



Panhandle Health District

Healthy People in Healthy Communities

Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Panhandle Health District

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Katherine Hoyer

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Volunteers Needed for Emergency Preparedness Exercise

ST. MARIES, ID – Panhandle Health District (PHD) is looking for members of the community to participate in an upcoming community-wide disaster preparedness exercise.

“We would love to have people of all ages and all abilities participate to make this exercise as realistic as possible,” said Nick Mechikoff, Public Health Preparedness (PHP) Program Manager. “This is an excellent training for our staff and helps us prepare to respond to public health emergencies.”

The simulation is part of a statewide training exercise conducted in partnership with the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare (IDHW). Health Districts around the state will be participating as part of their annual training. Each district will partner with local emergency managers, health care facilities, schools and others to practice how they would respond in a public health emergency.

“We have a large population of people, such as children, seniors and those with access and functional needs, who will need extra assistance during an emergency,” said Mechikoff. “We want to make sure we are as prepared as possible to take care of everyone.”

Disasters, whether naturally occurring like floods or winter storms or man-made like terrorist attacks, come without warning. PHD wants our community to be prepared as possible when a disaster strikes. An easy way to prepare is to practice.

“We are only asking for an hour of your time and it comes with a free lunch,” said Nan Swendig, PHP Volunteer Services Coordinator. “This is a great opportunity for the community to see what we do and how we can respond to an emergency together.”

Swendig is hoping to gather 500 volunteers for the simulation, stating that one of the ways that IDHW measures each health district’s success during the exercise is by how many people they can move through the medication dispensing lines within the three-hour timeframe.

“In the event of an actual disaster, we want to know approximately what our capacity is for a given amount of time,” said Mechikoff. “Knowing our abilities will better prepare us and our community partners and that will help protect the public.”

DETAILS:

When: April 24, 2019

11:00am – 2:00pm (sign-up for one-hour timeslot)

Where: Benewah Fairgrounds

2330 St. Maries Ave.

St. Maries, ID 83861

Transportation will be provided from the St. Maries Fairgrounds to the location.

How to sign up: drillvolunteers.eventbrite.com

The Health District asks that you make sure to sign up to have a proper headcount for lunch.

Panhandle Health District provides over 40 different public health programs to families, individuals and organizations in northern Idaho. From food and drinking water safety to health education and disease control, public health services are critical to ensure our community is a safe and healthy place to live, work and play.

The PHD team is made up of nurses, nutritionists, environmental health specialists, health educators and many other dedicated professionals with a common goal to deliver vital public health services.

Panhandle Health District is one of seven health districts in the state of Idaho.

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