

The Health Officer's Role in Public Health Emergencies

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Charleston Marriott



Objectives

- **Provide an overview of public health preparedness**
- **List various types of public health emergencies**
- **Review history of public health preparedness**
- **Describe the emergency response structure in WV**
- **Identify specific health officer roles in emergencies**

Public Health Preparedness



- **Purpose:**
 - **Assist public health and medical organizations to plan, prepare, train and equip for response to large scale emergency incidents that threaten the public's health and potentially push the organization past their normal surge capacity.**

Why is Public Health Preparedness Important?

- Unpredicted, rare but catastrophic events → World Trade Center; bioterrorist attack
- Predictable but novel events → Pandemic flu; SARS; West Nile Virus; floods
- Immediate, everyday public health threats → TB; HIV; tobacco injuries; cancer; heart disease

Key Point

Public Health Preparedness does not create a new role, rather, it enhances the agency's traditional functions to better prepare and respond to a large scale emergency incident.

Examples: Clinical care, medication dispensing, sanitation, communication, planning, incident management, etc.

WEST VIRGINIA
Department of
**Health & Human
Resources**
BUREAU FOR PUBLIC HEALTH



- **An incident is:**
- An occurrence, caused by either human or natural phenomena, that requires response actions to prevent or minimize loss of life, damage to property and/or damage to the environment.
- **An event is:**
- A scheduled non-emergency activity.

September 2004 Flood



Hurricane Ivan



Wind Storm



Snow Storm



Displaced Katrina Victims Arriving at Camp Dawson

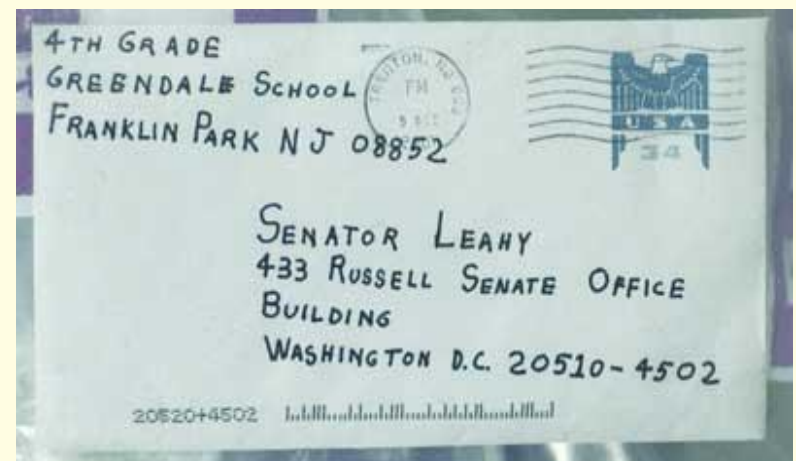
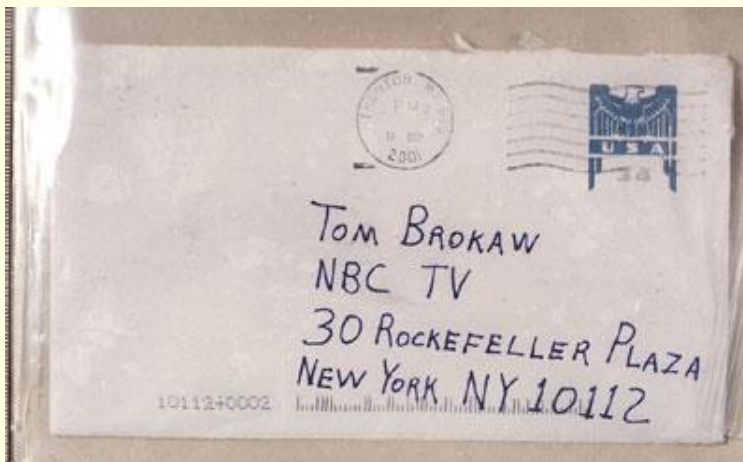
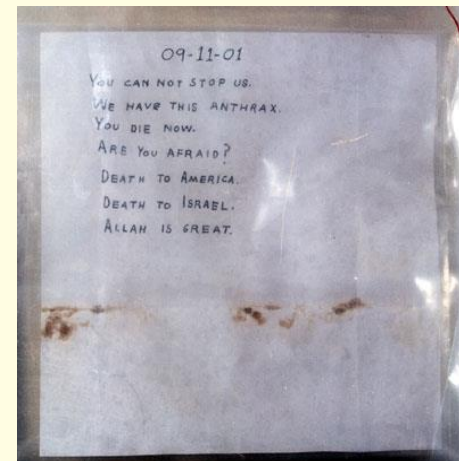


