



News Release
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For Immediate Release

MEMORIAL HOSPITAL HOSTED REGIONAL DISASTER DRILL

Adel, GA April 22, 2010- At 8:30 a.m. on April 22, 2010, Memorial Hospital of Adel in Adel, Georgia, one of SunLink Health Systems' (NYSE Amex: SSY) seven community hospitals received an alert from E911 that 9 BASF employees, 2 spouses, and 7 children had been contaminated with Dimethoate-4E and were displaying organophosphate poisoning symptoms. Memorial Hospital would be the first receiver of victims.

Memorial Hospital is prepared for the unexpected. Fortunately, this time it is just a drill.

Immediately Memorial Hospital activated a Code Triage to let everyone know that an unusual event may impact the hospital. Memorial Hospital then contacted the Region L Decontamination Team and Public Health to inform them of the situation and to put them on standby to assist.

The specialized teams then prepared for a hazardous materials (HAZMAT)/decontamination (DECON) situation. Alerts went out to pagers and phone calls were made to notify the necessary personnel. Emergency radios were distributed and specialized instructions were handed out to key personnel, who then switched to the specific jobs for which they were responsible during a disaster event. The DECON showers, the incident command center, and all other priority operations and personnel were in place and functioning in less than 15 minutes.

Victims began to arrive, some by emergency services and some on their own. They were immediately stripped of their clothing and put through the DECON showers to prevent secondary contamination.

By 12 p.m. the county called "all clear" and the command to stand down operations was given. The drill was over. Immediately after the drill, the Disaster Drill Team conducted a "hot-wash," which is a **debriefing** of all the personnel involved to find out what went well and what needed improvement.

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The Disaster Drill Team consisted of representatives from Memorial Hospital of Adel, Tift Regional Hospital, Louis Smith Memorial Hospital, Cook County Sheriffs Department, Emergency 911, Adel Police Department, Adel Fire Department, EMS, The University of Georgia, and The Medical College of Georgia.

“Natural disasters can be tracked for weeks in advance, but that’s not so with man made disasters,” said Tammy Griffin, Chief Nursing Officer for the Memorial Hospital of Adel. “When an event like that occurs, there’s a minimal amount of time to organize staff, set up the facility, and bring in the people as necessary. It might be two o’clock in the morning, or it might be six o’clock at night. We have to be prepared for whatever comes our way,” said Griffin.

Hospitals are trained for disastrous events, and many times those can be tracked for 24 to 72 hours to determine landfall. “Unfortunately, we can’t predict when there will be a plane crash or a bus accident--so we’re trained and well prepared for what may occur,” said Marjorie McMillan, RN, Emergency Room Manager at Memorial Hospital of Adel.

Hospital organizations all over the United States are working with state and federal agencies to prepare for inevitable disasters, natural or otherwise. Mock disaster events, such as this Region L drill held at Memorial Hospital, enable emergency first responders (in the public sector—EMT, fire fighter, police, volunteer EMS) to practice alongside hospital personnel to perfect their techniques and discover areas for improvement. First responders located in Region L coordinated their own drills to coincide with the drill at Memorial Hospital. Additionally, unannounced scenarios took place during the drill to provide additional training.

The Region L drill, which took five months to plan, was the first Regional DECON Disaster Drill to be held in the state of Georgia.

SunLink Health Systems, Inc. currently operates seven community hospitals, three nursing homes and one home care business in the Southeast and Midwest and its specialty pharmacy business, SunLink ScriptsRx, in Louisiana. Each SunLink hospital is the only hospital in its community. SunLink’s operating strategy is to link patients’ needs with dedicated physicians and health professionals to deliver quality, efficient medical care and healthcare products and services in each area it serves. For additional information on SunLink Health Systems, Inc., please visit the Company’s website at www.sunlinkhealth.com.

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