

Healthcare System Preparedness Considerations

ASPR TRACIE Speaker Series

October 2026

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) Administration for Strategic Preparedness and Response (ASPR) Technical Resources, Assistance Center, and Information Exchange (TRACIE) presents a speaker series focused on how the health care field has incorporated lessons learned to continuously improve patient care and bolster provider and system resilience.

Healthcare System Cybersecurity Readiness and Response Considerations

Craig DeAtley, PA-C, Director, Institute for Public Health Emergency Readiness (MedStar Health) and **Shelly Schwedhelm**, MSN, RN, NEA-BC, Executive Director, Emergency Management and Biopreparedness (Nebraska Medicine and Global Center for Health Security Nebraska Medicine) take participants through the document [Healthcare System Cybersecurity: Readiness and Response Considerations](#) in this brief presentation.

Special Needs Population Readiness: Dialysis Preparedness and Response

Joyce Scott, RN, Director of Renal Service, North Cypress Medical Center (TX) discusses how the facility maintained continuity of operations for dialysis patients during the winter storms that struck Texas in February 2021.

Executive Leadership during a Crisis

Erin Erb, MHA, RHIA, LSSGB, CPHQ, Division Vice President of Quality and Patient Safety, **Kelli Nations**, DBA, MHA, BSN, RN, NE-BC, Chief Nursing Executive (both of HCA Houston Healthcare) and **Michael Wargo**, RN, BSN, MBA, PHRN, CMTE, Vice President, HCA Healthcare, Enterprise Readiness & Emergency Operations discuss the importance of executive leadership during the unprecedented winter storms that struck Texas in February 2021.

Using the ASPR TRACIE Burn Surge Templates to Enhance a Healthcare Coalition

Annette Newman, MS, RN, CCRN, Community Outreach/Burn Disaster Coordinator and Western Region Burn Disaster Consortium Coordinator shares how a healthcare coalition used ASPR TRACIE burn surge templates during actual incidents and exercise templates to help with the planning process.



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[Search and Rescue in the Big Horn Basin](#)

Elise Lowe (MD, Park County Search and Rescue member, North Absaroka Ski Patrol Medical Director, and Big Horn Healthcare Coalition Physician Advisor), **Margaret Staab** (Healthcare Readiness and Response Coordinator, Big Horn Basin, Region 5), and **James Thomas** (North Big Horn County Search and Rescue training officer) highlight the collaborative nature of search and rescue in rural emergency preparedness and response in this recording.

[Healthcare Pediatric Surge Annex: Leveraging Templates for Operational Impact](#)

Cynthia Frankel, RN, MN (Surge Group Lead, WRAP-EM, Alameda County EMS, CA); **Mary Massey**, BSN, MA, PHN (VP Emergency Management, California Hospital Association); and **Michael Frogel**, MD, FAAP (Chairman National Pediatric Disaster Coalition and Senior Advisor WRAP-EM) share how they adapted ASPR TRACIE's pediatric surge annex template to their needs and ideas for the future.

[Innovations in Hospital Design-Penn Med Pavilion](#)

Stephen Greulich, Assistant Vice President, Capital Projects Real Estate, Design & Construction; **Denise Vaughn**, Corp Information Services Program Plan Director, IS-Proj Mgmt Office; and **Alyson Cole**, Associate Executive Director, Transition and Occupancy Planning, Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania share information on the design and construction, patient-led care technology, operational readiness, sustainability of the new Penn Medicine campus in West Philadelphia.

[Innovations in Hospital Design-Mayo Clinic](#)

Dr. Michael J. Maniaci, MD (Associate Professor of Medicine) shares how the Mayo Clinic implements home hospital programs mediated by command center care delivery.

[N95 Respirator Fit Testing-Emerald Coast Healthcare Coalition](#)

Ann Hill (Executive Director) describes the Emerald Coast Healthcare Coalition's efforts to provide N95 respirators and fit testing to healthcare personnel in 10 counties in northwest Florida.

[Tennessee Disaster Mental Health Strike Team-Tennessee Department of Health and Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services](#)

Ken Tartar, MA, CHEP (Regional Hospital Coordinator, Southeast Regional Office, Tennessee Department of Health) describes the Tennessee Disaster Mental Health Strike Team, shares how members are engaged and trained, and highlights how the strike team supported responders and communities following recent disasters.



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Disaster Available Supplies in Hospitals: Demonstration of the DASH Tool

This speaker series recording features ASPR TRACIE's Senior Editor, **Dr. John Hick**, demonstrating the DASH Tool and sharing user feedback.

City of Jackson Water Crisis Response

Jim Craig (MPH, CHEP, CHSP, CPM), Senior Deputy with the Mississippi State Department of Health, and Dr. **Damon A. Darsey** (MD, FAEMS), an Acute Care Consultant with Franciscan Missionaries of Our Lady Health System, share their experiences during the 2022 floods that impacted the City of Jackson, Mississippi.

The Hurricane Ian Experience at Lee Health: Wreckage, Resilience & Recovery

Dave Kistel (Vice President and Chief Facilities Executive at Lee Health) describes how the hospital system prepared for, responded to, and recovered from Hurricane Ian, which caused \$12 million in damage to Lee Health facilities.

Sudden Water Loss and Actionable Considerations

Jake Marshall (Senior Director of Enterprise Emergency Operations, HCA Healthcare) and **Toni Carnie** (Safety Officer & Emergency Management Coordinator, HCA Houston Healthcare Tomball) discuss healthcare facility water loss considerations and how their healthcare system responded to and recovered from Winter Storm Uri.