The 1918 Spanish Flu Pandemic



Anthrax Sent by Mail

September/October 2001



Bluestone Dam



Derecho



The Threat of Terrorism



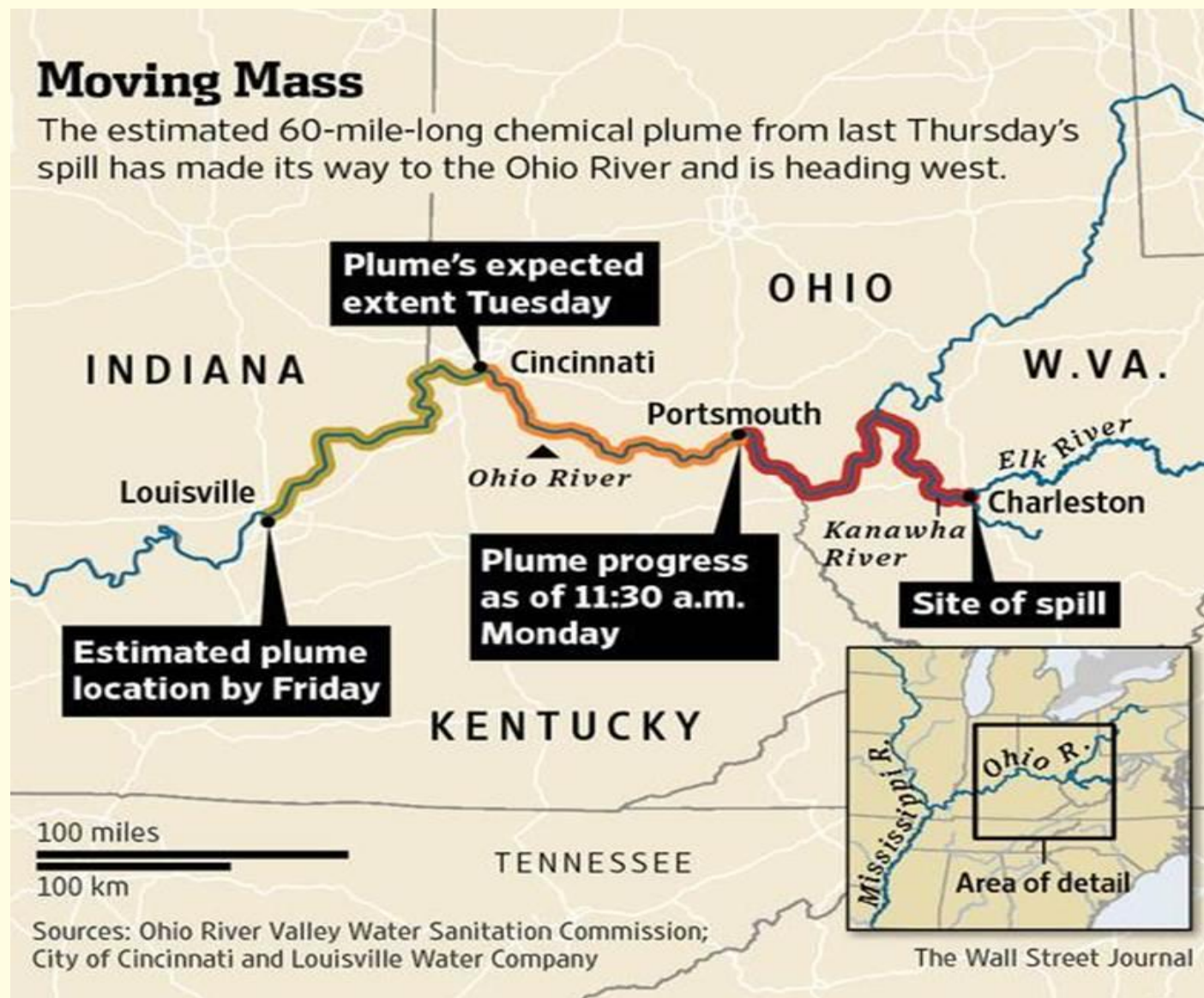
2013 Boy Scout National Jamboree



2014 Elk River Chemical Spill

Moving Mass

The estimated 60-mile-long chemical plume from last Thursday's spill has made its way to the Ohio River and is heading west.



