



ruralhealthinfo.org

Thank you for joining today's
webinar. We will begin promptly at
12:00 pm Central.

Building Local Level Partnerships for Rural Emergency Preparedness

1



ruralhealthinfo.org

Your *First STOP* for
Rural Health
INFORMATION



Building Local Level Partnerships for Rural Emergency Preparedness

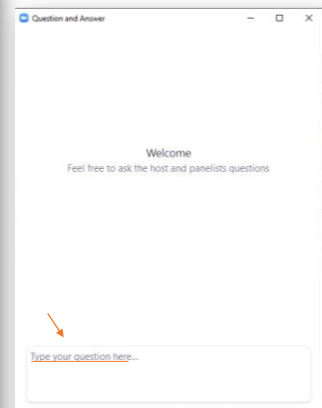
2

Housekeeping

- Slides are available at www.ruralhealthinfo.org/webinars/partnerships-for-rural-emergency
- Technical difficulties please visit the Zoom Help Center at support.zoom.us

3

If you have questions...



4

Featured Speakers



Meghan Melnick, Senior Research Associate with NORC at the University of Chicago Walsh Center for Rural Health Analysis



Mike Moore, Deputy Chief and Training Officer, Southern Stone County Fire Protection District



Margaret Staab, Healthcare Readiness and Response Coordinator, Region 5 Big Horn Basin Healthcare Coalition



Dianne Connery, MLS, MS, Director of Pottsboro Area Library

5

Rural Emergency Preparedness and Response Toolkit

Supporting and Strengthening Rural Preparedness and Response Programs

May 10, 2023

Meghan Melnick, MPH, NORC Walsh Center for Rural Health Analysis



6

Who We Are

NORC Walsh Center for Rural Health Analysis



Established in 1996 and now part of the Public Health Research department at NORC at the University of Chicago.

The NORC Walsh Center conducts timely policy analysis, research, and evaluation to address the needs of policymakers, the healthcare workforce, and the public on issues that affect healthcare and public health in rural America.

Rural Health Information Hub (RHlhub)



Funded by the Federal Office of Rural Health Policy (FORHP) to be a national clearinghouse on rural health issues.

RHlhub supports healthcare and population health in rural communities. RHlhub's website, ruralhealthinfo.org, offers an online library of resources, including toolkits, topic guides, state guides, and podcasts, on an array of rural health topics.

The development of this toolkit was supported by the Federal Office of Rural Health Policy (FORHP), Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Department (HHS) under contract #HHSH250201300021/HHSH25034002T.

7

Rural Emergency Preparedness Toolkit

Support and strengthen rural programs

- Developed to help rural and tribal communities, healthcare facilities, and other organizations serving rural populations access evidence-based and promising models and resources to support emergency planning, response, and recovery efforts.

Build the rural evidence base

- Combines evidence, expert advice, and the actual experiences of rural communities into an easy-to-use resource to support successful rural health programs.

www.ruralhealthinfo.org/toolkits/emergency-preparedness

Rural Emergency Preparedness Toolkit



8



Rural Emergency Preparedness Toolkit

- **Module 1:** Introduction to Rural Emergency Preparedness and Response
- **Module 2:** Rural Community Planning, Response, and Recovery
- **Module 3:** Cross-Cutting Issues for Rural Emergency Preparedness and Response
- **Module 4:** Types of Public Health Emergencies and Disasters
- **Module 5:** Post-Emergency Assessment and Sharing of Lessons Learned
- **Module 6:** Funding, Resources, and Support for Rural Emergency Preparedness and Response
- **Case Studies**

9

Module 1: Introduction to Rural Emergency Preparedness and Response



In this module:

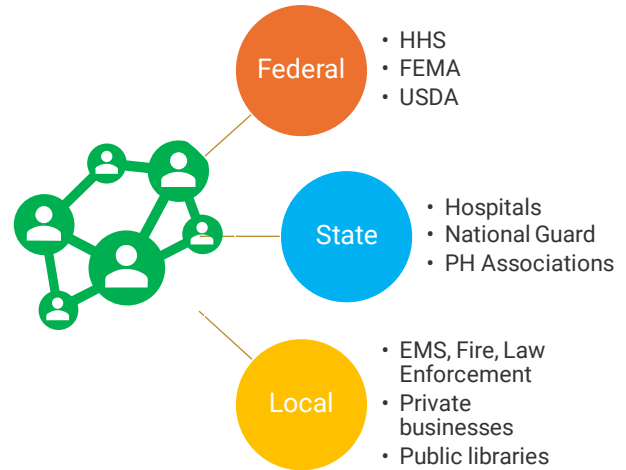
- Definitions
- Addressing Community Needs
- Population Considerations
- **Partners and Collaborators**
- Rural Barriers
- Rural Assets

10

Partnerships

Engage partners in all emergency activities

- Maintain a base of partners to grow and expand
 - Keep relationships active
 - Formalize partnerships through MOUs/ mutual aid agreements
- Look beyond organizations with a health and safety mission
- Coordinate and communicate to ensure community health



11

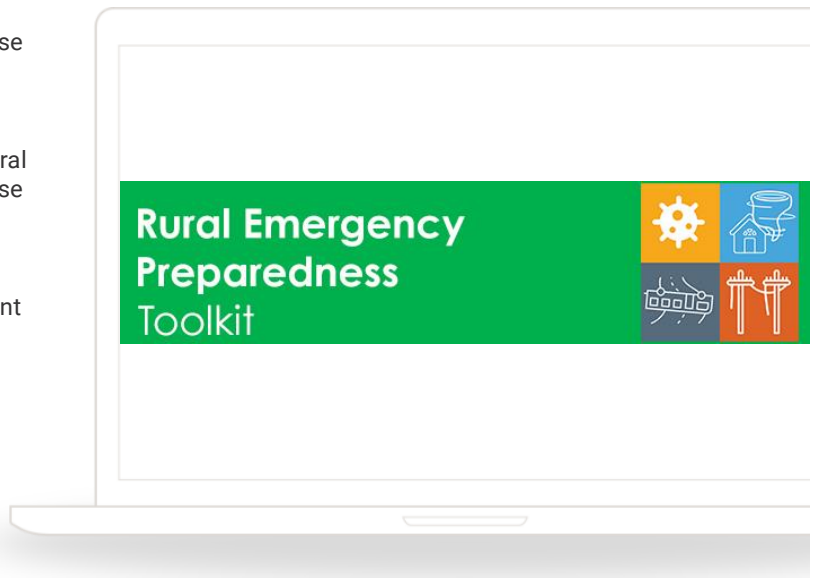
Collaboration and Partnerships



12

- **Module 1:** Introduction to Rural Emergency Preparedness and Response
- **Module 2:** Rural Community Planning, Response, and Recovery
- **Module 3:** Cross-Cutting Issues for Rural Emergency Preparedness and Response
- **Module 4:** Types of Public Health Emergencies and Disasters
- **Module 5:** Post-Emergency Assessment and Sharing of Lessons Learned
- **Module 6:** Funding, Resources, and Support for Rural Emergency Preparedness and Response
- **Case Studies**

www.ruralhealthinfo.org/toolkits/emergency-preparedness



13

Thank you.

Meghan Melnick
Senior Research Associate I
melnick-meghan@norc.org

✱ Research You Can Trust™

✱NORC at the University of Chicago

14



Big Horn Basin Healthcare Coalition

Partnerships and Collaboration in Four Counties in Northwest Wyoming

15



Background

- The Big Horn Basin Healthcare Coalition wrote their charter in 2014. We became a 501©3 in the 2021/2022 fiscal year. Our funding is through the Hospital Preparedness Grant, a federal grant written and administered by the state of Wyoming. There are five Wyoming Healthcare Coalitions. Ours covers four counties in rural, frontier, Northwest Wyoming.

