



VOLUNTEERS: AN INDISPENSABLE STRENGTH IN POINT OF DISPENSING SITES

Volunteer Management Program
Office of Public Health-Bureau of Community Preparedness

Learner Objectives

- ▶ After this presentation, the learner should be able to:
 - Describe the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS), its mission, and its assets.
 - Identify federal agencies associated with the SNS
 - Explain the process for obtaining SNS assets
 - Define the types of PODs and give examples of them.

Key Terms and Acronyms

- ▶ CDC Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- ▶ PODS Point of Dispensing sites
- ▶ RSS Receiving, Staging, and Storing
- ▶ SNS Strategic National Stockpile
- ▶ LAVA Louisiana Volunteers in Action
- ▶ LDH Louisiana Department of Health
- ▶ OPH LDH Office of Public Health
- ▶ ESAR-VHP Emergency System for Advance Registration of Volunteer Health Professionals

Strategic National Stockpile (SNS)

- ▶ National cache of vaccines, medicines, medical supplies and equipment for response to a disaster incident:
 - Biological (e.g., viruses, bacteria, other germs)
 - Chemical (e.g., nerve agents, chlorine, ammonia, benzene)
 - Radiological (e.g., bombs, nuclear fallouts)
 - Burn/Blast (e.g., fires, explosions)



SNS Mission

- ▶ Deliver these critical medical assets to the site of an emergency from the national cache
- ▶ Save lives, prevent disease, and facilitate basic health care service
- ▶ Mass casualty incident
 - Terrorist
 - Accidental
 - Natural Disaster



