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## **REDLANDS HOSPITAL NURSE ATTENDS HOMELAND SECURITY TRAINING**

### **Local Hospital Employee Selected from Nation's Emergency Responders**

**REDLANDS, CA-** Robert M. Tyson, a nurse liaison for Redlands Community Hospital, recently completed Homeland Security training at the Center for Domestic Preparedness (CDP), located in Anniston, Alabama. Tyson is a volunteer Emergency Responder to the agency.

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.

"The networking at the training was invaluable," says Tyson, who works with the Redlands area emergency teams such as paramedics and firefighters. "Our team met emergency responders from Cedar Rapids, Iowa and they had to evacuate entire hospital during the floods last year. We learned dos and don'ts from individuals who are now rebuilding their community."

Responders attending CDP training are selected from the nation's 11 million emergency responders. Training at the CDP ensures that responders gain critical skills and confidence to be better prepared to to effectively respond to local incidence and potential WMD incidents.

"The training taught our team that there is work to be done and we're on the right track at Redlands Community Hospital," adds Tyson. "We're moving forward and we're doing everything we can in order to stay on top of things."

Tyson attended the training with several other Redlands Community Hospital employees including Steve Denning, emergency department manager, Dan Vanderkallen emergency department charge nurse, Cherie Waddel, house supervisor, and Deanna Stover, community outreach coordinator. They participated in some of the many training courses that culminate at the CDP's Chemical, Ordnance, Biological and Radiological Training Facility, the nation's only facility featuring civilian training exercises in a true toxic environment, using chemical agents. Tyson received advanced hands-on training that enables responders to effectively prevent, respond to, and recover from real-world incidents involving acts of terrorism and other hazardous materials.

The CDC Provides federally –funded, interdisciplinary training for emergency responders from across the United States and U.S. Territories, for ten responder disciplines: Emergency Management, Emergency Medical Service, Fire Service, Governmental Administrative,

Hazardous Materials, Healthcare, Law Enforcement, Public Health, Public Safety  
Communications, and Public Works.

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