

# WHEN DISASTER STRIKES -- North Carolina Residents and the Strategic National Stockpile

The leaders of North Carolina's public health system want residents to know that they have been working very hard to prepare for the delivery of special medical supplies during any health emergency that might use up existing supplies. To accomplish this, state and local public health managers have worked closely with local emergency management, law enforcement, emergency medical services, fire departments, patient care facilities, tribal nations, the military, and volunteers to plan ahead for the order and delivery of these materials. In the event that there is ever a need for these supplies, people in every community need to know where to go to get them.

## The Strategic National Stockpile and North Carolina

The CDC's (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) is a large supply of medications and medical supplies that can be used following a public health emergency – such as a terrorist attack, flu outbreak, or hurricane – when local supplies are expected to run out.

Once state and local officials decide there is a need for SNS supplies, state response officials alert the CDC. Because the supplies are kept in special shipping containers that are stored in key spots across

responders will be able to choose what they need based on almost any threat they may face.

If the emergency requires even more medicines and/or medical supplies – or if at the beginning of a threat local emergency responders know exactly what they need – health officials can order just the kind of supplies necessary. These “Managed Inventory” supplies can be delivered within 36 hours of being ordered. During an event where the threat is known, the Managed Inventory can be tailored to provide medicines, supplies and other products specific to the suspected or confirmed threat.

The SNS program also coordinates the CHEMPACK Project and the Cities Readiness Initiative. CHEMPACK is a CDC effort to provide state

and local governments a stored supply of nerve agent antidotes so that they can respond quickly to an event where nerve agents are used.

The Cities Readiness Initiative focuses on helping major cities and their metropolitan areas – like

Charlotte – prepare for a large scale bioterrorist event by developing the means to dispense antibiotics to their entire population within 48 hours of the decision to do so.

Once SNS materials arrive at the designated Receipt, Stage and Storage Sites (RSS), the CDC transfers authority for them to the Public Health Preparedness and Response Branch (PHP&R). PHP&R will apportion the materials and deliver them to Local Receiving Sites (LRS) in each affected county where local emergency managers and public health officials will ensure their safe and timely delivery.

### PHP&R Regional Pharmacists

PHP&R has established four regional offices to facilitate preparedness efforts throughout the state. Among other essential assets associated with this system are the four regional pharmacists and the state pharmacist who plan and coordinate our state's SNS activities. These public health pharmacists also provide direction and oversight to local health departments and jurisdictions for all SNS-related issues.



the country, they can be delivered within 12 hours of a request being approved. These “Push Packages” are made up of 130 containers and can be loaded onto trucks or cargo aircraft for rapid delivery. They contain a lot of different medical supplies and medicines so that local

## Local Public Health

The local public health department serves as the SNS planning and coordination agency in each county. A county Preparedness Coordinator is charged with maintaining an SNS plan for their local public health department or district.

## Emergency Management

Local Emergency Management (EM) is the primary logistics and resource partner for all SNS planning and events. All resource needs, including request for SNS, is made

through EM, while working with public health at both the local and state levels. Resources are received at the local receiving site – managed by local public health – and supported by EM and others.

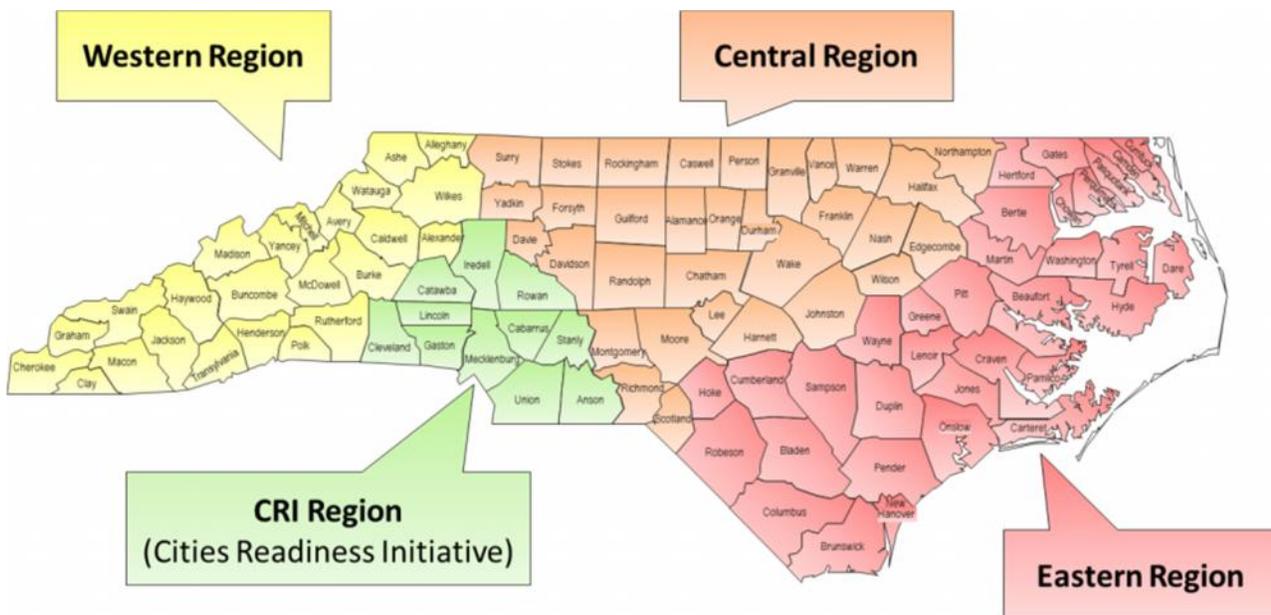
## Other Partners

Some of the most key partnerships associated with this program include Law Enforcement, EMS/Fire, Hospitals/Patient Care Facilities, Volunteer Organizations, Tribal Nations, Military Installations, Other Government Agencies, Private

Businesses, and Schools and Universities.

## Know Your POD

Your county health department has already established one or more Points of Dispensing (PODs). PODs provide a place for residents to pick up medications associated with the disaster. Your daily medicines will still be available at your local pharmacy. Contact your local health department to find yours.



## NC Public Health Preparedness and Response

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Raleigh, NC 27603

### Eastern Region Office

Winterville: 252-355-9093

### Central Region Office

Raleigh: 919-571-6781

### CRI Office

Charlotte: 704-566-2803

### Western Region Office

Ashville: 828-250-3826

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State of North Carolina

Department of Health and Human Services

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NC Public Health Preparedness and Response Branch

[www.ncdhhs.gov](http://www.ncdhhs.gov) – [www.publichealth.nc.gov](http://www.publichealth.nc.gov)

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*2000 copies of this public document were printed at a cost of \$855.75 or \$0.43 each. 5/14*