



# Media Release

---

24 November 2008

## Emergency training ensures RPH is prepared

Royal Perth Hospital (RPH) is joining with representatives from Sir Charles Gairdner, Fremantle Hospital and St John Ambulance Service to take part in a seven hour emergency training exercise tomorrow.

Over 70 staff will take part in the mock exercise which will simulate a real life scenario testing the hospital's response and management to receiving mass casualties.

The scenario will be a realistic representation of a possible emergency situation that Perth may experience.

RPH Acting Executive Director, Dr Paul Mark, said this sort of training was paramount in ensuring hospitals were well prepared should a major disaster occur.

"RPH staff responded exceptionally well to two recent incidents with the Qantas plane passengers and the Manjimup bus crash patients, and this sort of emergency exercise training reinforces those skills and ensures that we are well prepared in the event of a major emergency," Dr Mark said.

"Undertaking this training tests how well we respond to a major incident and gives us the opportunity to trial new procedures and find ways of improving our systems."

This exercise is part of the statewide WA Health preparedness and response framework, and a Swedish "Emergo-train" system will be used - which is a disaster simulation training tool designed for hospitals and ambulance services in a real-time situation.

Dr Mark said this was a good opportunity for multiple health sites to come together to ensure that all services work effectively and efficiently in the event of a major emergency.

"This is one way we are continually improving best practice and ensuring that the health and safety of the WA public is assured," Dr Mark said.

**Media Contact: Joanne Hill | Public Relations | Royal Perth Hospital | 0404 894 034**