



FEMA

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## LESSON LEARNED

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### Strategic National Stockpile Operations: Conducting an Inventory Count at Receipt, Storage, and Staging Facilities

#### SUMMARY

Receipt, storage, and staging (RSS) facility personnel should consider conducting an inventory count of each Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) asset as soon as the carton is opened. Any discrepancies in the contents should be recorded and communicated to the inventory control leader.

#### DESCRIPTION

On August 1, 2008, the Maricopa County, Arizona, Department of Public Health (MCDPH) sponsored the RSS Multi-Site Distribution Full-Scale Exercise (FSE). The FSE assessed the county's SNS distribution plans and procedures for receipt, storage, staging, and delivery of SNS materials. The FSE evaluated MCDPH response plans and capabilities for public health emergencies involving distribution of vaccines or other temperature-controlled assets. During the FSE, the RSS facility received two vaccines and broke them down into equal allotments for six vaccination sites. The vaccines were then transported to three clinics while maintaining cold chain requirements. The FSE coincided with a mass vaccination FSE that was held the following day. Thirty-six representatives from eleven state, county, and local agencies participated in the FSE.

RSS staff members unpacked large cases of medications and repackaged the allotments into smaller containers. The containers had information that identified their final delivery location, but there was no identification of their contents. The exercise after-action report (AAR) noted that chain of custody cannot be maintained without identifying the contents of the containers. Consequently, it is necessary to mark the boxes and to identify the contents on the container. The AAR recommended that "an inventory count of each asset should be made as soon as the carton is opened, and any discrepancies in the contents should be recorded and the information provided to the inventory control lead."

RSS facility personnel should consider conducting an inventory count of each SNS asset as soon as the carton is opened. Any discrepancies in the contents should be recorded and communicated to the inventory control leader.

#### CITATION

Maricopa County Department of Public Health. *Maricopa County Department of Health Emergency Management RSS Full-Scale Distribution Exercise After Action Report/Improvement Plan*. 16 Feb 2009.

<https://www.llis.dhs.gov/docdetails/details.do?contentID=35231>

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