



For Release: Monday, June 12, 2023

LOCAL HEALTHCARE, EDUCATION, AND LAW ENFORCEMENT PARTNER FOR COMMUNITY SAFETY EXERCISE

Wenatchee, WA: On June 23rd, Confluence Health, Wenatchee School District, Wenatchee Valley College, Wenatchee Valley Fire Department, Wenatchee Police Department, and the Chelan County Sheriff's Office, along with regional fire, police, and EMS agencies, will partner for a safety training exercise to better coordinate efforts to protect the community.

For the exercise, a simulated active shooter incident will be addressed by local law enforcement on the Wenatchee Valley College campus with local first responders participating and responding. Volunteers will play the role of patients who have been assigned simulated injuries; the fictional patients' 'vital signs' will be indicated on cards and some will also have their simulated injuries depicted with makeup applied by moulage artists to help add to the realism of the exercise. After law enforcement addresses the simulated threat, the volunteers acting as patients will be transferred as needed to Confluence Health facilities to allow medical staff to practice triaging, treating, and managing an influx of wounded patients. Confluence Health will also activate their Hospital Incident Command System (HICS) along with the Disaster Medical Coordination Center (DMCC) at this time to practice coordinating care and transferring of the fictional patients to appropriate points of care.

"While we hope that this training is never needed during a real incident, it is vital that we work together with our community partners to prepare and identify areas for improvement," remarked Jean-Michael Dapena, emergency preparedness coordinator for Confluence Health. "These full-scale exercises are crucial and offer insights that are not possible in table-top exercises for understanding how we can better protect and serve our community."

Due to the nature of the exercise, the public may see increased first responder and law enforcement presence at Wenatchee Valley College and other areas in the Wenatchee Valley during the event.

"It's important the public is aware that this is simply an exercise and to not be alarmed by the increased activity," commented Doug Jones, exercise director for the event and security and emergency preparedness director at Confluence Health. "These activities are an important component of the realism of the simulation, and we are thankful for our community's support and understanding as we do this important work."

About Confluence Health

Confluence Health serves the largest geographic region of any healthcare system in Washington State, covering over 12,000 square miles of Okanogan, Grant, Douglas, and Chelan counties. Confluence is one of only two locally-lead healthcare systems in the state with the purpose of maintaining availability and access to high-quality, cost-effective healthcare services for North Central Washington. The Confluence Health Board of Directors provides governance for Confluence Health, the Clinic, Central Washington Hospital, and Wenatchee Valley Hospital, and includes nine community board members and six physician board members.

For More Information

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About Wenatchee School District

Wenatchee School District's students, teachers, and staff reflect the diversity and richness of Wenatchee. Through high-quality instruction, social-emotional support, and career-connected learning we are helping each and every student achieve success and tap into their limitless potential. For more information on the Wenatchee School District, visit our website: wenatcheeschools.org

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About Wenatchee Valley College

Wenatchee Valley College enriches North Central Washington by serving educational and cultural needs of communities and residents throughout the service area. The college is committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion for all students and employees and provides high-quality transfer, liberal arts, professional/technical, basic skills, and continuing education for students of diverse ethnic and economic backgrounds. Visit our website at wvc.edu.

For More Information

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About Wenatchee Valley Fire Department

On September 30, 2022, Chelan County Fire District 1 and Douglas County Fire District 2 combined organizations to become a Regional Fire Authority (RFA), the Wenatchee Valley Fire Department. WVFD proudly serves the 75,000 plus members of and visitors to our community by responding to more than 6,000 emergencies annually with 75 career personnel and 68 volunteers from 10 fire stations across the area.

For More Information

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About Wenatchee Police Department

The Wenatchee Police Department was created in 1892 and has been serving our community for 130 years. The Wenatchee Police Department currently has 45 sworn police officers, and an additional 12 members who serve as civilian employees, including the Records Department, Property Clerk, Parking Enforcement, and an Administrative Assistant. The Wenatchee Police Department is an accredited agency through the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs (WASPC).

For More Information

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About Chelan County Sheriff's Office

The Chelan County Sheriff's Office was established in 1900 and has been serving our community for 122 years. The Chelan County Sheriff's Office is honored to partner with local agencies to serve our community. We will continue to build these partnerships and increase our readiness in the event of an emergency.

For More Information

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