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Pueblo City-County Health Department

NEWS

www.pueblohealthdept.org

101 W. 9th Street, Pueblo, CO 81003

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South and South Central Region Healthcare Coalitions Unite to Practice Response Strategies

The South and South Central Healthcare Coalitions will work together to test community response procedures during a health crisis on Wednesday, February 10, 2016.

The Pueblo City-County Health Department, local hospitals, emergency management, long term care and hospice facilities, American Red Cross, mental and behavioral health partners, Pueblo Medical Reserve Corps, and Southern Colorado Regional Emergency Management Services and Trauma Advisory Council will be participating in a half-day regional functional exercise. Functional exercises involve rapid decision making and the simulated deployment of resources and personnel, however, no actual response activities will take place. Emergency response plans will be used and tested to help identify training needs, best practices and areas for emergency preparedness improvement. As partners participate together, community networks are strengthened and new resources are discovered for health in disasters and day-to-day operations.

“Exercises are a safe place for individual agencies to integrate their current plan with their region’s response system and to test how effective the collective response to a health threat will be. The south region consisting of Pueblo, Custer, Fremont, Las Animas, and Huerfano Counties are taking an active role in this exercise in preparation for a state-wide full-scale multiday exercise that will take place in 2017,” stated Lisa Gonzales, emergency preparedness and response generalist for the south region at Pueblo City-County Health Department.

Media that are interested in observing may contact Sarah Joseph, Public Information Officer at the Pueblo City-County Health Department, at 719-583-4526. Local emergency response agencies are always looking to foster partnerships prior to emergency response with local media.

For more information about the exercise contact Lisa Gonzales at gonzalesli@co.pueblo.co.us.

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