

Regional Coordinating Hospitals

A Resource for Managing Healthcare Emergencies

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Emergency Management Summit

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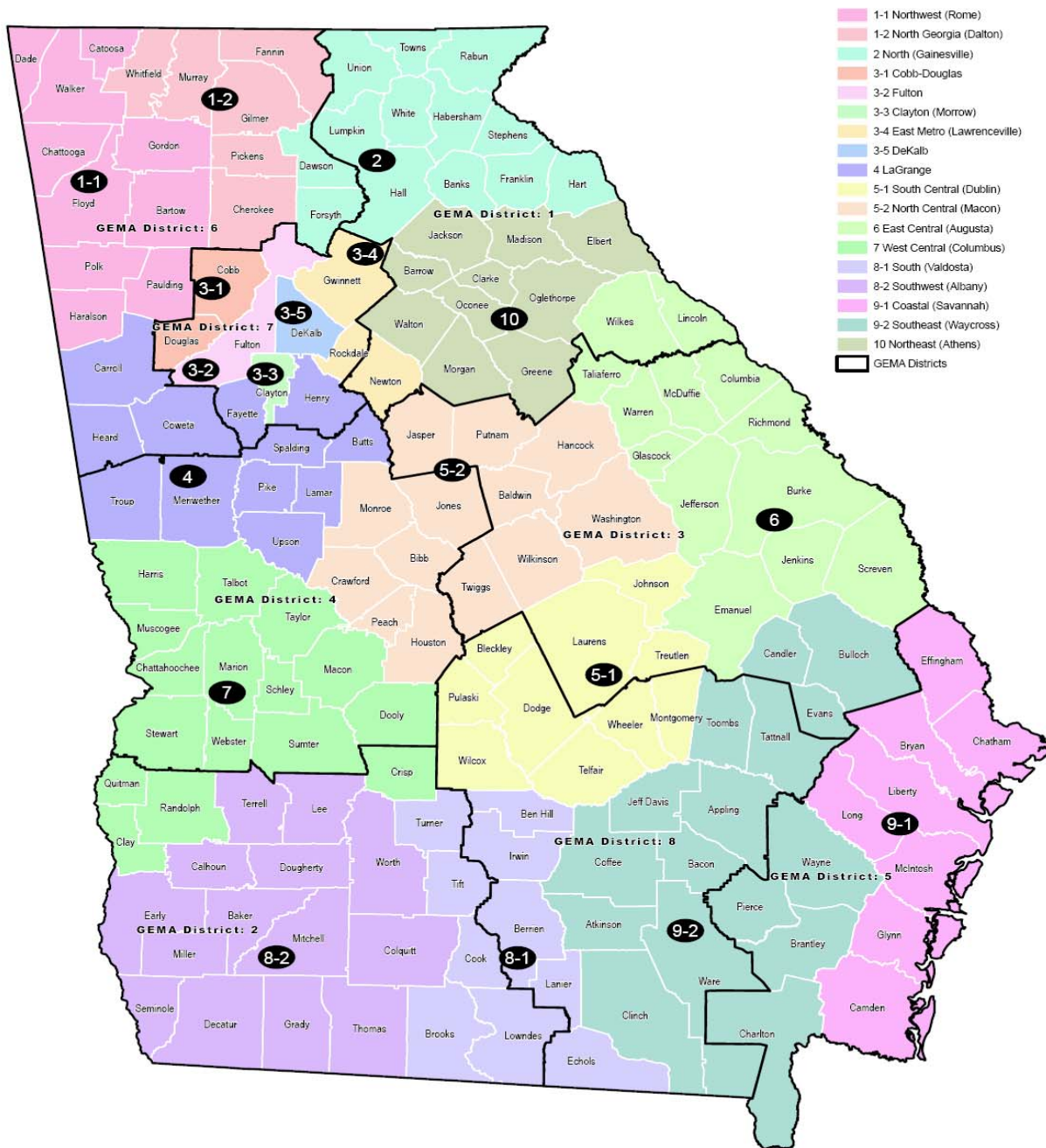
Outline

- History in Georgia
- Solution to the Problem
- Solution in Action
- Current Status of the System
- Questions

Georgia Facts

- 9.5 Million People (4.5 Million in Atlanta MSA)
- 159 Counties
- 148 Hospitals (25 beds-952 licensed beds)
- 18 Public Health Districts
- 8 Georgia Emergency Management Areas

Public Health Districts & GEMA Districts



Threats

- Coastal Region prone to Hurricanes
- Springtime Tornados
- CDC Headquarters
- Hartsfield Jackson Atlanta International Airport
- Home to corporate headquarters including Coke, Home Depot, etc.
- And the list goes on.....