*A strong, flexible, responsive
public health system well-
linked with community
partners!*

In an emergency, “public health” includes all of us—
health departments, hospitals, EMA, public safety,
government.

It’s about people, plans, partnerships and tools.

World Trade Center Attack September 11, 2001 Emergency Response



- **Presidential Policy Directive 8**
- **Homeland Security Presidential Directive 5 Management of Domestic Incidents**
- **National Incident Management Systems**
- **Homeland Security Presidential Directive 8 National Preparedness**
- **National Preparedness Goal**
- **National Health Security Strategy**
- **National Response Framework**

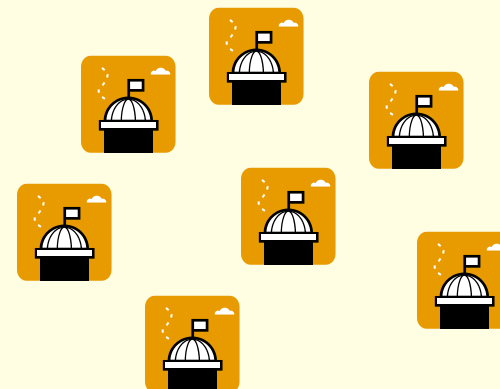
Public Health Preparedness in WV



WV Health and Medical Systems: Non-Emergency



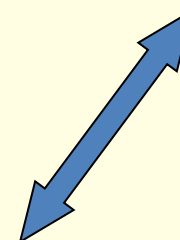
WVDHHR-BPH



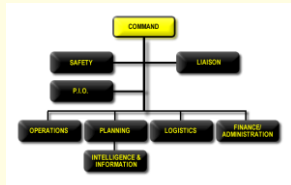
49 Local Health Departments



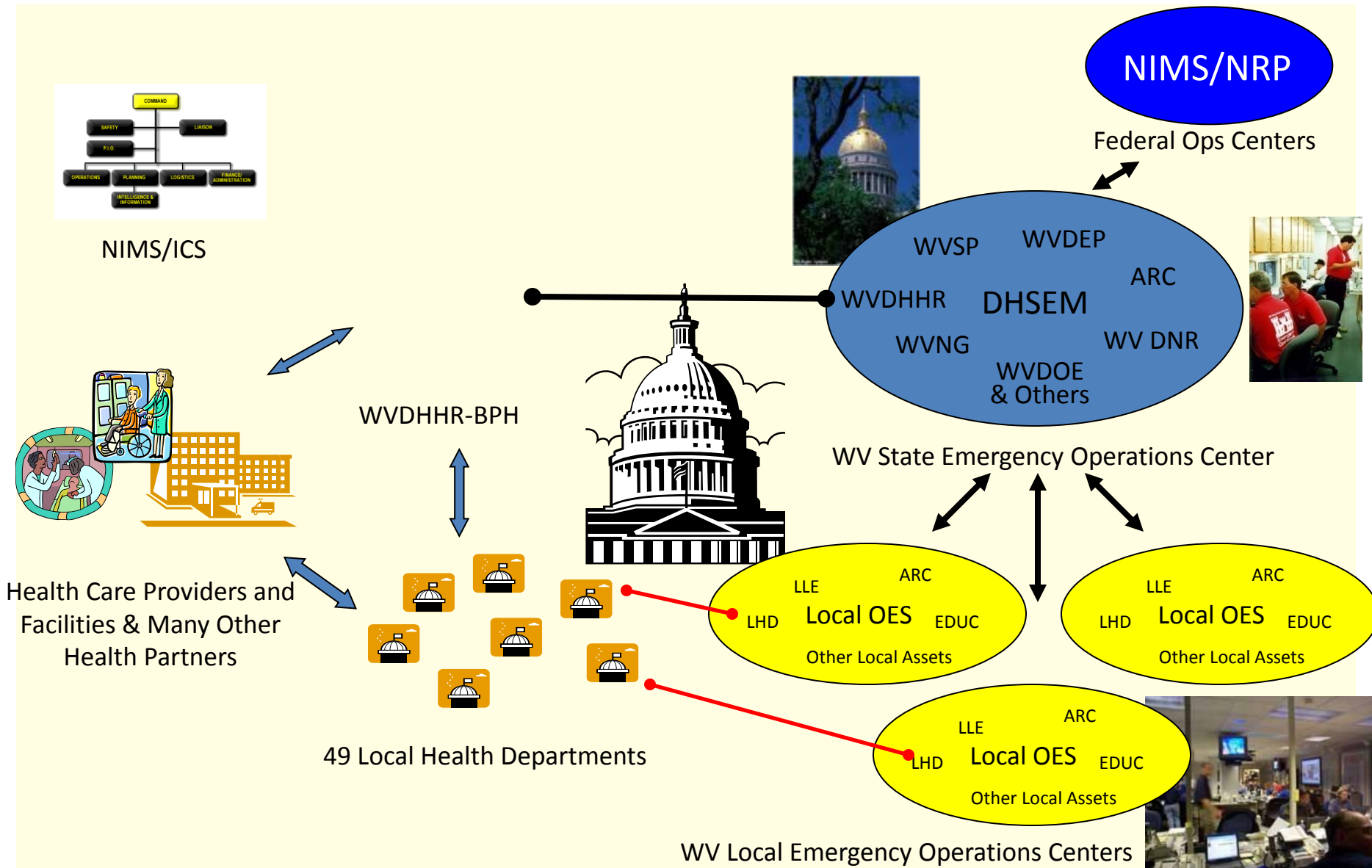
**Health Care Providers and Facilities +
Many Other Health Partners (including
Emergency Management)**



