**Regional Emergency Coordinators**

Regional Emergency Coordinators (RECs) serve as ASPR’s primary representatives throughout the country at the regional level. Building relationships with federal, state, local, tribal and territorial officials and healthcare representatives (partners and stakeholders) in order to conduct planning for effective federal emergency response, and to facilitate coordinated preparedness and response activities for public health and medical emergencies, is the main role of the RECs.

ASPR’s Regional Emergency Coordinators (RECs) work closely with state, local, territorial and tribal health officials in each of the country’s 10 disaster planning regions to develop high levels of emergency preparedness and to coordinate disaster response activities. The RECs monitor public health threats in their region and inform the HHS Secretary’s Operations Center (SOC) of any potential or actual threats so the SOC can deploy national public health and medical response teams as needed.

The RECs also train medical professionals in their region who have agreed to assist in a disaster as members of HHS’ National Disaster Medical System (NDMS). When a disaster occurs in their region, the RECs lead the Incident Response Coordination Teams, comprised of the NDMS members and Federal public health staff, who act as the first responders to the incident. These teams are frequently deployed to assist outside their home regions, as well.

Since the RECs were established in 2005, they have engaged in numerous emergency preparedness activities with their regional partners and have responded to disasters both within and outside their region. Each region is unique and faces different threats and challenges.

For more information on the RECs, please visit:

<http://www.phe.gov/preparedness/responders/rec/Pages/default.aspx>

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