



North Broward Hospital District

Department of Emergency Preparedness

Our Purpose

The department of emergency preparedness is responsible for coordinating all initiatives and activities related to emergency readiness and continuity of operations in the event of disease outbreaks and natural or man-made disasters, including acts of terrorism. The department addresses any and all potential and real threats through planning, equipping, training, and exercising.

Our Work

The department has taken on the intricate and immense responsibilities of building and expanding the North Broward Hospital District's (NBHD) Emergency Preparedness Program. The department plans prevention, preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation activities for all hazards throughout the NBHD. The work encompasses strategic planning, resource allocation, procedure development, risk mitigation, emergency preparedness exercises, drills and training of all of the NBHD's medical, nursing, and allied healthcare staff. The department also oversees grants, develops educational and public relations materials for employees and the community, and provides expertise during crisis response and recovery efforts.

Our Goal

The benchmark of success for the department is the ability to ensure consistent and effective NBHD response and recovery from an emergency incident regardless of the event location, type, size, or duration.

Our Team

Jeanne Eckes-Roper, RN, MBA, is director of the NBHD emergency preparedness department. Eckes-Roper manages the all-hazards program designed to maintain a safe, healthy, and secure environment for patients, visitors, employees, physicians, volunteers and contractors. Previously, Eckes-Roper served as the NBHD's emergency preparedness officer and as clinical director of Broward General Medical Center's (BGMC) trauma and transplant programs. She developed both programs, which have been recognized as models for the state. She is the current chair for the Region 7 Domestic Security Task Force Health/Medical Committee, which is responsible for a coordinated healthcare response among all areas from Palm Beach County to Monroe County. She also holds a master's degree in business administration with an emphasis on crisis and emergency management.

Sharon Cohen, RN, MSN, the District's emergency preparedness clinical nurse specialist and instructor trainer. Cohen has held the position of NBHD's trauma clinical nurse specialist and emergency services/trauma clinical nurse specialist for BGMC. Cohen is an Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner and a member of the South Florida Disaster Medical Assistance Team (DMAT).

Patricia “Pidge” Gooch, RN, BSN, is the District’s hospital planner/trainer. In this role, she assists in the department’s training initiatives, and is the liaison for the Region 7 Domestic Security Task Force Health/Medical Committee in securing and maintaining HRSA grant status. Gooch has held the position of Assistant Nurse Manager at Coral Springs Medical Center’s emergency department, and has been a District Trainer in emergency preparedness and a member of the Broward County Hospital Coalition. Gooch is also a member of the South Florida DMAT and is currently working on her master’s degree in business administration with an emphasis on crisis and emergency management.

Jennifer Lay, MBA, ABCP, is the District’s disaster recovery coordinator. Lay is responsible for developing and implementing hazard mitigation strategies and organizational business continuity plans to limit business interruptions or disruptions in the event of a disaster. Lay also coordinates the public assistance reimbursement process following any critical incident. In her prior role as the NBHD HIPAA program coordinator, Lay was instrumental in the planning and remediation efforts required for compliance with the HIPAA privacy and security standards. Lay is an active member of the Association for Contingency Planners (ACP). She also holds a master’s degree in business administration with an emphasis on crisis and emergency management and is an associate business continuity professional.

The staff of the department of emergency preparedness is always available to assist you in personal and work-related planning, education, and training for all disaster types and sizes. Feel free to contact the department with your questions at 954-712-3931.

Our Training

In addition to the individual educational degrees, experience, training, and honors, collectively the team has received federal and military training in medical management of chemical, biological and radiological terrorism, bombings, and natural disasters. In a continual effort to share information, ‘lessons learned’ from drills, events or training have been shared with the hospitals in the local community as well as nationally through publications and statewide ongoing education and training events.

Our Affiliates

The department of emergency preparedness serves as the lead agency for the Broward County Healthcare Coalition. The coalition consists of hospitals, the health department, clinics, medical associations, the medical examiner’s office and other Broward County agencies that have a role in providing healthcare to our community. This coalition ensures the community response is standardized and all agencies have the opportunity to provide assistance across the spectrum of healthcare in a coordinated manner.

The department of emergency preparedness also leads the Health and Medical Committee of the Region 7 Domestic Security Task Force. The task force consists of representatives from Palm Beach, Broward, Dade, and Monroe counties. The mission of the task force is to “strengthen [Florida’s] domestic security prevention, preparedness protection, response, recovery and mitigation capabilities through interdisciplinary and interagency consensus and commitment to build and rely on a strong regional mutual aid response capability.” The Health and Medical Committee of the task force consists of representatives from over 60 acute care hospitals, including seven trauma centers; the county health departments; medical examiner’s offices; emergency medical services; clinics; and physician practices. The objective of this committee is to ensure that healthcare providers are prepared to handle emergency situations related to breaches in domestic security.

About the North Broward Hospital District

The department of emergency preparedness is a sector of the NBHD. Providing service for more than 50 years, the NBHD is a community health system offering a full spectrum of healthcare services. The NBHD encompasses more than 30 healthcare facilities, including Broward General Medical Center, North Broward Medical Center, Imperial Point Medical Center, Coral Springs Medical Center and Chris Evert Children’s Hospital. The NBHD is a medical safety net for Broward County residents, ensuring that those who need healthcare receive it, regardless of their ability to pay.