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**MEDIA ALERT**

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**South Central Idaho Hospitals and Emergency Services to Participate in Emergency Preparedness Exercise**

TWIN FALLS- Don't be alarmed if you see more activity than usual near your local hospital. Most likely it is only an exercise. In early April, four south central Idaho hospitals will participate in an emergency preparedness exercise. This exercise will focus on healthcare system preparedness, emergency operations coordination, volunteer and fatality management, medical surge, and information sharing. The exercise is designed to test medical and emergency plans while enhancing multi-agency coordination.

The exercise is being led by South Central Public Health District with participating agencies including: St. Luke's Magic Valley, St. Luke's Jerome, St. Luke's Wood River, North Canyon Medical Center, Twin Falls Department of Emergency Services, Idaho School for the Deaf and Blind, Gooding County Disaster Services, Magic Valley Paramedics, Idaho State Police, other public safety partners, and community volunteers.

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