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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Public Health Is Teaming Up With Local Hospitals and Emergency Services in an Emergency Preparedness Exercise

JEROME – Disasters happen. We are preparing now.

South Central Public Health District (SCPHD) and Jerome County Office of Emergency Management (Jerome OEM) are meeting with local hospitals and emergency services on February 19th for an emergency preparedness exercise. The exercise is discussion-based and will help prepare for a full-scale exercise in April when SCPHD and Jerome OEM will coordinate a public health response to a simulated widespread anthrax attack.

“Our goal is to be resilient against any attack,” said Josh Jensen, SCPHD Public Health Program Manager. “We plan for the worst so we can be ready for the worst.”

The group discussion on the 19th will focus on healthcare system preparedness, emergency operations coordination, emergency public information and warning, and community preparedness.

“We aren’t immune to disasters,” said Tanya Stitt, Jerome County Emergency Manager. “Hopefully we never have to use this particular training in real life, but we aren’t going to cross our fingers and wait to see.”

This exercise will prepare SCPHD and emergency services for a multi-agency exercise in April that will include opening a point of dispensing (POD) site at the Jerome high school. A POD is a location the public would go to receive medication in a public health emergency.

The exercise starts at 9 a.m. in the Jerome County Sheriff’s office at 2151 S Tiger Dr. Media partners are welcome, and encouraged to attend. If you are interested, please reach out to Brianna Bodily, SCPHD Public Information Officer, before the exercise starts so she can reserve a spot for you.

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