

# Currently in the Coalition

Updates from the Tampa Bay Health & Medical Preparedness Coalition—February 2026

## Severe Weather Awareness Week 2026

Florida Severe Weather Awareness Week is observed each year by the National Weather Service & Florida Division of Emergency Management to increase awareness of & preparedness for severe weather hazards.

During this week, various activities, educational campaigns, and outreach efforts are conducted to inform residents about the types of severe weather that can impact Florida, such as hurricanes, tornadoes, floods, and lightning. Local communities, schools, and organizations participate by hosting drills, distributing informational materials, and sharing tips on how to stay safe during dangerous weather events. The goal is to help Floridians develop emergency plans, learn the importance of weather alerts, and understand the necessary steps to protect themselves and their property before, during, and after a severe weather incident. Please see the [FDEM Toolkit](#) for more information.

By working together during Florida Severe Weather Awareness Week, communities strengthen their resilience and ensure that residents are better equipped to respond effectively when severe weather strikes. This collaborative approach ultimately helps save lives and reduce property damage throughout the state.

2026 TBHMPC Great Tornado Drill will take place on **Wednesday, February 4th, 2026** at 10am. This is a community-based drill, and all actions will take place at your individual organization/facility. You will receive a prompt on the exercise day to shelter-in-place due to a potential tornado and will play out the exercise at your facility/organization (at whatever level you wish). [Register here](#).

## 2026 GREAT TORNADO DRILL

WEDNESDAY  
FEBRUARY 4TH, 2026  
AT 10AM

HOW TO PARTICIPATE:  
STEP 1: SIGN UP BELOW.  
STEP 2: PRACTICE YOUR PLAN.  
STEP 3: SUBMIT DOCUMENTATION OF PARTICIPATION.

[REGISTER HERE](#)



### [Key Contacts](#)

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## Upcoming Coalition Meetings

Pinellas County  
February 6th

Hardee County  
February 11th

Hernando County  
February 12th

Sumter County  
February 20th



Questions? Contact [Hunter.Zager@TampaBayHMPC.org](mailto:Hunter.Zager@TampaBayHMPC.org)

## Important Updates

### February is American Heart Month

You can demonstrate your support by taking the following actions:

- Learn CPR: Become part of the Nation of Lifesavers by enrolling in a CPR course today. More details are available at [Nation of Lifesavers | American Heart Association](#)
- Participate in National Wear Red Day on Friday, February 6, 2026: Show your commitment to women's cardiovascular health by wearing red, sharing educational materials and resources, and contributing to research and educational initiatives.
- Volunteer: Offer your time and talents to support heart health awareness efforts.



### The National Emerging Special Pathogens Training and Education Center (NETEC): Incident Response Guide: Special Pathogens

The [Incident Response Guide: Special Pathogens](#) provides a structured approach for health care facilities to respond to special pathogen events, including suspected or confirmed high-consequence infectious diseases (HCIDs). It supports hospitals and health care coalitions in implementing a coordinated emergency response while ensuring patient and staff safety. This guide includes incident command activation, patient identification and isolation, personal protective equipment guidelines, waste management, security measures, and patient transfers. The guide helps promote best practices in hospital response and recovery.

### TBHMPC | Calendar Year 2025 Executive Summary

TBHMPC Calendar Year 2025 Executive Summary, intended to provide members and partners with a high-level overview of coalition activities, operating conditions, and key themes from the past year. Looking ahead, TBHMPC remains committed to continuous improvement and innovation to ensure the coalition is well-equipped to safeguard the health and well-being of the communities it serves. Further insights and detailed analyses of the year's activities are available in the full report. Read more [here](#).



## Meet TBHMPC Logistics Response Team

The TBHMPC Logistics Response Team is comprised of dedicated professionals committed to ensuring efficient and reliable support during critical operations. Our team brings together expertise from various fields, collaborating seamlessly to coordinate resources, manage transportation, and respond swiftly to evolving circumstances. With a focus on safety, innovation, and community service, the TBHMPC Logistics Response Team stands ready to assist in both routine and emergency situations, supporting our mission to provide exceptional logistical solutions for every scenario.



James Wright is a retired Battalion Chief from Sarasota County Fire Department (SCFD) with a distinguished career in emergency services. He currently serves on the faculty of Suncoast Technical College in Sarasota, Florida, where he imparts his extensive knowledge and experience to the next generation of emergency responders. In addition, James is a Healthcare Technician with FL3 Disaster Medical Assistance Team (DMAT), contributing his skills to critical response efforts. As a continuously licensed Florida EMS provider since 1985, James brings over four decades of dedicated service & expertise to the Logistics Response Team.

Dave Selbach is a seasoned logistics professional with nearly 15 years of dedicated service to the Tampa Bay coalition, specializing in disaster response operations. Recently retired after a distinguished 30-year career with Pinellas County EMS, Dave continues to make an impact in the field by remaining active with the federal logistics response team. In addition to his ongoing commitment to emergency logistics, he is the owner of LifeTech Instructional, where he leverages his expertise to provide valuable training and education. A master carpenter by trade, Dave brings a unique blend of hands-on skills and logistical acumen to every role he undertakes, making him an invaluable asset to the TBHMPC Logistics Response Team.



# Training & Exercise Opportunities

## Empowering Leaders in Crisis: Novel Training Strategies for Executive Success—Wednesday, February 4<sup>th</sup> at 11am,

The webinar will focus on how the way we frame preparedness directly influences how executives perceive risk, make decisions, and lead during crises. Rather than teaching executives emergency management concepts, this session equips emergency managers with practical strategies to translate preparedness into executive language—centered on organizational risk, reputation, liability, and authority.

