

The *MERGe* Project

Major Emergency Response Group

The *MERGe Project* is bringing ambulance services within Kansas EMS Region III together to face the challenges of major medical responses. These include tornadoes, mass transit accidents, floods, hospital evacuations, explosions and other events. When an incident begins to pull resources from outside the immediate area or county of occurrence or if it involves multiple counties in size or response, the *MERGe* project is intended to provide a plan and response system to assist local services in managing the incident.

Mission and Goals

The MERGe Project mission is to:

Develop, facilitate and maintain a system of preparation, response and recovery for major emergency medical events effecting licensed ambulance services within EMS Region III.

Project Services:

Incident response team
Planning assistance
Training programs
Information resources and materials
Communications guide
Incident resource guide
Assistance with mutual aid agreements

Project Structure

The Project Management Team members were especially important in the development of the project and represent geographic distribution, EMS agencies who have recently experienced a major medical incident and various types of ambulance services to include full time paid, volunteer, BLS and ALS services. PMT members are:

Deanna Habiger	Kinsley
Mike Napolitano	Great Bend
Tom Pollan	Sedgwick County
Dalene Deck	Sedgwick County
Mark Willis	Newton
Dave Schrag	Hutchinson
Randy Miller	Hutchinson
Garry Toll e	Sedgwick County
Darin Werries	McPherson
Randy Easter	McPherson
Grant Helderich	I Dorado
Jon Friesen	Sedgwick County
Russell Buller	Hesston
Terry David	Lyons

Four standing committees address the project goals. The four committees are:

Logistics and Liaison Committee

Focus areas: Project logistics/communication/meeting preparation and support/liaison with external agencies

The project will have a set of needs related to accomplishing the project goals. Meeting rooms, staff and other resources will need to be arranged. This committee will manage and assist in the acquisition of the project's needs. Communicating about project activities, meetings and dissemination of information along with a plan to encourage external agency participation and partnership development and support of the project is included in this committee's focus.

Network and Surveillance Committee

Focus areas: Needs assessment/research/EMS agency networking

This committee will work to assess local needs in order to ensure the project mission and focus is considering accurate system requirements. Research of topics and ensuring EMS agencies are participating is part of this committee's function.

Be a part of the MERGe Project. Call the Region III Office at 1-800-HELP-KS-3 or log on to RegionIIIEMS.com to find out more.

Finance and Planning Committee

Focus areas:

Finance/grants/budgeting/planning

The project budget as well as any grant applications for the project itself or for the implementation of project goals are included as part of this committee's function. Developing, reviewing and publishing a project plan is also an area of activity overseen by this committee. The chairs of the Finance and Planning Committee and the Network and Surveillance Committee ensuring some dual members should develop a close relationship between those researching needs and those developing the plan.

Training and Public Information Committee

Focus areas: Training/project information and materials

The committee will provide flyers or other project information and publications to include guides or reference material. A training program based on needs and the project goals should be developed, delivered and assessed with the support of this committee.

For a MERGe Team Response

1-800-HELP-KS-3

How can I participate?

1. Serve on a project committee
2. Host a multi-county meeting of EMS directors where a *MERGe Project* presentation is made
3. Host a training session addressing major response topics such as:
 - ⇒ START Triage
 - ⇒ JUMPSTART (peds) Triage
 - ⇒ Communications
 - ⇒ Incident Management Systems
 - ⇒ Field Treatment Areas
 - ⇒ Hospital Coordination and Transport
 - ⇒ Field Treatment Centers

What about the current threats of terrorism?

Many of the issues that will be faced in a terrorist threat are similar to other types of major incidents. Hazardous materials, biotoxins, violence, and structural collapse and can occur for a variety of reasons. The *MERGe Project* will assist local EMS agencies in being prepared by participating a network of EMS agencies in planning and response.

The system development actions taken to prepare and respond to any of these events will help in answering questions

about preparation for a terrorist threat. Training, information management, medical system resources, networking, partnerships and communications are all key parts of the *MERGe Project* and are exactly the areas one should be addressing in an effort to ready their agency for a major event. You can access a related resource list by going to **RegionIIIEMS.com**.

Response team members for the MERGe Project:

Any MERGe response team member may be contacted for information regarding the project.

Mike Napolitano	Great Bend
Jerree Forbes	Hutchinson
Dalene Deck	Sedgwick County
Mark Willis	Newton
Garry Tolle	Sedgwick County
Randy Easter	McPherson
Grant Helferich	El Dorado
Jon Friesen	Sedgwick County
Terry David	Lyons
Kerry McCue	Hays
Chris Way	Parsons

Region III Contact Point:

Jerree Forbes	Executive Director
Region III EMS.com	1-800-HELP-KS-3
RegionIIIEMS.com	forbejsj@hutchcc.edu



Kansas Counties in Region III and VI:

Allen, Barber, Barton, Bourbon, Barton, Chatauqua, Cherokee Commanche, Cowley, Crawford, Edwards, Elk, Greenwood, Harper, Harvey, Kingman, Kiowa, Labette, Marion, McPherson, Montgomery, Neosho, Pawnee, Pratt, Reno, Rice, Rush, Sedgwick, Stafford, Sumner, Wilson, Woodson