

Ebola or Highly Infectious Disease EMS Response

***2015 PNWBHA Cross Border Public Health
Preparedness Workshop***



Overview

- System building
 - Identify the needs
 - Identify the partners
 - Establish open communications
 - Follow-up and Updates
- Partner relationships
 - Always work within the established laws
 - Keep it Simple, Make it Work, Save Lives



System Building - Needs

- “A good plan today is better than a perfect plan tomorrow”
 - Do not wait for a perfect plan
 - Needs should outline your timelines
 - Needs change so always be flexible (Red Pen)
 - Needs must be addressed for each partner - synergy



System Building - Partners

- Together - confirm partner roles
 - Equal
 - Request processes
 - Agreements
 - Move upon verbal request followed by written within 15 days
 - Never 100% - 24/7 (Murphy's Law)
 - <http://www.doh.wa.gov/ForPublicHealthandHealthcareProviders/EmergencyPreparedness/PatientTransport>



System Building – Open Communications

- Establish open communications
 - Have approval and authority to contact partners at all levels
 - Know who has the authority to plan/respond
 - Establish a 24/7 contact list <http://www.pnwbha.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/Cross-Border-EMS-Resources-03-16-2015.pdf>
 - Never assume or abuse time
- Friendly communications
 - Caring, credible, sincere, common motivations
 - Respect each other and agree to disagree – keep moving forward (90% positive or 10% Negative)

Partner Relationships - Work Within the Established Laws

- Expedite Border Crossing for Emergency Medical Service Providers
- All borders state/tribal/provincial - “Operational Plan for Moving Emergency Medical Services Staff and Resources Across the Washington and British Columbia Border”.
<http://www.pnwbha.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/04/WA-BC-EMS-Border-Crossing-Plan.pdf>
- US and Canada – Appendix C of the EMS Ops Plan above
- C-14, Attachment 2 Activation of the Pacific Northwest Emergency Management Arrangement (PNEMA)



Continued

- Public Law 112-282 112th Congress
 - Congress consents to the State and Province Emergency Management Assistance Memorandum of Understanding entered into between States of Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, North Dakota, Pennsylvania, New York, and Wisconsin, and the Canadian Provinces of Alberta, Manitoba, Ontario, and Saskatchewan. The compact is substantially as follows:
- EMAC – requires written approval



Summary

- System building
- Partner relationships
- Keep it Simple, Make it Work, Save Lives

“Strive for perfection and except your limitations”



Motto

- **“A kind and understanding attempt at positive communications goes a long way to goal accomplishment”** MLS
- <https://fortress.wa.gov/doh/eh/maps/EMS/index.html>