This session will be led by Roger Glick of Jensen Hughes, who works extensively with healthcare executive teams on crisis leadership and decision-making under pressure. [Click Here for Registration Link.](#)

Tampa Bay Health & Medical Preparedness Coalition

### EMPOWERING LEADERS IN CRISIS

Novel Training Strategies for Executive Success

In today's fast-paced and unpredictable environment, leaders are expected to make high-stakes decisions under pressure. This innovative training experience equips executives with the tools, mindset, and strategies needed to respond effectively through crisis and uncertainty.

**LEARN HOW TO**

- Reframe emergency management in executive-level language that prioritizes risk, reputation & liability
- Move from compliance talk to strategic, action-driven language executives respond to
- Increase executive buy-in through immersive, decision-focused simulations

**WHO SHOULD ATTEND**

- Healthcare Emergency Managers
- Emergency Preparedness Coordinators
- Hospital and Health System IM Leaders
- Healthcare Coalition Trainers & Planners

**REGISTER HERE**

Wednesday, February 4, 2026  
11:00am - 12:30pm  
Virtual

Free Event | [Add to your calendar](#)

Florida Healthcare Coalitions & The Center for Domestic Preparedness (CDP)- The following Virtual Trainings are available to any Coalition member/partner in Florida!

- February 10, 2026, 1-2:30PM EST- Mass Casualty Incident Response (HCV2) [Register Here](#)
- March 4, 2026, 10-11AM EST- Special Needs Population Considerations During Emergency Response (HCV3) [Register Here](#)



## BOLDPlanning COOP & CEMP Development Platform

All healthcare facilities and organizations in Florida can utilize this platform for your Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP) or Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) at no cost to you, paid for by the Florida Health Care Coalitions! To request access to the platform complete the [access request form](#). **The platform is scheduled to cease operations in September 2026. Stakeholders are advised to make necessary preparations and download any required materials.** [Click here to join either webinar below.](#) Registration is NOT required.

- February 4th – Communication & Alert Notification
- February 18th – Hazards & Risk Assessment Overview



Emergency Management Training – Registration on [SERT TRAC](#).

- MGT341 Disaster Preparedness for Hospitals & Healthcare Organizations within the Community Infrastructure, Wednesday, Feb 18, 2026 - Thursday, Feb 19, 2026 at Sumter Emergency Operations Center. [Register Here](#)
- L-146 HSEEP: Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program Training Course, Monday, Feb 09, 2026 - Tuesday, Feb 10, 2026 at Hernando County EOC. [Register Here](#)
- G-300 post 5/10/2019 Intermediate Incident Command System for Expanding Incidents, Tuesday, Feb 17, 2026 - Thursday, Feb 19, 2026 at Hernando County EOC. [Register Here](#)
- G-400 post 5/10/19 Advanced ICS Command & General Staff
  - ⇒ Thursday, Feb 05, 2026 - Friday, Feb 06, 2026 at Innovation Center Building I (Pasco). [Register Here](#)
  - ⇒ Tuesday, Feb 24, 2026 - Wednesday, Feb 25, 2026 at Hernando County EOC. [Register Here](#)

----- Register Now for the 2026 TBHMPC Mass Casualty Exercise -----

**Thursday, April 9th, 2026**

This year's annual mass casualty exercise will be held in conjunction with the Central Florida Disaster Medical Coalition (in the Orlando Region) on **Thursday, April 9<sup>th</sup> from 9am – 12pm.** You can REGISTER for this exercise by completing this survey - <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/6B58PRW> - by Friday, February 14th.

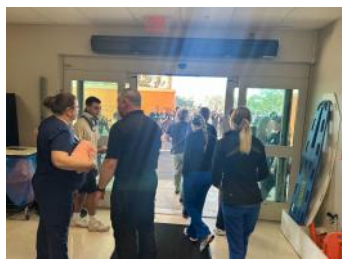
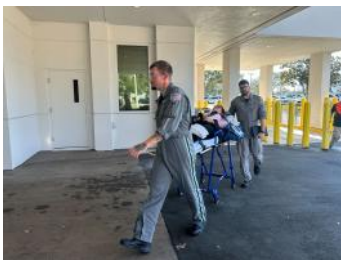
(Any healthcare professional educational programs interested in their students volunteering, please reach out to [Hunter.Zager@TampaBayHMPC.org](mailto:Hunter.Zager@TampaBayHMPC.org).)



## Coalition Highlights

### Manatee County Operation Studio Strength Mass Casualty Exercise

During this exercise, participants engaged in hands-on activities that required rapid triage, patient transport, and collaboration across agencies. The simulation aimed to identify strengths and areas for improvement in both field operations and command center coordination. Debrief sessions were held after the exercise to review performance, discuss lessons learned, and refine strategies for future real-world events. Thank you to all participating hospitals, student volunteers, and evaluators!



## Coalition Highlights, Continued...

The CTOS—Center for Radiological/Nuclear Training—delivered PER-370, Detecting Radiological Contamination for Hospital First Receivers, training to TBHMPC members and partners over the course of three days at multiple regional locations.

This course is designed to enhance participants' understanding of EMS response to radiological and nuclear accidents, as well as incidents involving Radiological/Nuclear Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD). It further equips providers with advanced response knowledge related to radiological and nuclear threats, appropriate protective measures for both patients and caregivers, and fundamental post-incident recovery procedures.



**We want to hear from you!** If you would like to share a highlight or from your organization in a future Coalition newsletter or publication, please email it to Turea at [TBHMPC2@gmail.com](mailto:TBHMPC2@gmail.com).