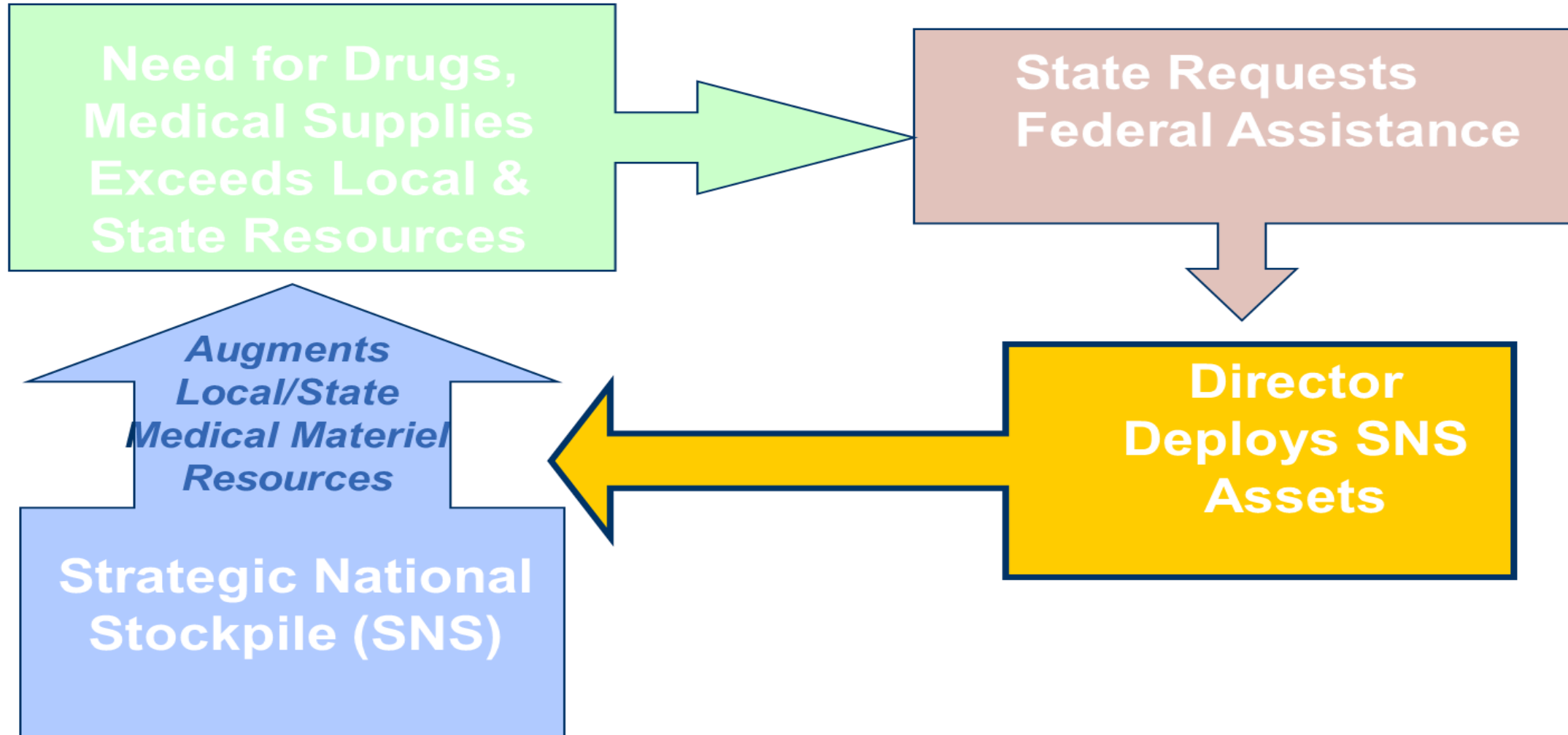
SNS Program History

- ▶ Congressional funding began in 1999
- ▶ Deployments
 - World Trade Center Attack (September 2001)
 - Anthrax mailings, Amerithrax (September-October 2001)
 - Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, and Wilma (August-October 2005)

