

BW RESPONSE ISSUES & STRATEGIES

Unplanned BW Response

- **Hospitals accept increasing numbers of sick personnel, go on diversion**
- **Hospitals fill available beds; ill and worried-well turned away**
- **Hospitals become non-functional from staff burn out & resource limitations**

BW Response Strategy

- **Need integrated community, base, State, Federal response strategy – before the event**
- **Plan for community based response**
- **repare for wide range of casualties**
- **Focus on care of casualties and worried-well**
 - **Expand from existing medical capabilities**
 - **Anticipate need for outside & non-traditional resources**
 - **Plan for protracted duration**
 - **Pre-arrange lines of communication**

Continuous Surveillance

Public Health Surveillance

Unusual Health Event (Y/N)

BW Response Template and Key Decisions

Expanded Surveillance

Active Investigation

Medical Diagnosis

Epidemiological Investigation

Criminal Investigation

Key Decisions

- Major public health event (Y/N)
- Cause & population at risk
- Prophylaxis, treatment, isolation
- Appropriate emergency response

Emergency Response

Command and Control

Hazard Assessment Mitigation & Control

Prophylaxis & Immunization

Public Information

Care of Casualties

Control of Affected Area & Population

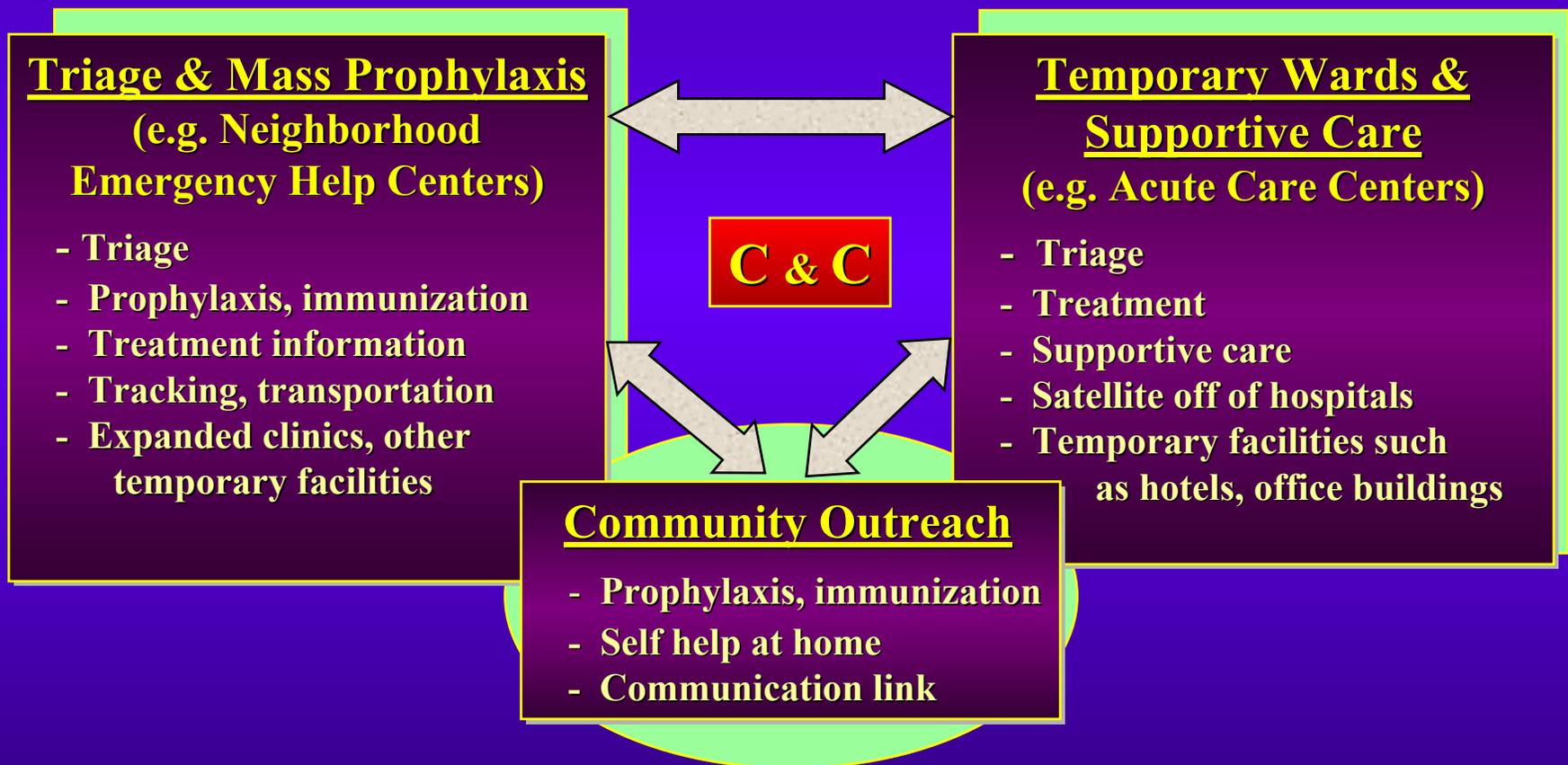
Resource & Logistic Support

Continuity of Infrastructure

Fatality Management

Family Support Services

Modular Emergency Medical System (MEMS) Components



Key Findings

- **Effective BW response possible for wide range of casualties**
- **Preparations applicable to any *catastrophic medical emergency***
- **Emergency response software can help with bio-terrorism & all emergencies (e.g., RAMS – Responder Assets Management System)**
- **Best response may reduce death & suffering by 50% - *Prevention of terrorist attack needed***
- ***Results applicable to military base & community***



QUESTIONS

Continuous Surveillance Activities

EXAMPLES:

