



Press Release

For Immediate Release

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Local Responders Attend Specialized Homeland Security Training

BOUNTIFUL, Utah, *January 20, 2009* – Eight Emergency Responders from South Davis Community Hospital (SDCH), recently completed Homeland Security training at the Center for Domestic Preparedness (CDP), located in Anniston, Alabama. The CDP is operated by the United States Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency and is the only federally-chartered Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) training facility in the nation.

Richard G. Bennett, Administrator, Jamey Sulser, Human Resources Director and Mark Ferguson, Manager of Maintenance/Security, along with the directors of five other disciplines from the SDCH Campus of Health Services attended the specialized training. The one week course focuses on preparing healthcare leaders to make critical decisions in all-hazards disaster emergency preparedness whether the incident is accidental, natural or intentional. Healthcare response is part of an overall community response and may involve many agencies, departments, organizations, and facilities to mitigate effectively, respond to, and recover from any danger that has mobilized the healthcare system.

The CDP provides federally-funded, interdisciplinary training for emergency responders from across the United States and U.S. Territories, for ten responder disciplines: Emergency Management, Emergency Medical Service, Fire Service, Governmental Administrative, Hazardous Materials, Healthcare, Law Enforcement, Public Health, Public Safety Communications, and Public Works.

Healthcare and Public Health training is conducted at the CDP's Noble Training Facility, the nation's only hospital facility dedicated to training hospital and healthcare professionals in disaster preparedness and response.

Many training courses culminate at the CDP's Chemical, Ordnance, Biological and Radiological Training Facility, the nation's only facility featuring civilian training exercises in a true toxic environment, using chemical agents. The advanced hands-on training enables responders to effectively prevent, respond to, and recover from real-world incidents involving acts of terrorism and other hazardous materials.

Responders attending CDP training are selected from the nation's 11 million emergency responders. Training at the CDP ensures that responders gain critical skills and confidence to be better prepared to effectively respond to local incidents or potential WMD incidents.

Additional information about CDP training programs can be found at <http://cdp.dhs.gov>. For more information contact Kathy Wood, CDP Communications Director, at (256) 847-2316 or kathy.wood@dhs.gov.