ASPR TRACIE Technical Assistance Request

Request Receipt Date (by ASPR TRACIE): 29 March 2019  
Response Date: 1 April 2019; updated 2 October 2020  
Type of TA Request: Standard

Request:

The requestor asked ASPR TRACIE if we had any emergency operations plans (EOPs) for small rural hospitals.

Response:

The ASPR TRACIE Team reviewed existing materials, namely the Rural Disaster Health and Emergency Operations Plans/Emergency Management Program Topic Collections. We also conducted a search online for rural hospital EOPs.

Section I includes hospital and healthcare facility EOPs. Although not all are specific to rural hospitals, these plans may be modified and adapted for use by rural hospitals. Section II includes links to additional relevant resources that will be helpful in developing an EOP.

A list of comprehensively developed Topic Collections can be found here: https://asprtracie.hhs.gov/technical-resources/topic-collection.

I. Emergency Operations Plans

This emergency operations plan template is designed for Skilled Nursing Facilities and can be customized by the user. It includes rapid response guides, a response concept of operations, and appendices that can help ensure continuity of operations.

This document is a template for a hospital Emergency Operations Plan with departmental sections as well as incident-specific annexes. Facility personnel will likely need to add operational detail to this outline.

This webpage links to emergency operations plan templates for: home health; hospice; hospitals; long-term care; and personal home care.
University of Toledo Medical Center. (2015). University of Toledo Medical Center Emergency Operations Plan.

This is an emergency operations plan for an academic medical center that may be referenced and adapted for use by other facilities.


This workbook provides an interactive, user-friendly tool to assist rural health clinics and rural-based hospitals, community health centers, and migrant health centers create/update all-hazards emergency response plans.

II. Additional Planning and Rural-Specific Resources


This webinar features speakers from small and rural hospitals who have experienced a recent emergency and activated their hospital-based incident command systems. They provided an overview of the incident, described how they implemented their incident command system, discussed tools and shared lessons learned for small and rural hospitals, and shared how they have incorporated these lessons into their current systems and plans.


This checklist can be utilized by healthcare emergency planners to help aid in the development of emergency plans.


This Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website provides links to planning resources for healthcare facilities and specific types of emergencies.


This website includes links to resources that can help healthcare and hospital systems staff plan for and respond to public health emergencies.

This guide can help emergency planners, families, and individuals who live in rural communities prepare businesses take the necessary steps to prepare for, respond to, and recover from natural disaster and human-caused events. While not geared towards healthcare practitioners, it does include threat-specific information templates, checklists, and links to related resources for families and businesses.

Ware County Board of Health. (2011). *Risk Communication in Rural Settings*, National Association of County and City Health Officials.

Healthcare practitioners in rural areas can use the strategies in this toolkit to communicate with their community during a variety of disasters including natural, biological, chemical, radiological, and mass vaccination/medical events.


This webpage includes links to toolkits and other resources designed to help select healthcare facilities better understand the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Emergency Preparedness Rule. Each toolkit includes sample templates and planning worksheets that can help facilities develop compliant plans, policies, and procedures.


Healthcare emergency response planners may use the checklists found in this document to inform the development of their Emergency Operations Plans.