

# HERC News

---

Issue No. 15    Date of Publication: March 2025

---

## PROGRAMMATIC UPDATES

### Current Projects:

- Completed the 2024-2025 regional Hazard Vulnerability Assessment (HVA) [report](#)
- Continue to update and enhance plans per ASPR and state guidance
- Completed the required Readiness Assessment Plan, which is essentially the HERC's five-year workplan guiding the assessments, plan development, and training/exercise schedule
- Participating on the North Central RTAC Trauma conference planning committee and developing the preparedness track for the conference that will take place at North Central Technical College on April 10; register [here](#)
- Working with partners to educate and problem solve concerns surrounding EMResource drills
- Continue to provide WISCOM radio technical assistance and run drills with hospital partners twice monthly
- Distributed over 50 dry decontamination kits to regional ambulance services; there are still some kits available, contact [herc.coordinator@ncw-herc.org](mailto:herc.coordinator@ncw-herc.org) if you are interested

### Budgetary Updates:

- 2023-2024 audit is complete – no major concerns were found
- Bidding on audit quotes for this upcoming year has begun
- Awaiting to hear of potential H5N1 funding coming this spring/summer

### Upcoming/Recent Exercises:

- Planning is underway for this year's Medical Response Surge Exercise (MRSE);
  - This is a required patient surge exercise; however, this year there will be exercise play around opening of a Family Assistance Center, risk communications, and patient tracking so that other partners can participate and test their plans as well
  - Exercise will be held May 6 from 9:00 – 12:00; this will be hosted virtually; however, hospitals and local partners will want to open their own ICP/EOC to work through the injects
  - Partners interested in utilizing EMTrack or eICS, please attend the following trainings or watch the recorded versions:
    - EMTrack: April 15<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 – 9:30
    - eICS: April 16<sup>th</sup> from 12:00 – 12:30
    - **Please complete the [survey by April 4<sup>th</sup>](#) to register for one or both trainings so that an account can be set up for you and the meeting link can be sent**
- Working with Optima Emergency Preparedness consultants to once again offer a CMS exercise
  - The Trusted Agent meeting will be held June 4 from 1:00 – 1:30
  - The exercise will be held June 11 from 1:00 – 3:30 (virtual)
  - Registration and more information can be found [here](#)
- A CHEMPACK drill was conducted on February 3
  - Overall drill went well; as always, a few areas for improvement were identified:
    - Increasing depth of knowledge and awareness of CHEMPACK plans at cache sites
    - Update cache site contact numbers
    - Review CHEMPACK plan request approval processes

- Promote CHEMPACK education and planning at the local level

## Regional Updates:

- Over the last few years, the HERC has distributed multiple items to regional partners. With staff transitions and movement of supplies, the HERC would like to remind partners of some of the products given so that individuals can check their facility stock and review expiration dates if applicable. Below is a list of some of the equipment distributed.
  - Isopods
  - MCI go bags
  - Med sleds
  - Soft evacuation devices
  - Stryker evacuation chairs
  - Portable UV lights
  - E-Z up shelters
  - MCI patient cards
  - Moulage kits
  - If anyone is new to their role and is wondering if your facility received any of the equipment mentioned above, reach out to the HERC coordinator at [herc.coordinator@ncw-herc.org](mailto:herc.coordinator@ncw-herc.org)
- Marshfield Clinic and Sanford Health have officially [merged](#)

SITUATIONAL AWARENESS	LOGISTICS	RESOURCES
<p><b>Health Alerts:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Ebola Outbreak Caused by Sudan virus in Uganda (<a href="#">CDC</a>, February)</li> <li>▪ Accelerated Subtyping of Influenza A in Hospitalized Patients (<a href="#">CDC</a>, January)</li> </ul> <p><b>Noteworthy:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Measles outbreak that started in Texas and New Mexico (<a href="#">CDC</a>, February)</li> <li>▪ H5N1 updates (<a href="#">CDC</a>)</li> <li>▪ <a href="#">US withdraws from the World Health Organization</a>, exit is planned for <a href="#">January, 2026</a></li> <li>▪ <a href="#">Immigrant and Customs Enforcement (ICE) enforcement actions in or near “sensitive” areas (to include hospitals) ban has been lifted</a></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>PPE supplies can be requested from the state stockpile up until June 30, 2025.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <a href="#">Who can request</a></li> <li>○ <a href="#">Survey to request</a></li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ If your EMS agency is interested in dry decontamination kits and have not yet completed the HERC survey, please email <a href="mailto:herc.coordinator@ncw-herc.org">herc.coordinator@ncw-herc.org</a></li> <li>▪ NCW HERC currently has the following available to loan out:           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Moulage kits for training and exercises</li> <li>○ EZ-Up tents</li> <li>○ Portable ultra-cold freezer</li> <li>○ Portable standard freezer/coolers</li> <li>○ Generators</li> <li>○ Decedent pouches</li> <li>○ Bioseal unit</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>If you have a logistic need related to the HERC, contact PJ Monday at <a href="mailto:philip.monday@aspirus.org">philip.monday@aspirus.org</a> or 715-574-6451.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ DHS EMResource <a href="#">resources</a></li> <li>▪ DHS WISCOM <a href="#">resources</a></li> <li>▪ FEMA’s Resilience Analysis Planning Tool (<a href="#">RAPT</a>) provides multiple local and county data sets that are helpful in preparedness planning and response</li> <li>▪ ASPR’s healthcare and public health cyber security <a href="#">website</a> and APH’s <a href="#">Resources to Protect America’s Rural Hospitals from Cyber Threats</a></li> <li>▪ HHS <a href="#">emPOWER program</a> has innovative data and tools to inform response efforts of at-risk individuals that are power dependent for their medical equipment and devices</li> <li>▪ Current <a href="#">Health Alerts</a> in WI</li> <li>▪ NCW HERC orientation <a href="#">brochure</a> &amp; <a href="#">PowerPoint</a></li> <li>▪ Numerous resources, training opportunities, meeting minutes, and other info can be found on the <a href="#">NCW HERC website</a></li> </ul>

