

(Neb.)- Chadron Community Hospital Members Attend Crisis Response Training

By: Jeremy Anderson Posted at: 07/05/2013 10:14 AM

(Scottsbluff)- Nine members of the Chadron Community Hospital Decontamination Team attended a training event and full-scale exercise on May 29th and 30th at the Harms Center in Scottsbluff. The training, which was jointly sponsored by Center for Preparedness Education, the Panhandle Regional Medical Response System, and Regional West Medical Center, included Decontamination Teams from hospitals throughout the Panhandle.

During the first day of training, The Chadron Hospital team learned what chemicals pose the greatest potential for contamination in our geographic area, as well as the procedures to safely remove the contaminating substance from patients in order to prevent the contamination from being spread to the hospital building. Team members also had the opportunity to practice donning the personal protective equipment which would be used to protect workers in the event decontamination of patients was required.

A full-scale exercise was conducted on the second day of the training, in which volunteers ranging from school age children to retirees acted as victims contaminated with a potentially harmful substance, which was simulated by chocolate pudding smeared on the victims' skin and hair. Decontamination Team members wearing full protective equipment assisted the "victims" to go through the decontamination showers to remove the substance.

Chadron Hospital Decon Team members reported that it was good to have the opportunity to practice these procedures in an exercise so that they are experienced with the equipment and procedures in a low-stress situation, which will help them, feel confident if the "real event" occurs.