Building Partnerships and Preparing Healthcare: The Northwest Healthcare Response Network

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“When a disaster hits, Americans rely on a fragmented healthcare system to miraculously mount a timely, cohesive, and effective recovery effort. Yet, the carefully orchestrated and sequenced medical responses to disasters lean on a disjointed health system.”

Closing the Seams: Developing an integrated approach to health system disaster preparedness, Price Waterhouse Coopers - HRI, 2007
We lead regional healthcare collaboration to effectively respond to and recover from emergencies and disasters.
Serving the state’s medical epicenter

public-private partnership

3.2 million residents

almost 50% of the state’s hospital beds

> 2,000 healthcare organizations

140,000 healthcare workers
Before a disaster or emergency

We build **coordinated regional preparedness** within the healthcare community by offering **trainings, exercises, workshops** and **integration** into regional-level plans.
Response | regional disaster or emergency

During a disaster we provide:

• Community-sourced **critical situational awareness briefs** for healthcare
• Emergency **alerts**
• Emergency **patient tracking**
• Healthcare resource **sharing and coordination**
• **Coordination** of regional healthcare **operational response and policy**
What We Want to Accomplish

The Network works to ensure that the healthcare system in our region can:

✓ Maintain essential services and return to normal operations quickly after a disaster
✓ Manage a surge of patients in conventional, contingency and crisis medical surge environments
✓ Coordinate and manage medical facility evacuations
✓ Receive, distribute and track patients across county lines
✓ Support community partners in facilitating the reunification of families following a disaster
✓ Protect the health and safety of their staff and the community
✓ Triage and treat the disaster-related mental health needs of their staff and the community
✓ Expediently and effectively share emergency information and resources
✓ Work effectively together and with regional response authorities during an emergency
✓ Meet accreditation and regulatory standards for emergency management
The Network + long-term care

- Coordination with public health and emergency management before, during and after an emergency
- The King & Pierce County Long-term Care Mutual Aid Plan for Evacuation and Resource Sharing
- Emergency patient tracking and emergency alert system
- Community drills and regional exercises, and guidance to develop facility-specific exercises
- Tools and training to bolster facility emergency operations and business resiliency
Providers are required to meet four core elements, with specific requirements adjusted based on the individual provider type:

1. Emergency Preparedness Plan
2. Policies and Procedures
3. Communications Plan
4. Training and Testing Program
Our sustaining members and partners
ARE YOU READY?
We can’t prevent an earthquake from happening, but we can prevent damage caused by an earthquake.

Create safe spaces in your home by doing the following:

• Secure heavy furniture to wall studs
• Secure water heater to wall studs
• Secure computer and TVs with special straps
• Move heavy items to lowers shelves
• Secure hanging art to walls with closed hooks
• Install latches on kitchen cabinets
• Secure essential equipment such as oxygen tanks or other life support devices
Step 2: Create a Disaster Plan

- Develop your Personal Support Team (PST)
- Label all your medical equipment with your contact information
- Establish an out-of-area contact; communicate this to loved ones and facilities
- Have an evacuation plan
- Make a care plan for your pets
Step 3: Build Disaster Supply Kits

3 kits: home, car & work

- Food
- Water
- NOAA Radio
- Flashlight
- First-Aid Kit
- Emergency blanket
- Whistle
- Heavy gloves

- Heavy duty shoes
- Change of clothes
- Multi-use tool
- Hygiene supplies
- Cash (small bills)
- Extra medication, copy of prescriptions, & list of medications

- Supplies for specific needs: hearing aid batteries, eye glasses, walking stick, oxygen or nebulizer supplies, blood glucose tester etc.
Step 4: Copies of Important Documents

- Birth, marriage, divorce, adoption, custody papers
- Passport, driver’s license, SS card, green card, military ID
- Housing: rental agreement, mortgage, deed
- Vehicle: loan documents, VIN, registration, title
- Credit cards, loans, bills, memberships
- Insurance policies
- Medical benefits
- Sources of income
- Will, trust, power of attorney
Step 5:

Practice what do to when the ground starts to shake

Do NOT try and exit a building

Stop where you are and: DROP, COVER, HOLD
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