

# BROWARD COUNTY HEALTHCARE COALITION QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER MARCH 2026



## UPDATES

### General Body Meetings

- March 25, 2026
- April 22, 2026
- May 27, 2026

### Training, Exercise, and Education Committee Meetings (Virtual)

- March 23, 2026
- May 18, 2026

## DELIVERABLES

- Cybersecurity Assessment
- HCC Response Plan Updates
- HCC COOP Plan Updates
- HCC Recovery Plan  
Development

## EVENTS

- March 23<sup>rd</sup> 1PM – 3PM  
Extended Downtime Operations  
Webinar via Zoom
- April 2, 2026 9AM – 11AM  
Extended Downtime Operations  
Webinar via Zoom
- April 29, 2026: Operation Critical  
Click – Extended Downtime TTX
- L0984 Task Force – Strike  
Team Leader Course April 15-  
17, 2026.
- Advanced Burn Life Support at  
First There First Care - June 4,  
2026

## IMPORTANT UPDATES



### The Florida 15 'Til 50 Collaborative – From Concept to Competency

The Broward County Healthcare Coalition recently hosted a presentation on the “**15 'til 50**” **Mass Casualty Incident (MCI) Response Strategy**, led by Terry Schenk from the Florida Department of Health. The strategy is designed to help hospitals rapidly prepare to receive **50 or more patients within 15 minutes of notification of a mass casualty incident**, improving surge readiness and coordinated response.

The presentation highlighted lessons from past incidents, like clear communication, defined roles, supplies, and disaster plans. It also noted that up to 80% of patients may self-transport to the nearest hospital, so all facilities must be prepared for sudden surges in patients.

The “15 'til 50” model focuses on **rapid staff deployment, activation of Hospital Incident Command, and role-based training** to streamline hospital response during emergencies. Hospitals participating in the program complete training, hands-on setup, and exercises to test their ability to quickly receive a large number of patients.

The initiative is being implemented across Florida healthcare coalitions and hospitals and continues to grow as a **best practice for improving hospital surge capacity and mass casualty preparedness statewide**.

[15-till-50 MCI Toolkit](#)

[Broward 15til50 Presentation.pdf](#)

**National Poison Prevention Week (March 15–21)** is a national observance dedicated to raising awareness about poison safety and prevention. Established by Congress in 1961, the week encourages communities to learn how to prevent accidental poisonings and respond quickly if an exposure occurs. The 2026 theme, “*When the unexpected happens, Poison Help is here for you,*” highlights the importance of having the **Poison Help hotline (1-800-222-1222)** readily available. Poison Control Centers provide free, 24/7 expert guidance on exposures involving medications, household chemicals, insect bites, food poisoning, and more. Individuals are encouraged to save the hotline number in their phones and share poison prevention information within their communities.



### Ways to Help Raise Awareness

- **Be Prepared:** Save the **Poison Help number (1-800-222-1222)** in your phone so it is easily accessible in case of an emergency.
- **Spread Awareness:** Share poison prevention information within your organization or community using the [Poison Prevention Partner Toolkit](#), available in **English and Spanish**.



# QUARTERLY HIGHLIGHTS

In conjunction with **Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport**, the coalition participated in **Operation Night Owl** to conduct a **Medical Response and Surge Exercise (MRSE)**. This successful **full-scale exercise** simulated a **Level 4 Mass Casualty Incident** at the airport and involved **over 150 live victims**, with **10 hospitals participating** alongside numerous **local and federal response partners**.



Health and Medical partners played a critical role in coordinating **patient distribution, communication, and hospital surge operations**. The exercise also served to test key **coalition capabilities**, including coordination, situational awareness, medical surge capacity, resource sharing, and communication between pre-hospital providers and healthcare facilities. Through its role in the **planning, organization, and coordination** of the drill, the coalition helped evaluate the healthcare system's ability to effectively manage a large-scale incident and strengthen preparedness across Broward County.

Exercise Briefings



Victim Being Moulaged



Exercise Field - FLL Airport Tarmac



Victim Staged Awaiting Triage



EMS Triage / Transport



Victim Being Treated at Hospital



## QUARTERLY HIGHLIGHTS

The Broward County Healthcare Coalition proudly presented **Lifetime Achievement Awards** to **Retired Chief Julie Downey**, **Past Chair Jaime Caldwell**, and **Chief Jeff Levy** in recognition of their many years of dedicated service and support to the coalition and the healthcare preparedness community. All have made significant and lasting contributions to the Broward County Healthcare Coalition and the broader healthcare preparedness community. Their leadership, commitment, and passion for service have helped build a stronger and more resilient healthcare response network for the residents and visitors of Broward County.

**Retired Chief Julie Downey** was honored for her leadership in strengthening regional collaboration for Mass Casualty Incident (MCI) and coordinated medical response across Broward County. Her commitment to bringing together healthcare, public safety, emergency management, and public health partners significantly enhanced the county's ability to coordinate effective medical response during large-scale incidents.

**Past Chair, Jaime Caldwell** was recognized for her outstanding leadership and commitment to the coalition during her tenure as Chair. Her guidance helped strengthen partnerships, support member engagement, and advance initiatives that continue to improve healthcare preparedness and response throughout Broward County.

**Chief Jeff Levy** was recognized for his instrumental support in strengthening communication and coordination between pre-hospital providers and hospitals, helping to enhance mutual aid and collaboration during emergency response and patient distribution efforts.



