

U of L's Division of Protective Medicine Partnering with American Medical Association to Prepare Medical Personnel, First Responders, and Disaster Volunteers to Respond When Disaster Strikes

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With the current outbreak of the H1N1 Influenza virus and the ever present threat of natural and man-made disasters around the world and right here at home, it is critical that our medical personnel, first responders, and disaster volunteers receive new and innovative training to prepare them for these imminent threats.

On April 15, 2009, the University of Louisville's Division of Protective Medicine, Department of Emergency Medicine continued its efforts to bring cutting edge, innovative education opportunities to healthcare providers, first responders, and disaster volunteers by becoming an accredited National Disaster Life Support Foundation (NDLSF) Regional Training Center and a voting member of the National Disaster Life Support Education Consortium (NDLSEC). The NDLSF was created in 2003 when the American Medical Association (AMA) joined with four major academic centers to help standardize emergency response training nationwide and strengthen our nation's health system. In 2004, the AMA and NDLSF formed a multidisciplinary consortium, NDLSEC, which was tasked to provide the requisite knowledge and expertise for the regular review and critique of the National Disaster Life Support™ (NDLS™) courses.

"We are pleased to be chosen as an AMA Disaster Medicine Regional Training Center," said Andrew Cline, Director of the Division of Protective Medicine. "This exemplifies the strong dedication and goal of the division to continue to bring cutting edge, innovative education to healthcare providers, first responders, first receivers, and the increasing number of disaster volunteers. It also allows us to continue to form strong partnerships with our state and federal partners."

The NDLS courses stress a comprehensive, all-hazards approach to help deal with catastrophic emergencies from terrorist acts as well as from explosions, fire, natural disasters, and infectious diseases. For more information please email Andrew.cline@louisville.edu.