WV Health and Medical Systems: Emergency



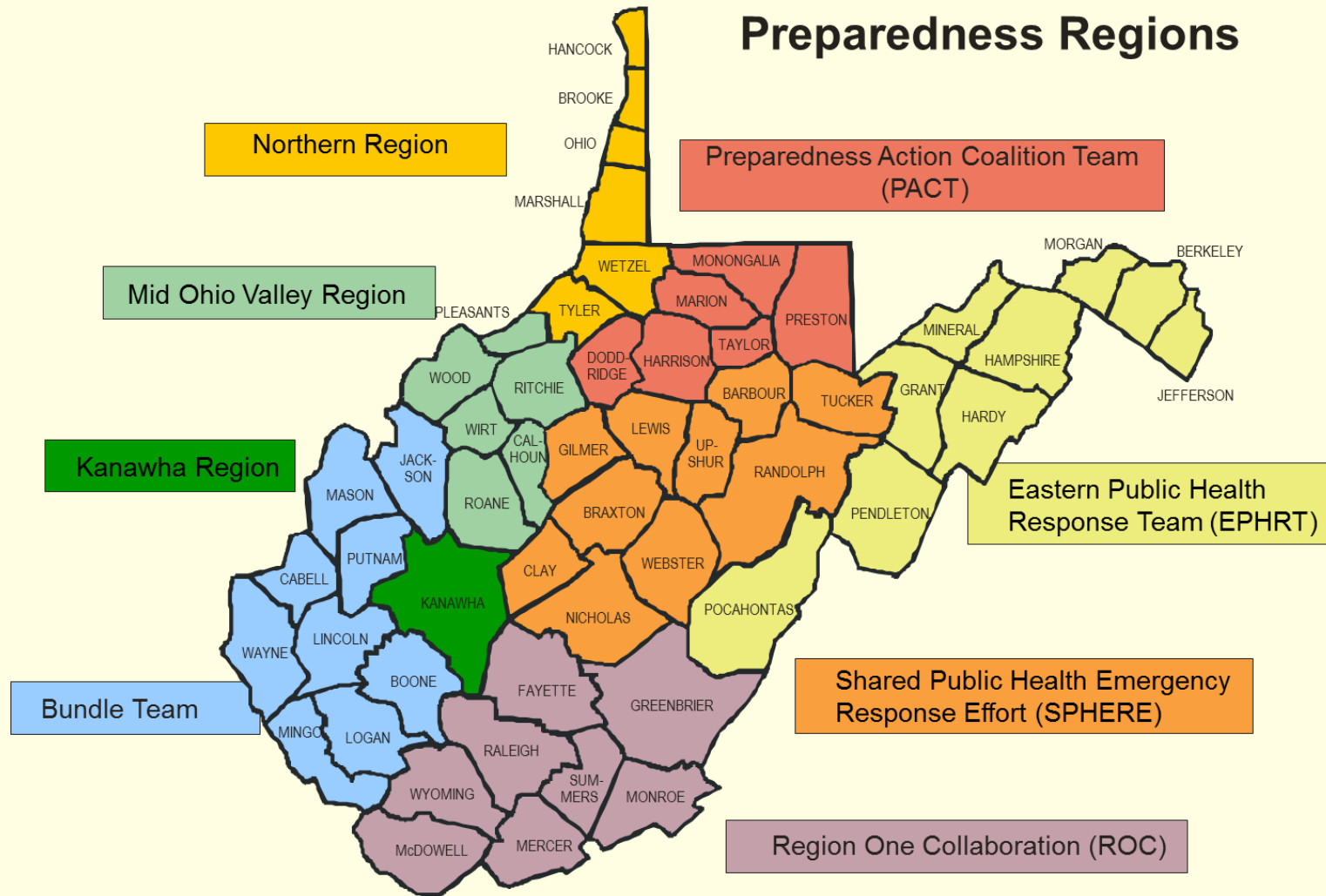
NIMS/ICS



- **Coordination**
- **Planning**
- **Public health and health system preparedness, mitigation, response, recovery**
- **Technical assistance**
- **Grants management/funding**

Map of PHEP Regions

WV Public Health Preparedness Regions



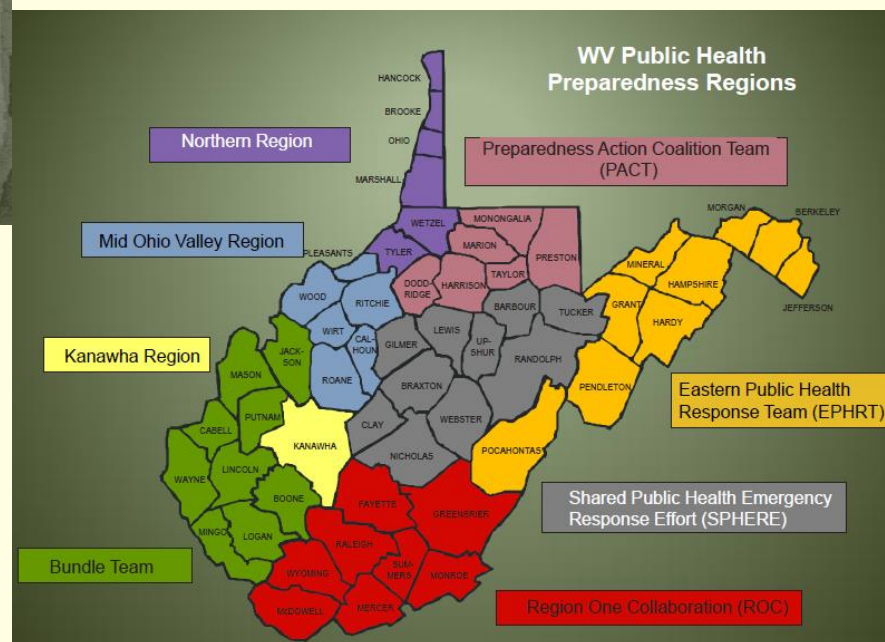
