

REGION H (SOUTH CENTRAL GEORGIA)

HEALTHCARE PREPAREDNESS COALITION

BACKGROUND

The first kickoff meeting of the Region H Healthcare Preparedness Coalition was held on December 13, 2012 after its founding in August of the same year.

WHAT IS THE REGION H HEALTHCARE PREPAREDNESS COALITION?

Region H hospitals have been meeting together since 2007 with the goal of becoming better prepared to respond to disasters. The hospitals have developed strong relationships and have plans to support each other during emergencies.

Region H (based on GHA Regional Coordinating Hospitals) includes the following counties:

Baldwin	Hancock	Laurens	Putnam	Twiggs	Wilcox
Bleckley	Jasper	Montgomery	Telfair	Washington	Wilkinson
Dodge	Johnson	Pulaski	Treutlen	Wheeler	

Recognizing that hospitals alone are not sufficient to take care of the health care needs after a disaster, the Region H Healthcare Preparedness Coalition will include all healthcare organizations including but not limited to:

- Hospitals
- Community Health Centers
- Emergency Management Agency (EMA)
- Emergency Medical Services (EMS)
- Nursing Homes
- Public Health
- Home Health
- Mental/Behavioral Health Providers
- Dialysis Centers
- Pharmacies

Every organization is **key** in making sure we are prepared. As the lead agency for planning, emergency management will be a key member of the coalition. The Region H Healthcare Preparedness Coalition will become a dynamic collaborative planning network.

WHY IS THE REGION H HEALTHCARE PREPAREDNESS COALITION IMPORTANT?

When a disaster hits a community or a region, the entire health care system will be impacted and will have to respond.

All health care organizations, from the largest hospital to a small community health center, will need to work together in a coordinated fashion to effectively respond to the disaster and work towards recovery. Planning together saves lives!

Health care organizations make plans for their own facilities. Hospitals have planned with other hospitals. Nursing homes have planned with other nursing homes. During all healthcare emergencies, decisions made by

one health care organization will impact others. Healthcare organizations planning together will create a more prepared and resilient healthcare system.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP IN THE REGION H HEALTHCARE PREPAREDNESS COALITION?

As a member, your organization will build new and stronger relationships with other healthcare organizations and emergency management; learn about available resources in the community; have your concerns heard and addressed in the planning process; and have access to training and grant funding.

One objective of the Region H Healthcare Preparedness Coalition is the development of a coordinated emergency response plan. By planning collaboratively, all members of the coalition will be strengthened and will be better prepared. Your organization will learn from the experiences of others. By participating in the coalition, your organization may be able to meet some of your requirements related to emergency plans and exercises.

HOW CAN MY ORGANIZATION JOIN THE REGION H HEALTHCARE PREPAREDNESS COALITION?

All health care organizations in Region H are invited to join the coalition. Members regularly attend meetings, participate in planning, and agree to work with and support other members during disaster response and recovery.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

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