

**About Us****Divisions & Offices****Contact Information****Services****News & Events**

Events

News Archives

**Language Access****Press Room****Back To:**

Home

Search

## DHR reports more than 11,000 Georgia hospital and EMS workers trained in disaster preparedness

January 9, 2006

ATLANTA (GA) – The Georgia Department of Human Resources (DHR) Division of Public Health has achieved another milestone, having trained more than 11,000 hospital and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) workers since August 2004 through the Georgia Bioterrorism and Emergency Preparedness Program (BT-EPP). This program is federally funded through the Health Resources Service Administration (HRSA) and is the only program in the state focused on disaster preparedness among workers in Community Health Centers, Acute Care Hospitals and Emergency Medical Services. The program's goal is to ensure that each of these groups has equipment, staff and training to respond effectively to any health emergency, such as an anthrax attack, chemical event or natural disaster.

"We have made great progress by training more than eleven thousand hospital and EMS workers so far through our comprehensive disaster education program," said Dr. Stuart Brown, director of the Division of Public Health. "We have a ways to go, but the program is gaining momentum and we're well on our way to having some of the best trained hospital and EMS workers in the nation."

The disaster education program is designed to meet the training needs of Georgia's Community Health Centers, Acute Care Hospitals and Emergency Medical Services to assure that they will be prepared to fulfill their roles in responding to disasters, added Brown.

Through the program curriculum, workers can receive training in 15 different focus areas including: Disaster Life Support, Critical Incident Stress Management, Advanced Hazmat Life Support, Disaster Awareness and Disaster Response. The program curriculum involves a combination of lecture and hands-on training that includes educational materials on disaster preparedness, the threat of terrorism and terrorism preparedness. Public Health's Office of EMS and Trauma, and the emergency preparedness program provided the initial guidance for implementing the trainings at each facility along with HRSA program staff. Parts of the educational program have already been incorporated into individual facility annual safety day programs.

For information contact:  
 Tod Rose  
 (404) 463-2299  
[tsrose@dhr.state.ga.us](mailto:tsrose@dhr.state.ga.us)