

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS & PUBLIC HEALTH BLOOMINGTON

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT IS AUGUST 5TH

Community Concerned About Emergency Preparedness

At the beginning of 2008, Bloomington Public Health surveyed people who live and work in Bloomington to assess their level of concern regarding 86 different health issues facing their community. Response options for each health issue included “Very concerned”, “Somewhat concerned”, “Not concerned” and “Don’t know”. Numbers below reflect the percent of the nearly 400 respondents who reported “Very concerned” or “Somewhat concerned” to Emergency Preparedness and Response issues. The results will help guide planning efforts.

Health Issues/Threats	Percent concerned
• City’s ability to respond to public health emergencies	80.0
• Citizen’s ability (individual, family, neighborhood) to respond to an emergency before outside help arrives	83.6
• Distribution of medication, vaccines and supplies	78.7
• Messages reaching the public during public health emergencies	81.2
• Messages and education reaching special populations (limited English speaking, seniors, people with disabilities)	82.9

In addition, respondents included the following concerns related to emergency preparedness:

- I would be especially concerned for our elderly and disabled population.
- Emergency preparedness in the Twin Cities seems to be at a high level, and emergency response times are very good. I wouldn’t want funding for emergency response cut, but am satisfied with the services provided.
- I recently attended a block captains meeting about the Flu Pandemic and I found the discussion to be of great help in ANY emergency such as losing power, etc.

Strategic National Stockpile—MDH Praises Our Efforts

On April 30th, Bloomington Public Health (BPH) underwent the annual assessment of their planning efforts related to how and when we would use the resources in the Strategic National Stockpile. In attendance were key partners from Bloomington, Edina, and Richfield. The assessment was completed by the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) using guidelines and instruments from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention.



Representatives from Bloomington, Edina, and Richfield meet to assess planning related to the Strategic National Stockpile.

Once again, MDH was very impressed with the relationships that have been built between the three cities, as well as the participation between first responders and Public Health. BPH received a preliminary assessment score of 93%, a 9% increase over the 2007 score.

Grant to Help Special Populations

Bloomington Public Health was recently awarded a planning grant, from Minneapolis-St. Paul Metropolitan Medical Response System, to promote emergency preparedness in populations with vulnerabilities, such as seniors and individuals with disabilities.

The planning process will reach out to community and faith based organizations that serve the vulnerable populations within a community and provide the tools needed to increase their preparedness to serve the vulnerable population in a disaster setting.

25th Annual National Night Out— Build Community!

August 5, 2008 will be the 25th Annual National Night Out (NNO). NNO provides a good opportunity to talk to neighbors about emergency preparedness. The original purpose of NNO was to heighten crime and drug prevention awareness and strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships.

Over the years, people have recognized the value of getting together with neighbors to have fun and to get to know each other, their children, and their pets. NNO also provides an opportunity for neighbors to come together and learn about ways to get involved in protecting and strengthening their community.

Community Emergency Response Team Program to Begin in Bloomington

The City of Bloomington was awarded \$12,093 from Homeland Security Emergency Management to start up a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT). Public Health will provide leadership for the program in partnership with the Police and Fire Departments.

The CERT program will help build community resiliency by engaging Bloomington citizens with the program so they can assist in their neighborhoods or workplace following an event when first responders may not be immediately available. By working within the community, we will strengthen community preparedness, and public health emergency preparedness will be enhanced.



This year, our goals include identifying and training 4 trainers, training one CERT team of approximately 30 citizens, and developing a public health CERT Module.

If you are interested in participating the CERT program, please contact Lisa Brodsky, Public Health Emergency Preparedness Coordinator at 952-563-4962.

Meet Edina's New Emergency Manager



In April 2008, Lieutenant Michael Nibbe was appointed Emergency Preparedness Coordinator for the City of Edina. In addition to this new role, Nibbe is also the Lieutenant in charge of the Investigations Division. He has served the Edina Police Department for 28 years.

As one of his first emergency preparedness duties, he participated with the Strategic National Stockpile Assessment which helped him become familiar with the mass dispensing plans for Bloomington, Edina and Richfield. According to Nibbe, "I am very impressed with the help I'm receiving from Public Health, Fire, and other departments to get me up to speed."

We are looking forward to working with him.

Newest Member of Public Health Emergency Preparedness Team



In February 2008, Bloomington Public Health welcomed Carolyn Anderson to the emergency preparedness team.

Carolyn has a Bachelor of Science Degree in Public Health and Research from the University of Minnesota. Her previous emergency preparedness work included training and recruiting health care volunteers for the Hennepin County Medical Reserve Corps in which she is currently a volunteer.

A Bloomington resident, Carolyn was also a member of its Advisory Board of Health for 6 years and served on the Tri-City Partners Alcohol and Other Drugs Committee. She says she has always been interested in health, the environment, and what she could do to make things better.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Karen Zeleznak, Community Health Services Administrator
952-563-8905 or email: kzeleznak@ci.bloomington.mn.us
Lisa Brodsky, Public Health Emergency Preparedness Coordinator
952-563-4962 or email: lbrodsky@ci.bloomington.mn.us