

*Media Contact: Karen Martsolf, MA
Director, Marketing/Communications
(970) 644-3490 (o)
(970) 778-1249 (c)
karen.martsolf@gjhosp.org*

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NEWS RELEASE

Community Hospital to Host Emergency Preparedness Exercise

Mesa County, Colo.--- Community Hospital will host a full scale emergency preparedness exercise on **Thursday, March 9, 2017**. The purpose of the exercise is to test the protection, mitigation and response of hospital personnel in an emergency situation. Emergency operations coordination, medical surge capabilities and information sharing have been identified as core capabilities to be evaluated during the exercise.

The “Cold Spell” drill will begin at 10:00 am and last approximately four hours. In a large-scale emergency, multiple agencies are called to assist in order to successfully execute the complex elements of the situation. Local agencies participating in this exercise include local hospitals, Mesa County Health Department, Mesa County Emergency Management, and students from Colorado Mesa University and Colorado Christian University.

“This scenario helps us practice patient safety and continuity of care for future preparedness in an emergency situation,” said Kelsey Lauridsen, Community Hospital Safety Officer.

Members of the media are welcome and encouraged to cover this event. Please contact Karen Martsolf, director of marketing and communications with questions or to arrange an interview. A media staging area will be set up outside the hospital in a location conducive to conduct interviews and obtain video footage of the scenario.

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