



MEDIA ADVISORY
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Kane County successfully completes emergency drill

Today Kane County successfully completed a regional emergency exercise that tested the county's ability to respond to a potential terrorist attack that would require dispensing medicines to residents who were "exposed" to aerosolized anthrax.

"We hope and pray we never have to use our training, but it is essential that we are prepared if we ever do," Kane County Board Chairman Karen McConnaughay said.

The Kane County Health Department, Kane County Office of Emergency Management, the Kane County Sheriff's Office, the villages of South Elgin and West Dundee and the city of Aurora, the Illinois National Guard, School Districts 131 and U46 and other Kane County departments participated in this major drill.

"We would like to thank our volunteers, community partners and county staff who helped us today test the procedures we would follow to protect the citizens of Kane County," McConnaughay said. "Without their hard work and cooperation we could not have been successful."

As part of the exercise, the County's Emergency Operations Center was opened and the Crisis Management Team activated. A mockup of the Strategic National Stockpile of emergency medications was requested by the Illinois Department of Public Health from the Centers for Disease Control and received by the County Health Department.

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The Village of South Elgin and City of Aurora activated their Emergency Operations Plans, while the Village of West Dundee tested its First Responder medication plan.

Two points of dispensing were opened, one at South Elgin High School and one at East Aurora High School. In the event of an actual attack, the county is prepared to open as many as 10 dispensing sites.

The drill helped find strengths and opportunities for improvement in our emergency plans. Evaluators observed the action and provided feedback on process and how we can improve it.

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