



HOMELAND SECURITY

Self-Triage

A interactive health education and risk communications program called "self-triage" allows individuals to assess their health risks in light of events such as hurricane evacuation, a terrorist attack or disease outbreak. The user simply follows computer prompted questions. When the interview is complete, the system suggests actions to be taken, focusing on four key decisions: Should I go? When should I go? Where should I go? How should I go?

A goal of self-triage is to mitigate greatly increased demand on medical resources in a disaster situation by leveraging the power of the internet to provide education, training and risk communications to people to make systematic use of medical resources.

Self-triage can be adapted for use by any health or emergency response agency. If it were used at health departments statewide during a pandemic flu, reduced staffing of telephones alone would save an estimated \$3 million. For more information, please contact Harper Simpson at (239) 732-2685 or email Harper_Simpson@doh.state.fl.us. 2006-DOH-024

Emergency Communications

Information technology can build special networks to support essential communications in the aftermath of acts of terrorism, hurricanes or accidents. Following Hurricane Wilma, accessing and re-allocating roadway fiber optic strands resulted in networking two Department of Transportation districts together via a dedicated VLAN (virtual local area network). This makeshift arrangement provided users in two buildings in Ft. Lauderdale with full access to all information technology needed at this critical time to support the recovery effort. For more information, please contact Gayle Malone at (954) 777-4123 or email gayle.malone@dot.state.fl.us. 2006-DOT-048

Mutual Aid Agreement

This mutual aide agreement between the Okaloosa County Health Department and 12 municipal, county and private systems promotes the development of common ordinances throughout the county, money saving purchasing, and expands inter-utility connection for emergency service provisions for water. It is expected to save in excess of \$100,000 and provide improved service and protection for the community. For more information, please contact Doug Sims at (850) 689-7859 or email Doug_Sims@doh.state.fl.us. 2006-DOH-018