Mutual Aid Task Force

- Georgia Hospital Association forms the Mutual Aid Task Force (MATF) in early 2002
 - All 148 acute care/critical access hospitals were members with active MATF agreement by December 2006

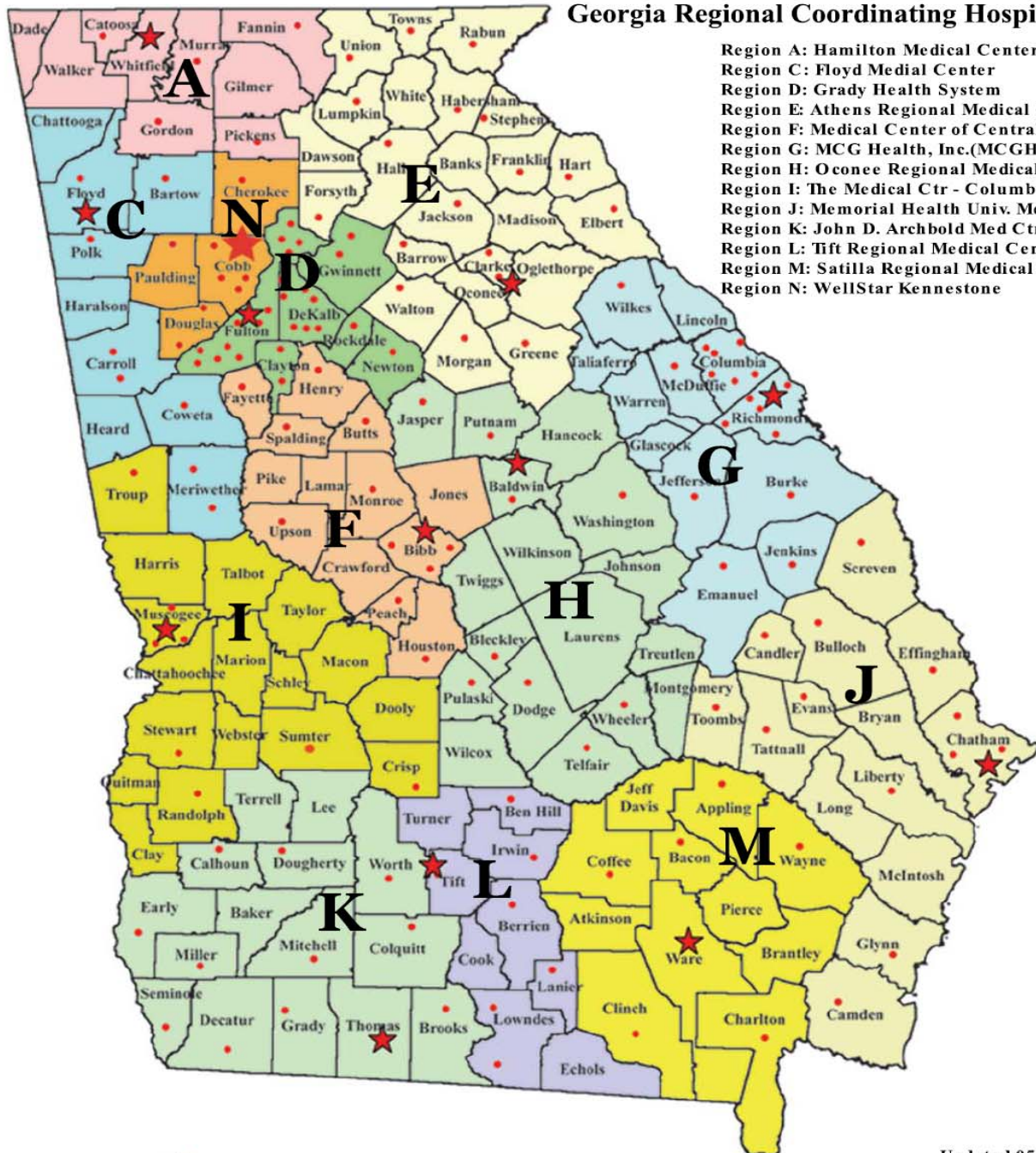
Mutual Aid Compact

“The Participating Hospitals agree, in the event of a Disaster, to use best efforts to make clinical staff, medical and general supplies, including pharmaceuticals, and biomedical equipment (including, but not limited to ventilators, monitors and infusion pumps) available to each another in accordance with the Operating Procedures. Each Participating Hospital shall be entitled to use its reasonable judgment regarding the type and amount of staff, supplies and equipment it can provide without adversely affecting its own ability to provide services.”

