



JULY 2021, ISSUE 1

# The Bridge

A Healthcare Community Connection

## A Message from the Executive Director

Heather Fortner

Happy July, everyone! I can't believe 2021 is already half over. And even more unbelievable is how far we've come through this COVID-19 response. It's been more than 16 months since our first case locally and I have been amazed with the innovation and resilience of our healthcare facilities and partners. You all are incredible and you've overcome so much. And now, as we start to come out the other side with a new sense of normal, the Mid-South Emergency Planning Coalition is striving to be a continued resource for your facility for valuable trainings, exercises, and other information.

This monthly newsletter will be the first of several changes to increase information sharing and create a space for you to submit ideas, suggestions, questions, and concerns. We also plan to increase the resources available on our website and bring back in-person trainings. As we complete the process of becoming a non-profit and begin to solidify the Coalition's place in our community, I hope that you will consider your facility's emergency preparedness and response needs and identify ways the Coalition might help you increase your capabilities.

In addition to helping your facilities prepare for what's to come, we also want to highlight your facilities and celebrate what you've already accomplished. I'm encouraging you to submit a Coalition Spotlight to recognize your facility or a single employee's outstanding work. I know you all have done great things and I think it would be wonderful for other Coalition members to hear about it as well. Submit your nominations [here](#).

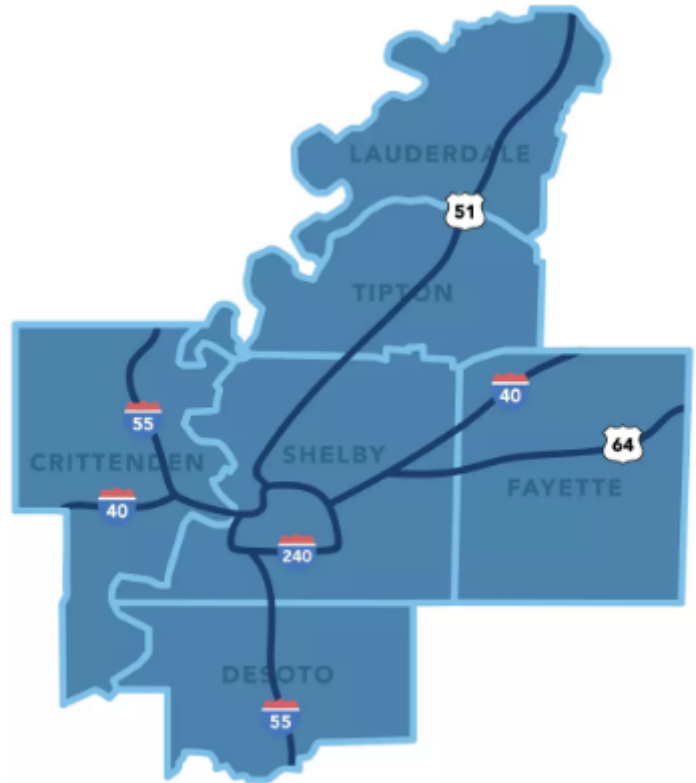
As always, my door is open, my cell phone is on, and my inbox has plenty of space. Please reach out with anything. I'm excited to officially be your Executive Director and thrilled to see where this year takes us.

Respectfully,  
Heather Fortner  
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865-679-4608

FIND THE  
MSEPC  
WEBSITE LINK  
[HERE](#)

## Coalition Information

- The Mid-South Emergency Planning Coalition represents a partnership between 23 area hospitals across a three-state, six-county region, the Shelby County Health Department's Public Health Emergency Preparedness Program, and local Fire/Emergency Medical Services.
- The Coalition's primary function is to work as a regional unit to create and implement effective frameworks to respond to local emergency incidents and public health issues that affect the residents of Shelby, Tipton, Fayette, and Lauderdale counties in Tennessee, DeSoto County, Mississippi and Crittenden County in Arkansas. To achieve this, the Coalition uses grant funds to identify healthcare emergency preparedness needs for the community and sets goals in which to meet those needs.
- As partners, the Coalition members work together on community hazard assessments, drills, exercises, resource sharing, and acquiring equipment and technology that can better serve them as healthcare providers and emergency responders.
- We have yearly exercises to help prepare, train, and educate health care professionals for a variety of emergencies. Providing a response plan, we work with hospitals, volunteers, and others to prepare the Mid-South to handle emergency situations.



## Incident Command Tip:

There are 14 main principles to the Incident Command System. One of them is Management by Objectives which includes establishing overarching objectives, developing strategies based on incident objectives, developing and issuing assignments, plans, procedures, and protocols, establishing specific, measurable objectives for various incident management functional activities and directing efforts to attain them, in support of defined strategies, and finally documenting results to measure performance and facilitate corrective action. (credit: <https://www.noggin.io/blog/the-14-core-features-of-the-incident-command-system>)

Objectives are "WHAT do we want to do?"

Strategies are "HOW are we going to do it?"

Setting objectives gives everyone involved a clear picture of what the goals are for the given timeframe. Without objectives, the situation could quickly become unmanageable.

Find a fillable ICS 202 form [here](#)

# Incident Command

**"Our success has really been based on partnerships from the very beginning."  
Bill Gates**

### Dates to Remember:

- July 9th- COVID questionnaire for AAR is due
- July 15th- MSEPC Meeting
- July 15th-Non-Hospital Sub-Committee Meeting
- July 15th-Ambulatory Surgery Center Radio check
- July 31st- Winter Weather questionnaire for AAR is due
- August 4th- Fed Ex St. Jude Classic
- August 15th- Candlelight Vigil



# OSHA NEWS

The COVID-19 Emergency Temporary Standard (ETS) became effective June 21st. You can find the full article [here](#).

There is also a one page flow chart that may help explain things better. You can find it [here](#).

## COVID Vaccine News

- Finding a ride
- Locations/Dates/Times
- Homebound Residents
- Volunteering
- Dashboards

All of this information can be found [here](#).



## Volunteers Needed

**MSEPC is currently recruiting medical professionals to serve in the Mobile Field Medical Tent as part of the on-site medical support for the WGC-FedEx St. Jude Invitational. Shifts can vary in length but will be available Wednesday, 8/4 - Friday, 8/6 from 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. and Saturday, 8/7 - Sunday, 8/8 from 7:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. If interested, please email Heather Fortner at [hfortner@midsouthepc.org](mailto:hfortner@midsouthepc.org)**

**We want to hear from you! Upcoming editions of this newsletter will include highlights of members or facilities. Use the link [here](#) to nominate a person or facility of interest! Let us know why they are being nominated so we can all get to know each other better!**

**We also want to make this newsletter something useful. It can be as informative as you wish it to be. Send ideas of what to include next month to: [jskelton@midsouthepc.org](mailto:jskelton@midsouthepc.org).**

Contact Us:

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