

## RELATED TERMS

- Mass Prophylaxis
- Receipt, Store, and Stage Sites



**Lessons Learned  
Information Sharing**  
www.LLIS.gov

## PRIMARY DISCIPLINES

- Emergency Management
- Public Health

# LESSON LEARNED

## Strategic National Stockpile: Safe Shelter Contingency Planning for Point of Dispensing Sites

### SUMMARY

Jurisdictions' point of dispensing (POD) site annexes to their Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) Plan should consider including a contingency plan that details a safe shelter for people who receive medication. This contingency plan can address a means for maintaining order by moving people receiving medication inside or by providing shelter outside of the POD site. The plan should ensure that the people receiving medication who are sheltered outdoors are protected from rain, heat, and cold.

### DESCRIPTION

The SNS is a program administered by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to ensure the availability and rapid deployment of necessary pharmaceuticals and medical surgical supplies during a potential biological, chemical, or conventional terrorist attack; a natural disease outbreak; or another emergency.

On June 2-3 2003, Michigan state officials conducted an SNS full-scale exercise to assess the State's ability to receive and distribute the stockpile following a simulated intentional release of an aerosolized biological agent. The exercise scenario simulated an attack during a Michigan State University hockey game in East Lansing, Michigan. The number of casualties overwhelmed the area's medical system, depleting medical supplies and triggering an SNS request. The exercise's objectives were to test and improve the State's SNS procedures in response to a biological terrorist attack, to measure the interoperability of the procedures with state and local emergency operation plans, and to demonstrate the State's ability to receive, breakdown, distribute, and dispense SNS assets.

For additional information on PODs and Receipt, Store, and Stage (RSS) sites please refer to the *Lessons Learned Information Sharing* Best Practice [Strategic National Stockpile Distribution Planning: Overview](#) and the Department of Health and Human Services guide [Community-Based Mass Prophylaxis: A Planning Guide for Public Health Preparedness](#)

State officials established a POD site at the Breslin Center, a sports arena on the MSU campus. Site staff directed victims to line up outside Gate B of the facility, where staff had set up queuing lanes to receive them. After it began raining, site staff redirected victims to Gate C, a sheltered area of the facility not equipped with queuing lanes. Security personnel attempted to prevent victims from advancing, but the victims became unruly. When the rain passed, staff redirected victims to Gate B and restored order.

The exercise after-action report recommended that the State's POD site annex to its SNS Plan should consider including a contingency plan detailing a safe shelter for people receiving medication. This contingency plan should address a means for maintaining order

by moving people receiving medication inside or by providing shelter outside of the POD site. The plan should ensure that the people receiving medication who are sheltered outdoors are protected from rain, heat, and cold.

#### **CITATION**

Department of Health and Human Services, Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality. *Community-Based Mass Prophylaxis: A Planning Guide for Public Health Preparedness*. Aug 2004.

[https://www.llis.dhs.gov/member/secure/detail.cfm?content\\_id=17718](https://www.llis.dhs.gov/member/secure/detail.cfm?content_id=17718)

*Lessons Learned Information Sharing* Best Practice, "Strategic National Stockpile Distribution Planning: Overview." 15 Aug 2005.

[https://www.llis.dhs.gov/member/secure/detail.cfm?content\\_id=14191](https://www.llis.dhs.gov/member/secure/detail.cfm?content_id=14191)

State of Michigan. *MICH SNS03: Strategic National Stockpile Full-Scale Exercise June 2-3, 2003, After Action Report*.

#### **DISCLAIMER**

*Lessons Learned Information Sharing (LLIS.gov)* is the US Department of Homeland Security/Federal Emergency Management Agency's national online network of lessons learned, best practices, and innovative ideas for the emergency response and homeland security communities. The Web site and its contents are provided for informational purposes only, without warranty or guarantee of any kind, and do not represent the official positions of the US Department of Homeland Security. For more information on *LLIS.gov*, please email [Feedback@llis.dhs.gov](mailto:Feedback@llis.dhs.gov) or visit [www.llis.gov](http://www.llis.gov).