

EXPANDED MEDICAL PREPAREDNESS

A Planning Guide for Neighborhoods

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Neighborhood Medical Preparedness Committee

Steven Hancock, Marin County Office of Emergency Services
Troy Peterson, Marin County Emergency Medical Services Program
Basha Quilici, Consumer Representative
Elizabeth Thompson, Marin County Health & Human Services
Bill Vieira, Marin County Fire Department

Edited and Printed

Marin County Emergency Medical Services Program
&
Marin County Office of Emergency Services

The Marin County Operational Area Disaster Council adopted this Expanded Medical Preparedness plan on September 12, 2002. The Marin County Operational Area Disaster Council has referred this plan to local jurisdictions and agencies with a recommendation that they utilize this plan.

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Attachments:

Your Family Disaster Plan

Your Family Disaster Supplies Kit

Food Safety Facts

MISSION

To define and develop guidelines for communities wishing to develop a level of medical preparedness within the community.

FOREWORD

Purpose

The purpose of *Expanded Medical Preparedness* is to provide guidelines and recommendations for those communities wishing to provide an organized approach to medical care for persons in the community following a disaster.

Intended Use

Expanded Medical Preparedness is to be utilized in conjunction with Community Emergency Response Training (CERT) or an equivalent program to better prepare neighborhoods and communities. It was developed in response to city and neighborhood requests for direction at a higher level than currently provided through CERT.

Disaster Service Workers (DSWs)

Volunteers who participate in authorized training exercises or in disaster work must be registered as Disaster Service Workers, this provides Workers' Compensation should they be injured. Individuals who are employed by government agencies are considered to be Disaster Service Workers, but all others should register and be sworn in prior to volunteering in an emergency to take advantage of this protection. The policy, procedure, and forms needed are available through the Marin County Office of Emergency Services and/or the parent jurisdiction of the neighborhood choosing to operate under this document.

Certification

Involvement of a parent jurisdiction in the early part of the planning process is crucial, as support from that jurisdiction will be necessary to assure that the enhanced medical functions can be sustained.

Upon obtaining jurisdictional support and meeting the requirements for a First Aid Station, the Marin County Operational Area Disaster Council will provide a team of inspectors to verify that those conditions have been met by observing an annual First Aid Station deployment. Upon verification, a confirmation certificate will be issued.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

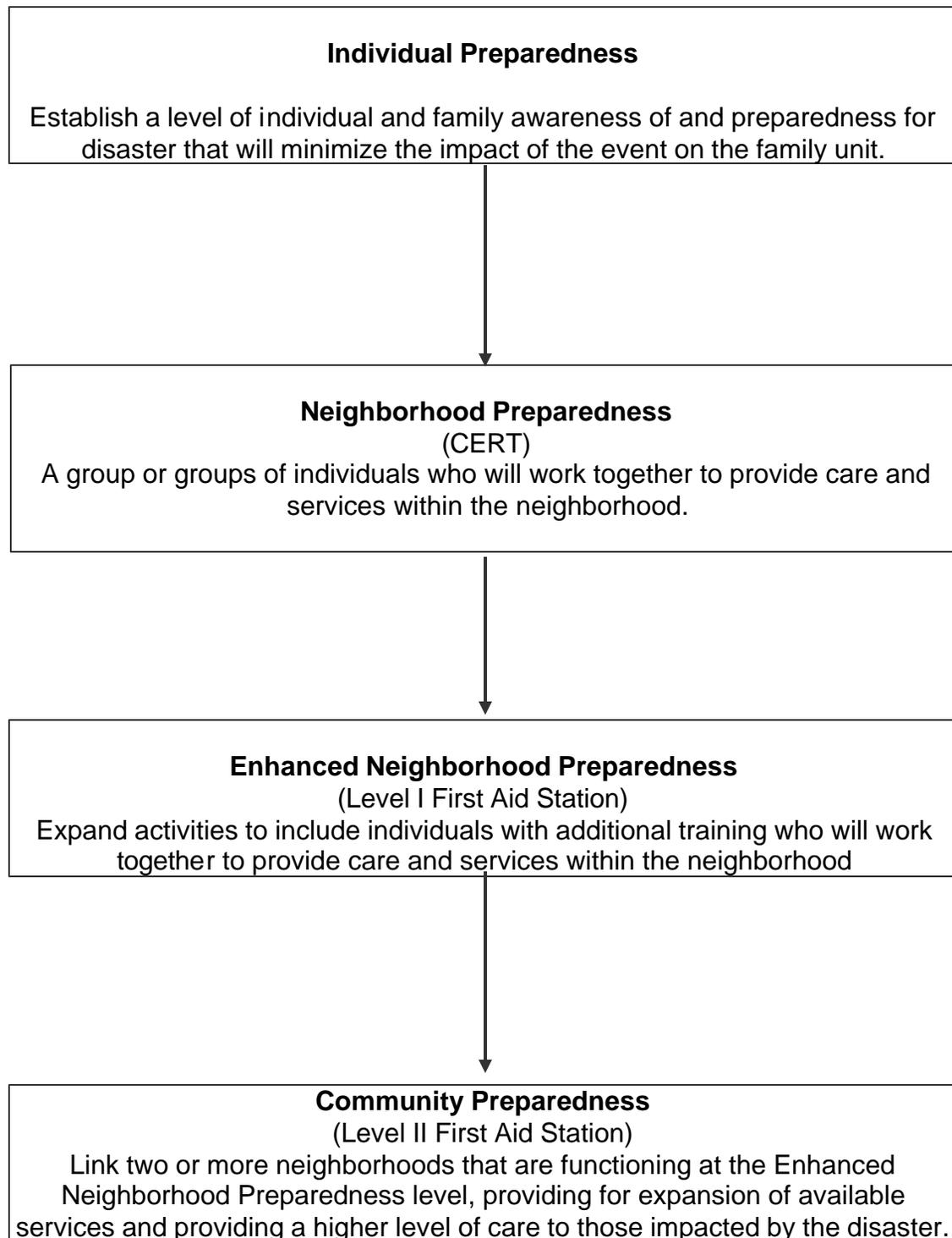
All persons working in a First Aid Station are encouraged and expected to properly utilize the appropriate PPE as needed.

