

# The Region 3 News Update

*We're here to help you prepare for those really bad days*

Region 3 Healthcare Preparedness Network  
1600 N. Michigan Ave.  
Saginaw, MI 48620

Visit us on the web at [www.region3hpn.org](http://www.region3hpn.org)

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WHO PanFlu Alert  
Level

**1-3** (few human infections)

U.S. Terrorism Threat Level

**Yellow**

Threat Level for Domestic  
and International Flights:

**Orange**

**DEC 10, 2010** The Region 3 News Update is now available on both the Regional Website and MIHAN

## Numerous Suspicious Contacts Received by Region 3 Healthcare Agencies

Over the last two months, the Region 3 office has been involved with a number of our hospitals and other healthcare agencies in regards to a significant number of suspicious calls, emails and visits.

These contacts have ranged from calls and emails with inquiries regarding hospital construction plans, to questions regarding what sort of radiation equipment and radio isotopes are kept on site, or what sort of healthcare is provided by the hospital. We have also had hospitals experience visitors coming to their facilities asking these sorts of questions in person. Many of the calls and emails have appeared to originate outside of the continental United States, while some of the on-site visitors have appeared to staff to be foreign nationals.

The Region 3 office has been working very closely with our Michigan State Police District Coordinator and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security as well as the State Office of Public Health Preparedness regarding these events. We have also made a point of informing the Emergency Managers and Health Department Emergency Preparedness Coordinators. The MIOC (Michigan Intelligence Operations Center) has been actively involved in the entire process.

In addition, we have provided additional copies of the MSP "7 Signs of Terrorism" DVD to each hospital for use with their staff. We have also provided the following specific guidance from Dept of Homeland Security to all our hospitals and have asked them to pass it along to the physician's offices associated with them:

1. If you receive a suspicious call, transfer it to your Security Dept if you have one. If not, please ask your staff to try to obtain the following information.
2. Have Security (or your staff) request the following information from the caller:
  - a. Their name (remember to get the correct spelling)
  - b. Their phone number – note: some calls are coming in from foreign countries so make sure to confirm the country of origin.
  - c. Their email address, if possible.
  - d. If supposedly from a company, their company's physical address.
  - e. Please then inform our office and/or your local law enforcement agency of the contact.
3. If the contact is an individual or individuals presenting to your hospital or office and if you have any questions regarding their intent, please contact your local law enforcement agency immediately.

In our Region, many of these contacts have not been to department heads or administration offices but rather to front line staff. Some of the calls regarding radiology, radiation therapy and

nuclear medicine have been made directly to those departments.

## **WHAT ARE THE 7 SIGNS OF TERRORISM?**

( a poster of these signs is included in this issue)

### **1. Surveillance:**

Someone recording or monitoring activities. This may include the use of cameras (either still or video), note taking, drawing diagrams, annotating on maps, or using binoculars or other vision-enhancing devices.

### **2. Elicitation:**

People or organizations attempting to gain information about facility operations, capabilities, or people. Elicitation attempts may be made by mail, fax, telephone, or in person.

### **3. Tests of security:**

Any attempts to measure reaction times to security breaches or to penetrate physical security barriers or procedures in order to assess strengths and weaknesses.

### **4. Acquiring supplies:**

Purchasing or stealing explosives, weapons, ammunition, etc. Also includes acquiring uniforms (i.e.: scrubs or other types of healthcare uniform items), decals, flight manuals, passes or I. D. badges (or the equipment to manufacture such items) or any other controlled items.

### **5. Suspicious persons out of place:**

People who don't seem to belong in the workplace, neighborhood, business establishment, or anywhere else.

### **6. Dry run/Trial Run:**

Putting people into position and moving them around according to their plan without actually committing the terrorist act. This is especially true when planning a kidnapping, but it can also pertain to bombings. An element of this activity could also include mapping out routes and determining the timing of traffic lights and flow.

### **7. Deploying assets:**

People and supplies getting into position to commit the act. This is an agency's last chance to alert authorities before the terrorist act occurs.

This all comes under the general concept of Situational Awareness – being aware of what is happening around you to understand how information, events, and your own actions will impact your goals and objectives, both now and in the near future.

The following is from Mike Moll of the Department of Homeland Security:

--Anytime there is a suspicious incident, no matter how innocuous, the very first step is to contact local law enforcement. Even if the hospital has its own security staff on hand, by contacting local LE and getting them headed

toward the incident is a time saver and, potentially a life safety issue. You can always call them back to cancel if the issue resolves itself before the police arrive. The other important reason to have local LE come to the scene is to get a positive Identification on the individual in question---a person has the option of telling private security officers to "go pound sand" but they will not have that option w/ law enforcement

--Once identification is given to the police, we (Federal, State, and Local Law Enforcement) expect the facility (hospital or other healthcare agency) to contact us with that information immediately. There are **NO** laws, regulations, or rules that prevent a hospital (or any other critical infrastructure for that matter) from giving us the directory information (name, DOB, address, phone #, License Plate #, etc...) that is needed to run the suspicious individual through the databases at each level.

