

The ABCs of July 4th Safety: Always Be Careful

OSF HealthCare Newsroom

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No one likes to think about their community being hit by a disaster or large scale emergency, but if yours was, are first responders and emergency services providers ready to handle it?

That's the goal of TEDCON 2017. TEDCON - Trauma, Emergency Medical Services, and Disaster Preparedness - brings together these three disciplines which are integral to each other during times of need. These specialties must collaborate and work together for the best outcome.

Troy Erbentraut, Manager of Disaster Management for OSF HealthCare Saint Francis Medical Center in Peoria, Illinois, and part of the Region 2 Healthcare Coalition, says when a disaster happens, preparedness is important.

SOT Troy Erbentraut, Manager of Disaster Management - OSF HealthCare Saint Francis Medical Center

(Failing to prepare is preparing to fail. So the idea is always to be at the ready. So EMS, disaster preparedness, and trauma folks i.e. TEDCON, we need to work together so we can serve the community and we can be there in those times when crisis happens. So this is a great opportunity to get to know your neighbors, your friends and educate together so we have a common playing field and we know what's going on so we're able to communicate and react to whatever is happening. :27)

V/O: The conference will include sessions on pediatric trauma, CPR survival, weather emergencies, fatality management, traumatic brain injury, active shooters, crisis management, the well-being of first responders, and more. Erbentraut says the training and focusing on the public – both as first responders in their own way and on their needs – can help a community recovery faster from a disaster.

SOT Troy Erbentraut, Manager of Disaster Management - OSF HealthCare Saint Francis Medical Center

(It's not if something happens but when something happens and we need to be there for our public, so we need to be prepared. So every little bit of training to level things out so all disciplines know how to react, what their reaction is and what they have to bring to the game is important and makes a better response for the community and it's going to be a quicker recovery. If we're all able to train together and bring our assets and stuff then we are able to recover quicker from that incident. :29)

V/O: The Keynote speaker for TEDCON is Paul Ciolino a homicide investigation expert who has appeared on national news programs. Ciolino's most recent book is Dead In Six Minutes, The Biography of Dr. Stanley M. Zydlo Jr. MD, and the creation of the Paramedic profession.

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(His background is in forensics and as he went through his career in forensics he found this EMS side which was fascinating to him, so he started doing research on EMS started, and it's history and what we're taught and believe. And come to find out that Dr. Zydlo and what came out of Chicago and out of Illinois is the premise of EMS and how we do pre-hospital care today :25)

V/O: TEDCON is a medical-sponsored event, but is open to anyone – clinicians or members of the public – who has an interest in preparedness. It takes place August 24 and 25, 2017 in East Peoria, Illinois. Register online [here](#) or call 309.683.8360 for more information.