Hurricane Wilma
October 2005



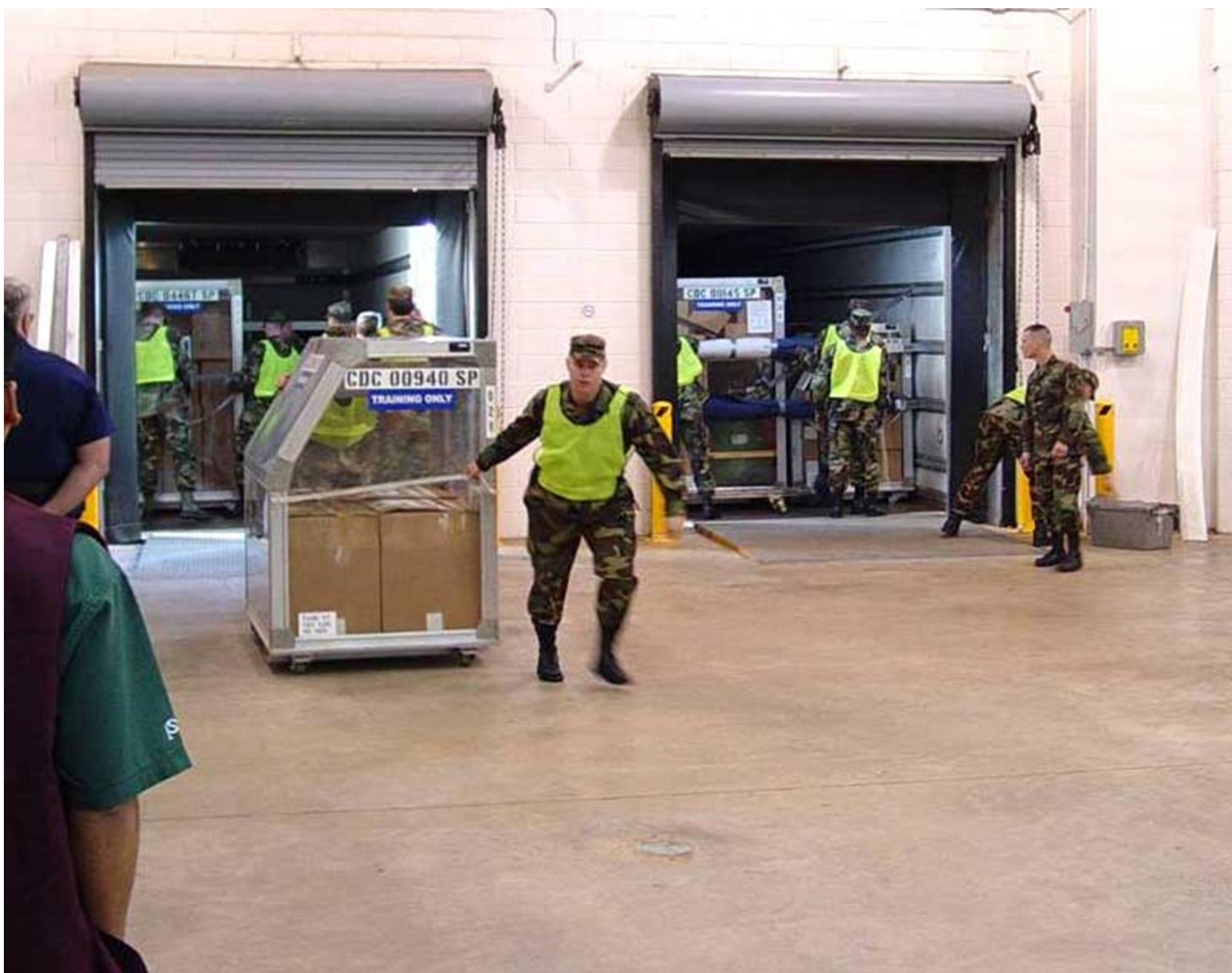
SNS Request



Receiving, Staging, and Storing Sites

- ▶ CDC-approved warehouse facilities
- ▶ SNS Deployment needs
- ▶ Louisiana Department of Health
- ▶ Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness
- ▶ Louisiana National Guard
- ▶ Louisiana Department of Transportation
- ▶ Louisiana State Police
- ▶ Local law enforcement
- ▶ Additional staff and volunteers





Learning Exercise!

A parish (county) can request assistance from the federal government for Strategic National Stockpile assets (medicine and medical supplies).

True or False?

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True or False?

A parish (county) can request assistance from the federal government for Strategic National Stockpile assets (medicine and medical supplies).

Answer: False. Only a state can request SNS assets from the federal government.

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POINT OF DISPENSING SITES

**VOLUNTEERS: AN INDISPENSABLE STRENGTH IN
POINT OF DISPENSING SITES**



Parish Health Unit POD at SNS Exercise, March 2004



Point of Dispensing Sites (PODS)

- ▶ Locations where medicines or vaccines are distributed to individuals.
- ▶ PODs can range from small clinics to large sites with multiple staging and operation areas.
- ▶ Parish Public Health Units are the backbone of the POD system in Louisiana.



Types of PODS

OPEN

- ▶ Facilities/sites where **the public** can obtain medicines
 - Gymnasiums
 - Special event arenas
 - Auditoriums
 - Drive-through PODS

CLOSED

- ▶ Facilities/sites that are not open to the public
 - Hospitals
 - Nursing homes/assisted-living centers
 - Business/Industry
 - First Responder PODS
 - * Medicines will be given to employees, employees' families, and residents of the facilities.

Local POD Planning

- ▶ Inclusion of Parish Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (OHSEP)
- ▶ Involvement of Regional Public Health
- ▶ First step: Memorandum of Agreement (MOA)
- ▶ Utilization of POD Workbook and local teams



POD Planning

- ▶ Purpose: Mass prophylaxis

- ▶ Medical Model versus Non-Medical Model

Medical: Staffed with medical personnel who can conduct individualized medical assessments and dispensing medicines.

Non-Medical: Staffed primarily with non-medical personnel who are trained only to triage and dispense medicines.