Training

Procedures must be in place to maintain readiness levels once they are met and to regularly practice implementing the various components of the plan. On-going training must be planned and easily available to those anticipated being a part of the process. Training may be available through the local fire department, the city, the Office of Emergency Services, the EMS Program or a combination of these agencies. It is suggested that Basic First Aid, CPR, and Community Emergency Response Training (or an equivalent class) be taken by all individuals participating in this program. Standardized Emergency Management (SEMS) training-Introduction Module, or

ICS-200 will be required by those participating in the Enhanced Neighborhood or Community Preparedness levels in the roles of Director, Liaison, or section Chiefs.

LEVELS OF PREPAREDNESS



INDIVIDUAL PREPAREDNESS

Goal

The goal of Individual Preparedness is to establish a level of individual and family awareness of and preparedness for disaster that will minimize the impact of the event on the family unit.

Components

- Home supplies/preparedness
- CPR
- First Aid training

Discussion

Completion of First Aid and CPR classes will enable individuals to recognize and treat minor medical conditions and injuries and to recognize conditions that require assistance from professional rescuers and caregivers.

It is recommended that all interested persons take American Red Cross, National Safety Council or equivalent First Aid classes. These classes can be tailored for varying age groups and generally require about four hours.

Citizen CPR classes are offered by agencies such as the American Red Cross, National Safety Council, and the American Heart Association.* Individuals planning to increase their level of preparedness above the Individual Preparedness level may wish to take a higher level of CPR class. These classes generally require four hours.

Many agencies offer specific guidelines for family preparedness. The guidelines Your Family Disaster Plan, from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the American Red Cross is attached, as is a second publication from the Marin County Office of Emergency Services (see attachments). Other guidelines are available through cities and preparedness agencies and individuals are encouraged to select a guideline and to follow the recommendations completely.

* It is recognized that the provision of CPR and the use of an automated external defibrillator (AED) are not standards for care in a widespread disaster, but is felt that it provides useful skills for individual emergencies and serves as a base level for additional training.

NEIGHBORHOOD PREPAREDNESS

Goal

The goal of Neighborhood Preparedness, using individuals that have completed or who are in the process of completing personal preparedness activities, is to expand activities to include a group or groups of individuals who will work together to provide care and services within the neighborhood.

Components

- Community Emergency Response Training (CERT)
- Neighborhood communication system
- Patient treatment areas

Discussion

This committee recommends that neighborhoods interested in advancing their preparedness level utilize the Community Emergency Response Training (CERT) curriculum endorsed by the Marin County Operational Area Disaster Council or an equivalent program endorsed by the city or town with jurisdiction. (This means the town in which the neighborhood is located or the Marin County Fire Department if the area is unincorporated.)

A successful CERT team will require adequate personnel to staff activated positions.

This level includes the establishment of a neighborhood communication system that may be accomplished in a number of ways. The purpose of the communication system will be to connect CERT teams to each other and to the Treatment Area.

First aid treatment at this level are in areas set-up by CERT trained individuals who will provide care using supplies in the neighborhood and personal first aid kits.

ENHANCED NEIGHBORHOOD PREPAREDNESS (LEVEL I FIRST AID STATION)

Goal

The goal of Enhanced Neighborhood Preparedness is to expand activities to include individuals with additional training who will work together to provide care and services within the neighborhood, utilizing the support of a parent jurisdiction.

Components

- Enhanced communication abilities
- Level I First Aid Station
- Commitment from local government to support the function

Discussion

Care to be provided at this level will include triage and first aid, provided by individuals with additional training (First Aid and CPR), using a prescribed management system (SEMS) and supplies pre-assembled and stored for this purpose.

