



DAVIS COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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News Release

Davis County Health Department Declared “Public Health Ready”

Planning, Training, And Exercising For Disasters And Emergencies Recognized By National Association

(Clearfield, Utah) – Davis County Health Department has been recognized by the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) for its ability to plan for, respond to, and recover from public health emergencies.

Davis County Health Department officials were notified Jan. 10 the department achieved the designation of “Public Health Ready.” During the latter half of 2017, the department’s leadership and staff documented preparedness capabilities for reviewers by meeting the comprehensive preparedness benchmarks required by Project Public Health Ready (PPHR). The PPHR benchmarks were created and agreed upon through a unique partnership between NACCHO and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

“We are proud this national association’s Project Public Health Ready program recognized our high level of preparedness,” said Brian Hatch, director of the Davis County Health Department. “This latest preparedness recognition is an extension of the hard work and dedication the department staff has put forth which allowed us to become nationally accredited in late 2015 through the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB). With both of these achievements, we will continue to improve and build upon our ability to quickly and effectively respond to any public health crisis.”

“This community is a leader in emergency preparedness – in public health, in public safety, and in other disciplines,” said Hatch. “Still, the most important factor in determining whether we all succeed in responding to an emergency will be the actions of our citizens in advance planning, cooperating with authorities, and helping each other in a time of duress.”

Local health departments recognized by PPHR undergo a rigorous evaluation by peer review to assess their ability to meet a set of national standards for public health preparedness. These standards align with federal government requirements and other national best practices.

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PPHR recognition also requires health departments to collaborate with their state, local, and community partners to develop plans that account for all the constituents in their jurisdictions.

“Public health is one piece of overall emergency preparedness,” said Ivy Melton Sales, director of the department’s Community Health Services Division. “The health department collaborates on planning, training, and exercising for emergencies with fire departments, public safety, healthcare agencies, and many other partners in Davis County.”

PPHR recognition confirms the Davis County Health Department has a thorough and coordinated emergency response plan in place and that staff have completed necessary training to protect the health of the community during an emergency.

“When disaster strikes, it affects local communities,” said Dr. William Barnes, Interim Executive Director & Chief Program Officer for NACCHO. “Local health departments are a critical part of any first response to disease outbreaks, emergencies, and acts of terrorism. NACCHO commends Davis County Health Department for being a model of public health emergency preparedness.”

“Davis County Health Department joins the county health departments for Salt Lake and Tooele as in-state organizations that have gained both national public health accreditation through PHAB as well as being distinguished for excellence in preparedness with PPHR,” said Hatch.

According to the Project Public Health Ready website, “PPHR aims to protect the public’s health and strengthen public health infrastructure by equipping local health departments with sustainable tools to plan, train, and exercise using a continuous quality improvement model.” For more information including recognized sites, project tools, and resources, visit <http://www.naccho.org/PPHR>.

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