

Mission

EMSHG provides Comprehensive Emergency Management services to the Department of Veterans Affairs, coordinates medical back up for the Department of Defense, and assists the public via the National Disaster Medical System and the National Response Plan.

Vision

EMSHG will be recognized as a premier provider of Comprehensive Emergency Management services and a benchmark organization in health care emergency management.



Off-loading simulated casualties during an NDMS exercise in Des Moines, IA.

Contact

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To locate EMSHG Field Staff nearest you:
www.va.gov/emshg
Click on “EMSHG Directory”

“Seven For Success”

The Emergency Management Strategic Healthcare Group (EMSHG) has initiated an effective process of implementing strategic planning into its programs and activities. Using the Baldrige concepts of management, “strategic targets” have been integrated into daily practice.

These “Seven For Success” strategic goals reflect the key components of the EMSHG mission and vision. The “Seven For Success” also support the goals of the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Veterans Health Administration.

- I. Improve effectiveness of Veterans Integrated Service Network (VISN) / Veterans Health Administration (VHA) / Veterans Affairs (VA) comprehensive emergency management programs.
- II. Ensure VA readiness to provide medical support for Department of Defense contingencies.
- III. Fulfill VA National Disaster Medical System (NDMS) responsibilities.
- IV. Lead VHA in the establishment of emergency management standards and become a benchmark organization for emergency management and health care.
- V. Contribute to the emergency management knowledge base and improve emergency management education and training.
- VI. Through appropriate, timely and effective mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery services, enhance comprehensive emergency management in partnerships with the Nation’s communities.
- VII. Maximize EMSHG performance and organizational efficiency.



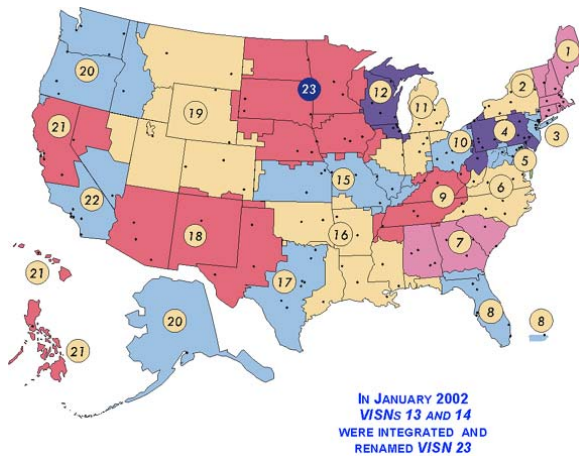
Department of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Health Administration

Emergency Management Strategic Healthcare Group



Emergency Management Strategic Healthcare Group

The VHA Emergency Management Strategic Healthcare Group (EMSHG) is headquartered at the VA Medical Center in Martinsburg, WV. Through a national network of Area Emergency Managers and Management Assistants, EMSHG provides operational and technical support to the 21 VHA Veterans Integrated Service Networks (VISNs) emergency management programs and their respective medical facilities. Area Emergency Managers also serve as agency liaisons with local, county, state and regional federal emergency service organizations.



Support Activities

VHA Disaster Emergency Medical Personnel System (DEMPS): DEMPS was established in 1997 to streamline the process of identifying VA medical facility personnel willing to volunteer for emergency/disaster response deployment. EMSHG maintains a national database on VA volunteers with a wide variety of clinical and administrative skills.

EMSHG Technical Advisory Committee (TAC): The TAC was formed in June 2000 to advise VA leadership on issues related to weapons of mass destruction and health care emergency management. The TAC is comprised of recognized experts from VA and other federal agencies.

Pharmaceutical Caches: In collaboration with the VHA Pharmacy Benefits Management Strategic Healthcare Group, VHA provides logistical support in managing the Strategic National Stockpile. VHA's pharmaceutical caches at local VA medical facilities are supported through training, exercises and inspections by EMSHG AEMs.

Hospital-Based Patient Decontamination: EMSHG supports the on-going education and training of VA and community health care providers in nuclear, biological, and chemical response and patient decontamination.



Attendees practice patient decontamination as part of a course held at VA-sponsored conference.

Programs

The Emergency Management Strategic Healthcare Group coordinates VA's role in:

VA Contingencies: EMSHG provides guidance and consultation to Veterans Integrated Service Networks to ensure that all VA medical centers develop an all-hazard, comprehensive emergency management program.

VA/DoD Contingency Hospital System: EMSHG develops national plans and training programs to ensure back up support to the Department of Defense medical system during war or national emergency.

National Response Plan: EMSHG takes appropriate actions related to planning, preparedness, response, and mitigation strategies for disaster threats. EMSHG coordinates VHA participation in federal disaster response as specified in the provisions of the National Response Plan.

National Disaster Medical System: EMSHG supports Federal Coordinating Center functions at designated VA Medical Centers. EMSHG develops and coordinates national plans to assist in the implementation of the National Disaster Medical System's support to state and local medical resources in the event of major domestic disasters, or the Department of Defense medical care system when needed during military contingencies.

Radiological Emergencies: EMSHG provides response capability to supplement other federal, state, and local government efforts in response to accidents at fixed nuclear facilities or during transportation of radioactive materials.

Continuity of Government: EMSHG executes assigned actions for the Veterans Health Administration in support of continuity of government plans.