16



Our borders reach Montana, Yellowstone National Park, and the Wind River Indian Reservation.

17

Challenges

- The coalition's geographical and jurisdictional boundaries encompass four counties, Big Horn, Park, Hot Springs, and Washakie in Northwest Wyoming. Our region is in Northwest Wyoming, encompassing 14,375 square miles (larger than the states of Massachusetts and Connecticut combined), with a population of fewer than 55,000 people. The population density is 3.8 people per square mile. Much of that land is federally owned. We are surrounded by a ring of mountains, with high desert, stunning rock formations, rivers, creeks, and streams.
- It is a huge area with a very sparse population, meaning coordinating healthcare delivery brings special challenges to the coalition.



18



- Within the coalition, there are two unique operational boundaries and opportunities that require special consideration related to emergency preparedness and response:
 - Coalition members have working relationships with multiple federal entities, including Yellowstone Park, United States Forest Service, The National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, and others. Coalition members will continue to coordinate with these entities to ensure they may appropriately respond to medical (and non-medical) emergencies that impact shared operational areas.
 - The coalition shares a border with the Wind River Indian Reservation, meaning it will coordinate response activities with EMA organizations and sister coalitions (Central Wyoming Healthcare Coalition) and the Bureau of Indian Affairs to support the appropriate response.

Boundaries

19

Hazardous Vulnerabilities

Hazard vulnerability analysis (HVA) and risk assessment are systematic approaches to identifying hazards or risks that are most likely to have an impact on a healthcare facility and the surrounding community. Conducting a risk assessment / HVA is also a requirement in the CMS Emergency Preparedness Rule.

Environmental examples include: flooding, especially in Hot Springs County because of the Boysen Dam and the location of healthcare facilities in Thermopolis, wildland fires, potential earthquakes, tornadoes, and severe winter weather.

Other vulnerabilities include: physical vulnerability, economic vulnerability, and social vulnerability.

20



21

Wyoming National Guard fighting wildfire

A Wyoming Army National Guard UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter takes off from Laramie Regional Airport, Wyo., to assist in fighting the Keystone Fire, July 6, 2017. Visible at left is the helicopter's water bucket. Wyoming Army National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Rob Trubia



22

HCC MEMBERS

- Powell Valley Health Care Ambulance Service
- Cody Regional Health
- North Big Horn Hospital District
- Burlington EMS/BH Fire Protection District #4
- Mortimore's Ambulance Service
- CRH DBA_Washakie County Ambulance Service
- Three Rivers Health
- North Big Horn Hospital District
- Cody Regional Health
- Powell Valley Health Care
- Hot Springs Health
- Washakie Medical Center
- Big Horn County Public Health
- Hot Springs County Public Health
- Washakie County Public Health
- Park County Public Health
- Washakie County Emergency Management
- Hot Springs County Emergency Management
- Park County Emergency Management
- Big Horn County Emergency Management
- RERT6 and Worland Fire
- Wyoming Retirement Center
- Powell Valley Care Center
- Park County Skilled Nursing Facility Cody Regional Health
- North Big Horn Hospital District New Horizons Care Center
- Midway Clinic
- Powell Valley Clinic
- Red Rock Family Practice
- Washakie Medical Center Clinic
- North Big Horn Hospital Clinic
- North Big Horn County Search and Rescue

23

Flood Response

Agencies Responded to a recent ice jam event in Manderson and the surrounding area on March 16th. The Manderson Fire Chief altered Big Horn County dispatch of flooding conditions on the Big Horn River. Deputies were notified and in route within three minutes. Manderson Fire, Manderson Police, Emergency Management, Search and Rescue, and Cody Regional Health Emergency Services were all paged out to respond, assist, plan or monitor the situation within 30 minutes. Riverton National Weather Service, Wyoming Highway Patrol, the Wyoming Department of Transportation, Big Horn County Road and Bridge, Big Horn County Commissioners and Manderson Town Council all played a part in coordination of this response. An are landowner lost around 100 pregnant goats and nine puppies. She is safe, as are her horses. She was stranded and reached dry land with the help of Big Horn County Search and Rescue. Staging took place in the café parking lot, as the water was too deep for staging on the actual property. Search and Rescue deployed a small inflatable boat to bring her to dry land. They also rescued some of her dogs that were in their kennels.