Current Chair, Vito Labriola presents award to Past Chair, Jaime Caldwell at the General Body Meeting.



Retired Chief Julie Downey receives an award presented by Board Members Jamie Waskowiak, Khaulah Brice, and Terri Sudden during the General Body Meeting.



Chief Jeff Levy and his wife pictured together as he receives his award at the Holiday Gala.

## QUARTERLY HIGHLIGHTS

The **Above and Beyond Award** recognizes individuals or organizations within the healthcare coalition who demonstrate exceptional commitment, leadership, and contributions that exceed normal expectations in support of coalition initiatives. The purpose is to acknowledge members who go beyond their routine roles to strengthen collaboration, enhance emergency preparedness, and support coalition activities within the community. It highlights efforts that significantly improve coordination, partnerships, and the overall mission of the healthcare coalition.

The Broward County Healthcare Coalition proudly presented **Kamal King** the **Above and Beyond Award** in recognition of his outstanding contributions and representation of the Broward Health Care Coalition. He was one of the few BCHC Board members who participated in the Florida Health Care Association (FHCA) Emergency Preparedness Roundtable held in June for South Florida in collaboration with AHCA. His participation helped elevate the visibility of BCHC and demonstrated the coalition's commitment to strengthening partnerships with long-term care providers across the county.



Kamal King pictured receiving the Above and Beyond Award at the BCHC Holiday Gala.



The coalition extends its sincere appreciation to all members for their continued support and active participation in coalition initiatives, meetings, trainings, and exercises. Your engagement plays a vital role in strengthening coordination and preparedness across the healthcare community. The coalition looks forward to continued partnership and participation in upcoming activities that support healthcare system resilience throughout Broward County.

# TRAINING AND EXERCISE

## Upcoming Exercises:

### Operation Critical Click – Extended Downtime TTX – April 29, 2026

- **8:30AM – 12:00PM**
- [REGISTER HERE](#)
- LOCATION: Plantation Fire Rescue

## Upcoming Virtual Trainings:

1. **Extended Downtime for Healthcare Facilities (ALL CLEAR) \*VIRTUAL Instructor-led**
  - March 23, 2026 1PM – 3PM  
[https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_D1gbgq9VR3aiKf4kgBlz5w](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_D1gbgq9VR3aiKf4kgBlz5w)
  - April 2, 2026 9AM – 11AM  
[https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_rJzBmqYjQLGx8f6H\\_hisjg](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_rJzBmqYjQLGx8f6H_hisjg)
2. **FDOH Broward FSE March 11.** Tree Tops Park in Davie FL. 8AM – 12 PM. The exercise will involve 110 employees, and we are still registering volunteers. Palm Beach County and Dade County will also be conducting their own exercises.

## In person Instructor led courses:

3. **RESCHEDULED COURSE - L0984 Task Force-Strike Team Leader Course**  
- TENTATIVE DATES: April 15/16/17, 2026
4. **Advanced Burn Life Support** – June 4, 2026 at the Broward County Convention Center
5. **Whole Community Emergency Management Planning (AWR-330)** – 6/22/2026 \*\*Need a host location.
6. **Flooding Hazards: Science & Preparedness (AWR-362)** – 7/13/2026
7. **Community Planning for Disaster Recovery (AWR-356)** – 8/10/2026
8. **Medical Management of CBRNE Events (PER-211)** – 8/31/2026 – 9/1/2026
9. **Training from the Center for Domestic Preparedness for Florida HCCs**

## Regional Emergency Management Trainings: [Region 7 Trainings SERT Trac](#)

## No-Cost Tabletop Exercises for County and Public Sector Entities

The State of Florida, through Cyber Florida, is sponsoring no-cost tabletop exercises (TTXs) for county and public sector entities. USF MUMA, funded by the state, will host these exercises at your location. USF MUMA plans to deliver a minimum of five 2.5–3-hour exercises, covering contemporary threats such as: AI-adaptive DDoS attacks, Phishing attacks, Ransomware incidents, Social engineering campaigns, and Supply chain compromises. Exercises can be conducted online or in-person, starting with pilots in the Tampa Bay area. Benefits include identifying vulnerabilities before real incidents, strengthening communication and coordination, and enhancing Florida's overall cybersecurity posture. Interested entities should contact Dr. Varol Kayhan [vkayhan@usf.edu](mailto:vkayhan@usf.edu), Professor Bhuvan [bunhelkar@usf.edu](mailto:bunhelkar@usf.edu), and Sarah Bon [sarahb15@usf.edu](mailto:sarahb15@usf.edu)

# County-Wide Exercise

## Operation Critical Click

Join healthcare and response partners from across Broward County for a collaborative tabletop exercise designed to strengthen coordination and operational continuity during a prolonged system disruption.

Registration Deadline: **April 20, 2026**

### OPERATION **CRITICAL CLICK**

Join healthcare and response partners from across Broward County for a collaborative tabletop exercise designed to strengthen coordination and operational continuity during a prolonged system disruption.



**April 29, 2026**



**8:00 Registration  
9:00AM-12:00PM**



**Location: Plantation Fire Rescue  
550 NW 65<sup>th</sup> Ave. Plantation, FL**

**REGISTER NOW**



[rclark@bchcoalition.com](mailto:rclark@bchcoalition.com)

**Broward County**  
Healthcare Coalition