



**For Immediate Release**

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# News Release

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## **AAHC Releases Guide to Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Response**

*Systems, leadership, management, and communication highlighted*

WASHINGTON, September 19 – The Association of Academic Health Centers (AAHC) today released *Managing Emergency Preparedness: Academic Health Centers Organize and Innovate*, a brief guide to enhancing institutional, system-wide approaches to emergency response.

The brochure provides recommendations on effective ways academic health centers can manage operations and systems to help ensure that institutions, communities, and policymakers can respond to an array of emergencies, including natural disasters and bioterrorism. It also highlights the importance of academic health center resources, and how integration of functions makes a significant difference in the event of an emergency.

Leaders of academic health centers and experienced emergency response experts contributed to the brochure, which provides specific suggestions on fundamental imperatives such as establishing leadership teams, coordinating an organization-wide emergency preparedness plan, and facilitating communication. In light of the critical need to safeguard major university resources, the guide also highlights priorities for protection of life, equipment, and property – including a short checklist to help secure and protect the research enterprise.

“September is National Preparedness Month, and recent disasters remind us of the significant role academic health centers play in preparedness and the need for organization, good management, and collaboration at the community, regional, and national levels,” said AAHC President Dr. Steven A. Wartman, adding “Ultimately, we all want to protect the nation’s health and well-being.”

For more information, visit AAHC’s website: [www.aahcdc.org](http://www.aahcdc.org)

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The Association of Academic Health Centers is a national non-profit association dedicated to advancing well-being through leadership in health professions education, patient care, and research.

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