

MMH receives purification system

Written by Holyoke Enterprise

The Colorado Rural Health Center (CRHC) is providing 73 acute care hospitals throughout rural and urban Colorado with portable water purification units to augment emergency preparedness programs and procedures.

According to Lou Ann Wilroy, Executive Director of the nonprofit CRHC, the units will be hand-delivered by Ron Seedorf, CRHC Emergency Preparedness Manager, as he travels around the state for on-site visits.

These units are for use during a major catastrophe when no other source of water is available and boiling water is not possible. They will help enhance a hospital's capacity to provide an emergency water supply for patients and staff, without increasing the amount of water a hospital needs to store.

"We were able to cover the cost of these portable units through our unrestricted funding reserves," explained Wilroy. "We know how important this will be to Colorado hospitals for emergency preparedness purposes, and are pleased to be able to give back to our constituents in this way."

Founded 18 years ago with one employee, the Colorado Rural Health Center currently has 18 full-time employees and recently relocated to expand offices in Aurora, Colorado.

CRHC, which serves as Colorado's State Office of Rural Health, works with rural and urban health facilities and first-responder agencies on emergency preparedness activities in various capacities by participating in programs such as the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment's (CDPHE) Hospital Preparedness and Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Programs.

In fact, CRHC received the 2007 Emergency Response Partner of the Year award from CDPHE for its work with the emergency preparedness program. Ron Seedorf—certified EMT and native of rural Yuma—oversees these initiatives as CRHC's Emergency Preparedness Manager.

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The Colorado Rural Health Center was established in 1991 as the first nonprofit State Office of Rural Health in the U.S. Although every state has an office of rural health, CRHC remains one of only three offices of rural health organized as a nonprofit. As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation, CRHC's mission is "enhancing healthcare services in Colorado by providing information, education, linkages, tools and energy toward addressing rural healthcare issues."

The Colorado Rural Health Center has a statewide constituency of over 3,500 people and organizations. For more information visit www.coruralhealth.org, call 303-832-7493, or call toll free 800-851-6782 from rural Colorado.