



STATE OF ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC HEALTH

Donald E. Williamson, MD
State Health Officer

October 17, 2008

Dear Hospital CEO:

Over the past few years, the Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH) worked with the Alabama Hospital Association (AlaHA) to develop a Mutual Aid Compact for hospitals and other health care providers during a declared disaster. Various obstacles and ever-changing federal definitions caused this process to take longer than originally anticipated. Persistence does have its rewards; therefore, we are pleased to provide, by enclosure, the Alabama Health Care Provider Mutual Aid Compact and related exhibits.

As you review and share this document with the appropriate personnel within your facility, keep the following in mind:

- Having a Mutual Aid Compact allows a hospital to fulfill both a Joint Commission accreditation requirement, as well as a requirement for compliance with the National Incident Management System (NIMS).

Previously the emergency management requirements for Joint Commission accreditation were bundled with other activities in the chapter entitled "Environment of Care." The 2009 accreditation standards include a distinct chapter for emergency management, which details activities required, such as the provisions included in the enclosed Compact. A document outlining the differences between the 2008 and the 2009 requirements can be found both on the ADPH website (www.adph.org/cep) and the AlaHA website (www.alaha.org).

As of 2008, hospitals must be NIMS compliant in order to be eligible for grant funds secured by ADPH through the federal hospital preparedness program, currently administered by AlaHA Government Relations staff.

- It is important to note that this document is meant to serve as a standardized guide for providers to reference during a disaster situation. Entering into the Compact does not commit hospital resources outside of what each provider can and is willing to assign during a disaster.

Hospital CEO
Page 2
September 12, 2008

- ADPH and AlaHA staff members are working with contiguous states in an effort to use this document as a vehicle for multi-state participation. Further progress will be communicated to you through both the ADPH and AlaHA.

Please carefully review, share, and discuss the enclosed document with the emergency management personnel in your facility and return the signed original of the Compact **and** completed Exhibit A to:

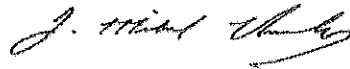
Alabama Department of Public Health
Center for Emergency Preparedness
Attention: Jane Reeves
P.O. Box 303017
Montgomery, AL 36130-3017

Should you have any questions or need additional information, you may contact Ms. Reeves (ADPH) at (334) 206-6231 or Ms. Danne Howard (AlaHA) at (334) 834-3477.

Sincerely,



Donald E. Williamson, M.D.
State Health Officer



J. Michael Horsley, President
Alabama Hospital Association

DEW:JR:aw
Enclosures