24

Partnerships

Our goal is to actively engage key stakeholders in our local Hospital Preparedness Program (HPP)-funded health care coalition.

This includes fire, emergency medical services (EMS), law enforcement and school districts, as well as the full spectrum of health care providers.

When we have full scale exercises, dispatch, law enforcement, fire, and search and rescue are all active participants, as well as local industries if they are asked and consulted with. For example, Williston Basin, an oil and gas refinery, participated in our Burn Annex exercise last April. The exercise was staged at their Lovell refinery. Collaboration with schools is something we need to work on.

25

Red Canyon

South of Lander, Wyoming

The bright red color of the Chugwater is due to a great amount of oxidized iron between and on the grains of the rock. It is this coloration that gives Red Canyon its name.



26

Federal and State Coordination

We also have established relationships with federal, state and county representatives within the region. For example, in June there will be a statewide exercise lasting several days. It was designed to exercise National Guard capabilities. The Big Horn Basin HCC is participating with an exercise at Northwest College in Powell, WY. We have both a hazmat incident (radiation spill) and an active shooter exercise planned with 40 National Guard members flying in to assist with the incident. We are focusing on linking disparate networks together so as to focus their attention on improving health security capabilities. Law Enforcement, the college, Search and Rescue, Fire, EMS, Emergency Management, Public Health, and hospitals will all be involved.

The coalition can assist with coordinating the acquisition and distribution of needed supplies and supporting coordinated response and unified command across sectors. We provide a lot of training to build workforce capacity and resilience, and to increase the capability and readiness and response abilities of our healthcare partners. Training includes National Incident Management training, Stop the Bleed, active shooter, decontamination, Advance Burn Life Support and more. Our exercises are designed to test our annexes and increase our ability to respond quickly to a medical surge incident. The state of Wyoming, and our HCC, are also involved in the Mountain Plans Regional Disaster Coalition and participated in a tabletop exercise last August with them.

27

Hazmat Gear

The HCC has a coalition cache with PPE and Decontamination supplies. Protective gear was purchased for area hospitals with HPP funding. During the pandemic, ventilators were needed at hospitals. We also invest in radios for communication. Getting in supplies such as gloves, masks, and booties was a challenge during the height of the pandemic.



28

Preparedness Goals

The more prepared we are as an organization, the better equipped we will be to support our communities when responding to an emergency. A lack of understanding of organizational and community preparedness may culminate in undue stress and exhaustion, during times of emergencies but also in anticipation of future emergencies.

Normalizing a culture of preparedness and utilizing key response concepts outside of an emergency provides an opportunity to educate and empower staff while bringing value to the goal at hand.

- Questions?

29

Navigating the Big Freeze of 2021

Dianne Connery, MLS

library@cityofpottsboro.com

Twitter: PottsboroLib

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/dianne-connery/>

pottsboro | connect
AREA LIBRARY here.


30

Communication

Pottsboro Library
Published by Dianne Connery • February 18 •


Well water will be available tomorrow at the library, Friday, 2-19, from approximately 11-3. Bring containers with lids to take your water home. Message us if you know people who can't get to the library, and we can arrange delivery.