Recently in Region 3 there has been an uptick in suspicious activity—the region's healthcare folks have done an excellent job in recognizing the suspicious activity---however, the next step (and the most important!) in the process is to ensure a positive police contact is made immediately so we can either close the issues out or investigate it further."

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These contacts have continued over the last two months, with the most recent being two events this week. The Region 3 office is standing by to assist any of our partner agencies with any questions regarding this series of events. We have assisted in the reporting of these events and will continue to work closely with DHS, Michigan State Police, OPHP and our local Emergency Management and Public Health colleagues as we receive reports of additional suspicious contacts.

Please remember encourage your staff to be Situationally Aware. If you need additional copies of the 7 Signs of Terrorism DVD, please contact our office or your local Emergency Manager.

**Remember to register for the MI VOLUNTEER REGISTRY – it's a great way to help your neighbors, our community and the State! For more information, go to: [www.mivolunteerregistry.org](http://www.mivolunteerregistry.org)**

# **COOPERATIVE REIMBURSEMENT PROGRAM BEGUN FOR ALL HOSPITALS AND MEDICAL CONTROL AUTHORITIES IN REGION 3**

The previously announced targeted cooperative agreement for all hospitals and MCA's in Region 3 has started with information mailed to all involved agencies.

**Remember that in order to participate in this project, your agency MUST sign and return the acceptance letter to the Regional office by CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON FRIDAY, DECEMBER 17<sup>th</sup>! If we do not have your letter by the deadline, your hospital or MCA my not be able to have access to these funds!**

Contact Jim in the Regional office with ANY questions.

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## **LONG TERM CARE CORNER**

It is no secret that nursing homes are always being stretched to the point of breaking when it comes to staffing, funding, and compliance with ever increasing regulations. To be honest, these issues are definitely not new to hospitals and others in healthcare.

Now, on top of everything else, long term care agencies are expected to develop or enhance their emergency preparedness plans beyond basic fire and tornado drills. And you thought trying to find enough staff coverage for the holidays was a headache!

Emergency preparedness planning for long term care agencies has gone beyond emergencies like fire, winter storms, and tornados. They now must have at least a basic understanding of Incident Command Systems (ICS) and All Hazards preparedness. What if a train carrying chlorine derailed nearby and your entire facility need to be evacuated? Chances are emergency responders and law enforcement may not be available to rescue your residents. You might be on your own.

In the event of an infectious disease outbreak such as pandemic influenza, how many of your staff knows how to **properly** don and doff personal protective equipment? How would your facility regroup and re-open for business if residents needed to be evacuated for several weeks?

Some of you may be thinking, "No problem. We have plans in place for all that." Some of you have already tuned out because these are things that would definitely challenge you and it's just too much to deal with right now Darn it, you're just trying to ensure staff coverage for Christmas Day and New Year's Eve, and isn't that enough right now?! The correct answer is NO!

Here's the good news. You are not alone. Region 3 Healthcare Preparedness Network is here to help you plan for and respond during those "really bad days." We have sample templates and checklists to help you develop comprehensive plans, we offer trainings throughout the year, and we can help you plan exercises to test your staff's ability to efficiently respond during any disaster.

But wait! There's more! We know that the State is asking for more and more reporting responsibilities. They are asking all Long Term Care agencies to be on MIHAN (the Michigan Health Alert Network) this year. They would also like to see your agency checking in on EMResource – the online program used for bed reporting and facility status. If lack of available computers is a barrier to your compliance, Region 3 has a limited number of laptops we can provide and we'll even help set you up and provide training on these programs.

We also have 10 Mega Movers (rapid patient evacuation slings) for each LTC agency. Is it starting to feel like Christmas yet? All we ask in return is that you stay in touch with us, come to a meeting on occasion, develop a comprehensive emergency response plan and respond to MIHAN alerts when they are sent out. You would also be asked to participate in regionally sponsored emergency response exercises. Our trainings and services are free thanks to state and federal funding for emergency preparedness.

We have a growing number of long term care agencies who are actively participating in Region 3 activities. Be part of a work group that gives a strong voice to long term care emergency preparedness needs. Our next Advisory Committee meeting is this Tuesday, December 14, 2010 starting at 1:30 P.M at the

Lincoln Center in Bay City. We'd love to have you come. We can reimburse your mileage if you are traveling over 10 miles to attend the meeting. Please call our office with any questions.