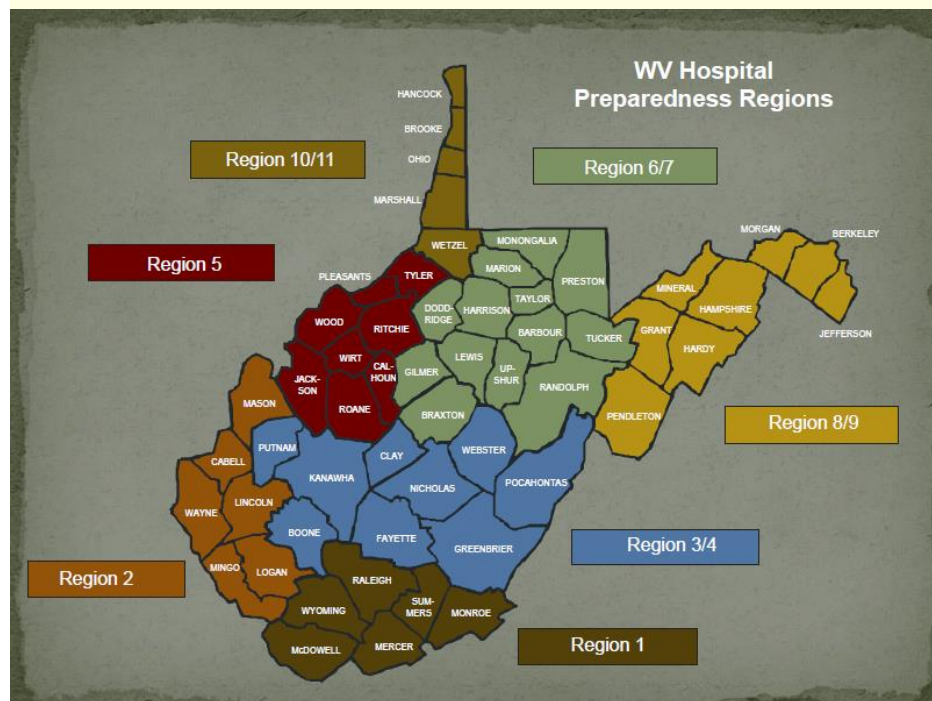
- **74 hospitals (~57 acute care; 3 state-owned; 4 VAs)**
- **35 primary care organizations (93 sites) and 9 free clinics**
- **~200 EMS agencies**
- **13 community mental health centers**
- **1 poison center**
- **3 medical schools**
- **18 schools of nursing**
- **Many private providers and facilities**
- **Multiple non-profits and professional associations**

