we better prepare ourselves, students, & parents?
- Response:
 - What does the response process look like? Is it manageable?
- Recovery:
 - When/How do we return to normalcy?



Four Main Objectives

1. Mass Casualty Triage Process
 - ❖ Initial triage by teachers/nursing/staff
 - ❖ Basic First-Aid practices
 - ❖ Triage, treatment, and transfer point
2. Communications – Internal
 - ❖ Runners, Radios, and Rumors
3. Communications – External
 - ❖ Phones and Public Information Officer
4. Family Reunification Process
 - ❖ Process during evacuation
 - ❖ Process post-transportation and treatment





What We Learned

1. Mass Casualty Triage Process

- ❖ Initial triage by teachers/ nursing/ staff



- ❖ Basic first-aid practices
- ❖ Triage, treatment, and transfer points

- Teachers, Counselors, and School Administrators in general need a **better understanding of “Initial Triage”**
 - How it is performed
 - Proper triage categories
 - First line of response
- Basic first-aid supplies, training, and practice should be performed by all school officials
- These areas should be pre-defined & discussed as much as possible



What We Learned

2. Communication- Internal

❖ Runners

❖ Radios

❖ Rumors

- Runners are a rudimentary tool, however they may be crucial during a crisis
- Interoperability is extremely important
- Know what you have, what you need moving forward
- Social media can be an amazing tool if used properly
- Get out in front of the rumors with information & direction



What We Learned

3. Communication- External

❖ Contacts

❖ Public Information Officers

- Your day to day external contacts may be your lifeline during an emergency, *literally*.
- Keep your contact list in more than one place, mobile, & share it with others
- Identify who will fulfill this role, make it 3 deep
- Then train them & use regular day to day activities to practice scripting messages, etc.
- May be the face of the crisis



What We Learned

4. Family Reunification

❖ Process during evacuation

- Script a plan that makes sense & is realistic
- **Use an “a la carte menu” for the schools Emergency Operations Plan (EOP)**
- When in doubt, improvise.
- Use existing resources
 - Daily classroom roster
 - Go-kits for each classroom
- Follow 3 Steps:
 - Preservation of life
 - General safety
 - Victim tracking



What We Learned

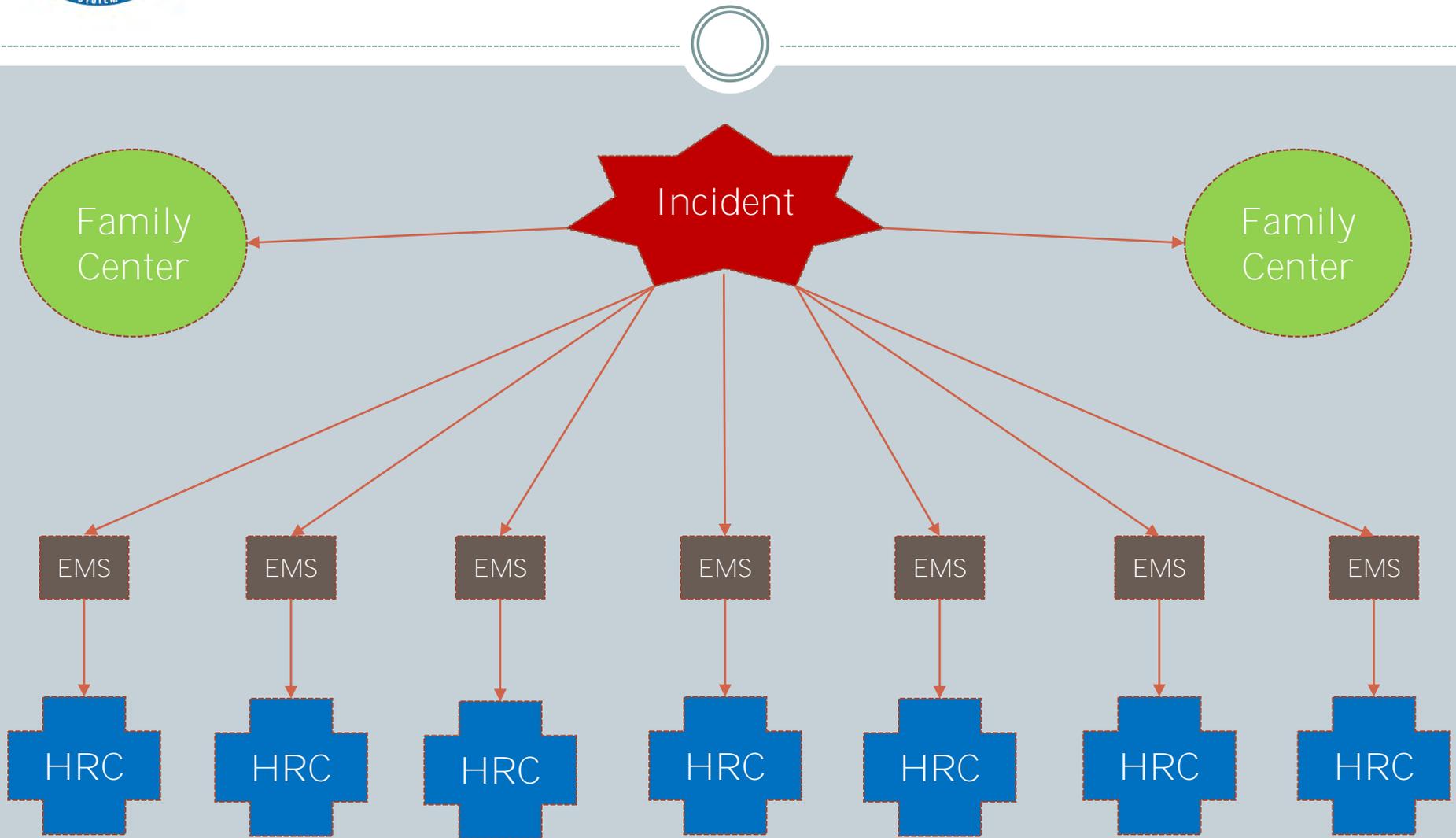
4. Family Reunification

- ❖ Process post-transportation and treatment

- Understand & educate staff members on the process
- One or two hospitals will most likely NOT be enough
- Pre-determine additional hospital locations, make contact before the incident occurs
- Discuss your plans with parents
- Prepare for stress debriefing needs
 - Students
 - Faculty
 - Parents
 - Volunteers
 - Yourself



The Visual Perspective



Source: (Built & Designed by Jason Henry, EM Officer, CoxHealth)



Questions?



Jason Henry BA, RN, CHEP

Emergency Management Officer (Corporate), Emergent Care Administration

Phone: (417) 269-4761 | Fax: (417) 269-4136 | Mobile: (417) 827-9631

Jason.Henry@coxhealth.com