History

- GHA and GDPH HPP determined the need for a group of coordinating hospitals to facilitate planning between hospitals, EMA (local and regional) and public health districts.
- During a response, these hospitals would serve as facilitators and advocates of the affected hospital(s).

Georgia Regional Coordinating Hospitals



- Region A: Hamilton Medical Center
- Region C: Floyd Medial Center
- Region D: Grady Health System
- Region E: Athens Regional Medical Ctr
- Region F: Medical Center of Central GA
- Region G: MCG Health, Inc.(MCGHI)
- Region H: Oconee Regional Medical Center
- Region I: The Medical Ctr - Columbus
- Region J: Memorial Health Univ. Med Ctr
- Region K: John D. Archbold Med Ctr
- Region L: Tift Regional Medical Center
- Region M: Satilla Regional Medical Ctr
- Region N: WellStar Kennestone

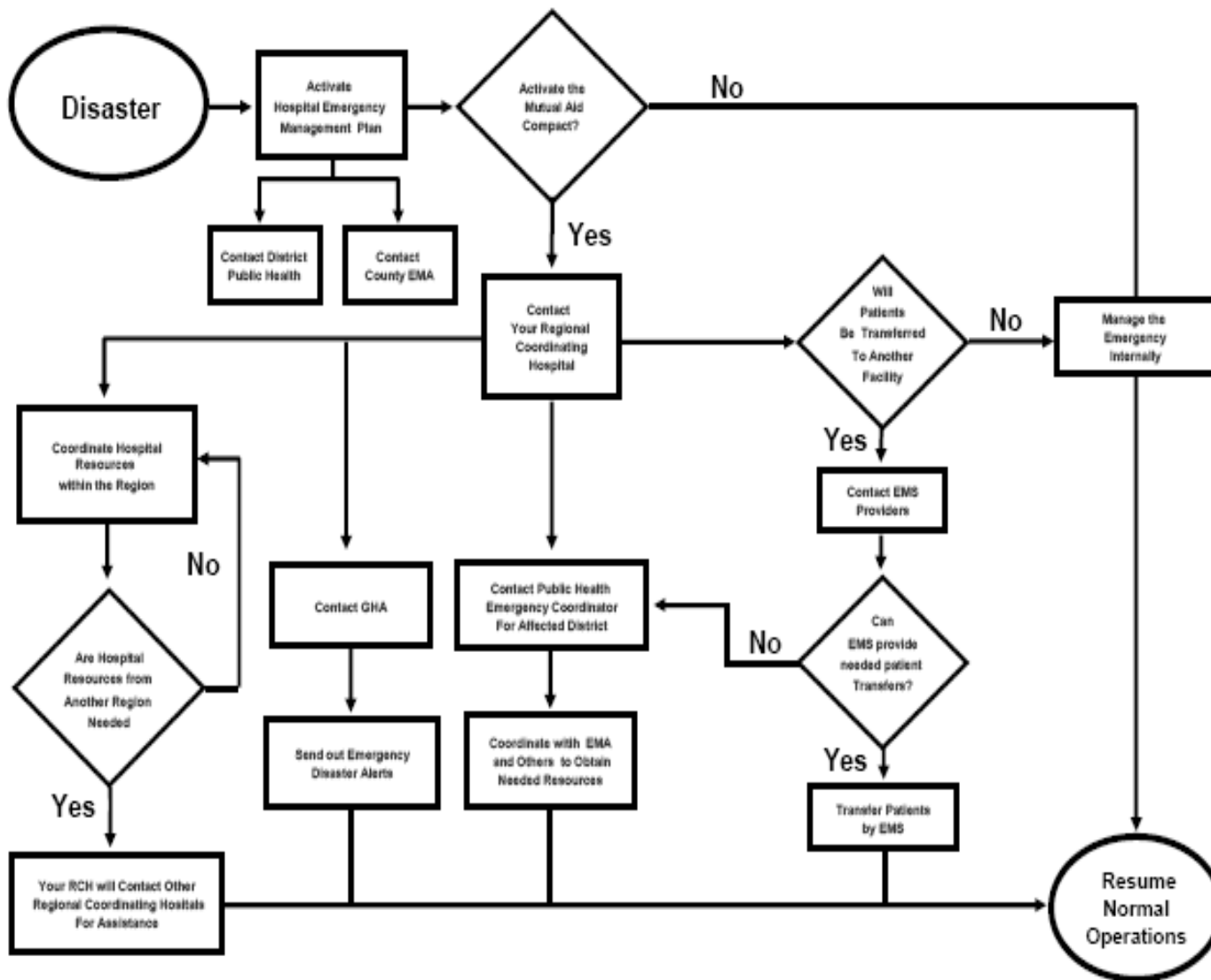
★ Georgia Regional Coordinating Hospitals

