

**Public Health to the Rescue:
*Emergency Response is Now
a Core Function***

Broadcast Date: April 3, 2006

Program Objectives

- Describe the role of a public health agency in a regional disaster response.
- Recognize the complexity of emergency response in a public health agency.
- Determine how a public health agency refines operations to allow a more effective response following a disaster.

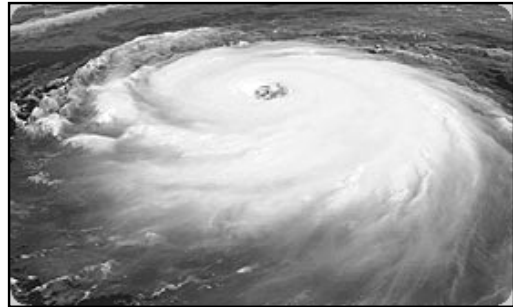
Faculty

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**Katrina Approaches Gulf Coast
August 27, 2005**

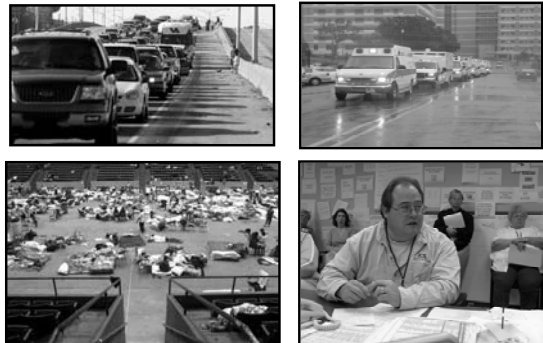


**Katrina Approaches Gulf Coast
August 27, 2005**



**MDH Emergency Operations
Center activated
August 27, 2005**

**Katrina Approaches Gulf Coast
August 28, 2005**



Katrina Makes Landfall August 29, 2005



Katrina Damage



Public Health Response

- Homes damaged – 76,839
- Families displaced – 45,000
- Lost electrical power – 800,000 (more than one half of state).
- Electricity, water, sewer completely down in coast counties.
- All 14 hospitals in lower 6 counties damaged (3 forced to close).

Public Health Response

- Hancock Medical Center loses first floor to storm surge.
- 16 nursing homes damaged in lower 6 counties (3 closed).
- Healthcare facilities forced to use back-up generators throughout southern half of state.

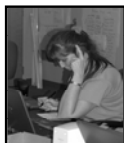
Public Health Response



Assessment teams depart after roads cleared on August 30, 2005.



Telephone Assessment Begins



Public Health Response



Over 200 Public Health Nurses and 130 Public Health Environmentalists deployed.



Self-sufficiency a must.

Public Health Response



Hospital Support


Disaster Medical Assistance Teams
25-40 Medical Professionals
Completely self-sustaining

Strike Teams
5 Medical Professionals
Completely self-sustaining




Public Health Response


Primary and Emergency Care





- **DMATS**
- 16,275 patients
- **VMATS**
- 1,555 animals




Public Health Response



Carolinas MED 1
92 Medical Professionals
Surgery suite
Pharmacy
Laboratory

Public Health Response




Nevada 1
100 beds
Primary care
Special needs patients

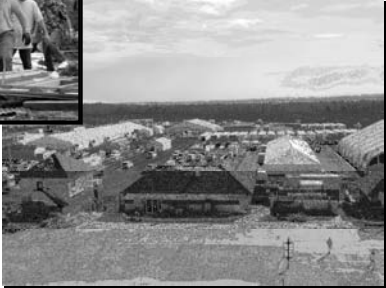


Public Health Response

DMORT Operations



Confirmed fatalities:
231



Public Health Response

Strategic National Stockpile

Requested
10:00 p.m.



Arrived
7:30 a.m.

First state to receive, break down and distribute Supplies from Strategic National Stockpile.

Public Health Response



Warehouse established and staffed by MDH 24 hours per day.

Hospital re-supply began same day as delivery from SNS.



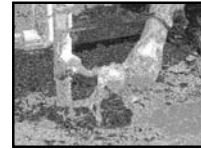
Public Health Response



- **Vaccinations**
 - 132,538 tetanus
 - 25,830 Hep A
 - 2,972 Hep B
 - 7,580 Twinrix



Vector control



Water supply testing

Public Health Response

- *Disease surveillance at healthcare facilities and shelters.*
- *Sanitation surveillance at shelters.*
- *Establishment of temporary pharmacies.*
- *Testing and restoration of water systems (584).*
- *Establishment of sanitary stations for showering and hand washing.*
- *Assistance with temporary housing connections.*

Public Health Response



Dedicated public health team.



Public Health Response

"With the assessments made by the Department of Health teams, the DMATs were in place within hours after the disaster providing help not only to the community, but to the staff of the hospital as well."

*Sean Appleyard, MD
Hancock Medical Center*

Public Health Response

Lessons Learned:

Training is critical.

Self-sufficiency is a must.

Capacity is the key element.

Public Health Response

Response Issues and Problems:

Limited capacity

Fuel

Security

Special needs population

Status of Medical Infrastructure

Acute Care Hospitals – 14 damaged in lower six counties
Hancock Medical Center – 25 of 104 beds operational
Gulf Coast Medical Center – 34 of 189 beds operational

Nursing Homes – 16 damaged in lower six counties
Three remain closed (two destroyed and one to reopen in February)

Community Health Centers (HRSA) – 11 CHC's in lower six counties
Six CHC's remain closed (three destroyed and three damaged)

Private Primary Care Clinics
36% either closed or destroyed

Status of Public Water Supply Infrastructure

456 community water systems in affected area lost pressure

10 community systems remain compromised

7 systems under boil water status

3 systems not operational

Estimated cost to repair/replace system infrastructure - \$85 million

MDH also tested over 6,000 samples for individual systems (private wells)

Status of Food Service Facility Infrastructure

1,928 licensed food service facilities in lower six counties

100% closed due to power loss, water loss, or damage

1,500+ have reopened and continue to reopen pending repair and/or reconstruction

Produced by the

Video Communications

&

Distance Learning Division

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