

The National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) supported the Advanced Practice Centers (APC) from 1999 to 2012. The APC has been a credible source for free public health preparedness products that can be easily implemented by any local health department (LHD), as the products were created *by* LHDs *for* LHDs. Today, there is a legacy of more than 100 APC Products that build capacity, saving health departments time, resources and money by providing proven solutions and world class ideas that are ready for implementation.

CASE STUDY

The South Carolina Advanced Practice Center, housed in the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control, is located in North Charleston, SC. As an APC it focuses on security issues during various public health emergency response activities. Its products and activities support LHDs when building community partnerships with law enforcement and coordinating response in disasters.

EXEMPLARY APC PRODUCT

On the Safe Side – A Security Planning Toolkit for Public Health Emergencies

<http://apc.naccho.org/Products/APC20102213/Pages/Overview.aspx>

The *On the Safe Side – A Security Planning Toolkit for Public Health Emergencies* product was developed in 2010 by the South Carolina APC. This turnkey resource assists local public health agencies, hospitals, and law enforcement agencies in planning for a coordinated response to public health emergencies. The toolkit activities culminate with a security-based table top exercise that allows agencies to test their new plans and protocols. These include their hospital security plan for medical surge and other emergencies, and their point of dispensing site security and traffic management plans.

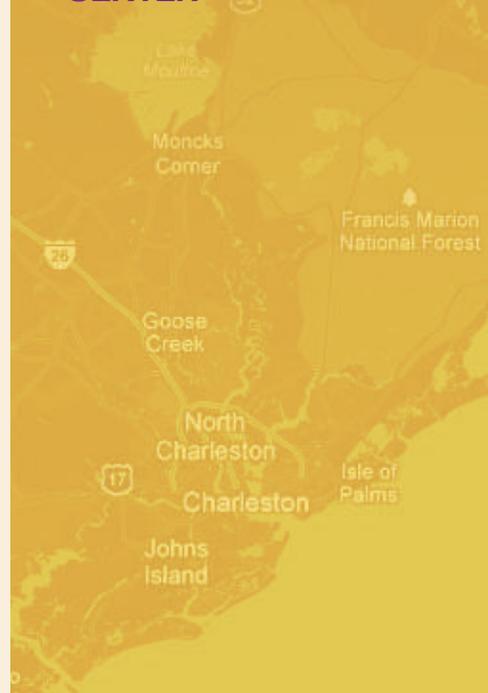
Notable Feature: The toolkit includes visual aids and uses icons that make security and traffic management plans straightforward, easy-to-follow, and easy-to-share. For any agency using scans of blueprints and paper property maps, *On the Safe Side* will revolutionize their visuals for the digital age, ensuring security and order during the chaos of emergency situations.

PHEP Capabilities Supported by this APC Product:

- Capability 8: Medical Countermeasure Dispensing
- Capability 9: Medical Material Management and Distribution
- Capability 10: Medical Surge



THE SOUTH CAROLINA ADVANCED PRACTICE CENTER



APC PRODUCT IN PRACTICE

In 2011, the **Greenville Hospital System** began to work with the South Carolina APC to implement the *On the Safe Side* toolkit. The Greenville Hospital System includes five hospitals in the Greenville, SC area with a total of 1,200 beds. The hospital system has its own Law Enforcement Services department with 14 police officers and 103 security officers. The main hospital campus houses the Law Enforcement Services Communications Center for the hospital system. By fall of 2012, *On the Safe Side* had been implemented at each of the system's five hospital campuses, and training had been conducted at each campus. *On the Safe Side* is now fully integrated into the hospital system's security and emergency response activities. Tammy Mikels, Security Manager for the Greenville Hospital System, led the *On the Safe Side* implementation and trainings.



PROVIDED A HIGH QUALITY SOLUTION

"When I first saw *On the Safe Side* in 2011, I knew it would add value," shared Ms. Mikels. "We had been doing things the hard way, scanning in prints of our facilities and such. We were in the dark ages, and this product's visual aids, aerial views, and straightforward symbols [icons] made everything so clear and easy-to-follow – and it moved us from paper to a digital plan, which is essential."



SAVED TIME

Ms. Mikels reported, "The time it takes to determine how, what, when, and where to secure a campus has easily been cut in half. With *On the Safe Side*, our plans are digital. Our Law Enforcement Services Communication Centers dispatchers can access easy-to-read maps and visuals for any of our campuses on their computers, and the result is a better organized, better coordinated, faster response."



SAVED RESOURCES

"The product is easy to work with. Implementation and training have gone very smoothly and quickly. Time is money, and we are saving both with *On the Safe Side*," confirmed Ms. Mikels.



INCLUDED CONSULTATIVE SUPPORT FROM APC STAFF

Ms. Mikels said, "The South Carolina APC has been great to work with. They even visited us on-site, and provided suggestions for our implementation based on their own best practices and their experience working with other hospitals."



INCREASED CAPACITY FOR SAVING LIVES

"I truly believe this product saves us significant time, and ensures much greater coordination and organization during emergencies – and at a hospital system, saving time means saving lives," shared Ms. Mikels.