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SEDGWICK COUNTY, KANSAS
COMMUNICATIONS

NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sedgwick County Participates in IEMC Training

(Sedgwick County, Kansas) – On April 10-15, 78 personnel from Sedgwick County participated and successfully completed the MMRS IEMC at the federal Noble Training Center in Anniston, AL. The IEMC participants represented various disciplines, and included local and state law enforcement, emergency management, fire, hazardous materials, emergency medical services (EMS), hospital, public health, Geographical Information Systems, disaster response organizations, public works and Wichita and Sedgwick County local elected officials and management personnel. A unique characteristic of the IEMC is that it places public officials and emergency personnel in a realistic crisis situation within a structured learning environment.

The Sedgwick County Metropolitan Medical Response System (MMRS) was selected to participate in the Integrated Emergency Management Course (IEMC) from more than 100 jurisdictions nationwide. Criteria for selection to the national training, includes providing a documentation of exemplary MMRS program development. The MMRS IEMC course is designed to enhance existing emergency preparedness systems to achieve an integrated, systematic response to a mass casualty crisis, especially weapons of mass destruction (WMD) events.

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Functional areas addressed by the course included Policy - - decision-making and communications, Coordination - - coordination of resources, management of personnel, and Operations - - implementation of procedures to ensure an effective emergency response and recovery. IEMC participants were organized into these three categories for the 2 ½ day exercise.

The IEMC training was divided into classroom instruction and a real-time exercise. The real-time exercise was held in a simulated Emergency Operations Center (EOC). In an actual disaster, the Sedgwick County EOC is the site from which local officials will coordinate emergency operations in support of on-scene responders. The real-time exercise was patterned after acts of bioterrorism, a campus dormitory fire, and an explosion. The exercise increased in magnitude as the week went on. Additionally, personnel from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) made a special trip to the IEMC to observe the public health response and its mass dispensing operations.

FEMA instructor Phil Moore stated "The Sedgwick County MMRS was one of the best communities I have ever worked with, and the participants performed extraordinarily well. I have facilitated hundreds of these types of exercises, and I rank Sedgwick County in the top five communities nationwide on their exercise performance and emergency preparedness planning."

Sedgwick County Commission Chairman Dave Unruh said, "Protecting the citizens of Sedgwick County is a primary responsibility of government, and fulfilling this responsibility depends on the abilities of various personnel to prepare for, respond to, recovery from, and mitigation against disaster. We have worked hard to develop a high standard of readiness and an ability to function effectively under crisis conditions. We are very proud to have been selected for this esteemed training and even more proud of our efforts during the IEMC exercise. It demonstrates our commitment to achieving a community response."

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