A Level I First Aid Station, Appendix A, includes the following:

- Individuals providing care have current First Aid and CPR cards.
- Supplies have been pre-established according to the list provided.
- A written plan for setting up the station.
- A SEMS based management and staffing structure is used, similar to the sample provided.
- Written treatment guidelines determine treatment provided, similar to the sample.
- A commitment from the local jurisdiction to support the station, assuring sustainability. Evidence of that commitment will be demonstrated by the local jurisdiction's participation in an annual First Aid Station activation exercise. This will include a demonstration of the communications between the First Aid Station and the local jurisdiction.
- Annual confirmation certificate issued from the Marin County Operational Area Disaster Council that the guidelines have been met.
- Planners should consider the inclusion of licensed mental health professionals or spiritual counselors in the staff of the First Aid Station.

The Level I First Aid Station must have a communication link with the supporting local jurisdiction sufficient enough to assure that resource requests are received in a timely manner.

COMMUNITY PREPAREDNESS (LEVEL II FIRST AID STATION)

Goal

The goal of Community Preparedness is to link two or more neighborhoods that are functioning at the Enhanced Neighborhood Preparedness level, providing for expansion of available services and providing a higher level of care to those impacted by the disaster.

Components

- Level II First Aid Station
- Enhanced communication links

Discussion

Care to be provided at this level of preparedness will include triage, first aid, and higher levels of medical care, using a prescribed management system and supplies pre-assembled and stored for this purpose.

A Level II First Aid Station, Appendix A, includes the following:

- Medical Oversight
 - A designated physician has accepted responsibility for oversight of station medical responsibilities.
 - The local jurisdiction's manager (Marin County Fire Department Chief for unincorporated areas) has provided written approval of the level of activity chosen.
 - Physician "orders" (treatment guidelines) are present and revised and re-signed annually, with a change of responsible physician, or with a change of city or town manager.
 - A pre-determined level of licensed medical professionals will provide patient care services; scope of practice statements for each level of practitioner have been created.
- Supplies pre-established as listed in Appendix A and those supplies directly related to the level of licensed medical professionals and treatment protocols to be utilized.
- Dependable communication between the Level II FAS and the supporting jurisdiction.
- Individuals providing care have current First Aid, CPR cards and/or professional licenses.
- A written plan for setting up the station.
- A SEMS based management and staffing structure is used, similar to the sample provided.
- A commitment from the local jurisdiction to support the station, assuring sustainability. Evidence of that commitment will be demonstrated by the local jurisdiction's participation in an annual First Aid Station activation exercise. This will include a demonstration of the communications between the First Aid Station and the local jurisdiction.
- Annual confirmation certificate issued from the Marin County Operational Area Disaster Council that the guidelines have been met.

DEFINITION OF TERMS

ALS - Advanced Life Support. The level of patient care provided at a Level II First Aid Station.

Automated External Defibrillator (AED) — An external defibrillator capable of analyzing cardiac rhythm and delivering a shock if ventricular fibrillation or tachycardia is detected.

BLS - Basic Life Support. The level of patient care provided at a Level I First Aid Station.

Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) — Refers to the techniques used to augment breathing and circulation when normal breathing or circulation has ceased.

Community Emergency Response Training (CERT) — A community disaster preparedness program endorsed by the Marin County Operational Area Disaster Council. Other equivalent community programs exist in Marin such as Homeowners' Emergency Action Response Team (HEART), and Disaster Action Response Team (DART).

Emergency Medical Services Program (EMS)- The program within the Department of Health and Human Services that is responsible for emergency medical services in the county. Point of contact for this document.

First Aid Station (FAS) — An area of service specifically organized to provide care to injured or ill persons following a disaster.

Patient Treatment Area — The area set aside for treatment of injured individuals.

Levels of FAS — Includes Level I and Level II. A Level I FAS provides first aid treatment only, utilizing personnel that are trained at the basic first aid and CPR levels. A Level II FAS utilizes personnel trained and licensed at predetermined levels (physician, physician's assistant, registered nurse, paramedic, etc.).

Management Team — Refers to the First Aid Station Director and all section Chiefs.

Medical Director - The physician that provides medical oversight and written protocols for a level II First Aid Station.

Office of Emergency Services (OES) — Refers to the lead agency responsible for disaster planning and preparedness at the county and state levels.

Over the Counter Medications (OTC) — Refers to medications that can be purchased "over the counter" meaning without a physician's prescription.

Span of Control — A reference to the number of persons/positions that SEMS recommends be supervised by a single position, three to seven.

Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS) — The management system that agencies in California must use when managing a disaster response if they wish to receive reimbursement following that disaster.

Simple Triage and Rapid Treatment (START) — The triage system that is part of CERT and is used to determine which patients are most severely injured.

Treatment Area — The area where CERT volunteers administer first aid to victims.

Triage — French word for “sorting”, refers to the process that evaluates and categorizes injured and ill patients according to the seriousness of their condition, determining their priority for treatment