Federal Partners

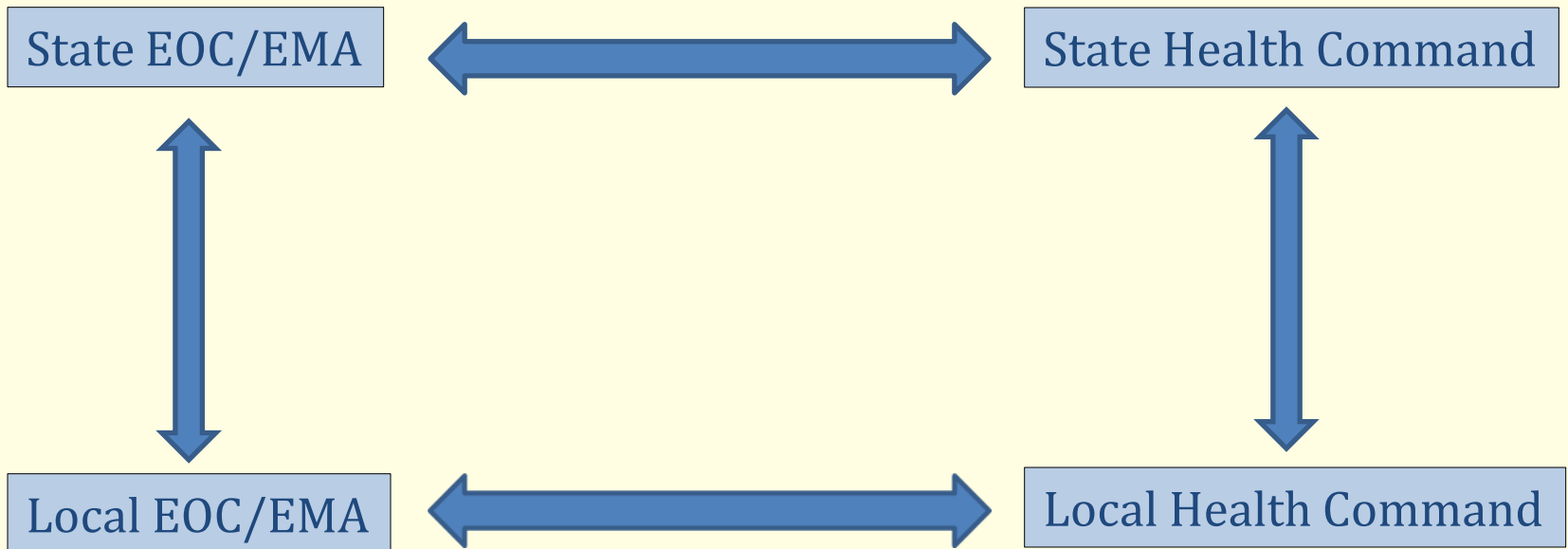
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
- Division of State and Local Readiness
- Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)
- Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR)
- Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)



