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News Release: Local Responder Attends Homeland Security Training



Emergency Response Coordinator, Heidi Hostert, from North Central District Health Department, recently completed the Strategic National Stockpile course offered by the Center for Domestic Preparedness (CDP), in Anniston, Alabama. The CDP is operated by the United States Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency and is the only federally-chartered Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) training facility in the nation.

Hostert is a part of the public health emergency preparedness and response efforts for North Central Nebraska. Her training at the CDP focused on how to plan for and utilize the Strategic National Stockpile in response to a biological terrorist attack, natural disaster, or technological



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accident. Additionally, the course included hands on activities that focused on how to dispense medications in a disaster.

The CDP develops and delivers training for emergency response providers, emergency managers, and other government officials from state, local, and tribal governments. The CDP offers more than 40 training courses focusing on incident management, mass casualty response, and emergency response to a catastrophic natural disaster or terrorist act. Training at the CDP campus is federally funded at no cost to state, local, and tribal emergency response professionals or their agency.

Resident training at the CDP includes healthcare and public health courses at the Noble Training Facility, the nation's only hospital dedicated to training healthcare professionals in disaster preparedness and response. A number of resident training courses culminate at the CDP's Chemical, Ordnance, Biological and Radiological (COBRA) Training Facility. The COBRA Training Facility is the nation's only facility featuring civilian training exercises in a true toxic environment using chemical agents.

"The advanced hands-on training enables responders to effectively prevent, respond to, and recover from real-world incidents involving acts of terrorism and other hazardous materials," officials said. "Responders participating in CDP training gain critical skills and confidence to respond effectively to local incidents or potential WMD events."

For more information about local public health emergency preparedness call the North Central District Health Department at 1-877-336-2406. The *North Central District Health Department* serves Antelope, Boyd, Brown, Cherry, Holt, Keya Paha, Knox, Pierce, and Rock Counties.

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