

Many Practices Are Not Prepared for Disasters

BY DOUG BRUNK
San Diego Bureau

SAN DIEGO — About a third of medical practices have no emergency medical preparedness plan to deal with disasters such as hurricanes and terrorist attacks, results from a national survey showed.

More than 60% have not had disaster drills in their practice in the last 12 months and report not knowing how to coordinate actions with federal emergency agencies,

Christopher D. Stokes and his colleagues said in a poster session at the annual conference of the Medical Group Management Association. The Health and Human Services department has made \$1.1 billion available for some entities to shore up their emergency plans, but “very little money is directed toward medical practices.”

The researchers surveyed 188 U.S. medical practices to assess their level of emergency preparedness and attitudes about disaster planning and emergency pre-

paredness. The respondents participated through MGMA’s Legislative and Executive Advocacy Response Network, which conducts research on medical practice policy issues, said Mr. Stokes, program manager at MGMA’s Center for Research.

Most of the respondents (87%) indicated there was a moderate to high probability of disaster occurring in their community within the next 5 years. Nearly a third (30%) reported having no emergency preparedness plan; 68% do not know how

to coordinate actions with federal emergency agencies; and in the last 12 months, 71% have not participated in drills with a local hospital, and 84% have not participated in drills with governmental agencies.

“Including [medical] practices in funded preparation activities will strengthen national preparation, improve recovery efforts, and leverage scarce resources,” the researchers said. The study was funded by the HHS Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response through the Idaho State University Institute of Rural Health Idaho Bioterrorism Awareness and Preparedness Program. ■

Cardiac Risk Factors

Serving Size: 1 Adult Male
Servings Per Container: 1

Amount Per Serving	
Age	48
Weight	243
Total Cholesterol	259
LDL	169
HDL	47
Coronary Calcium Score	397
Body Mass Index	37
Waist Circumference	48
Blood Pressure	
Systolic	150
Diastolic	90
Fasting Blood Glucose	146

Ingredients for Coronary Artery Disease Risk:
Family History, Diabetes, Hypertension, Smoker, Occasional Chest Discomfort

Refer

Nuclear stress testing for reliable diagnostic and prognostic results^{1,2}

STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT AND CIRCULATION (Required by 39 U.S.C. 3685). 1. Publication title: FAMILY PRACTICE NEWS. 2. Publication No. 0300-7073. 3. Filing date: October 23, 2008. 4. Issue frequency: Semi-monthly. 5. No. of issues published annually: 24. 6. Annual subscription price: \$122.00. 7. Complete mailing address of known office of publication: International Medical News Group, 60 Columbia Rd., Bldg. B, Morristown, NJ 07960. 8. Complete mailing address of headquarters or general business office of publisher: International Medical News Group, 60 Columbia Rd., Bldg. B, Morristown, NJ 07960. 9. Full names and complete mailing addresses of Publisher, Editor, and Managing Editor: President, IMNG, Alan J. Imhoff, IMNG, 60 Columbia Rd., Bldg. B, Morristown, NJ 07960; Executive Director, Editorial, Mary Jo M. Dales, IMNG, 5635 Fishers Lane, Suite 6000, Rockville, MD 20852; Editor, Kathryn DeMott, IMNG, 5635 Fishers Lane, Suite 6000, Rockville, MD 20852. 10. Owner: Elsevier STM Inc. 6277 Sea Harbor Dr., Orlando, FL 32887. 11. Known bondholders, mortgagees, and other security holders owning or holding 1 percent or more of total amount of bonds, mortgages or other securities: None. 12. Publication name: FAMILY PRACTICE NEWS. 13. Issue date for circulation data below: September 15, 2008. 14. Extent and nature of circulation: Average no. copies each issue during preceding 12 months: a. Total number of copies (net press run) 91,892; b. Legitimate paid and/or requested distribution (by mail and outside the mail) (1) Individual paid/requested mail subscriptions stated on PS Form 3541 49,033 (2) Copies requested by employers for distribution to employees by name or position stated on PS Form 3541 40 (3) Sales through dealers and carriers, street vendors, counter sales, and other paid or requested distribution outside the USPS 0 (4) Requested copies distributed by other mail classes through the USPS 0; c. Total paid and/or requested circulation 49,073; d. Nonrequested distribution (by mail and outside the mail) (1) Nonrequested copies stated on PS Form 3541 41,609; (2) Nonrequested copies distributed through the USPS by other classes of mail 858; (3) Nonrequested copies distributed outside the mail 10; e. Total nonrequested distribution 42,478; f. Total distribution 91,550; g. Copies not distributed 342; h. Total 91,892; i. Percent paid and/or requested circulation 53.60%. Actual no. copies of single issue published nearest to filing date a. Total numbers of copies (net press run) 89,883; b. Legitimate paid and/or requested distribution (by mail and outside the mail) (1) Individual paid/requested mail subscriptions stated on PS Form 3541 46,993; (2) Copies requested by employers for distribution to employees by name or position stated on PS Form 3541 30; (3) Sales through dealers and carriers, street vendors, counter sales, and other paid or requested distribution outside the USPS 0; (4) Requested copies distributed by other mail classes through the USPS 0; c. Total paid and/or requested circulation 47,023; d. Nonrequested distribution (1) Nonrequested copies stated on PS Form 3541 42,430; (2) Nonrequested copies distributed through the USPS by other classes of mail 47; (3) Nonrequested copies distributed outside the mail 0; e. Total nonrequested distribution 42,477; f. Total distribution 89,500; g. Copies not distributed 383; h. Total 89,883; i. Percent paid and/or requested circulation 52.32%. 15. This Statement of Ownership will be printed in the November 1, 2008 issue of this publication. 16. Signature and title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner: Alan J. Imhoff, President, IMNG.

1. Klocke FJ, et al. *Circulation*. 2003;108:1404-1418.
2. Hachamovitch R, et al. *Circulation*. 1998;97:535-543.