WV Response Structure

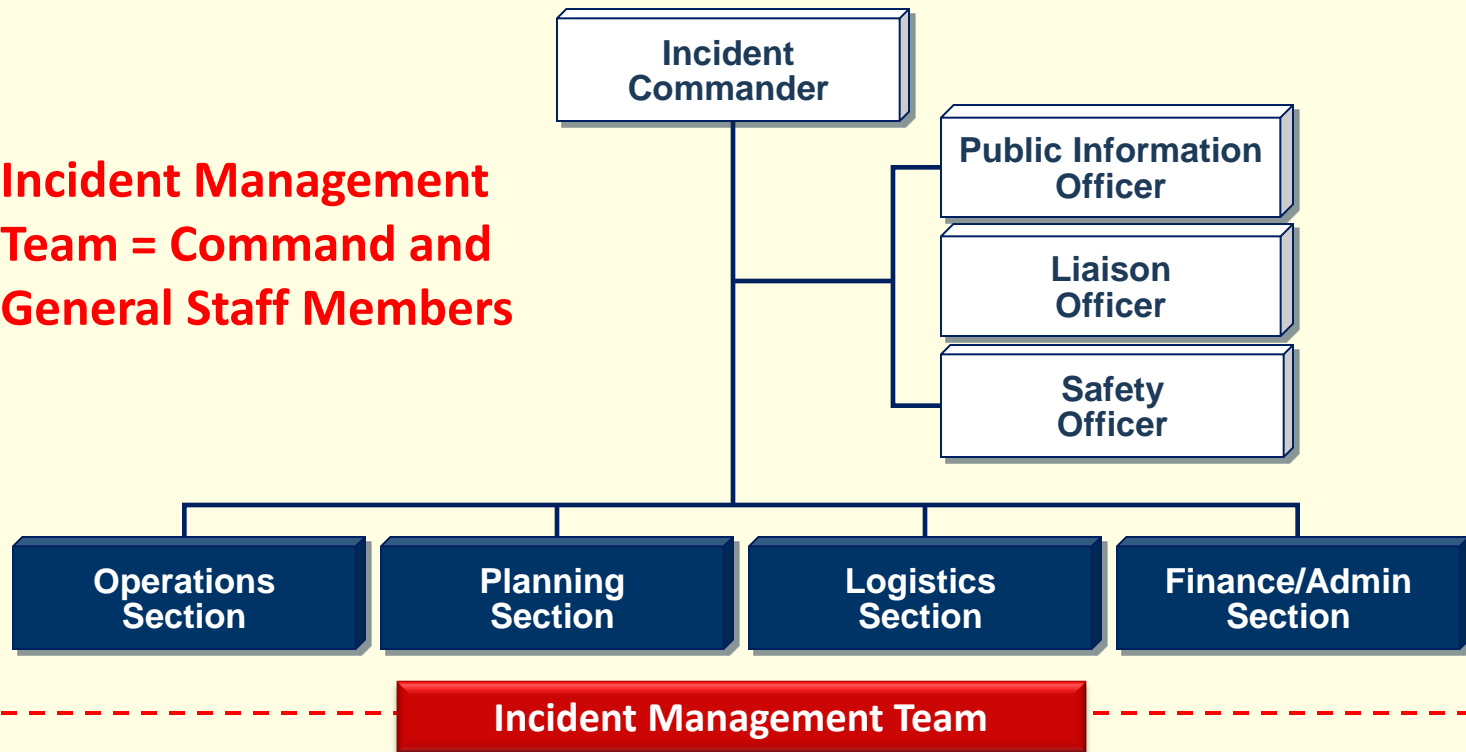


Response Graphic - General

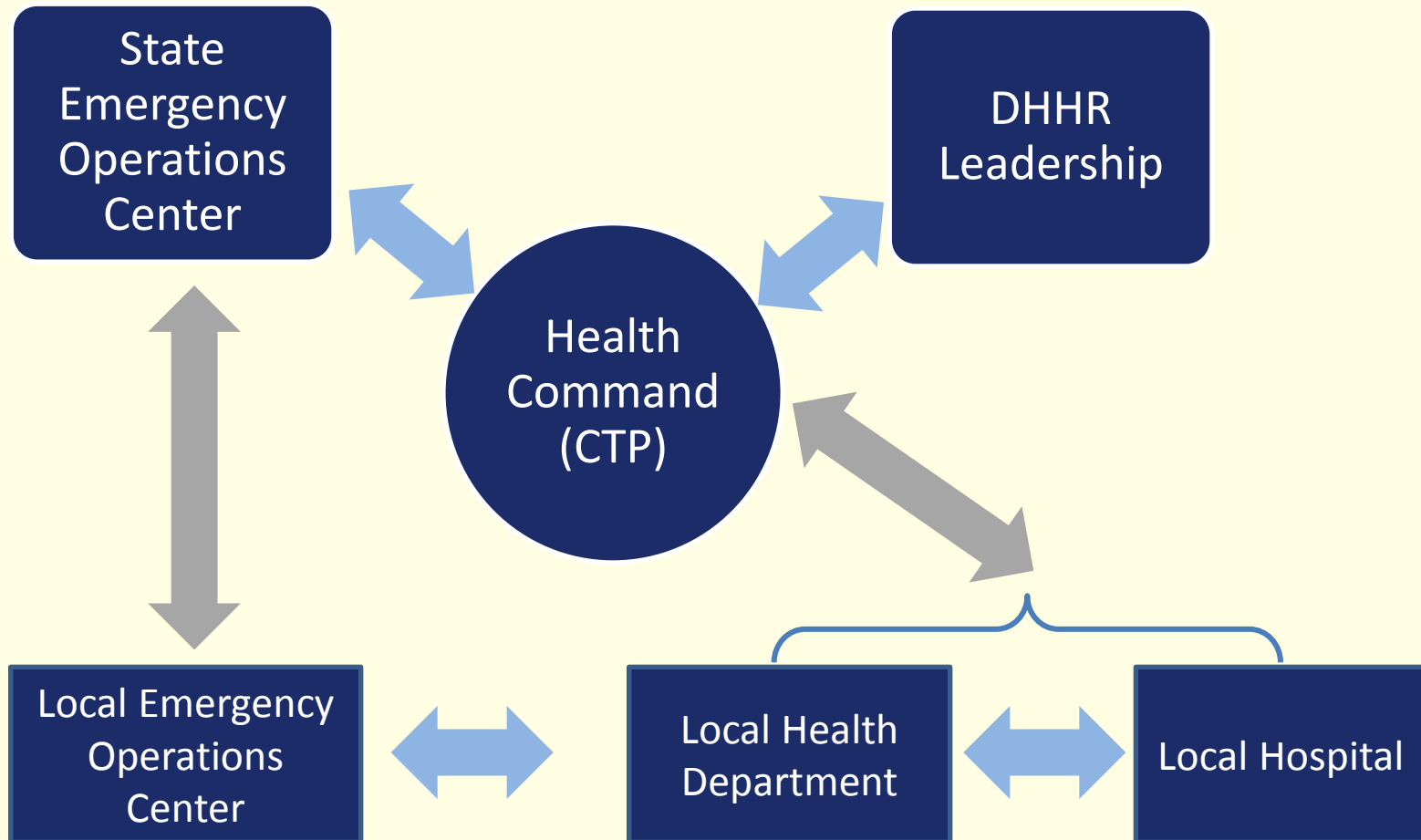


Incident Management Team

**Incident Management
Team = Command and
General Staff Members**



Health Command Center



Preparedness Resources

- **Funding**
- **Response Plans**
- **Credentialed Volunteers**
- **Public Health Alerting System**
- **Situational Awareness**
- **Medical Countermeasures**
- **Risk Communications**
- **Incident Command**

- **Healthcare Coalitions**
- **Training**
- **Equipment**
- **Epidemiology and Prevention Services**
- **Laboratory Services**
- **Environmental Health Services**
- **Behavioral Health**

Health Officer Engagement

- **Prepare**
- **Respond**
- **Recover**



Emergency Responder Health Monitoring and Surveillance (ERHMS) System: **Implementation Training**



Course Menu

Pre-Deployment

Deployment

Post-Deployment

What is a POD?

- **Point of Dispensing Site (POD)**
 - In a worst case scenario (Anthrax), prophylaxis of an entire population may be required
 - Volunteers and other partnerships used to staff/coordinate/perform activity
 - Normal doctor/patient/pharmacist relationship is not feasible
- **Closed PODs**
 - Variation of a POD
 - Designed to lower overall numbers of public coming to open PODs
 - May also be used for critical infrastructure



Medical Command



Is This Your Job?



Health Officer Engagement

- **Clinical Care**
- **Leadership/ICS**
- **Support to LHD Team**
- **Subject Matter Expert**
- **Training**
- **State System of Health/Medical Direction**
- **Advocate**

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