Thanks to the many workers who made this possible - [Sally Rhea Thomason](#), Aaron Hamon, Zinn family, Gregg and Virgie Holbrook,, Jeremy Lewis, Jim Copeland, [Betty Roether](#), Lindy Meiser, [Casie Baker Lovelace](#), and Summer Holbrook. More volunteers ar... [See More](#)



Pottsboro Library
Published by Dianne Connery • February 19 •

Thanks for sharing the news about how people come together to take care of each other.



Baylee Bates KCEN News
February 19 •

Some people are melting snow, using water bottles, and of course still boiling water - just to have enough water to get by. But, some generous folks in Pottsbor... [See More](#)

Pottsboro Library
Published by Dianne Connery • February 22 •

Our list has closed. We are "sold out" for tonight. We'll do it again.

Dinner is cooking. Who needs a warm meal with no dishes to wash? Pick up to-go dinner at the Pottsboro Library - Monday, February 22.

To-go dinner will be available at the Pottsboro Library for the first 100 people who call in their names. Bay-At-The-Lake is preparing steak fingers/mashed potatoes and beefy macaroni. You must be on the list to pick-up. We'll let you know time. No charge.... [See More](#)




2,954 People Reached 445 Engagements [Boost Post](#)

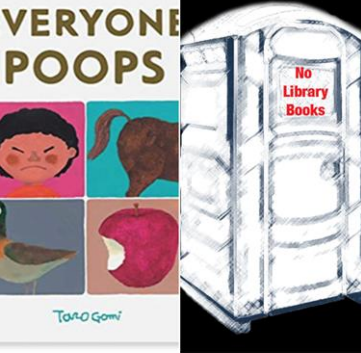
31

Pottsboro Library
Published by Dianne Connery • February 20 •

Let's talk potties. With the snow melting, people need "flushing" water.

Thanks to A-1 Little John (Jim Copeland) there is a porta-potty available in the library parking lot.

A community member has offered to make his 275 gallon mobile water tank available for those who need for flushing.... [See More](#)



2,726 People Reached 326 Engagements [Boost Post](#)

Summer Holbrook is with Virgie Holbrook and 10 others.
February 18 •

I was reminded of the song, "The More We Work Together," today as the Pottsboro community came together to help neighbors in need. Dianne Connery, the director of the Pottsboro Library messaged me yesterday to see if there was a way to get drinking water for the Pottsboro area residents. What started at 8 a.m. today was nothing short of amazing. City leaders, library leaders, school board members, chamber of commerce board members, Visions of Sugarplums leaders, other community leaders, business owners, and private citizens came together today to find containers, fill containers, distribute water, purchase water, deliver water, set up a porta-potty and warming center and help those in need in our community. I am in awe of the servant leadership I saw today. Thank you to all that helped today and will continue to help tomorrow, please forgive me if your name has been left off the list. If you see these people around town or visit their business please tell them how amazing they are. Because "The more we work together the happier we'll be. Cause your friends are my friends and my friends are your friends. The more we work together the happier we'll be!" [Pottsboro Library](#), [Pottsboro Area Chamber of Commerce](#), [@BAAtthelake](#), [@alittlejohn](#), [Brookshire's](#), [@samsclubsherman](#), [#pottsborocitycouncil](#) Visions of Sugarplums 501(c)(3)




Pottsboro Library
Published by Dianne Connery • February 19 •

Well water will be available from 11-3 today at the library. Bring containers with lids to take water home. Volunteers are planning to deliver to people who can't get to the library. Please message the address. If anyone has bottled water to donate, we would love to share it with those who are in need. Let us know what you need. The community wants to help.

3,014 People Reached 202 Engagements - Distribution Score

[Boost Post](#)

Be informed. Sign up.



32

Texoma Local Expert Advice Texoma Eats

NEWS 12
a product of FOX 12 MEDIA

News Weather Sports Send Us Your News Tip Watch Live

Pottsboro Library helping provide water for community

The Pottsboro Library is helping provide water to the community. (KXII)

By KXII Staff

Published: Feb. 20, 2021 at 8:42 PM UTC

[f](#) [m](#) [t](#) [p](#) [in](#)

POTTSBORO, Texas (KXII) - The Pottsboro Library is helping provide water to the community.