Updated 05/30/07

Solution

- The Regional Coordinating Hospital System was established in Fall 2004.
- Joint venture between the GHA and GDPH
- Originally divided into 12 regions
- Responsibilities of the Regional Coordinating Hospitals
 - Communications
 - Transportation
 - Logistical Issues
 - Clinical Issues

Hospital Mutual Aid Communications



Bio-lab Chlorine Fire

- May 25, 2004 a fire breaks out at the Bio-Labs, Inc. Chemical Company warehouse
- Rockdale County EMA issues 1.5 mile evacuation order as a result of the fire



Bio-Lab Chlorine Fire

- Rockdale Hospital receives patients with respiratory complications as a result of the fire
- Other hospitals in the area also begin to receive patients.
- Plume from the fire spans the distance from Conyers to Augusta Ga (~120 miles)

Bio-Lab Chlorine Fire

- This experience exposed the need for better coordination of area hospitals.
- A 3-day meeting is scheduled to develop the response and activation process of the RCH system

Grainville, SC

- January 6, 2005
- Collision of 2 freight trains in Graniteville SC results in the leaking of chlorine gas and liquid sodium hydroxide
- ~5400 people evacuated from the surrounding area



Graniteville, SC

- University Hospital (Region H) activated to coordinate hospital response
- University Hospital is overwhelmed by the responsibilities and requests assistance from MCCG (Region F) and Memorial Hospital (Region J) to acquire additional resources for the response.
- Resources are identified through region hospitals and vendors and are mobilized rapidly to respond to the incident.
- Gaps in planning and coordination are identified and used to draft better guidance for the role of the RCH before and during an event.

Hurricanes Katrina and Rita

- August 29, 2005, Hurricane Katrina hits the Alabama/Mississippi/Louisiana Coast
- September 1, 2005, first flight carrying a patient arrives at Dobbins ARB



