

Model Communities Link EMS and Public Health

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), National Center for Injury Prevention and Control (NCIPC), Division of Injury Response (DIR) has selected seven communities as best practice models of how emergency medical services (EMS) can work with other safety and public health agencies in times of disaster. As part of CDC's TIIDE Project (Terrorism Injuries: Information, Dissemination and Exchange), Model Communities identifies where relationships between the emergency care community and public health are established and operate at levels that effectively respond to events that may cause large numbers of injuries.

TIIDE Project

Constructed around the interrelated activities of partnership building, learning lessons from previous terrorist events, and disseminating information, the TIIDE Project was created to address the urgent need to develop and exchange information about injuries from terrorism. That information includes community strategies to improve public safety, public health, clinical management and healthcare system preparedness in the event of mass casualty incidents.

Model Communities

Twenty communities from across the nation submitted applications for recognition as a model community. Applications were reviewed by a panel of representatives from the TIIDE Project and CDC's National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Division of Injury Response.

Selected communities and their web sites are:

- **Boston, Massachusetts** <http://www.bostonems.com/>
- **Clark County Health District, Las Vegas, Nevada** <http://www.cchd.org/ems/ems.htm>
- **Eau Claire County, Wisconsin** <http://www.ci.eauclaire.wi.us/Departments/Fire/administration.html>
- **Erie County, New York** <http://www.erie.gov/depts/community/smart/html/about.htm>
- **Livingston County, New York** <http://www.co.livingston.state.ny.us/ems.htm>
- **Louisville, Kentucky** <http://www.loukymetro.org/Department/EMS/default.asp>
- **Monroe County, New York** <http://www.monroecounty.gov/org289.asp?orgID=289&storytypeid=&storyID=&>

Each of the selected communities has been successful in strengthening the relationship and collaboration between public health and the emergency care community to improve daily operations and disaster preparedness for their communities. Many of these communities share common features including:

- Strong medical oversight on both public and emergency care;
- A desire and an effort to educate both emergency care and public health providers about each others' role;
- Recognition of the role of and a commitment to developing and maintaining relationships between leadership through regular meetings, teambuilding exercises, and planning;
- Bringing community stakeholders (businesses, clinics, universities, etc.), into planning process;
- Creating disaster plans that were developed locally, involve public health and emergency care, and that are repeatedly drilled; and
- Aggressively pursuing and securing funding.

Email questions and comments about CDC's TIIDE Project to dardinfo@cdc.gov

For more information on emergency preparedness and planning, go to <http://www.bt.cdc.gov/planning/>.

Clinicians and EMS providers can access fact sheets on injury response during a mass casualty event at <http://www.bt.cdc.gov/masstrauma/injuryfactsheets.asp>



Community officials from across the nation presented model systems at a CDC conference in Atlanta