Library Director Dianne Connery spent Saturday passing out well water for people to flush their toilets.

Connery also set up a porta potty in the back of the library for residents to use.

She was passing out drinking water before running out earlier in the week.

"People were so appreciative today of just getting water to flush their toilets I mean so many people talked about it it is the little things in life that really matter in a situation like this," Connery said. "So as long as people keep contacting us with what their needs are we will somehow figure out how to make it work."

33

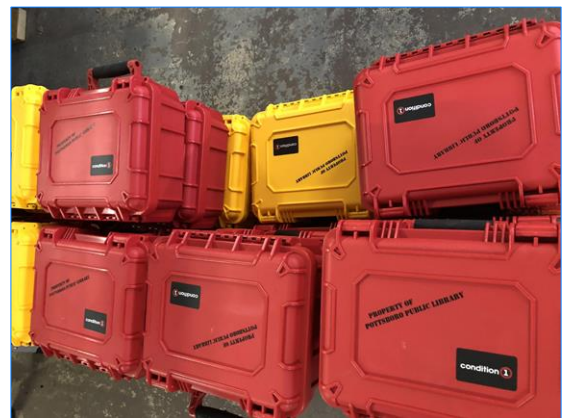
Moving Forward

Pottsboro Library
Published by Dianne Connery · April 6 at 1:40 PM ·

What did you learn from the winter storm? How will you prepare for the next emergency? Join us on Friday to talk about what we can do to be prepared.

JOIN THE CONVERSATION

FRI, APR 9
Emergency Preparedness Community Conversation
104 N. Main Pottsboro, TX 75076



34



35

LOCAL WEATHER RESPONDS INVESTIGATIONS VIDEO SPORTS ENTERTAINMENT NEWSLETTER... 83° LIVE TV

TRENDING May Astronomy Rare Birds Spotted City Prop Guide ISD Bond Guide Voting Guide Sign Up for Good News 2 WEATHER ALERTS

ERCOT

ERCOT Warns of Brownouts This Summer in Forecast of Power Grid Demand

While the data in the report is just a prediction, there is concern that demand will outpace the power supply this summer

By Alanna Quillen • Published May 3, 2023 • Updated 2 hours ago



36



[About APHA](#) | [Join](#) | [Renew](#) | [Annual Meeting](#)

Search APHA.org



What is
Public Health?

Topics &
Issues

Policy &
Advocacy

Publications &
Periodicals

Professional
Development

Events &
Meetings

News &
Media

[APHA](#) > [Events & Meetings](#) > [APHA Calendar](#) > [Webinar Events](#) > 05-Mental Health and Climate Workshop

Climate Change and Mental Health Interventions Workshop

[< Events & Meetings](#)

[< APHA Calendar](#)

[Webinar Events](#)

WEBINAR //

Date: MAY 02 2023, 12:00 PM - 1:30 PM EST

Description

People around the world are experiencing the physical and mental health impacts of the climate crisis. Certain populations are also coping with stressors like financial insecurity or race-based violence, compounding the effects on mental health.

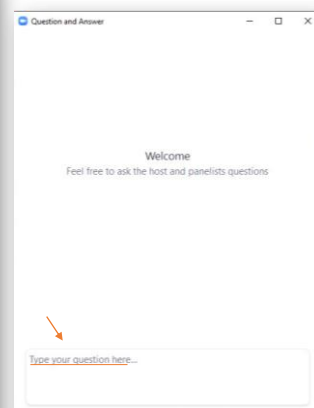
37

Dianne Connery
Pottsboro Library

library@cityofpottsboro.com

38

If you have questions...



39

Thank you!

- Contact us at ruralhealthinfo.org with any questions
- Please complete webinar survey
- Recording and transcript will be available on RHIhub website

40