

BROWARD COUNTY HEALTHCARE COALITION

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2026



UPDATES

General Body Meetings

- June 24, 2026
- July 22, 2026
- August 26, 2026

Training, Exercise, and Education Committee Meetings (Virtual)

- July 20, 2026
- September 21, 2026

DELIVERABLES

- All Deliverables have been submitted for FY 2025 – 2026 (July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026.)
- Contract Deliverables for FY 2026 – 2027 will begin July 1, 2026.

EVENTS

- **Trauma Nursing Core Course (TNCC)** - 06/24/2026 - 06/25/2026
8:00AM - 5:00PM // **Waitlist**
- **Flooding Hazards: Science & Preparedness (AWR-362)** –
7/13/2026 - SEE FLYER
- **Emergency Nurse Review Course**
- 07/15/2026 - 07/16/2026 8:00AM - 5:00PM - // **Waitlist**
- **Community Planning for Disaster Recovery (AWR-356)** – 8/10/2026
- SEE FLYER
- **Medical Management of CBRNE Events (PER-211)** - Aug 31, 2026 - Sept 1, 2026 - SEE FLYER
- **Hurricane Awareness (AWR 343)**
8/18/2026- 8/19/2026 2PM - 6PM EST (8 hour course, 4 hours each day) REGISTER
>> <https://ndptc.hawaii.edu/training/delivery/4191/>

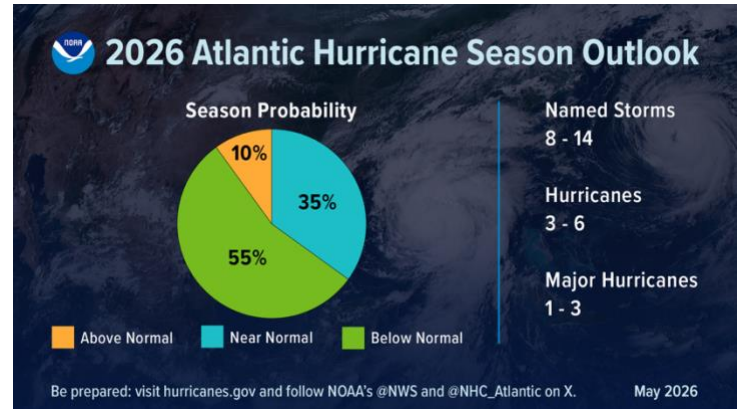
IMPORTANT UPDATES



NOAA 2026 Atlantic Hurricane Season

The forecasters from NOAA's National Weather Service anticipate a below-average hurricane season in the Atlantic for the year 2026. The forecast, covering the period from June 1 to November 30, indicates a 35% probability of a near-normal season, a 10% probability of an above-normal season, and a 55% probability of a below-normal season. Further details can be accessed [here](#).

While seasonal forecasts provide valuable guidance, it is important to remember that even below-average hurricane seasons can produce significant storms with major impacts. Just one landfalling hurricane can result in widespread damage, disruptions to healthcare operations, and increased demand for emergency services. BCHC urges members to keep reviewing emergency operation plans, verify communication procedures, evaluate resource needs, and confirm staff readiness. Staying prepared during hurricane season is crucial to safeguard patients, staff, and healthcare facilities across Broward County.



Maintaining the Emergency Contact Book: Why Accuracy Matters

The BCHC Emergency Contact Book is one of the most important tools used during emergencies, disasters, and other incidents requiring rapid communication and coordination. It serves as a critical resource for reaching key personnel, organizational leadership, emergency management contacts, and partner agencies when time-sensitive information must be shared.

To ensure the Contact Book remains effective, all member organizations are encouraged to regularly review and update their contact information. Changes in personnel, phone numbers, email addresses, job titles, or emergency points of contact can quickly make information outdated and hinder response efforts when communication is needed most.

Coalition members are encouraged to review their organization's information routinely and submit updates as soon as changes occur. Remember, the Contact Book is only as effective as the information it contains. Maintaining accurate contact information is a shared responsibility that helps ensure our collective readiness and ability to respond when it matters most.

Link to most recent contact book is [here](#).



Broward County Healthcare Coalition

Emergency Contact Book

July 2026

IMPORTANT UPDATES

Ebola Update: Maintaining Preparedness Through Vigilance and Coordination

Recent Ebola outbreaks in Central and East Africa serve as a reminder of the importance of healthcare preparedness. While the risk to the U.S. public remains low, healthcare facilities should remain vigilant and review the **Identify, Isolate, Inform** framework:

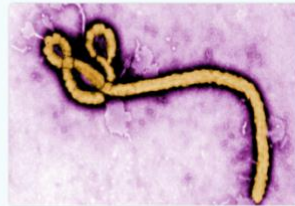
- **Identify** patients with compatible symptoms and relevant travel history.
- **Isolate** suspected cases using appropriate infection control measures.
- **Inform** infection prevention staff, leadership, and public health authorities..

For the latest Ebola guidance and updates, members should continue to monitor communications from the Florida Department of Health and the CDC.

- [Florida Department of Health – Ebola Virus Disease \(EVD\)](#)
- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\) – Ebola](#)
- [CDC Current Ebola Situation Updates](#)

KEY POINTS

- Ebola disease is caused by an infection with an orthoebolavirus.
- Orthoebolaviruses are found primarily in sub-Saharan Africa.
- Orthoebolaviruses can cause serious and often deadly disease, with a mortality rate as high as 80-90%.
- Ebola does NOT spread the same way as respiratory viruses like flu and COVID. You cannot get it from being near someone.



