



CHEMICAL STOCKPILE EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS PROGRAM

MORROW  
COUNTY  
EMERGENCY  
MANAGEMENT

## NEWS RELEASE

***For Immediate Release***

November 7, 2005

### Hospital to Take Part in Haz-Mat Exercise

*For more information about how to prepare for an emergency, check our website at [www.csepp.net](http://www.csepp.net)*

**Hermiston, OR** - On Wednesday, November 9<sup>th</sup> Good Shepherd Medical Center (GSMC) will be testing their ability to respond to a mass casualty incident by participating in a full-scale hazardous materials (Haz-Mat) exercise.

*You are also welcome to contact us, especially if you want to schedule a CSEPP presentation for your community group.*

The purpose of this exercise is to test responder change-out schedules, bulk supplies usage and other functions related to patient reception areas, traffic problems, technology usage, ambulance transportation, triage, hospital employee call downs, incident command, and hospital access.

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Oregon State Health (CSEPP) has been working closely with GSMC to ensure their ability to respond to a Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program (CSEPP) emergency. In an effort to broaden their response to “all-hazards” emergencies, both CSEPP and GSMC wanted to test their skills using a non-CSEPP event scenario.

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The hospital will treat this exercise as a real mass casualty event and activate their disaster plan. The exercise will last approximately 4 hours from the kick off; with play being broken down into 20-minute segments. During each segment the hospital will be challenged with different scenarios that would normally transpire during a mass casualty event. The hospital will be expected to respond to each issue and drive it to closure. To close the scenarios,

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responders will have to either utilize the issued technology (computers, Recons, etc.), simulate a response to a coach, communicate to the next chain of command via radio, or physically demonstrate a process to an evaluator.

Hermiston residents may see responders, wearing their personal protective equipment (PPE), outside GSMC Emergency entrance at approximately 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, November 9<sup>th</sup>. Residents are reminded that this is only a drill and to allow hospital staff to “play” without interference.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Bryan Hopkins, Oregon Health Division at 541.667-8673.

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