The Alabama Department of Public Health, through UAB's South Central Center for Public Health Preparedness, is sponsoring a series of infectious disease outbreak exercises in six locations around the state. The exercises, known as "The Unfortunates Series", are functional exercises designed to assess a multi-agency and multi-jurisdictional response to an unanticipated infectious disease outbreak.

Exercise Overview:
- Key participating agencies will include local EMS, County and State Health Department(s), local Hospitals, local EMA, Law Enforcement and Media
- Exercises will involve a group of individuals, traveling together on a bus, exhibiting specific symptoms related to an infectious disease. The simulated victims will be given detailed instructions and training on how to act in order to make the exercise scenario as real as possible.
- Exercise play will last 5 hours. An exercise hot wash involving key participants from the represented agencies will conclude the exercise day. The exercise will be NIMS or ICS compliant and participating agencies are expected to be familiar with ICS structure and coordination. Participants are expected to be familiar with their agency emergency response plan as well.
- UAB will supply all exercise site materials including: exercise personnel identification cards/vests, food and water for the exercise participants, as well as portable toilets if necessary.

Areas to be tested and measured by the exercise include:
- The ability to provide effective pre-hospital emergency medical care in response to an infectious disease incident. Assess the ability to conduct triage, treatment, and transport operations.
- The ability of local emergency medical response agencies to implement victim, personnel, equipment, and facility decontamination in an infectious disease incident.
- Surge capacity issues including the availability of hospital beds and the availability of appropriate medical equipment necessary to handle an infectious disease outbreak.
- The adequacy of existing local emergency response plans for the dissemination of public information and the interface with, and use of, media resources.

Disclosure:
- The training exercises will be recorded on video and the subsequent recordings reviewed by the investigators to identify managerial actions.
- The video will also be edited to produce a case study that can be viewed by emergency responders for preparedness training in the form of a table top exercise.
- Personal information will not be collected during the filming of the exercise.

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