

## **Minnesota Public Health Association Resolution**

### **Emergency Preparedness to Protect Public Health 2010**

**WHEREAS**, in the United States and globally disasters and hazards disrupt hundreds of thousands of lives each year; and

**WHEREAS**, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has identified emergency preparedness and response as a critical public health function;<sup>1</sup> and

**WHEREAS**, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) recommends citizens should be self-sufficient for at least three days for shelter, first aid, food, water, and sanitation;<sup>2</sup> and

**WHEREAS**, The American Public Health Association (APHA) has developed the Get Ready campaign to educate all Americans about strategies to prepare themselves, their families, and their communities for all disasters and hazards;<sup>3</sup> and

**WHEREAS**, The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) has developed a statewide all hazards emergency preparedness campaign, CodeReady.org, to educate the broader public with strategies to prepare for a major emergency;<sup>4</sup> and

**WHEREAS**, Minnesota has identified preparedness as an area of local public health responsibility and an essential activity;<sup>5</sup> and

**WHEREAS**, Minnesota has established leadership within the Department of Health to coordinate emergency preparedness activities with local public health agencies and inform the public when these situations arise;<sup>6</sup> and

**WHEREAS**, state and local public health agencies and collaborative partners have developed approaches that aim to improve public health preparedness response and reach culturally diverse communities throughout Minnesota.<sup>7,8</sup>

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Minnesota Public Health Association:**

1. Supports the emergency preparedness efforts that have been developed by MDH and APHA, and
2. Encourages the State legislature to continue to develop legislation supporting emergency preparedness activities, and
3. Supports funding for current and future statewide emergency preparedness efforts.

## References

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<sup>1</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Emergency Preparedness and Response. Available at: <http://www.bt.cdc.gov/>. Accessed on March 23, 2010.

<sup>2</sup> Federal Emergency Management Association. Are you ready? An In-Depth Guide to Citizen Preparedness. Available at: <http://www.fema.gov/areyouready/>. Accessed on March 23, 2010.

<sup>3</sup> American Public Health Association. Get Ready Campaign. Available at: <http://www.getreadyforflu.org/newsite.htm>. Accessed on November 30, 2009.

<sup>4</sup> This includes animal disease outbreak, chemical incident, explosion, fire, flood, human disease outbreak, radiation incident, terrorist incident, transportation incident, utility breakdown, weapons incident, and weather. Minnesota Department of Health. CodeReady. Available at: <http://www.codeready.org/index.cfm>. Accessed on November 30, 2009.

<sup>5</sup> Minnesota Department of Health. Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Recovery. Available at: <http://www.health.state.mn.us/oep/index.html>. Accessed on April 14, 2010.

<sup>6</sup> Minnesota Department of Health. Multi-Agency Coordination Plan: All-Hazards Response and Recovery Plan Support Annex. Available at: [www.health.state.mn.us/oep/plans/macplan.pdf](http://www.health.state.mn.us/oep/plans/macplan.pdf). Accessed on November 30, 2009.

<sup>7</sup> Minnesota Department of Health. Emergency Preparedness, Response and Recovery. Available at: <http://www.health.state.mn.us/oep/index.html>. Accessed on November 30, 2009.

<sup>8</sup> This includes Emergency & Community Health Outreach (ECHO), a collaborative effort of public health and safety agencies, ethnic advisory organizations and non-profit groups to provide health and safety information in multiple languages via multiple modes of communication. ECHO. Available at: [www.echominnesota.org](http://www.echominnesota.org). Accessed on April 12, 2010.