Nurses
Emergency Preparedness

Donna Dorsey, MS, RN
Executive Director
Maryland Board of Nursing
"I Summon you to Comradeship in the Red Cross"
Woodrow Wilson
Credentials

• All Nurses are Licensed by the State

• Types
  ❖ Registered Nurses
  ❖ Licensed Practical Nurses/Licensed Vocational Specialties
    ❖ Nurse Practitioners, Nurse Anesthetists, Nurse Midwives and Clinical Nurse Specialists
Licensure Requirements

• Graduation From an Approved School
• Must Pass NCLEX – RN© or NCLEX-PN©
• Advanced Practice Nurses Must Obtain Additional Certification in the Area of Specialty
Scope of Practice

• LPN – Function as a Direct Caregiver Under Supervision of a RN Primarily in Structured Settings

• RN – Provides Care in a Variety of Settings Working with Members of the Health Care Team

• Advanced Practice Nurses - Have Additional Education and Preparation in an Area of Specialization
Interstate Nursing Practice

• All States have a Mechanism to Bring Nurses into the State in an Emergency

• Nurse Licensure Compact
  - Allows nurses to practice in across state lines without a obtaining a license in that state – Requires participation in the Interstate Compact.
States in the Compact

- Arizona
- Arkansas
- Delaware
- Idaho
- Iowa
- Maine
- Maryland

- Mississippi
- Nebraska
- North Carolina
- South Dakota
- Tennessee
- Texas
- Utah
- Wisconsin
Pending States

- Indiana – April 2004
- New Jersey – TBA
- New Mexico - TBA
- North Dakota – January 2004
- Virginia – January 2005
Data About Nurses

- State Boards of Nursing
- NCSBN – NURSYS
- Data
  - Confidential
  - Boards Can Contact
  - Barrier - Money
Preparation Activities

• Many State Boards of Nursing Have Developed Lists of Volunteers

• Maryland Plan
  ❖ Recruit Volunteers
  ❖ Train
  ❖ Credential
  ❖ Engage
Disaster Education

- Most Nursing Programs Include Limited Content on Disaster
- The Basic Principles and Information for Development of Competencies in Disaster are Included in all Basic Nursing Programs
- Expertise Needed Depends on Situation
INCMCE Focus

- Increasing Awareness
- Leadership in Developing Knowledge and Expertise
- Identifying Competencies
- Clearinghouse
- Policy Development Input
Competencies

• Include
  ❖ Understanding the nature of mass casualty events
  ❖ Technical skills
  ❖ Communication i.e.: incident command, security, confidentiality, individual reactions
Knowledge and Skills

• Nurses bring a variety of skills to an emergency situation
• Based on experience nurses can be tasked to work:
  ❖ In shelters
  ❖ On scene
  ❖ In hospitals and
  ❖ In the community
As a General Rule
Nurses will Self Select Where
They are the Most Comfortable
to Assist.