

Disaster Preparedness

As illustrated by our response to the 35W bridge collapse (and less visibly during the 2009 Republican National Convention and other events), HCMC is a local and national leader in preparedness and response efforts.

HCMC EMS provides leadership in disaster and 'hostile event' preparedness in the area and the Minneapolis Fire-based MN TF-1 Urban Search and Rescue team is supported by HCMC EMS and our EMS physicians. The HCMC-based Medical Resource Control Center (MRCC) coordinates EMS incident communications and response resources for the West metro area.

HCMC has extensive responsibilities for disaster response in Hennepin County. Residents are expected to participate in exercises and receive training in incident and HAZMAT response to the OSHA Operations Level (8 hours). As the Regional Hospital Resource Center, HCMC is the 'clearinghouse' for disaster response issues for the 30 hospitals in the metro area that are aligned under the Metropolitan Hospital Compact. HCMC is also the administrative agent for the metro area Hospital Preparedness Partnership grant from HHS. This involves substantial planning and exercising responsibilities including plans for alternate care sites if hospitals are overwhelmed. Dr. John Hick of the HCMC faculty founded the Hospital Compact and serves as medical advisor for these efforts at HCMC and regionally, as well as serving as the state medical director for the MN Department of Health Office of Emergency Preparedness. Dr. Hick also represents HCMC and the state on numerous national workgroups and planning efforts with HHS, Institute of Medicine, and other groups. Elective rotations are possible in disaster medicine.