



From Zero to Ready: Regional HazMat Readiness

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What you will take home

1. Explain how regional collaboration strengthens HazMat preparedness.
2. Identify scalable tools that improve operational readiness.
3. Build an improvement strategy using partnerships, exercises, and lessons learned.
4. Build the culture....

Collaborate. Innovate. Improve.

Our Background



Janet Gutierrez

Manager of Environmental Health and Safety at NorthBay Health. Prior to, Janet led the Emergency Management and Environment of Care programs at Sutter Delta Medical Center, where she coordinated multidisciplinary emergency preparedness initiatives and regulatory readiness.

Earlier in her career, she managed emergency preparedness efforts and response with Contra Costa County and Tehama County Public Health.



Ruth Raisner

Coming from the world of Public Health Emergency Preparedness, Ruth has over a decade of experience supporting emergency activations such as wildfires, PSPS events, COVID-19, points of dispensing, and has led multi-jurisdictional full-scale exercises focused on community engagement.

Ruth has previously served as Medical Countermeasures Coordinator for local health departments and as a Regional Coordinator for the Bay Area, where she facilitated cross-county collaboration on public health preparedness.

Our county roots shaped how we approach hospital readiness.
Different health systems. One shared mission.

Poll – Question # 1

How do you rate your current hazmat program?

- a) Highly established
- b) Somewhat established
- c) Work in progress
- d) What program?

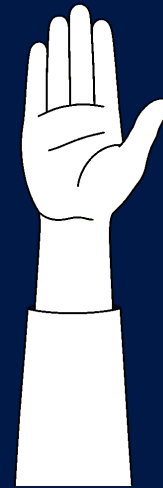
HazMat readiness is difficult to sustain

The event is rare. The consequences are not.

- Low-frequency, high-risk events
- Skills fade without practice
- Staff turnover resets competency
- Limited funding and competing priorities
- Initial instructor certification can be costly if you don't have a certified instructor
- Regulatory expectations continue



We started by
saying,
“I need help.”



This turned into support and others vocalizing the same need

1. Identified the regional readiness gap.
2. Asked the health care coalition for support.
3. Used HPP funding to build instructor capacity. Shared the class with other hospitals and response partners.
4. Hosted the first regional training at my facility and used our equipment
.....and expanded each year.

Poll – Question # 2

What tools have you used to build your hazmat program?

- a) local resources through health care coalition
- b) regional resources and training
- c) grant funding through various sources
- d) our organization has infinite funds and supplies us everything

Repetition built a regional bench

- Annual training over three years
- Multi-hospital and then multi-county participation
- County HazMat and then fire partners
- Cross-disciplinary, multi- shift, and non-hourly employees then others began doing the same

Ex. ED techs, EVS, Lab, Supply Chain, Security, Respiratory Therapy, house supervisors, leaders



Collaboration works at two levels

Regional partners build capacity.

Hospital teams make it operational.

HOSPITAL TEAM

- Safety
- EVS and Respiratory Therapy
- Supply Chain and Biomed
- Clinical and operational leaders
- Emergency Management
- Engineering

REGIONAL TEAM

- Health care coalition
- County HazMat
- Fire partners
- Hospital partners
- *Refineries and laboratories*
- *Pre-hospital partners*
- *RDMHS Regional Partners*

Collaborate. Innovate. Improve.

Partnership Unlocks:

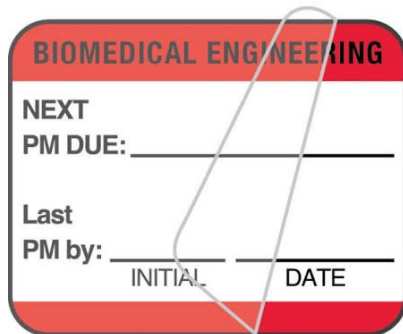
- Shared instructors and equipment
- Larger, more realistic exercises
- Broader grant opportunities
- A common operating approach
- Support



Collaborate. Innovate. Improve.