## TRAININGS

<p><b><u><a href="#">Pediatric Disaster Response and Emergency Preparedness</a></u></b>          April 8-9, 2025          Marshfield, WI          Cost: Free</p>	<p><b><u><a href="#">Governor’s Conference on Emergency Management &amp; Homeland Security</a></u></b>          March 10-12, 2025          Green Bay</p>
<p><b><u><a href="#">Community Planning for Disaster Recovery</a></u></b>          April 9, 2025: 8:00 – 4:00          La Crosse County Health Department</p>	<p><b><u><a href="#">Community Mass Care and Emergency Assistance</a></u></b>          April 2-3, 2025          Chippewa Falls, WI</p>
<p><b><u><a href="#">NC RTAC Trauma Conference</a></u></b>          April 10, 2025          North Central Technical College          Wausau</p>	<p><b>MGT 341: Disaster Preparedness for Hospitals and Healthcare Organizations Within the Community Infrastructure</b> (registration info to come)          July 22-23          Marshfield Healthcare Center Weston</p>
<p><b>EMTrack</b>          Wisconsin offers a free EMTrack training, providing an overview of Wisconsin-specific functionality and system navigation.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Navigate to the <a href="#">Juvare training webpage</a> and sign in. If you have not taken a Juvare training before, you will need to sign up.</li> <li>2. Select the EMTrack product to access Juvare trainings.</li> <li>3. Select the "Client-Specific Courses" to access jurisdiction EMTrack trainings.</li> <li>4. Select the "Wisconsin EMTrack Training" tile.</li> <li>5. Select the appropriate training video based upon your role.</li> <li>6. Enter the coupon "bigcheese2022" to waive the registration fee.</li> </ol> <p>or</p> <p><a href="https://youtu.be/LOFIUfGBwAA">https://youtu.be/LOFIUfGBwAA</a></p>	<p><b><u><a href="#">AWR 232: Mass Fatality Planning and Response for Rural Communities</a></u></b>          August 22, 2025: 8:00 – 5:00          Lincoln County Emergency Management, Merrill</p> <p><b>eICS</b>  <a href="https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/preparedness/systems/eics.htm">https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/preparedness/systems/eics.htm</a></p> <p><b>Additional self-paced courses found in the PCA Portal:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Nuclear and Radiation:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <a href="#">Center for Radiological Nuclear Training</a></li> <li>○ <a href="#">Texas A &amp; M Engineering Extension Service (TEEX)</a></li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Hazmat DECON First Receiver Awareness - upon request</p>
<p><b>Radiation Training:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <a href="#">Radiological Emergency Preparedness in WI</a></li> <li>▪ Looking for easy access to an informative overview of dangers associated with radiological emergencies and our preparedness for them? Watch the recorded session from the NCRTAC Trauma Conference 2023 on "Radiological Emergency Preparedness in Wisconsin" by DJ LeClear. The session is about an hour long and is free. No CEUs are available.</li> <li>▪ <a href="#">Radiation Basics Made Simple</a> - 8 short segments broken down by topic</li> <li>▪ <a href="#">Radiation Detection Wand Quick Start Guide</a> (these wands were provided by the HERC to each County EM and Hospital ED last spring) (~3 min)</li> <li>▪ <a href="#">Radiation Emergency Training, Education, and Tools</a> (CDC) – includes a TTX simulation tool, webinars, guidelines, videos, etc.</li> <li>▪ <a href="#">Myths of Radiation</a> – short videos</li> <li>▪ <a href="#">Just in Time Training for Hospital Clinicians</a> – 17 min. video</li> </ul>	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <a href="#">How to Use Handheld Survey Equipment</a> – 18 min. video</li> <li>▪ <a href="#">Radiation Toolkit</a> (NACCHO) – resources to help you prepare for a radiation emergency</li> </ul>	
<b>Crisis Emergency Risk Communication (CERC)</b> Virtual – self-paced <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <a href="#">Intro to CERC</a></li> <li>○ <a href="#">Webinars for specific threats</a></li> </ul>	<b>Upcoming PIO Trainings</b> <a href="#">Public Information Basics</a> (virtual) April 28 – May 2, 2025: 10:00 – 3:00
<b>Special Pathogens Courses (Free)</b> <a href="#">Ebola Virus Disease</a> <a href="#">Infection Control for Special Pathogen Isolation</a>	<b>ICS Courses:</b> <a href="#">ICS 400</a> April 1-2 Lake View Conference Center, Wausau  Virtual – self-paced <a href="#">100</a> , <a href="#">200</a> , <a href="#">700</a> , and <a href="#">800</a> FEMA <a href="#">National Incident Management System</a>  <b>For individuals who have had a difficult time finding local classes or the time to attend them, Washington DC’s Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency’s (HSEMA) Academy and its virtual courses may be a viable option. HSEMA has made all the ICS courses (including ICS-300, -400 and G-191) available as online virtual courses, along with many of the FEMA Advanced Professional Series (APS) “G”-series classes. <a href="https://www.hsemaacademy.com">https://www.hsemaacademy.com</a></b>  <b>NCW HERC ICS Trainings:</b> <a href="#">Hospital ICS</a> <a href="#">Public Health ICS</a> <a href="#">Nursing Home ICS</a>
<b>Case Studies</b> Various case studies regarding the region’s top HVA threats are posted to the <a href="#">NCW HERC website</a> , and can be used as quick preparedness reviews with staff	<b>Comprehensive Schedule of Trainings</b> (WEM Training Portal) <a href="https://www.trainingwisconsin.org/Schedule.aspx">https://www.trainingwisconsin.org/Schedule.aspx</a>