QUARTERLY HIGHLIGHTS

Turning Lessons Learned into Action

Following the recent **Operation Night Owl** exercise, BCHC reviewed the After-Action Report and Improvement Plan to identify opportunities for enhancing regional preparedness. One area identified was the limited participation of trauma-focused hospital personnel, highlighting an opportunity to strengthen trauma and emergency nursing capabilities across Broward County.

In response, BCHC will be hosting the **Trauma Nursing Core Course (TNCC)** and an **Emergency Nursing (EN) Course** for coalition members. These trainings will support the development of specialized clinical skills, improve coordination among healthcare partners, and enhance the region's ability to respond to trauma-related incidents and mass casualty events.

By transforming lessons learned into actionable training opportunities, BCHC continues to strengthen healthcare preparedness and foster a more resilient healthcare system throughout Broward County.



QUARTERLY HIGHLIGHTS

BCHC Strengthens Healthcare Preparedness Through Education, Collaboration, and Community Engagement at the First There First Care Conference

The Broward County Healthcare Coalition (BCHC) continues to advance healthcare preparedness by supporting educational opportunities that strengthen response capabilities, enhance clinical competencies, and foster collaboration across the healthcare continuum.



Recently, BCHC sponsored coalition member participation in the **K2 Nursing Competition, Emergency Nursing Symposium, and Advanced Burn Life Support (ABLS) Course** hosted during the First There First Care Conference. These events provided healthcare professionals with opportunities to enhance clinical knowledge, critical thinking, teamwork, and emergency response skills while promoting the exchange of best practices and lessons learned.

The **Advanced Burn Life Support Course**, developed by the American Burn Association, provides specialized training in the assessment and initial management of burn patients during the critical first 24 hours following injury. Through a combination of didactic instruction and hands-on learning, participants gained valuable knowledge and skills to improve the recognition, stabilization, and transfer of burn patients, strengthening regional capabilities to manage burn injuries and other complex patient care scenarios.

The **Emergency Nursing Symposium** featured expert-led presentations on several critical topics impacting emergency care, disaster response, and patient outcomes. Educational sessions explored the increasing incidence of **stroke in younger populations**, highlighting the importance of early recognition, rapid intervention, and public awareness to improve outcomes in this emerging patient population.

Additional presentations focused on the recognition and treatment of **heat exhaustion and exertional heat illness in young athletes**, emphasizing evidence-based assessment, cooling strategies, and prevention measures to reduce morbidity and mortality. Attendees also examined the unique challenges associated with **Perineal Hydrostatic Jetstream Injuries**, a rare but severe form of trauma that requires prompt recognition and specialized management to optimize patient outcomes. The symposium provided attendees with valuable insights into emerging clinical trends, evidence-based practices, and real-world case studies presented by experienced healthcare professionals.

The **K2 Nursing Competition** provided a unique opportunity for nurses to showcase and strengthen their clinical expertise in a fast-paced, team-based environment. The competition brought together **8 teams from across Florida's Region 7**, challenging participants with realistic patient care scenarios that required critical thinking, effective communication, rapid decision-making, and collaboration under pressure.

Designed to simulate the complexities of emergency and acute care settings, the competition allowed participants to apply evidence-based practices while demonstrating clinical judgment, leadership, and teamwork. Beyond the competitive aspect, the event fostered professional development and interdisciplinary learning by encouraging participants to share knowledge, exchange best practices, and learn from peers across the healthcare community. The competition highlighted the vital role nurses play in emergency preparedness and response while strengthening partnerships among healthcare organizations throughout the region. Through hands-on experience and collaborative problem-solving, participants enhanced skills that can be directly applied during routine operations, emergency incidents, and disaster response efforts.



Nurse treating victim suffering from severe burns.



Competition team treating a victims simultaneously.



Nurse assessing victim during competition.



Nurse performing CPR on victim.



Nurse assessing victim during competition.



All judges, actors, and BCHC Staff

A key benefit of these events was the opportunity to bridge the gap between pre-hospital and hospital partners. By bringing together emergency medical services, hospitals, healthcare coalition, nurses, physicians, and other response stakeholders, participants strengthened relationships and gained a better understanding of each partner's role during emergencies. These connections help improve communication, coordination, and patient care throughout the continuum of care. In addition to sponsoring member attendance, BCHC hosted a vendor exhibit space during the conference to increase awareness of the coalition's mission, programs, and preparedness initiatives. The exhibit provided valuable opportunities to engage with



healthcare professionals, emergency responders, and community partners while increasing the coalition's visibility within Broward County's healthcare community. The vendor space also served as a platform to highlight coalition resources, training opportunities, and the importance of regional collaboration in healthcare emergency preparedness.

Through educational sponsorships, specialized training opportunities, and outreach efforts, BCHC remains committed to building a prepared, coordinated, and resilient healthcare system capable of effectively responding to emergencies and disasters throughout Broward County.





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:

Upcoming Virtual Trainings:

1. **Extended Downtime for Healthcare Facilities (ALL CLEAR)** *VIRTUAL Instructor-led
June 16, 2026 10:00AM – 12:00PM >> [REGISTER HERE](#)

In person Instructor led courses:

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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, Professor Bhuvan bunhelkar@usf.edu, and Sarah Bon sarahb15@usf.edu