



A PROGRAM OF THE GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY HEALTH,  
DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH

A SNAPSHOT OF

# EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS & RESPONSE



## Overview

The mission of the Georgia Department of Community Health (DCH), Division of Emergency Preparedness & Response (EP&R) is to ensure a safe and healthy environment for all Georgians. EP&R manages both the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Public Health Emergency Preparedness Cooperative agreement and the Health and Human Services (HHS) Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response Hospital Preparedness Program Cooperative Agreement. Activities have included support of pandemic influenza planning throughout the state, preparation for distribution of critical medication to counter a disease outbreak or terrorist event, and coordination of public health disaster response for wildfires, tornadoes, floods, and other natural and manmade emergencies.

EP&R's regulatory functions included oversight of over 16,000 licensed medics; oversight of over 270 ambulance services and medical first responder programs; and oversight of over 16 designated trauma centers. The Office of EMS/Trauma also oversees the administration of medic competency examinations in Georgia and inspects registered ambulances to ensure minimum equipment standards. The Office of EMS also provides an online EMS license verification program that allows providers and the public to verify the license status of pre-hospital care professionals.

The Injury Prevention Section seeks to minimize injuries and their human and economic costs by raising public awareness of injury risks, implementing best practices among high-risk populations and helping organizations work together to prevent injuries. Annually the program distributes child safety seats and smoke alarms to at-risk families across the state.