

NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

Contact: Heidi Wheeler, Emergency Response Coordinator – 308-345-4223

Southwest Nebraska Public Health Department

Southwest Nebraska Public Health Department Celebrating National Preparedness Month

McCook/Imperial – Be Prepared! Southwest Nebraska Public Health Department (SWNPHD) is celebrating National Preparedness Month through new partnerships.

Southwest Nebraska Public Health Department recently donated twenty fans to Hi Line Home Health and Community Hospital Home Health & Hospice for use in extreme heat. Heidi Wheeler, Emergency Response Coordinator at SWNPHD presented the fans. “We saw an increase in heat-related illness this summer, especially among our senior population and wanted to address this need,” shares Wheeler. “Our partners are very valuable in reaching citizens in our eight counties and we look forward to future projects with them.”

Hi Line Home Health covers four counties within the SWNPHD district of: Perkins, Chase, Dundy and Hayes. Director, Shaun Meyer accepted the fans and will allow clients to borrow them during the extreme heat. “We appreciate the fan donation from SWNPHD and support their efforts encouraging citizens to be prepared for emergencies and disasters,” states Meyer. “These partnerships benefit our area residents when we are both working toward common goals.”

Diane Sandall, Community Hospital Home Health & Hospice Director is also pleased with the fan partnership. “We serve residents in Red Willow, Frontier, Hayes, Hitchcock, Furnas, Dundy and Chase counties, which is similar to SWNPHD and makes us great partners,” explains Sandall. “It is our belief that these special people should be able to live their lives to the fullest extent possible. The fans can help us reach that goal.”

National Preparedness Month promotes emergency preparedness efforts such as those of SWNPHD. Wheeler recommends that families or businesses develop disaster plans, gather emergency supplies, learn how to shelter in place and get involved through community emergency training. “We have excellent volunteers throughout southwest Nebraska but we all need to take care of our families first,” explains Wheeler. “Planning is the key for disaster preparedness.” Additional information can be obtained at <http://www.cdc.gov/features/beready>

Specific information on the Special Needs Registry may be found at our web site www.swhealth.ne.gov or call Heidi Wheeler at 308-345-4223. SWNPHD is located at 404 West 10th Street, McCook – one block north of Arby’s. You can also follow us on Facebook & Twitter.

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