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Presentation Title: *“WATCH: Workplace Awareness for Terrorism and Crime in Hospitals™”*

Presentation Description:

The W.A.T.C.H.™ program is designed for hospital administrators and will provide a comprehensive overview of terrorism and crime in hospitals. The Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Department of Homeland Security have identified specific terrorist threats made against United States’ hospitals. Suspected international terrorists have been found with material that describes U.S. hospitals as potential targets. The hallmark of al-Qaeda is to use hospitals as secondary targets following a major terror event. For terrorism healthcare preparedness, the federal government has been given a grade of “D+”, and the nation’s entire emergency medicine system has been given a grade of “C-“. How will your hospital rate?

In 2011, hospital emergency departments were identified as the most dangerous work setting for healthcare workers. Violent assaults have increased dramatically on all hospital staff members. A recent survey found that in their career, 97% of nurses will be verbally assaulted, 94% will receive verbal threats, and 66% will be physically assaulted. Since 2000, there are an average of 12 shooting incidents at United States hospitals. In the last five years, there has been a dramatic increase in the number of hospitals that have paid out large settlements as the result of inadequate security measures at their facility. These settlements were the result of staff and visitors injured from crimes that occurred at the hospital facility. Attendees will be taught ways to increase safety and minimize the hospital’s legal liability.

Based on the presentation length, topics may include, current domestic and international threats against United States’ hospitals, gang activity in hospitals, hospital active shooters, cyber-crimes in hospitals, infant/child abduction in the hospital, hospital workplace violence, hospital lessons learned from disasters in America, loss of critical infrastructure, and legal and ethical implications in disasters.

Presentation Objectives:

1. At the conclusion of this program, attendees will be able to describe specific threats that have been made against healthcare institutions in the United States, and warnings that have been issued by the Department of Justice and the Department of Homeland Security.
2. At the conclusion of this program, attendees will be able to describe lessons learned from Israeli and United States hospitals during terrorism response.
3. At the conclusion of this program, attendees will be able to describe the prevalence of violence against hospital staff, particularly those working in the emergency department.

4. At the conclusion of this program, attendees will be able to discuss identification and response to gang violence in the hospital.

Amount of time needed:

This class can be tailored from 90 minutes to two days

Resources Needed:

Computer, projector, audio