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## **NOTICE OF UPCOMING** **800 MHz RADIO** **TRAINING FOR ALL** **MPSCS RADIO USERS**

Anyone who is responsible for communications via an 800 MHz radio, whether on a portable unit or a base unit, it is required that you complete the MPSCS training course. It has been several years since Region 3 hosted an 800 MHz radio course. We know there are newer users who need this important training.

Our radio drill format will soon be changing from a pre-determined monthly date and time to random drills that require users to respond on different channels, following a MIHAN alert. While it is still important to regularly test each radio's functioning, it is equally important to test each user's ability to respond using different talkgroups. This is the next step in assuring our ability to maintain redundant communications in the event of a mass incident.

Trainings in 2011 will be held in Midland, on February 4<sup>th</sup>, and in West Branch, on February 18<sup>th</sup>. An additional course will be held in Cass City on March 4<sup>th</sup>. Each class is limited to 30 participants so it is important to sign up as soon as possible. A link to the registration site will be listed on our website at [www.region3hpn.org](http://www.region3hpn.org).

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## **FUNDAMENTAL** **DISASTER** **MANAGEMENT** **COURSES RETURN TO** **COVENANT** **HEALTHCARE**

Following a co-sponsorship of the first-in-Michigan Fundamentals course, Covenant Healthcare is once again taking the lead in co-sponsoring two additional courses this fiscal year. The first will be held on Friday, February 25<sup>th</sup> at the Cooper Lecture Theater and the next is scheduled for June 3<sup>rd</sup>, also at the Cooper Lecture Theater.

This one-day course, developed by the Society of Critical Care Medicine, offers intensive, hands-on training and course work for healthcare professionals who work as first receiver-intensivists for adult and pediatric patients, following natural or intentional mass disasters.

The course covers the types of disasters that would likely result in an expanded need for critical care services which will likely have to be provided outside a typical critical care setting. From nuclear detonation to multiple shooting victims to mass chemical release, this course covers the algorithms and pathways to critical care response during mass disasters. You will learn guiding principles for triage and allocation of scarce resources during a disaster, as well as the proper use of appropriate personal protective equipment and environmental controls required while caring for critically ill victims.

An additional component of this course includes the importance of working within an Incident Command System to effectively accomplish medical mass disaster response. Finally, knowing what staffing, supplies, and equipment would be required, and the resources available to you will help prepare you to respond appropriately to specific disaster types.

Registration for each course is limited to 40 participants and includes a training manual, all course materials, CME credits, and food and beverages for the day. Costs for this course are covered by Covenant Healthcare and Region 3 Healthcare Preparedness Network through a grant from the Michigan Department of Community Health, with funding from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness, Hospital Preparedness Program. Registration for the February class can be made via the Region 3 website at [www.region3hpn.org](http://www.region3hpn.org). Registration for the June class will be available in early March. Questions about this course should be directed to Kathe Martin at 989-758-3769.

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### **MCA's and EMS!**

Remember to go to:

<http://www.saginawvalleyems.org/cgi/zimekwebcal.pl>  
to review the protocol and to schedule the ZIMEK machine.

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## **Region 3 Completes 25<sup>th</sup> Consecutive 100% Radio Drill in November**

Once again, our partner agencies helped us reach the 100% completion mark on our monthly 800 MHz radio drill held on December 2nd. It's now been over 2 years of our drills reaching the 100% mark. GREAT JOB FOLKS!

We will be changing the format of these drills in the next few months. Specifics will be provided as soon as they are developed.

Thanks to everyone for your support and participation in these valuable exercises.

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***MCA's –PLEASE REMEMBER THAT YOUR QUARTERLY REPORT OF TESTING OF EMS RADIOS IS DUE BY CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON 12/21/2010!***

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### **Upcoming Meetings**

**Region 3 Healthcare Preparedness Advisory Committee, December 14, 2010 at 1:00 at the Lincoln Center, 820 South Lincoln St, Bay City, MI**

**Region 3 Healthcare Preparedness Regional Planning Board, December 20, 2010 at 1:00 at the Lincoln Center, 820 South Lincoln St, Bay City, MI. NOTE: THIS IS ONE WEEK EARLIER THAN USUAL DUE TO THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS**

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### **A Soldier's Christmas**

A poem by Michael Marks

The embers glowed softly, and in their dim light,  
I gazed round the room and I cherished the sight.  
My wife was asleep, her head on my chest,  
my daughter beside me, angelic in rest.

Outside the snow fell, a blanket of white,  
Transforming the yard to a winter delight.  
The sparkling lights in the tree, I believe,  
Completed the magic that was Christmas Eve.

My eyelids were heavy, my breathing was deep,  
Secure and surrounded by love I would sleep  
in perfect contentment, or so it would seem.  
So I slumbered, perhaps I started to dream.