Hurricanes Katrina and Rita

■ Katrina

- 19 Flights
- 1,306 evacuees
- September 1-6

■ Rita

- 3 Flights
- 246 evacuees
- September 22-23

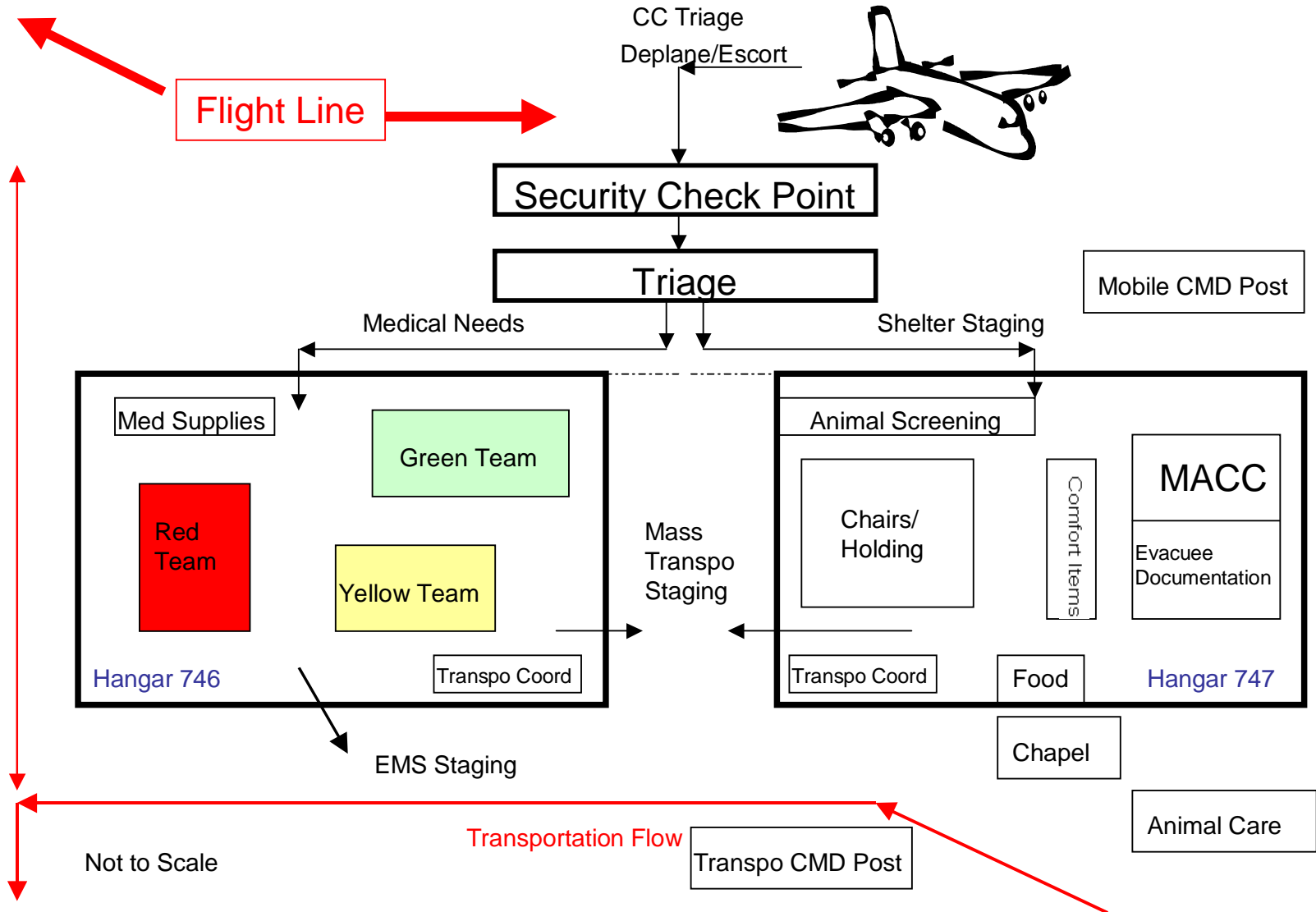
■ Total

- 22 Flights (17 military, 5 commercial)
- 1,552 evacuees (28% hospital, 8% nursing home, 55% evacuees, 9% other)



Atlanta NDMS Patient Reception Area

3/31/06





Hurricanes Katrina and Rita

- Grady Memorial Hospital (Region D) has a team at Dobbins ARB to coordinate patient transfers to NDMS participating hospitals. Also coordinated transfers of patients to nursing homes as necessary.
- First true success of the RCH system during a disaster.



Sumter Regional Hospital

- Thursday March 1, 2007 Sumter Regional Hospital, Americus GA, receives a direct hit from a F3 tornado
- Hospital staff notes structure is compromised shortly after the hit and the decision is made to evacuate the hospital
- The Medical Center (Region I) and The Medical Center of Central Georgia (Region F) are both notified and arrangements made to transfer patients (in conjunction with the Regional EMS Director) to area hospitals

Sumter Regional Hospital



Sumter Regional Hospital

- 59 Patients are transferred out of the hospital to 4 surrounding hospitals through the RCH system
- 0 Fatalities occur during the evacuation process
- Another successful test of the RCH system



Bluffton Bus Crash

- Friday March 2, 2007, bus carrying the Bluffton College baseball team falls off of an overpass traveling southbound in Atlanta
- 33 Players and Coaches and 2 Drivers on board



Bluffton Bus Crash

- Grady Memorial Hospital (Region D) coordinates the efforts for transport and placement of the injured and deceased individuals from the bus accident
- 14 Immediate
- 15 Walking Wounded
- 6 Deceased



Bluffton Bus Crash

- 29 patients are distributed to 3 hospitals in the Atlanta Metropolitan area
 - Grady (Level 1 Trauma Center) – 19 patients
 - Atlanta Medical Center (Level 2 Trauma Center) – 7 patients
 - Piedmont Hospital – 3 patients



Walton Regional Medical Center

- Sunday December 2, 2007, Walton Regional Hospital ED is flooded by broken water main
- Athens Regional Medical Center (Region E) is notified of possible evacuation
- ARMC notifies Public Health of situation
- Monday December 3, 2007, patients evacuated to area hospital (coordinated by ARMC)
- Success of the system in both communication protocols and evacuation of patients

Current System

- 13 Regional Coordinating Hospitals
- 3 Specialty Coordinating Center (SCC)
 - Pediatric SCC – Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta
 - Burn SCC – Joseph M. Still Burn Centers, Inc
 - Chem SCC – Georgia Poison Center
 - Psych SCC – To be determined



Georgia Poison
Center



Questions

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