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REGIONAL HEALTHCARE FACILITIES PARTNER FOR SAFETY AND PREPAREDNESS EXERCISE

Moses Lake and Wenatchee, WA: On October 8th, Confluence Health will partner with Samaritan Healthcare and regional partners to hold a full-scale active shooter exercise in Moses Lake.

For the exercise, a simulated active shooter threat will be addressed at the Confluence Health Moses Lake Clinic. Local first responders, including Moses Lake fire, police, and EMS departments, will all participate in the exercise and respond to the incident. The exercise will also involve a simulated mass casualty incident (MCI) in which “patients” – volunteers playing a part – will first be taken to Samaritan Hospital to be stabilized and, if needed, transported to other regional hospitals including Central Washington Hospital in Wenatchee. Confluence Health will also activate their Hospital Incident Command System (HICS) for the exercise to help manage the fictional incident in Moses Lake as well as coordinating for Central Washington Hospital to receive “patients” as part of their MCI plan.

“Full-scale exercises are an important part of our emergency preparedness cycle as we continually strive to provide a safe and secure environment for our valued patients, staff, and providers,” commented Doug Jones, security and emergency preparedness director for Confluence Health. “Additionally, partnering with other local regional health care systems and first responders allows for unique insights into how we function together, allowing us to improve and coordinate better.”

To be as realistic as possible to allow the various agencies an opportunity to practice, some of the exercise may occasionally be visible to the public.

“Because such an exercise involves so many different agencies and facilities, and because some members of the public might see some aspects of the exercise as it unfolds, we wanted to reach out to local media ahead of time and share the various methods we are using with our partners to better serve our communities as a united team,” added Adam MacDonald, corporate communications program manager for Confluence Health.

The exercise seeks to allow healthcare workers, first responders, and others involved in such real-life incidents to have an opportunity to practice, discover areas to improve, and to better prepare to make sure they can provide the best service and response possible should the need ever arise.

“While we hope the training will never need to be used in any real scenario, our job is to be prepared for whatever might occur and this exercise helps us to continue to provide the kind of excellence our communities deserve,” remarked Jones.

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.

About Samaritan Healthcare

Samaritan Healthcare (Grant County Public Hospital District No. 1) provides healthcare services for Moses Lake and the surrounding communities. Our focus has been, and continues to be, to provide healthcare services that improve the well-being of the people of our community.

Our board of commissioners is a diverse collection of publicly elected citizens with an important goal in mind: to provide high-quality healthcare services that are in alignment with our mission, vision, and values.

For More Information

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