Buffalo Strong: Response to and Recovery From an Active Shooter Incident

Kyra Krepin (MS, MN-CEM) shares her experiences responding to the active shooter incident at Buffalo Crossroads (in Allina, Minnesota) in February 2021. She also shares lessons learned from a health care setting perspective and recommendations for incorporating them.

Impacts of Planned and Unplanned Power Disruption on California Public Health and Medical Systems

In this presentation, six panelists from various public health departments and health care systems in California share their experiences with preparedness and response efforts for planned and unplanned power disruptions, challenges faced in responding to multiple emergency situations that include loss of power, and helpful resources in preparing for and responding to outages.

Mass Casualty Hospital Capacity Expansion Toolkit Demonstration

Dr. John Hick describes the Mass Casualty Hospital Expansion Toolkit and the process of completing each template.

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Cybersecurity Incident Response Preparedness

Rahul Gaitonde, Branch Chief of the Health Sector Cybersecurity Coordination Center (HC3) discusses the mission of HC3, cyber threats impacting the health sector, incident response, and recommendations and best practices.

MOCC Adaptations during a Pediatric Surge

Drs. **Steve Mitchell** (Medical Director, WA Medical Coordination Center), **Mary King** (Medical Director, Pediatric Critical Care, Harborview Medical Center), and **Vicki Sakata** (Senior Medical Advisor, Northwest Healthcare Response Network) describe how the medical operations coordination center, health care coalitions, and hospitals in Washington collaborated to balance pediatric patient surge related to the "triple-demic" in 2022-2023.

Crisis Standards of Care: Lessons From the COVID-19 Pandemic

Dr. **John Hick** (Hennepin Healthcare, University of Minnesota Medical School, and Senior Editor, ASPR TRACIE) describes how the crisis standards of care concept and practice has changed since the COVID-19 pandemic.

Response to the Bryce Canyon Tour Bus Mass Casualty Incident

DeAnn Brown (CNM, DNP), **Susan Harris** (LPN, MSN), **Steve Ikuta** (BS, HcEM-M, MEP, UCEM), and **Steven Rossberg** (BS, CHEC III, MEP) share their experiences responding to the mass casualty incident that ensued when a bus transporting Chinese tourists overturned on a highway en route to Bryce Canyon, Utah.

Anesthesia in Disasters and Public Health Emergencies

Mary Dale Peterson (MD, MSHCA, FACHE EVP & COO Driscoll Children's Health Past President, American Society of Anesthesiologists) and **Stephanie Davidson** (Stephanie Davidson, DO, FASA, U.S. Anesthesia Partners) highlight the role of anesthesiologists in various types of natural and human-caused incidents (e.g., the COVID-19 pandemic and the Harvest Festival mass shooting in 2017). This recording was moderated by **Meera Gangadharan** (MBBS, FAAP, FASA, Associate Professor, Anesthesiology, Critical Care and Pain Medicine, University of Texas Health Science Center/McGovern Medical School) and **Brent Lee** (MD, MPH, FASA, Director of Clinical Excellence and Performance Improvement at North American Partners in Anesthesia).

Centralized ECMO Referrals During COVID-19

Lisa Villarroel (MD, MPH, Chief Medical Officer for Public Health, Arizona Department of Health Services) discussed how the Arizona ECMO Protocol addressed the challenges in access to care during the COVID-19 pandemic.

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Ophthalmology in Disaster Planning and Public Health Emergencies

CDR Brittany E. Powell (MD, FACS, Surgical and Medical Retina Specialist, Program Director for the Ophthalmology Residency at Naval Medical Center San Diego and Assistant Professor of Surgery at the Uniformed Services University); **Dr. Jen Yu** (MD, PhD Professor of Clinical Practice in Ophthalmology, University of Washington, Director of Trauma and Consult Services for Ophthalmology, Harborview Medical Center, Policy Chair of the American Society of Ophthalmic Trauma [ASOT]); **Dr. James Auran** (MD, Professor of Ophthalmology, Columbia University Irving Medical Center, Executive Vice-President and Co-founder of the ASOT); and **Dr. Ravi Pandit** (MD, MPH, Surgical and Medical Retina Specialist, National Disaster Chair of ASOT) discuss the societal burden of ophthalmic trauma (and related courses and resources); eye injuries and conditions in disasters; and lessons on ophthalmology disaster preparedness from the military in this speaker series recording.

Rising From the Ashes: Signature Healthcare's Response to the Unimaginable

Kim Walsh, MSN, RN, and Sr. VP and Chief Operating Officer for Signature Healthcare describes how the hospital overcame numerous challenges to recover, rebuild, and eventually reopen after a devastating 10-alarm fire.

Telehealth in Disaster Preparedness and Response

James P. Marcin, MD, MPH (Professor, Department of Pediatrics, UC Davis Health) describes how telehealth has been used to address geographical, staffing, and other challenges in providing pediatric care, in both day-to-day and disaster scenarios.

Spotlighting Children's Health After a Disaster

LCDR Christine M. Nappa (LCSW, Community Resilience Coordinator, ASPR Office of Community Mitigation and Recovery) and **Nathan Timm** (MD, FAAP, Division of Emergency Medicine, Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center, Pediatric Disaster Center of Excellence - Region V for Kids) highlight two tools--the Children's Environmental Health Post-Disaster Assessment Toolkit and the Pediatric After-Action Report--and how they can assist planners with hazard vulnerability assessment and incorporating children into recovery efforts.



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