Monitor Key Indicators

- **Hospital admissions**
- **Unexplained deaths**
- **Reportable diseases**
- **911 call volume**
- **Increased medication sales**
- **Unusual animal diseases and deaths**
- **EMS activities**
- **Employment absentee above baseline**

Expanded Surveillance Activities

EXAMPLES:

Active Data Collection

- **Poll hospital departments and ER's**
- **Poll EMS activities**
- **Poll family physicians and clinics**
- **Poll medical examiners**
- **Poll veterinary clinics and zoos**
- **Poll poison control centers**
- **Poll employment absentee levels**

Medical Diagnosis Activities

EXAMPLES:

- **Undertake clinical lab tests**
- **Obtain presumptive diagnosis and preliminary lab ID**
- **Ship samples to CDC/USAMRIID and to USDA/FADDL**
- **Obtain confirmed diagnosis and agent ID**

Epidemiological Investigation Activities

EXAMPLES:

- **Integrate epidemiological and criminal data gathering and sharing**
- **Conduct information and contact tracing efforts**
- **Establish case definition and up date with new findings**
- **Analyze distribution of cases, places and time**
- **Define population at risk**
- **Recommend measures for containment, prevention, treatment and protection**

Criminal Investigation Activities

EXAMPLES:

- **Activate investigation task force**
- **Conduct interviews with hospital staff, patients and others**
- **Establish tip-line**
- **Collect evidence such as unexplained powder residue**
- **Interface with epi investigation and share information**

Local Command & Control Activities

EXAMPLES:

- **Activate local EOC**
- **Activate a unified medical command**
- **Request local, state and federal agency representatives at EOC**
- **Implement local emergency operations plans**
- **Declare a local state of emergency**
- **Request State disaster declaration and assistance**

State Command & Control Activities

EXAMPLES:

- **Activate State EOC**
- **Provide representatives to local EOC and FBI JOC**
- **Implement State emergency operations plan**
- **Activate National Guard**
- **Declare State disaster declaration**
- **Request Presidential disaster declaration and assistance**

Federal Command & Control Activities

EXAMPLES:

- **Provide representatives to local and State EOC**
- **Activate FEMA ROC and FBI JOC**
- **Deploy Federal medical assets**
- **Deploy other specialized Federal assets**

Public Information

EXAMPLES:

- **Operate local incident help-line**
- **Post incident and self-help information**
- **Conduct senior officials press conferences**

Hazard Assessment, Mitigation & Control Activities

EXAMPLES:

- **Conduct environmental sampling (air, water, soil, surfaces, animals, insects, plants as applicable)**
- **Conduct control and decontamination measures**
- **Perform vector and animal control**
- **Control food sources**
- **Support sampling and decontamination teams**

Prophylaxis & Immunization Activities

EXAMPLES:

- **Activate medical prophylaxis plan**
- **Distribute prepackaged medication via**
 - **Distribution sites (e.g., NEHC, POD)**
 - **Door to door canvas**
 - **Other means**
- **Immunize at community centers, homes and other places**
- **Arrange for security as needed**
- **Implement centralized control of critical medications**

Care of Casualties Activities

EXAMPLES:

- **Provide care to initial patients in existing hospitals**
- **Activate Modular Emergency Medical System**
- **Establish medical command centers in community hospitals**
- **Provide medical regulation on “level of treatment”**
- **Establish casualty collection sites (e.g., NEHC, POD)**
 - **Triage worried-well and acutely ill or infectious patients**
 - **Register incoming patients**
 - **Provide mediation as appropriate**
 - **Send acutely ill to definitive care facility (e.g., hospital or ACC)**

Care of Casualties Activities (Cont.)

EXAMPLES:

- **Establish ancillary acute care facilities (e.g. ACC)**
 - **Provide care and treatment to acutely ill**
 - **Provide hospice care to terminally ill**
 - **Possible sites: nursing homes, hotels, shelters, buildings**
- **Establish community outreach (particularly for contagious disease)**
 - **Initial surveys to assess situation**
 - **Canvas neighborhood to provide home bound assistance**
 - **Distribute medication, self-help instructions and administer immunizations**

Care of Casualties Activities (Cont.)

EXAMPLES:

- **Establish medical transportation control center and staging sites**
 - **Transport acutely ill to care facilities**
 - **Transport non-BW hospital patients to other facilities**
- **Implement protective measures for health care personnel**
- **Initiate infection control measures such as closing schools**

Control of Affected Area & Affected Population Activities

EXAMPLES:

- **Provide security at medical sites & vital installations**
- **Limit gatherings**
- **Provide ingress/egress routes for responders**

Resource & Logistic Support Activities

EXAMPLES:

- **Establish mobilizations centers and distribution points**
- **Establish centralized reception center for support personnel**
- **Provide housing and feeding to emergency responders and home-bound victims**
- **Coordinate transportation and delivery of supplies**

Continuity of Infrastructure Activities

EXAMPLES:

- **Activate continuity of operations & staffing plans**
- **Close business offices to minimize contact with public**
- **Activate alternate operating facilities**
- **Identify essential personnel and request priority treatment & protective measures**
- **Activate mutual aid among industry**

Fatality Management Activities

EXAMPLES:

- **Make decision not to release remains**
- **Maintain registry of like deaths**
- **Convert regional morgues to high volume central processing of fatalities**
- **Establish long-term high capacity storage facilities**
- **Determine final disposition of remains**

Family Support Activities

EXAMPLES:

- **Provide non-medical victim assistance**
- **Conduct notification on next of kin**
- **Provide crisis counseling**
- **Provide legal services to victims**
- **Implement State and federal assistance programs**
- **Conduct community memorial service**