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Staff Report
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Health Agencies To Conduct Ebola Emergency Drill

St. Luke's Magic Valley, St. Luke's Jerome, St. Luke's Wood River, and the South Central Public Health District will conduct an emergency management exercise from approximately 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Tuesday, April 18.

The exercise will involve hospital staff, emergency managers and first responders, including EMS. It will focus on the response and training surrounding an Ebola outbreak. Regular hospital operations, including emergency department services, will not be affected.

"The purpose of the exercise is to test the response and training of the staff members," said Trish Heath, emergency management coordinator for St. Luke's Magic Valley. "It's important to have disaster response plans in place and to conduct disaster drills periodically for improvement and training purposes."

According to Dan Schaffer, planner for South Central Public Health District, "The exercise will provide participating organizations the opportunity to test and evaluate their capabilities, particularly their ability to coordinate and initiate response to transporting a patient with an emerging special pathogen, including Ebola, to an assessment hospital and/or a treatment hospital."

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