The sound wasn't loud, and it wasn't too near,  
But I opened my eye when it tickled my ear.  
Perhaps just a cough, I didn't quite know,  
Then the sure sound of footsteps outside in the snow.

My soul gave a tremble, I struggled to hear,  
and I crept to the door just to see who was near.  
Standing out in the cold and the dark of the night,  
A lone figure stood, his face weary and tight.

A soldier, I puzzled, some twenty years old  
Perhaps a Marine, huddled here in the cold.  
Alone in the dark, he looked up and smiled,  
Standing watch over me, and my wife and my child.

"What are you doing?" I asked without fear  
"Come in this moment, it's freezing out here!  
Put down your pack, brush the snow from your sleeve,  
You should be at home on a cold Christmas Eve!"

For barely a moment I saw his eyes shift,  
away from the cold and the snow blown in drifts,  
to the window that danced with a warm fire's light  
then he sighed and he said "Its really all right,  
I'm out here by choice. I'm here every night"

"Its my duty to stand at the front of the line,  
that separates you from the darkest of times.  
No one had to ask or beg or implore me,  
I'm proud to stand here like my fathers before me.

My Gramps died at 'Pearl on a day in December,"  
then he sighed, "That's a Christmas 'Gram always remembers."  
My dad stood his watch in the jungles of 'Nam  
And now it is my turn and so, here I am.

I've not seen my own son in more than a while,  
But my wife sends me pictures, he's sure got her smile.  
Then he bent and he carefully pulled from his bag,  
The red white and blue... an American flag.

"I can live through the cold and the being alone,  
Away from my family, my house and my home,  
I can stand at my post through the rain and the sleet,  
I can sleep in a foxhole with little to eat,  
I can carry the weight of killing another  
or lay down my life with my sisters and brothers  
who stand at the front against any and all,  
to insure for all time that this flag will not fall."

"So go back inside," he said, "harbor no fright  
Your family is waiting and I'll be all right."  
"But isn't there something I can do, at the least,  
"Give you money," I asked, "or prepare you a feast?"

It seems all too little for all that you've done,  
For being away from your wife and your son."

Then his eye welled a tear that held no regret,  
"Just tell us you love us, and never forget  
To fight for our rights back at home while we're gone.  
To stand your own watch, no matter how long.

For when we come home, either standing or dead,  
to know you remember we fought and we bled  
is payment enough, and with that we will trust.  
That we mattered to you as you mattered to us.

***Please remember those who can not be  
home to celebrate the holidays.***



***A Merry and Safe Christmas!  
From The Region 3 Staff!***





# THE SEVEN SIGNS OF TERRORISM

## **1. Surveillance:**

Someone recording or monitoring activities. This may include the use of cameras (either still or video), note taking, drawing diagrams, annotating on maps, or using binoculars or other vision-enhancing devices.

## **2. Elicitation:**

People or organizations attempting to gain information about military operations, capabilities, or people. Elicitation attempts may be made by mail, fax, telephone, or in person.

## **3. Tests of security:**

Any attempts to measure reaction times to security breaches or to penetrate physical security barriers or procedures in order to assess strengths and weaknesses.

## **4. Acquiring supplies:**

Purchasing or stealing explosives, weapons, ammunition, etc. Also includes acquiring military or other uniforms, decals, flight manuals, passes or badges (or the equipment to manufacture such items) or any other controlled items.

## **5. Suspicious persons out of place:**

People who don't seem to belong in the workplace, neighborhood, business establishment, or anywhere else. Includes suspicious border crossings and stowaways aboard ship or people jumping ship in port.

## **6. Dry run/Trial Run:**

Putting people into position and moving them around according to their plan without actually committing the terrorist act. This is especially true when planning a kidnapping, but it can also pertain to bombings. An element of this activity could also include mapping out routes and determining the timing of traffic lights and flow.

## **7. Deploying assets:**

People and supplies getting into position to commit the act. This is a person's last chance to alert authorities before the terrorist act occurs.

**The Region 3 Healthcare  
Preparedness Network  
Is pleased to announce the availability of**

***FREE!***

**On Line Training.**

These four *FIVE* modules are now available on  
MITRAIN (<https://mi.train.org>)

- Region 3 MCC Operations
  - Region 3 ACC Trailer
  - Region 3 MCI Trailer
  - Region 3 Radio Systems
- *NEW COURSE! - REGION 3  
ORIENTATION!!!*

*The 1<sup>st</sup> four offer EMS CE credit!*

To find the courses, after registering and logging into  
MITRAIN, go to the "Course Search" tab (at the top of the  
page) and click on "Key Word Search" under the Search  
Options (on the left side of the page.) Type in "Region 3"  
and the courses will be listed. Just select the course you  
want.

Contact the Region 3 office with any questions or  
problems.

*Enjoy your FREE learning experience!*

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