Items shared with partners:

- QR-code job aids
- QuickStart baskets with setup essentials
- Cone zones for rapid area setup and control
- Preventive maintenance with Biomedical Engineering



Readiness improves when the first steps are obvious!

Creative Training and Lessons Learned

TRAINING METHODS

- Break it up!
 - Tent setup focus
 - Utility hook up focus
 - 3 Zones and Step focus

IDEAS

- Zone/step identifiers (signs, cones, etc.)
- Glo Germ to test scrubbing technique
- Weighted mannequin. Non-ambulatory practice
- Borrow equipment from partners

Better trainings do not always require a bigger budget.

Collaborate. Innovate. Improve.



Zone and Step Identifiers Implemented Year 2

AARs turn lessons into Action

1. Capture the gaps during the training in an After-Action Report (AAR).
2. Create Corrective action plan.
3. Track progress to closure.
 - Use documented AAR to support leadership and funding requests.
 - Re-test at the next refresher.



Collaborate. Innovate. Improve.

Poll – Question # 3

What tools do you need?

- a) Training
- b) Templates
- c) Supplies
- d) Funding
- e) Emotional support

Taking the model home

Partners adapted the same approach to local needs.



Contra Costa Regional Medical Center (CCRMC)

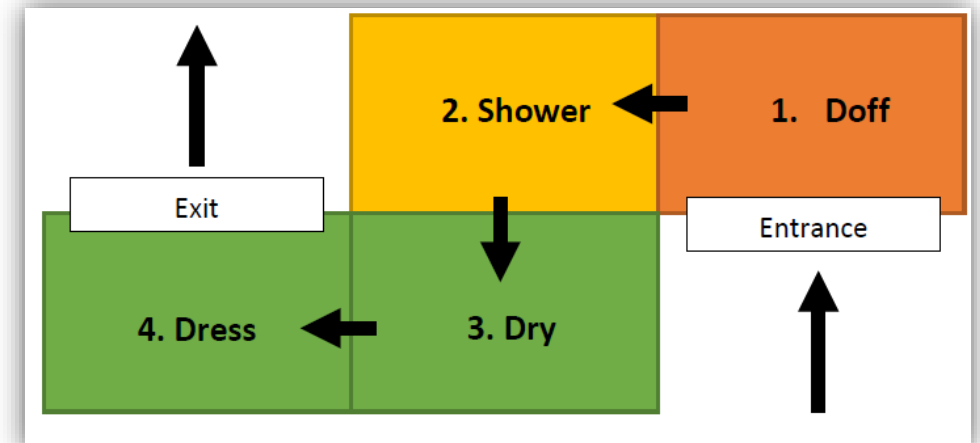
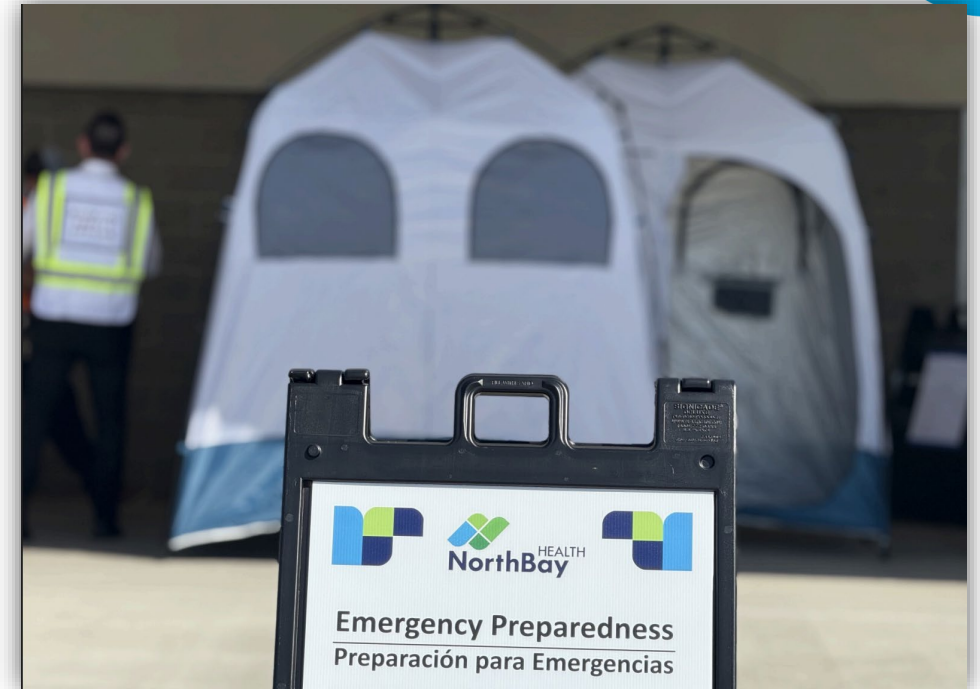
- QR-code job aids
- Physician and Leadership Support
- Local Refinery outreach and funding
- Full decontamination Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Taking the model home

