

## Disaster Preparedness

As a major population center and destination, the Treasure Valley Area is susceptible to disasters, both natural and man-made, that could exceed the resources of any individual hospital. A disaster could result from incidents generating an overwhelming number of patients, (i.e., major transportation accident, terrorism, etc.), such a disaster declared by the State of Idaho could require transfer of some patients from hospitals to back up facilities, such as Saltzer Medical Group.

Saltzer Medical Group has been actively participating over a five year period with the Regional Planning Group for Southwest District Health (SWDH).

Saltzer and Mercy Medical Center have a voluntary agreement with the intent to facilitate mutual aid at the time of a medical disaster.

Saltzer has been granted resources in preparation for such disasters. Critical items include a 150kw generator that will preserve our electronic health record and maintain operability of our Quick South clinic.

A second important item is our Environmental Containment Unit (ECU2). This unit provides a negative flow isolation capability to prevent the spread of airborne illnesses.

Saltzer also has ten portable beds to assist in a surge capacity. We have the capability to bring non-ambulatory patients down the stairwells in the event of evacuation thru the use of two Stryker evacuation chairs.

Over a four year period, Saltzer Medical Group has been allocated grant funds to purchase major disaster equipment and supplies to enable participation in a regional disaster response.

Saltzer is preparing daily to make sure we are prepared to provide care to our community in the event of a disaster.