



Community Preparedness

The Scott County Health Department's (SCHD) Public Health Preparedness program is responsible for all the planning activities that allow for a safe and prepared community. Operating through a grant from the Iowa Department of Public Health, Public Health Preparedness' role is to develop plans and ideas to help protect the community against threats such as pandemic influenza, biological or chemical agent, and natural disasters. Public Health Preparedness staff actively work with other community agencies to work towards good communication and the sharing of resources.



Mass Dispensing Drill at River Center

participates in several exercises and/or drills with community partners. This allows participants to familiarize themselves with the resources and people that are currently available in our community. For example, the Rock Island Arsenal holds an annual drill to deal with a mass casualty event on the installation in which the Health Department participates. Several police, fire EMS, hospitals, sheriff, and other local partners, practice together for possible future community emergencies. The SCHD also works closely with the Exelon Nuclear Power Plant in Cordova, and holds an exercise every two years. In this case, the Scott County Emergency Operations Center is open, and the Emergency Alert System (EAS) is activated to practice how messages would be sent to the public at large during a catastrophic event due to a radiological leak. In addition, the drill is evaluated by FEMA to ensure proper measures are being taken to protect the surrounding communities.

have been in the news, and this is an emergency that local law enforcement, community partners, hospitals, colleges and schools have been preparing and exercising for the past couple of years. Although every circumstance is different, it will only help to learn from the tragedies in recent years and try to prevent future casualties among our youth.

The Health Department also holds its own internal drills, annually, to exercise staff's roles during a public health emergency. The SCHD takes public health preparedness very seriously, and we want our community to know that we already have plans in place, and that we only have the public's safety in mind when planning and exercising for future public health emergencies.



SCHD Staff Practicing Setting Up an Emergency Shelter

Drills and Exercises

Each year, the Health Department

Current Events

Lately, active shooter occurrences

Prepare at Home

The Scott County Health Department would like to help prepare you to take care of yourself and your family during a natural disaster or an emergency. One simple step you can take now is to stock supplies for an extended stay at home. During an emergency, if you cannot get to a store or if stores are out of supplies, it will be important for you to have extra supplies on hand. While no one can prevent an emergency from happening, all levels of government, communities, individuals and families need to work together to take steps to prepare for an emergency and minimize its impact. Take the first step by creating a kit or family supply list. Take the next step by making a plan, including a family communications plan, a get-away plan, and even a pet plan.

Click on the link below to learn more about getting you and your family prepared:

<http://www.scottcountyiowa.com/health/preparedness.php>



**SCOTT COUNTY
HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

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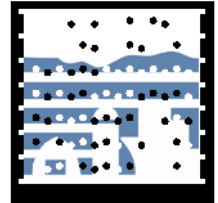
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MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

- *Scott County Health Department will be closed on Monday, January 21, 2013 in observance of Martin Luther King Day.*
- *The regularly scheduled Scott County Board of Health Meeting has been cancelled for January.*

OUR MISSION:

The Scott County Health Department is committed to promoting, protecting and preserving the health of the community by providing leadership and direction as advocates for the individual, the family, the community and the environment we serve.

OUR VISION:

As recognized and respected leaders in serving and protecting our citizens, we at the Scott County Health Department are committed to a safer, healthier community and environment. In so doing, we provide a multitude of services with Professionalism, Responsiveness, Involvement, Dedication, and Excellence.



If you would like to receive this newsletter electronically, please subscribe to the Public Health Connection at www.scottcountyowa.com/health/connection or e-mail health@scottcountyowa.com or call 563-326-8618.



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.