



DISASTER CONNECTION

January-February 2015

Disaster Medical Coalition

In Memoriam – Larry Lee

It is with regret that we announce the passing of Larry Lee on February 27 after an extended illness. Larry served as the DOH-St. Lucie Administrator, and for almost a decade was one of Region 5’s Health and Medical Co-Chairs. Larry also served on the Central Florida Disaster Medical Coalition Board until late last year when his health required that he step down. Dave Freeman, CFDMC Executive Director, noted “Larry was a tireless advocate for health and medical preparedness, and his leadership and efforts have made us stronger as a region. He will be deeply missed.”

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Coalitions are the Top Funding Priority

Florida’s Strategic Planning Oversight Team met in January to prioritize proposed projects for federal preparedness funding for fiscal year 2015-2016. In the ASPR HPP (Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response Hospital Preparedness Program) the top three funding priorities are: #1) Healthcare Coalitions, #2) State Medical Response System and #3) Medical Reserve Corps. The Central Florida Disaster Medical Coalition expects to receive both base funding and risk-based project funding for 2015-2016. Additional details will be available when the grants are awarded.

Save the Date for April 14 Coalition Meeting

The next CFDMC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 14 at the DOH-Brevard Bill Posey Conference Center in Viera, Florida. The draft agenda includes Incident Command System (ICS) awareness training for healthcare partners, Continuity of Operations Plans (COOP) training and best practice sharing, and discussions on coalition issues such as strategy, funding and contract deliverables. A final agenda will be shared in March.

Get Plugged In

A key benefit in joining the Coalition is the ability to receive and share information in a disaster or event. Everbridge SERVFL (State Emergency Responders and Volunteers of Florida) provides users with a wide range of methods to send and receive information on a variety of communication devices. The Coalition provides all members with access to and uses Everbridge SERVFL to provide urgent communications and alerts to its members. All individuals who have completed the Coalition Charter have been sent an invitation to register in Everbridge SERVFL. If you are a member and have not received this invitation, or are having any issues in registering, please contact Lynne Drawdy at info@centralfladisaster.org or 407/928-1288.

Individuals already registered in Everbridge SERVFL are added to the Coalition’s group. To gain access to Everbridge SERVFL, join the Coalition at

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/CoalitionCharterandCodeofEthics>.



“We all have a piece of the puzzle!”

January-February Highlights:

- ◆ In January and February, three individuals joined the Coalition. The Coalition currently has 165 members representing 101 organizations. We welcome FirstLight Home Care of Central Orlando as a new coalition member. For a complete listing of member organizations or to join the Coalition, please visit the CFDMC website at <http://centralfladisaster.org>.
- ◆ On February 12 the Florida Department of Health and the Coalition hosted a seminar to prepare healthcare and public health practitioners to care for a case of Ebola Virus Disease in the community.
- ◆ On February 18, Coalition member Terry Freeman (center) was honored by Gail McGovern, President American Red Cross (left) and Sherri Brown, Senior Vice President, Humanitarian Services Ops (right) with a Presidential Award of Excellence in the area of Humanitarian Services. The Presidential Award for Excellence is presented to American Red Cross employees and volunteers who demonstrate superior job performance aligning with the organization's priorities in one of several areas, including Mission Fulfillment. Please join us in congratulating Terry!
- ◆ The Florida Health Care Association (FHCA) has launched a long-term care emergency preparedness resource website: www.LTCprepare.org. The website is designed to help long term care providers meet the special challenges that can arise during emergencies.



Upcoming Events

- ◆ On Thursday, March 12 the Coalition will participate in the Region 5 Toxic Knight full-scale exercise. Want to participate? We are still seeking volunteers. You may register at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2015VolMgt>
- ◆ On March 12 & 13 a two-day Trained Crisis Responder certification training will be held at Florida Hospital Waterman. For details and registration contact Sola Thompson at info@lifeworksgroup.org.
- ◆ On April 20 G290—Basic Public Information Officer (PIO) training will be held at DOH-St. Lucie. Register at: <http://trac.floridadisaster.org/trac/EventDetailPublic.aspx?ID=1650&mode=ModeEdit&LookupName=eventsearchpublic>
- ◆ Infectious Substance Packaging and Shipping Training for Sentinel Labs is being held throughout the state, including on March 31 at DOH-Volusia and on April 20 and April 21 at DOH-Orange. To register contact Leah Kloss at leah.kloss@flhealth.gov (813/974-4009) or Betty Wheeler at betty.wheeler@flhealth.gov (904/791-1568)
- ◆ On April 24 - 26, 2015, the Region 5 State Medical Response Team will support the Leesburg Bikefest. For more information contact Todd.Stalbaum@att.net
- ◆ May 10-15, 2015: Governor's Hurricane Conference. For information, visit: www.flghc.org

Upcoming events are also posted on the Coalition website (Home Page, Activity Calendar). Does your organization have an upcoming event you'd like to share with other Coalition members? Send details to: info@centralfladisaster.org.