



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 30, 2010

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**LOCAL RESPONDERS ATTEND NATIONAL EMERGENCY
PREPAREDNESS TRAINING**

Three local emergency responders recently completed emergency preparedness and flu pandemic training at the Center for Domestic Preparedness (CDP), which is operated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The group included Peggy O'Neill, RN, infection preventionist at Livingston HealthCare, MaryEllen Szafranski, RN, emergency preparedness coordinator at Livingston HealthCare, and Suzanne Brown, RN, Park County Health Nurse.

The three attended a training focused on preparing for and responding to pandemic influenza. The training was primarily for emergency services personnel from Montana and was attended by approximately 30 students.

"The instructors were very knowledgeable, the information was presented well, and we were given an opportunity to practice with others in a realistic drill," explained Peggy. "We will begin working to expand on Livingston HealthCare's current Pandemic Influenza Plan, to include new information and ideas we gathered at the training."

Some of the topics covered during the first two days of the event included defining a pandemic influenza plan, education about pandemic influenza, disease surveillance, public communications, and declaration of emergency. The course also addressed cooperation between all agencies, city and county-wide. On the third day, the entire class participated in a "very realistic drill," according to Peggy. "The drill was related to assessing for an outbreak of pandemic flu and implementation of different parts of the response plan," she added.

The CDP provides federally-funded, interdisciplinary training for emergency responders from across the United States and U.S. Territories in ten disciplines. One of those disciplines is healthcare. Training is conducted at the Noble Training Facility in Anniston, Alabama, the nation's only facility dedicated to training hospital and healthcare professionals in disaster preparedness and response.

More information about CDP training programs can be found at <http://cdp.dhs.gov>. For more information about Livingston HealthCare, visit www.livingstonhealthcare.org.

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