



NEWS RELEASE

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Emergency Preparedness Director Travels to Israel To Study How They Respond To Public Health Threats and Emergencies

BISMARCK, N.D. – North Dakota’s Public Health Emergency Preparedness director recently traveled to Israel to see first hand how that nation responds to public health threats and emergencies. Tim Wiedrich spent a week in Israel studying Israeli emergency preparedness techniques, including disease surveillance, doctor training for mass trauma incidents, pharmaceutical stockpiling, laboratory protocols and risk communication.

“This was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to meet and learn from experts in the field of emergency preparedness,” said Wiedrich. “The information and valuable experiences that I gathered on this trip will be used to strengthen preparedness efforts in North Dakota and will be shared with my colleagues across the nation.”

The trip was part of a new exchange program sponsored by the Georgia International Law Enforcement Exchange and hosted by the Israeli Ministry of Health. Wiedrich, along with health officials from various other states, visited the Tel Aviv area. Participants took part in a specially arranged hospital drill that simulated the arrival, decontamination and treatment of patients with chemical exposure, as well as a large exercise in the southern part of the country. The delegation also viewed a medical combat simulation program used to train military and civilian doctors at a hospital near Tel Aviv.

Video taken from the trip is available for download at www.ndhan.gov/media/media/ or by requesting a tape. For more information, contact Tim Wiedrich at 701.328.2270.

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