POD Planning

- ▶ Hospitals and pharmacies are not to be PODs
- ▶ Work with military installations and recognized Indian tribes

- **Addai Caddo Tribe**
- **Biloxi-Chitimacha Confederation of Muskogee**
- **Choctaw-Apache Community of Ebarb**
- **Clifton Choctaw**
- **Four Winds Tribe Louisiana Cherokee Confederacy**
- **Grand Caillou/Dulac Band**
- **Isle de Jean Charles Band**
- **Louisiana Choctaw Tribe**
- **Pointe-Au-Chien Indian Tribe**
- **United Houma Nation**

Occupational and Residential PODs

- ▶ Difficult for some populations to get to a POD
 - Prisons
 - Nursing homes
 - Residential facilities
 - Universities and colleges
 - Industries
 - Businesses



POD Volunteers – Medical

- ▶ Licensed health professionals (10% of volunteers); ESAR-VHP
 - Allied health workers
 - Behavioral health specialists
 - Emergency medical technicians
 - Nurses
 - Pharmacists
 - Physicians
 - Sanitarians
 - Veterinarians



POD Volunteers – Non-Medical

► Roles

- Data entry
- Floaters/Runners
- Information Technology Support
- Patient/client information (e.g., materials, videos)
- Registration
- Security
- Supply chain management
- Traffic control
- Translation



Possible Health Risks

- ▶ Not increased in POD
 - PODs used to give prophylaxis to healthy people within a risk area
 - No increased health risks for volunteers or general population at PODs
 - Mass prophylaxis limited to a few scenarios and a few medicines/vaccines
 - You will only be expected to volunteer if there is an actual emergency

Organization Participation

- ▶ Consider your resources and PODs
- ▶ Complete MOU committing your organization to the response effort

- ▶ Both parties will:
 - Meet on a regular basis
 - Update each other on organizational developments related to volunteer management in disaster response
 - Keep a system of rapid communication in times of catastrophic disaster

Public Health–Volunteer Organization Partnership

PUBLIC HEALTH

- ▶ Provide volunteers suitable training opportunities before a disaster
- ▶ Orient volunteers once sent to POD site
- ▶ Coordinate with other volunteer organizations to provide additional staffing

VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATION

- ▶ Provide a volunteer of good conduct
- ▶ Provide a volunteer who has met organization's selection criteria

Benefits of Volunteering

- ▶ Provision of prophylaxis
- ▶ Sense of pride via community service
- ▶ Networking and interaction with others
- ▶ Training opportunities
 - Orientation
 - Information about specific duties
 - Exercises/Drills



Volunteer Activation

- ▶ During a public health emergency, your organization may be called to provide assistance.
- ▶ Your volunteers are not obligated to help. Yet, they will be an essential component of a successful POD operation!



Louisiana Volunteers in Action (LAVA)

- ▶ Implemented by Louisiana in 2007.
- ▶ Is Louisiana's approach to the federally-mandated ESAR-VHP Program.
- ▶ Recruit, credential, train, manage, and deploy medical and non-medical volunteers for emergency medical response.
- ▶ Is used by the Louisiana's ESAR-VHP Program and the Medical Reserve Corps units across Louisiana.



Learning Exercise!

A school auditorium is an example of which type of POD?

*Closed POD

*Open POD

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Learning Exercise!

A school auditorium is an example of which type of POD?

*Closed POD

*Open POD

Answer: An Open POD.

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Help spread the message to the Community!!



VOLUNTEER!!!

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- ▶ State of Louisiana Emergency Operations Plan, Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness, July 2014. Retrieved from http://gohsep.la.gov/plans/2014_State_EOP_Final_Copy (Appendix A).
- ▶ Parish POD Planning Guide, February 2009.
- ▶ Louisiana Department of Health, Office of Public Health, Bureau of Community Preparedness, Louisiana Volunteers in Action. LAVA Standard Operating Procedures, June 2016.
- ▶ Louisiana Department of Health, Office of Public Health Emergency Operations Plan, March 2015 (Appendix R).