

Storm Damage to Hospital Water Supply Scenario

ICS FOR LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH TRAINING TOOL

Due to terrible storms with heavy rains and powerful straight-line winds, a landslide brings down a water tower that sits on a hill above the local hospital. Over three million gallons of water is released and inundates city sewer lines, a wellhead, a power plant that supplies the local hospital with power, and the parts of the hospital are all taken out.

Flooded areas of the hospital include: Emergency Department, Radiology, Pharmacy, Food Service, Linen, Internal transport (extra beds, wheelchairs etc.), and the Facility Operations Center. The hospital can no longer function and must evacuate over 50 patients.

Critical patients need to be moved immediately. Hospital sends these patients by ambulance to closest area hospitals. Other patients need to be moved within 12 to 24 hours.

The hospital has notified their healthcare coalition and activated the internal hospital incident command team (HICS). The HICS team helps coordinate where patients will be evacuated. The hospital also alerted the State Duty Officer and MDH Center for Emergency Preparedness and Response.

To keep families from coming to the unsafe hospital location, the hospital asked local emergency management to help with setting up a Family Reception Center so families can go there to get information on where their loved ones are being transferred. Your Emergency Manager has contacted your health department to lead this effort.

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