

THE CHALLENGES OF NIMS COMPLIANCE

What Works, What Doesn't, What Needs to be Done

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ALPHABET SOUP

- NIMS
 - ICS
 - HRSA
 - ASPR
 - DOH
 - JCAHO
- Everybody has their own requirements, sometimes they are conflicting, and **NOBODY** has any wads of cash for implementation.

- *The “big dog” is JCAHO, and with their new guidelines, JCAHO will clearly be driving the process for health care.*

PREPAREDNESS

- After all this time, we still can't agree on what it means
- The best way is to look inward and honestly assess your own capabilities IN A REALISTIC WAY, using the HVA process
- Not every hospital will be able to do the same things on the same scale nor should we expect to!

CULTURE CHANGE

- Certification vs. Competency
- Simply taking ICS and NIMS Courses does NOT an Incident Commander (or command and general staff member) make!
- Books vs. Reality
- Some creative strategies for building on existing skill sets.....

- Similarities between “Incident Management” and “Project Management”
- Organizational skills
- Ability to delegate and hold accountable
- Common language and points of reference

DRILLS, DRILLS, DRILLS

- Big and Few doesn't work
- Small and More does
- Goal: competency vs. simply "certified"
- MOST PLANS ARE NEVER DRILLED
- Partnerships
- Frequent tabletops using the HVA as a guide
- Breaking "big" into "small"....how we did the "evacuation" thing

REGIONALIZATION-MORE THAN A BUZZWORD

- Hospitals have different capabilities-what a shock!!
- Hospitals compete for the same resources-what a shock!!
- In a “real” emergency, the same vendors will be signatories to everyone’s MOU’s!
- Our hospital’s experience with the Hudson Valley Regional Mutual Aid Plan

REGIONALIZATION- BENEFITS

- Decon
- Incident Management
- Evacuation and Transportation
- Saving the Rainforest from excessive paper use
- Joint exercises
- Links to EMS, etc.

In the End, You're on Your Own

- Beware of “Experts” suffering from “IKEA Syndrome”: I Know Everything Already
- “Homeland Security” and “Emergency Preparedness” have become cottage industries
- Apply the pre-9/11 “sniff test”, and beware of “experts who haven’t responded to anything except the urge to relieve themselves...of their wisdom, of course!
- Look inward, rather than outward, for solutions
- The REAL “experts” will help us do that, rather than impose a rigid set of rules!
- Filter out the rest!

That's a Great Idea.... I'd Love to Steal it!

- We've learned more practical and useful stuff from our peers than from most of the conferences we've been to
- There is no substitute for information sharing
- YOU HAVE AS MANY GOOD IDEAS AS THE NEXT PERSON-including speakers at conferences!!
- Wanna Share??

THANKS!