

This is an Official Montana State DPHHS HAN Info Service Message

Distributed via the DPHHS Health Alert Network (HAN) System

Friday, January 6, 2006

11:15 Hours (11:15 AM MST)

The activities for H-1 thru H-8 deal with testing your local HAN system.

- The expectation is that each contact group represented in an deliverable be tested twice during the course of the grant year. In other words, the group represented in H-4 (clinicians and clinical facilities) should be contacted by your HAN system twice during the year as part of a test. The State-level HAN program's intent in dividing the whole contact list into smaller groups was to offer local health agencies flexibility in how they went about testing/communicating with their local HAN contacts. A local agency could, for example test it's entire contact list (all groups; H-1 through H-8) as part of a larger exercise, or they could test groups H-1 through H-3 during the 1st quarter and groups H-4 through H-8 during the second the quarter.
- Only 7 counties have completed H-1 thru H-8. This means there will need a substantial amount of "catch-up" testing in the next quarter. By testing their capacity to contact these 8 groups, counties and tribes in Montana will be able to identify gaps in their emergency response plans, test "established" communications and equipment and establish links with partner agencies for the purpose of improving vital communications and relationships, which would be needed for a public health response. To comply with the HAN deliverables for second quarter and to receive second payment, County and Tribal health agencies must complete (1) round of H-1 thru H-8 testing of their local HAN systems. The second round of testing starts at 3rd quarter and continues into the 4th quarter.

For deliverable H-9, County and Tribal health agencies have until the 3rd and 4th quarter to get their paper work in and get their TSP code numbers from the Federal TSP program.

Below are 2 E-mails DPHHS has received stating that applying for TSP (Tele-communication Service Priority) wasn't as bad as they first thought.

1) *Florence Anderson of Teton County wrote:*

"Jim and Gerry,

Please let other folks involved in completing the preparedness deliverables that the TSP-Telecommunication Service Priority-Activity H-9 and H-10 are not as daunting to complete as they first appeared to me. All my questions were answered by going to the bottom of the page on the web site: <http://www.dphhs.mt.gov/PHSD/Ph-informatics/PH-informatics-FocusE-han.shtml>. Non-federal agencies have the NCS for sponsor. I faxed my completed form at 5pm one evening and had my number faxed to me the next morning. The people were very helpful throughout the process.

Thanks, Florence"

2) *Ginger Roll of Rosebud County provided the following feedback:*

"Just got off the phone with one Mr. Mayfield of Homeland Security, re: TSP!!

Everything looked pretty much in order....he was just checking on a few details. VERY softspoken, polite and helpful. He thought he would have the authorization to me in the next half hour or so! I asked if I had done the form correctly, so that I might pass along the correct info to other counties struggling to get this done. He walked me through the pertinent areas. His only suggestion was to use Category C/Criteria 4 or 5 (rather than the 2 I used....although that would depend upon the circumstances of the event I guess). Other than that he was curious about the "circuit" and if it was already in the building (Yes), and that we should receive a "Circuit ID" from our Tel. Co. and that it should be forwarded to TSP at some point. He also inquired about where I had gotten the info for the Categories, etc. I told him our most EXCELLENT state website had instructions and links to the TSP site....he was impressed (as so he SHOULD be!!). SO, thank you so much for your assistance!"

Deliverable H-10: Wireless Priority Service (WPS), is not currently available in Montana. The Montana State HAN program is currently looking into alternatives for WPS at the state level.

Deliverable H-18 deals with the new Learning Management System (LMS) also known as the Montana Public Health Training and Communications Center (TCC). The TCC website is currently up and running and Deliverable T-4 requires all public health staff to register as a user of the TCC. The second demonstration on how to use the TCC is scheduled for January 13th 2006, contact Tulasi Zimmer tzimmer@mt.gov for more information. The TCC website address is <http://montanapublichealthtcc.org>

Please contact Gerry Wheat with additional questions.

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The goal Montana's Health Alert Network is to transmit information to local public health authorities as quickly as possible, and assign a suitable priority to the message that is sensitive to the impact of a health-related event providing information of immediate of utility relative to the public health and safety of Montanans. For questions or comments relative to Montana's HAN system you may contact the Montana State HAN Coordinator Jim Aspevig at <<mailto:jaspevig@mt.gov>> or the Associate HAN Coordinator Gerry Wheat at <<mailto:gwheat@mt.gov>>

Categories of Health Alert messages:

Health Alert: conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.

Health Advisory: provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.

Health Update: provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action.

Info Service Message: provides general information regarding a situation or opportunity; does not typically require immediate action.

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This message has been sent under blind carbon copy (bcc) to suppress the display of a large number of e-mail addresses. You have received this message based upon the information contained within our emergency notification data base. If you have a different or additional e-mail or fax address that you would like us to use please notify us as soon as possible by e-mail at hhshan@mt.gov <<mailto:hhshan@mt.gov>>