MEMORANDUM

TO: EM Branch Managers
   Area EM Coordinators
   EMS Systems/Providers
   Regional Advisory Councils (RACs)

FROM: Drexdal Pratt, Chief
       Office of Emergency Medical Services

SUBJECT: State Medical Assistant Teams (SMAT) II & III Public Meetings

DATE: May 1, 2003

The North Carolina Office of Emergency Medical Services (EMS) in conjunction with the North Carolina Office of Public Health Preparedness & Response (PHP&R), the North Carolina Division of Emergency Management (NCDEM) and the Special Operations Response Team (SORT) have collaborated to develop a tiered State Medical Response System (SMRS) for bioterrorism response. We have joined efforts to assess, plan and implement a system to strengthen readiness and response at state, regional and local levels.

The purpose of this effort is to upgrade the preparedness of North Carolina’s hospitals and health care systems in collaboration with state and local public health and emergency care providers in order to respond to any bioterrorist event or disaster. A prime focus of the SMRS plan is to exercise a Comprehensive Public Health Response Plan. We have identified SORT as a Type I (State Level) response team. Type I initiatives include the expansion of existing medical equipment and personnel of SORT which allow them to have equipment and personnel in North Carolina.

Each county and hospital in North Carolina is currently included in at least one of the seven Regional Advisory Committees (RACs). Type II (Regional Level) response will involve the delivery of “mobile” packages to each of the seven lead hospitals within the RACs. The Type II response plan will provide an equipment inventory consisting of personal protective equipment, decontamination materials, medications, etc. In addition, each lead RAC hospitals will identify a medical augmentation team to respond for short term to an incident with their respective mobile package, without taxing the medical resources within that facility.
Type III (Local Level) response employs another element of the SMRS and will consist of prehospital disaster teams, including both Basic Life Support (BLS) and Advanced Life Support (ALS) personnel. This effort will involve the purchase and distribution of “mobile packages” equipped with personal protective equipment (PPE), decontamination equipment and medications. These packages will be distributed to counties meeting the eligibility requirements.

Although the identification and distribution of the necessary medical and decontamination materials, medications and personnel have been addressed, the SMRS plan is in the developmental phase, we are coordinating our efforts to develop and train medical response teams at all levels, and provide training exercises to critique our existing resources. Moreover, the need to develop response and contingency plans remains essential.

To provide you with an overview of the SMRS plan and discuss the allocation process of the SMAT II & III teams the following meetings have been scheduled.

- **Monday, May 19, 2003**
  - High Tech Center
  - 10:00 am - 12:00 noon
  - Old Ashville Rd, Exit 27, Waynesville, NC

- **Tuesday, May 20, 2003**
  - Piedmont Community College
  - 10:00 am - 12:00 noon
  - Building D-101 Auditorium, College St., Roxboro, NC

- **Tuesday, May 20, 2003**
  - Beaufort Community College
  - 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm
  - Auditorium, Building 8, 5337 US 264 East, Washington, NC

- **Thursday, May 22, 2003**
  - Catawba EMS (Newton EMS Base)
  - 10:00 am - 12:00 noon
  - Agricultural Building, Agricultural Resource Room
  - 321 S. Brady Avenue, Newton, NC

- **Thursday, May 22, 2003**
  - James Sprunt Community College
  - 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm
  - Boyette Bldg. Room 113, Kenansville, NC

- **Friday, May 23, 2003**
  - Moore County Agricultural Building
  - 10:00 am - 12:00 noon
  - Conference Room
  - Moore County Office Park
  - Pinehurst Avenue, Carthage, NC

We welcome the opportunity to discuss the proposed plan and look forward to your input throughout the process. Should you have questions, please feel free to contact me.

**CC:**
- OEMS Staff
- Ken Taylor, Ph.D
- Doug Hoell
- Darlene Johnson
- Kathy Heilig, R.N.