

# The Birth of the Bureau Putnam Emergency Preparedness Community Partners (BPEPCP)

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Presentation created on behalf of the

Bureau Putnam Emergency Preparedness  
Community Partners  
(BPEPCP)

# What is the BPEPCP?

- The BPEPCP is a group of community partners joined together to work towards community preparedness.
- The core group has been meeting for over 3 years now and core members include:
  - Perry Memorial Hospital
  - St Margaret's Health
  - Bureau & Putnam County Health Departments
  - Bureau County Emergency Services Disaster Agency
  - Bureau County Sheriff's Department
  - Bureau County Red Cross

# How did we begin?

- Simply enough
- Born out of the effort to satisfy ASPR / PHEP grant requirements
- Nurtured with persistence and out of the realization that in a small community with 38,000 +/- inhabitants in Bureau County and 6,000 +/- inhabitants in Putnam County we had a strong need to work together on some level.

# The first steps

- Perry Memorial Hospital was initially assigned to Region 1 because all of our EMS providers who regularly service Perry Memorial Hospital were affiliated with Region 1 EMS based in Rockford.
- St. Margaret's Hospital was assigned to Region 2 because their EMS providers were affiliated with Illinois Valley Community Hospital located in LaSalle County in Region 2.
- We had the ability to draw on resources from both RHCC's to combat a disaster in our area.

# Adding partners

- The Bureau and Putnam County Health Departments (a joint department with locations in both counties) was next to step up and join us although we often had problems meshing the two grants.
- We were joined by our local Emergency Services Disaster Agency representative, though meshing IDPH's programs and IEMA was mostly problematic.
- The Bureau County Sheriff's Department became a core member and was quickly followed by the local Red Cross chapter.

# Next steps

- Our first joint exercise was held on July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2009.
- We had planned a fertilizer plant explosion and fire to meet our ASPR requirements and the requirements of the LEPC (Local Emergency Planning Committee) of which we are also all members.
- First stumbling blocks – A broken foot (mine and no-weight bearing), the birth of my first grandchild at 1 am that morning during a huge storm with tornados and high winds. Needless to say, participation was way less than expected, but the show went on.

# What brought us all together





# The Euclid Chemical Fire

- In the early morning hours of October 9, 2010, fire and accompanying explosions broke out in rural Sheffield, IL at a plastics plant.
- Within a few short hours, we had opened the Bureau County Emergency Operations Center in the E9-1-1 building. It was manned for about 36 hours straight by the two hospital coordinators (jointly at first, then splitting shifts), both County ESDA coordinators, health department staff, Bureau County Board members and others.

# After the fire

- The realization came to all who were a part of the Euclid EOC that we needed to get much better at working and playing together.
- All were present for the after action conference and contributed to the development of the after action report.
- It was during this time that other partners began to come on board and in the early winter of 2010, we produced our first MTEP.

# We start on the path to becoming a coalition

- In October of 2011, we held our first “official” partners meeting.
- We set our priorities to be the following:
  - Work together, meshing our exercises to include as many as possible
  - Play together during those exercise
  - Train together both in the “classroom” and out
  - Educate ourselves and the community on disaster preparedness
  - Continue to add partners to strengthen the coalition
  - Build the Medical Reserve Corps to assist all of us during a disaster
  - Add faith based groups to the coalition.

# Additional Partners in the Coalition

- Princeton Emergency Services
- Walnut Manor
- CPASA
- Bureau County Mounted Search and Rescue
- Village of DePue
- Village of Walnut
- Village of Malden
- Bureau Putnam County Ambulance Association
- City of Princeton
- Bureau County Coroner
- BuEComm (E-9-1-1)
- MABAS
- Prairieland Home Care
- Interested Citizens

# Organization of the BPEPCP

- The coalition is co-chaired by the two hospital Emergency Preparedness Coordinators/Safety Officers / EMS Coordinators.
- The Health Department takes minutes.
- Each year we plan one large county-wide exercise to involve EMS and fire, police, ESDA, the coroner(s), LHD, Red Cross, Mounted Search and Rescue and any other partners who wish to participate.
- We offer NIMS training to the jurisdiction(s) we are drilling in and offer to assist with plan formation.

# What is Our Purpose

- To come together as a group of providers to know each others plans and needs should disaster strike.
  - Plan together – Plan for the needs and know where help (how much and what kind) will be needed when disaster comes knocking
  - Play together – Annually we plan and coordinate a disaster with effects county wide. All partners who wish to participate are included in the planning and execution of the exercise.

# What is our Purpose

- To educate our partners, both public and private, about community emergency preparedness, and
- To continue to forge strong relationships among coalition members, and
- To forge a resilient and prepared community (the County of Bureau) that is ready to care for itself for as long as needed.

# Driving forces

- FEMA – The Federal Emergency Management Agency who was the first to approach the problems head on and lead the national movement for community emergency response
- IDPH – Led during that time by Leslie Stein Spencer, the IDPH embraced the influx of Federal dollars to improve the healthcare response throughout Illinois.
- Hospitals and Public Health Departments are recipients of “grant” funds on an annual basis in exchange for growing their preparedness activities.



# Education

- Partners are available for public emergency preparedness presentations and will come to your group or facility to speak to staff, families or the public.
- NIMS (National Incident Management System) training is available from partners as well as on the Emergency Management Institute website.
- Our annual exercises are a learning exercise and come with continuing education credits for EMS providers.

# Visit our website

- [www.bpepcp.org](http://www.bpepcp.org)
- Can be accessed from the Perry Memorial Hospital website or St. Margaret's Health website.
- Please direct questions or requests for assistance or education programs to
  - Deb Wood RN – PMH - (815) 876-4498
  - Lisa Clinton RN – SMH – (815) 664-1543
  - Kurt Kuchle BPCHD – (815) 872-5091
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