NorthBay Health's Journey

YEAR 1:

- Conducted inventory of decon supplies and equipment for initial assessment
 - Asked for help!
 - Asked the Health Care Coalition
 - Purchased new filters, butyl booties, water bladder, and single decon shower set up.
 - **Getting creative:** Single decon shower consisted of 2 popup changing tents held with clamps, an RV flash water heater, shower head, and basin.
- (cheaper than the \$4K pre-built model!)



Taking the model home

NorthBay Health's Journey

YEAR 1 Continued...

- Reached out to another hospital within a different county to see if they had any room in their First Receiver Operations (FRO) Course
 - Sent 4 staff members to complete the FRO course
- Replicated the QuickStart baskets, Tent QR codes, and zoning cones



Taking the model home

NorthBay Health's Journey



Zoning Cones, Quick Baskets, PPE Supplies



Tent Set-Up QR Codes, Inventory, Campus Map

Taking the model home

NorthBay Health's Journey

YEAR 2:

- Sent 3 staff members to complete the FRO course recertification
- NorthBay Health Foundation donated Zumro tents for each campus
- Additional grant funding secured to purchase hard boots, mannequins
- Smaller exercises – tent set up, Incident Action Planning (IAP), mini chemical tabletop exercises



Regional standardization is the next step

Standardize the essentials while preserving local flexibility.

PAY IT FORWARD

- Continue joint decon exercises – local fire department and other local hospitals
- Share instructors, resources, tools, and lessons learned
- Donate usable equipment as needs change
- TVI tent donated to another local hospital
- Connect others

EXPAND THE NETWORK

- Coordinate across Region II and Region IV
- Build relationships with Napa, Yolo, Solano, and Contra Costa counties
- Align core training and response practices
- Exercise and Practice together

Three actions to start Monday

Collaborate. Innovate. Improve.

1. ASK FOR HELP

Build relationships before the emergency.

2. GET CREATIVE

Use coalitions, grants, private partners, and shared resources.

3. DOCUMENT PROGRESS

Track improvements and show leaders what support enables.

Poll – Question # 4

What next steps will you start on Monday? (select all that apply)

- a) Reach out to your local health care coalition
- b) Contact your local fire department/hazmat department
- c) Explore combined training opportunities with other organizations
- d) Look up grant opportunities for funding
- e) Take the tent out and set it up
- f) Conduct an assessment of current resources and document
- g) Exchange contact information with someone in the room

Resources

Available in the CHA App

QR Codes

PPE videos

Tent Set-Up Trainings

Quick basket supply lists

ASPR Tracie resources

Resources

PPE Donning/Doffing training



Resources

QR Codes – Tent Setup



TVI Decon Tent
Set-Up Instructions



Scan QR with Phone



ZUMRO Decon Tent
Set-Up Instructions



Scan QR with Phone

Resources

Quickstart Basket Supplies

Decon QuickStart Kit

Supplies:

- ☐ Soap
- ☐ Brush
- ☐ Gloves
- ☐ Scissors
- ☐ Hamzat Bags
- ☐ Patient Pre/post decon kits
- ☐ Basket





Thank You

Questions?

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