Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response

AIHA/ASSE Professional Development Conference

March 5, 2018

Today's Agenda

- What is public health?

- Public health's role(s) in disaster response

- Personal and organizational preparedness

- Partnership between public and private sectors

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Public Health

- **Prevent** occurrence and spread of disease

- **Promote** healthy lifestyles and sound policy

- **Protect** public health and safety during emergencies

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Environmental Health & Protection

- Inspections
    - Restaurants
    - Food Trucks
    - Hotels
    - Fitness centers
    - Tanning salons
    - Public swimming pools
    - Tattoo parlors
    - Solid waste disposal
    - Special events
    - Daycare centers

- Recycling and HHW disposal

- Vector Control

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Humane Services

- Pet Adoption Center
  - Microchipping
  - Spay/neuter

- Pet Food Pantry

- Animal Control
  - Animal bites
  - Wild animal encounters
  - Animal Control Ordinance enforcement

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Health Services

- Health Education
- Immunizations
- Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)
- Vital Records
- Passports
- Communicable Disease
- ***Emergency Preparedness***

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What is Emergency Preparedness?

- Coordinating before, during and after emergencies

- Partnership of federal, state, local government; public service agencies; and the community

- Disaster recovery starts and ends locally

  - 80% of assistance during an event comes from "average citizens"

  - FEMA will not ride in and save the day

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Threats We Face

- <u>Disaster</u>: anything that goes beyond what you can easily deal with based upon current resources

- It's anything that disrupts your daily life…

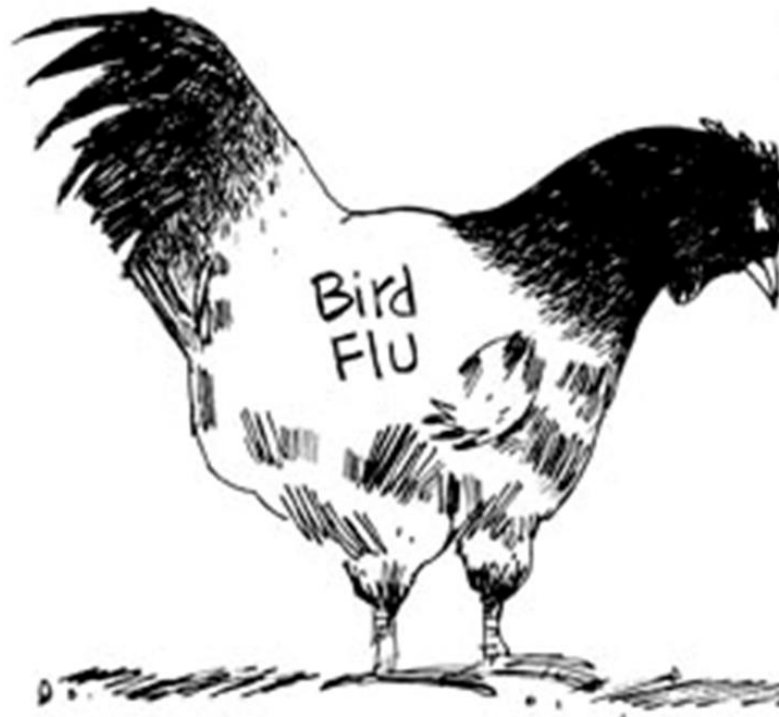- Can you think of a few?

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Public Health Emergency Prep.

- Federally funded through various grants

- Evolution from bioterrorism to more comprehensive planning

- Collaborate with partners to protect the population's health

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Family Preparedness

- CREATE A PLAN

- MAKE A KIT

- LISTEN FOR INFORMATION

Step 1: Create a Plan

- Know where to go and what to do in an emergency

- Plan for two situations:
    1) Staying where you are
    2) Evacuation

- Make sure others are aware of the plan. Alert one person outside our area, if you can.

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Step 1: Create a Plan

- Where would we go if/when _____ happens?

- What do we need to do to be okay for the first 24, 48 and 168 hours?

- Where are the necessary supplies and equipment?

- Who do we need to contact?

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Step 2: Create a Kit

- Provides food, drinks, and supplies to keep you and your family safe until help arrives

- What should you put in a kit?

- How many kits should you have?

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Step 2: Create a Kit

- Non-perishable food and water for at least three days

- Battery-powered NOAA radio

- Flashlight/lantern

- First-aid kit and prescription medication

- Cash

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Special Items to Consider

- Extra medication and back-up batteries

- A list of your allergies or special medical information

- Copies of medical insurance, how to contact your doctor/family and other important documents

- Shoes

- Something fun (games, book, candy, etc.)

- Pet care items

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Step 3: Listen for Information

- Listen and react when warnings are issued.

- Obtain a battery-operated NOAA Weather radio in case power is lost.

- Sign up with authorities to receive information directly via apps.

- Text first, instead of phones.

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Organizational Preparedness

- Continuity of Operations

  - Same principles as individual preparedness, applied to businesses

  - How will your organization operate when various resources and services are unavailable?

  - What is the financial/social impact of your organization being offline?

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Organizational Preparedness

- Form a team of internal personnel (consult partners as necessary)

- Conduct a risk assessment to identify biggest vulnerabilities

- Understand concrete impacts of these vulnerabilities

- Identify mitigation strategies to lessen impact of emergencies

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Organizational Preparedness

- Inform relevant partners of your needs and capabilities

- Consult local Public Health, Emergency Management, Police, Fire, EMS, etc.

- Don't be afraid to think outside the box

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Organizational Preparedness

- Exercise your plans to identify gaps and concerns

- Revise original plans and procedures

- Institute regular reviews and assessments

- *Make sure staff know their roles!*

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Public and Private Sectors

Public and Private Sectors

- Key partners on multiple fronts

- Must understand capabilities and needs

- Fantastic partnership locally

- Future opportunities exist

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Real World Events

- 2001: Anthrax letters

- 2009: H1N1 Pandemic Flu

- 2014: Ebola

- 2015-2017: Flooding

- Opioid Crisis

- Emerging infectious diseases

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Public and Private Sectors

- Resource availability
- Technical expertise
- Training and exercise
- Volunteer opportunities

- Closed PODs
- Coordinated messaging
- Health and wellness campaigns
- Access to vulnerable populations

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Questions?

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