***\*For 24/7 response needs contact Aspirus MedEvac 800-888-8056, and they will contact NCW HERC leadership.***

NCW HERC Board of Directors	
Hospitals	CMS Clinics
<b>Ian Fisher (Vice Chair) (2024-2026)</b> Marshfield Clinic <a href="mailto:fisher.ian@marshfieldclinic.org">fisher.ian@marshfieldclinic.org</a>	Kimberly Spurgeon (2023-2025) Noble Community Clinics <a href="mailto:kimberley.spurgeon@famhealth.org">kimberley.spurgeon@famhealth.org</a>
Dr. Tony Swicer (2023-2025) Aspirus Wausau <a href="mailto:t@swicer.net">t@swicer.net</a>	Marcus Walden (2024-2026) Marshfield Clinic <a href="mailto:walden.marcus@marshfieldclinic.org">walden.marcus@marshfieldclinic.org</a>
EMS	Trauma
Dr. Michael Clark (Treasurer) (2024-2026) Aspirus MedEvac <a href="mailto:michael.clark@aspirus.org">michael.clark@aspirus.org</a>	Jason Keffeler (2024-2026) Aspirus MedEvac <a href="mailto:Jason.Keffeler@aspirus.org">Jason.Keffeler@aspirus.org</a>

<b>Delmond Horn (Chair) (2023-2025)</b> Greenwood Fire and EMS <a href="mailto:prchutr@yahoo.com">prchutr@yahoo.com</a>	Vacant
<b>Emergency Management</b>	<b>Public Health</b>
Kelly Bremer (2023-2025) Marathon County Emergency Management <a href="mailto:kelly.bremer@co.marathon.wi.us">kelly.bremer@co.marathon.wi.us</a>	Gary Garske (2023-2025) Portage County Health & Human Services <a href="mailto:garskeg@co.portage.wi.us">garskeg@co.portage.wi.us</a>
Tyler Verhasselt (2024-2026) Lincoln County Emergency Management <a href="mailto:tyler.verhasselt@co.lincoln.wi.us">tyler.verhasselt@co.lincoln.wi.us</a>	Sue Smith (2024 – 2026) Wood County Health Department <a href="mailto:Sue.Smith@woodcountywi.gov">Sue.Smith@woodcountywi.gov</a>
<b>CMS</b>	<b>Tribal</b>
Ryan Hanson (2024-2026) Pine Crest Nursing Home <a href="mailto:rhanson2@norcen.org">rhanson2@norcen.org</a>	Jacee Shepard (no election, recruited by Board) Forest Co. Potawatomi <a href="mailto:jacee.shepard@fcpotawatomi-nsn.gov">jacee.shepard@fcpotawatomi-nsn.gov</a>
Wendy Freese (2023-2025) Compassus <a href="mailto:Wendy.Freese@compassus.com">Wendy.Freese@compassus.com</a>	
<b>NCW HERC Contractors</b>	
Robbie Deede Business Operations	Dr. Tim Vayder Medical Advisor
Travis Nixdorf Communications SME	Amy Wheeler Accountant
PJ Monday Logistics	Ty Zastava Planning and Development