

MEDIA ADVISORY

For Immediate Release:
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North Dakota Emergency Preparedness & Response Mass Fatality Drill

Bismarck, N.D. – The Emergency Preparedness and Response (EPR) section of the North Dakota Department of Health (NDDoH) will hold a news conference to highlight the development of a new emergency team, titled the North Dakota Disaster Fatality Team (DFT). The DFT team is participating in an intensive training exercise this week. In the event of a true disaster, the DFT would be responsible for the collection of human remains, decontamination of human remains and the establishment of a family assistance center. The DFR consists of over 60 individuals from various disciplines including emergency responders, law enforcement, public health and forensic professionals.

A press conference will be held Thursday, May 4, at 10:30 a.m. in the EPR building located at 1720 Burlington Dr. in Bismarck. Members of the media are encouraged to arrive early for check-in and to set up their equipment.

The following speakers will participate in the news conference:

- Mike Nathe, North Dakota Representative
- Tim Wiedrich, North Dakota Emergency Preparedness and Response Section Chief
- Russ Korzeniewski, North Dakota Human Services Risk Manager
- Lance Peterson, Federal Disaster Mortuary Operations

Members of the media may attend the news conference in person, or connect to the news conference by dialing 855.361.4591. If you have trouble connecting, call the NDDoH at 701.328.2378. B-roll (1080 HD), fact sheets and other information will be made available to participants. One-on-one interviews will be accommodated by request.

For more information about the event, contact Jennifer Skjod, North Dakota Department of Health, at 701.220.7852.

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Please note: To access archived news releases and other information, visit the North Dakota Department of Health Press Room at <https://health.nd.gov/news-media/news-release>.