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UAB Department of Occupational Health and Safety

Emergency Preparedness: Current Efforts & Our Role in Large-Scale Emergencies

UAB Occupational Health and Safety
Max Richard, Assistant Vice President

UAB Planning Facts

A Community Within a Community

- Campus size – 80 city blocks
- Work force – 19,000
- Student population – 18,000
- International students – 1,100
- Research labs – 3,000
- Research animals – 85,000

All numbers are approximate

Challenges for UAB and Higher Education

- Colleges/universities have unique environments:
 - ✓ On-campus Housing
 - ✓ Hazardous Materials
 - ✓ 24/7 Operation
 - ✓ Critical Supply Lines
 - ✓ Resource Distribution: medical, academics, research
 - ✓ Healthcare
 - ✓ Sporting venues
 - ✓ Classroom
- Faculty/student mobility
- Open and accessible campus
- Academic and research freedom

Preparedness Complexities

- Radioactive materials, radiation producing equipment
- Biological agents
- Chemicals
- Wide-spread campus with difficult security issues
- Diverse population
- Animal Resources

Past/Present/Future Planning Issues

- Past
 - Regulatory & code compliance, licensing issues
- Current
 - Regulatory & code compliance plus research security requirements
- Future
 - Regulatory & code compliance, research security, “dual use evaluation”, vetting of research staff

Mitigation Components

- Risk analysis
 - Vulnerability and threat assessment
- Risk Reduction
 - Implementation of a mitigation plan
- Organizing Resources
- Monitoring progress
 - Testing and drills

UAB Mitigation Statement

- UAB has a responsibility to conduct activities in a manner that does not adversely affect the health and safety of faculty, staff, students, visitors, the environment or the community.

Risk Analysis

- Vulnerability assessment review for all hazards
- Project registration, health and safety peer review for potential of:
 - Personnel injury, contamination
 - Explosions, fire
 - Facilities contamination, consequences
 - Release of materials, internally, externally

Risk Reduction

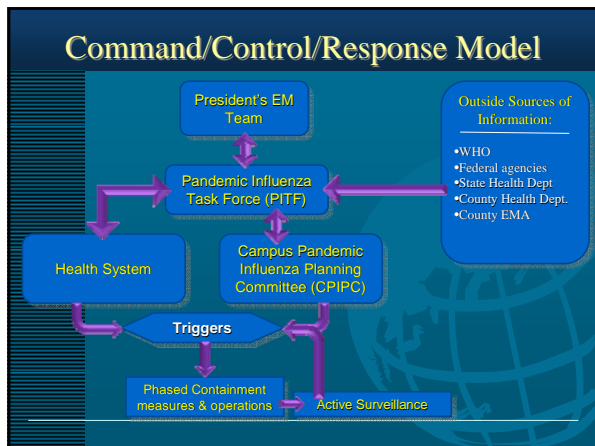
- Project SOP's
- Faculty/Staff experience/training
- Facility/equipment /containment design & verification
- Animal/materials control
- Materials inventory program
- Audit/compliance
- Waste treatment, handing and final disposal

Emergency Response Plan

- All Hazards NIMS-based plan
 - National Incident management System (NIMS)
 - Incident Command System (ICS)
- Coordination with UAB President's Emergency Management Team
- Coordination with local response groups
- Materials expertise & on-call program

Upper Administrative Support

- UAB President authorized Pandemic Influenza Task Force (PITF): Planning, Oversight, Coordination
- Task Force features:
 - Consists of experts in emerging and infectious diseases
 - Includes Health System
 - Delegates responsibility for campus pandemic planning
 - Reports to UAB President and provides decision guidance
 - Coordinates information from and maintains communication with outside agencies



- ### Campus Pandemic Influenza Planning Committee (CPIPC)
- President initiated meetings with VP's
 - Comprehensive planning checklist developed and listed by VP responsibility areas
 - VP's assigned designees responsible for key functions to make up "working group"

- ### CPIPC Working Issues
- Planning based on Health and Human Services assumptions
 - American College Health Association plan and template
 - Checklist divided up and assigned according to key functional areas, examples:
 - Research
 - Animal care
 - Human Resources
 - Risk Management
 - Student Affairs/Student Health
 - Finance and Administration
 - Legal
 - Media Relations

CPIPC Working Issues

- Staff training
 - Tabletop exercise is key tool
- Command/Control, coordinated with task force
- Timetable
- Deliverables
- Integration with existing plans
- Triggers- Timing is everything!
 - When should steps be taken for greatest benefit with minimal negative impact, consistency with outside area responses

Examples of Difficult Issues

- HR Policies
 - Employees with insufficient vacation or sick leave
 - Telecommuting: work/classes
 - Pay issues: classes cancelled or UAB closed
- Student Affairs
 - Cancellation of classes and for how long?
 - When should students go home?
 - Faculty/staff international travel
 - Financial/student aid
 - Social distancing measures

Examples of Difficult Issues

- Security
 - Building security
 - Should some buildings be closed completely?
 - Protecting “dual use” materials, drugs, chemicals, etc.
 - Medical Center & Campus responsibilities with limited staff
- Finance / Administration
 - Payroll and benefits
 - Purchasing and vendor issues
 - Expedited emergency purchases

Examples of Difficult Issues

- Research
 - Preservation/protection of research materials
 - Animal care
 - Continuance of critical research
 - Waste disposal
 - Facilities support services
 - Committee review/approval process
- Student Health
 - Campus infection control
 - Student isolation and treatment
 - Healthcare facilities and staff

Examples of Difficult Issues

- Communication
 - Internal
 - How to find out what you need to know
 - Rumor control
 - Resource availability
 - External
 - Media
 - Parents
 - Faculty /Students off campus
- Legal and Risk Management issues
- Recovery post event
 - Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP)
 - Getting back to normal
