

You Can't Use What You Don't Know- Field Days That Build Coalition Capability

Situation

The Knox/East Tennessee Healthcare Coalition (KETHC) supports a diverse region that includes hospitals, CMS 17 healthcare facilities, emergency responders, emergency management, local government, and volunteer organizations. While many response assets exist across the region, partners often lacked awareness of what resources were



available, how they were deployed, or how they integrated into incident operations. Staff turnover limited cross-sector training, and reliance on written plans and asset lists created gaps in operational knowledge. These gaps were often identified during incidents or exercises—when time and clarity mattered most.



Intervention

KETHC implemented **Field Day “Show and Tell” events** to transform asset inventories into shared operational understanding. These hands-on events brought together: Healthcare Coalition (HCC) members, CMS 17 facilities (LTC, ALCF, dialysis, home health, hospice, outpatient clinics), Emergency responders (EMS, fire, law enforcement), Public Health, 911

dispatchers, City and county government officials, Emergency Management Agencies (EMA), Amateur radio organizations, State Guard personnel, and members of the public. Coalition-owned assets were displayed alongside EMA, EMS, fire, law enforcement, communications, and medical resources. Subject matter experts explained activation, deployment, capabilities, limitations, and integration into ESF-8 operations, allowing participants to see how resources work together during response.



Impact

Seeing assets in action builds confidence, coordination, and capability. KETHC Field Days ensure partners do not just know what resources exist, but understand

how to request, deploy, and integrate them when it matters most. These events strengthen the Healthcare Coalition by improving awareness of coalition assets and request processes, increasing engagement from CMS 17 and other non-traditional healthcare partners, and building confidence in coalition support during emergencies. Field Days also strengthen the response community by improving

coordination among healthcare, EMS, fire, law enforcement, and 911, enabling faster and more appropriate resource requests during incidents and exercises, and building strong interagency relationships before disasters occur. City and county governments benefit from increased visibility into healthcare and response capabilities, improved alignment between policy leaders and operational partners, and reinforced support for preparedness and coalition activities.

Collectively, KETHC Field Days support Healthcare Preparedness Program (HPP) requirements by enhancing HCC partner engagement, strengthening medical surge and response coordination, improving information sharing and resource awareness, and supporting training, exercises, and capability development.

