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IHA Hosts Emergency Simulation to Enhance Hospital Response to Large-Scale Disasters

NAPERVILLE – In an effort to bolster emergency preparedness across Illinois, the Illinois Health and Hospital Association (IHA) this week hosted a live, simulated Mass Casualty Incident (MCI) for hospitals and health systems statewide.

The virtual event entitled, “Rough Landing – A Mass Casualty Event,” attracted participation from nearly 130 Illinois hospitals and health systems and centered on a simulated response to a commercial aircraft emergency landing near a local hospital. Hospitals had the opportunity to test their mass notification systems, coordinate a family reunification center, manage volunteers, and assess their medical surge capabilities.

“Mass casualty incidents often occur with little warning, making it critical for hospital teams to continuously practice and prepare for the unexpected,” said A.J. Wilhelmi, IHA President and CEO. “This simulation gave healthcare teams across Illinois an opportunity to sharpen their critical decision-making skills under pressure in a controlled environment. It’s an essential step in ensuring hospitals are ready to respond quickly and effectively during a mass casualty event.”

Planning for MCIs remains a cornerstone of hospital emergency preparedness. Whether caused by violence, transportation accidents, natural disasters, or other unexpected events, MCIs require a swift and coordinated response. This includes the efficient use of personnel and supplies, as well as seamless collaboration across departments and with external emergency response partners.

The live webinar was held on Nov. 5 and led by IHA’s Keneatha Johnson, MPH, Assistant Vice President, Safety and Emergency Preparedness and Stephen Weiler, IPEM, MEP, CPP, CPD Manager of Resiliency Services with Tarian Group.

About IHA

The Illinois Health and Hospital Association, with offices in Chicago, Naperville, Springfield, and Washington, D.C., advocates for Illinois’ more than 200 hospitals and nearly 40 health systems as they serve their patients and communities. IHA members provide a broad range of services—not just within their walls, but across the continuum of healthcare and in their communities. Reflecting the diversity of the state, IHA members consist of nonprofit, investor-owned and public hospitals in the following categories: community, safety net, rural, critical access, specialty, and teaching hospitals, including academic medical centers. For more information, see www.team-ih.org. Like IHA on [Facebook](#). Follow IHA on [X](#) (formerly known as Twitter).

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