

PRESS RELEASE

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Local Responders Attend Weapons of Mass Destruction Training

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Emergency Responders, from Schoolcraft Memorial Hospital recently completed a Weapons of Mass Destruction training course at the Center for Domestic Preparedness (CDP) located in Anniston, Alabama. The team in attendance included, Sue Cooper, RN, BSN, Director, Rural Health Clinic, Cathy Flores, RN, Mike Hoar, Director, Information Technology, Kristen Peterson, RN, Director of HomeCare and Hospice and Cindy Thome, RN, BSN

The CDP is operated by the United States Department of Homeland Security's Office of State and Local Government Coordination and Preparedness and is the only federally-chartered Weapons of Mass Destruction training facility in the country. The CDP is also a member of the National Domestic Preparedness Consortium in partnership with Louisiana State University, the Nevada Test Site, New Mexico Tech, and Texas A&M.

The CDP provides federally-funded, interdisciplinary training for emergency responders from across the United States and U.S. Territories, for the following disciplines: Emergency Management, Emergency Medical Service, Fire Service, Governmental Administrative Hazardous materials, Health Care, Law Enforcement, Public Health Public Safety Communications, and Public Works. Emergency responders attending training participate in advanced, hands-on all hazards training on Chemical, Ordnance, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Weapons of Mass Destruction. Training conducted at the CDP assists the nation's emergency response community with the overwhelming task of prevention of, protection against, response to, and recovery from acts of terrorism.

Responders attending CDP training are specially selected from the nation's 11 million emergency responders. Training at the CDP ensures that responders gain critical skills and confidence to be better prepared to effectively respond to local incidents or potential WMD incidents. "This was an incredible learning opportunity" said Cindy Thome, Registered Nurse at Schoolcraft Memorial. "The knowledge we have gained from taking part in this important training is of tremendous significance in the preparedness of our emergency responders" Cathy Flores, RN, Infection Control at Schoolcraft Memorial added "The entire cost of our flights, food, lodging and training were covered by the CDP." Additional information about CDP training programs can be found at <http://dhs.gov>. or by contacting Cindy Thome directly at 906-341-3270 or Cathy Flores at 906-341-3232.