



**EAST CENTRAL PA REGIONAL TASK FORCE
(ECTF)**

**PRESS RELEASE
HEALTH / MEDICAL WORKSHOP
NOVEMBER 18-19, 2009**

The Health and Medical Committee of the East Central PA Regional Task Force will host its Second Annual Workshop on November 18th and 19th, 2009, at Genetti's Best Western Inn, Hazleton, PA. This two day workshop will build upon the success of last year's inaugural forum by providing a variety of sessions designed to share Best Practices in the field of Health and Medical Preparedness and Response.

"Last year's workshop provided an invaluable opportunity for participants to expand their knowledge base, network with partners in the health care field, and learn ways to enhance their own capabilities to better serve our region," said Arthur D. Kaplan, Chair of the ECTF. "Over 70 participants collaborated in two days of workshops and sessions, and this year's agenda promises to continue that tradition of providing excellent seminars on a variety of timely and critical topics," he continued.

The agenda for the event includes an update on the situation and protocols regarding the novel H1N1 virus and mass vaccinations. Dr. Stephen M. Ostroff, Acting Physician General from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, has been invited to present this update. Additionally, a series of presentations will address current issues of concern, including Disaster Mental Health Responses to Emergencies, and Mobile Extended Care Facilities in Disaster Situations. There will also be a Mobile Field Hospital Functional Demonstration conducted on Wednesday afternoon, providing participants with the opportunity to both view and construct a 50 bed portable field facility. Portable hospitals have been purchased by PA DOH and placed throughout the Commonwealth to decompress the PA hospital system during emergent events, such as may occur during a mass casualty incident or contagious disease outbreak.

Further information about this important and timely event is available by contacting Rocco DiPietro, East Central PA Regional Task Force Planning Specialist. He can be reached at rdipietro@cocciardi.com, or by phone at 570-963-0240.

An on-site press briefing will be held at 2:00 P.M. on Wednesday, November 18th. Speakers will be available to answer questions concerning their presentations and the East Central PA Regional Task Force.