



Inventorying Emergency Preparedness Resources

A Regional Approach to Resource Management

Christian Feller
Aultman Hospital
Director of Safety and Emergency Management
Akron Regional Hospital Association
Emergency Management Chairman



Regional Implementation

- Identification of a region-wide issue.
 - Established objectives with attainable deadlines.
- Development of a multidisciplinary committee.
 - Regional Coordinators, Emergency Management Agencies, Public Health, Hospitals
- Evaluation of various resource management tools or response tools with included resource management components over a 9 month period.
- Tools evaluated on the following criteria:
 - Affordability
 - Customizable
 - Internet Based
 - Security
 - Customer Support
 - Ease of Use

Regional Implementation Cont'd

- Identified EPRI as the emergency resource tool of choice based on the following criteria
 - No cost while existing contracts are in place
 - Windows based
 - Remote (internet) hosted
 - Ability to back up information and hosting site redundancy
 - Password protected with various user levels
 - Strong reporting capabilities for all disciplines
 - NIMS (National Incident Management System) compliant
 - Customizable and able to integrate with various file types
 - Open ended infrastructure for mapping tie-ins
 - Free tech support while under contract



Regional Implementation Cont'd

- Presented findings to regional steering committee for approval to move forward.
- Identified workgroups within specific disciplines to identify resources for input.
 - Healthcare – All ASPR funded purchases over \$250.00
 - Public Health – All CDC (Center for Disease Control) funded purchases over \$250.00
 - EMA – All NIMS identified resources
- Worked with Abt Associates to develop training modules and user manuals.
- Developed region specific standard operating procedures and guidelines and policies.
- Worked with Abt Associates to load initial data such as demographics and contacts.



Regional Implementation Cont'd

- Identified a pilot group to use for a 1 month period in order to identify operational opportunities for improvement.
- Pilot test group consisted of the following:
 - 3 Hospitals
 - 2 Health Departments
 - 2 EMAs
- Pilot group evaluations to be completed by December 1, 2008. A full report to the regional steering committee during the December meeting.
- Full media campaign to begin December 1st, 2008 in order to spark interest and engagement among various disciplines.



Future Plans

- First quarter of 2009 all 33 regional hospitals will go live with EPRI.
 - Usage to be tied back to ASPR funding requirements
- Public Health to be on-line by mid-summer of 2009.
- EMAs to be brought on-line as demand exists.
- Use EPRI effectively in 2009 regional exercise.
- Provide EPRI to all county emergency operations centers within the region.



Future Plans Cont'd

- Work with regional fire and police entities to provide data or pull data from the State of Ohio response plans.
- Provide implementation assistance to other Ohio regions, so all state healthcare organizations have access to, and provide data for, EPRI.
- Work collaboratively with adjacent state regions to develop a multi-state EPRI tool.
- Continue to promote the implementation and usage of EPRI to all interested parties.



Challenges

- Eliminating “Resource Silos”
- Not overstepping the EMA’s authority
- Work output at a regional level
- Elimination of grant funding
- System ownership

Strategies

- Continue to provide a secure method of data input, tracking and reporting.
- Stress importance of EPRI being a tool to assist EMAs in resource identification and acquisition.
- Continue to engage regional participants through projects that benefit individual entities.
- Think long term when developing regional based tools and how they will be funded.
- Provide key contacts and “system owners” that are funded by the region or have region interests in mind.