

MODULE 4

Emergency Response Systems

HICS, ICS, and Strategic National Stockpile

Bioterrorism Preparedness for Nevada Nurses

4.0 Contact Hours | Nevada Board of Nursing Approved

Provider: NV-14175 | NAC 632.340 & NAC 632.355

Learning Objectives

1	Describe the Hospital Incident Command System (HICS) structure and key positions
2	Identify nurse roles within the HICS organizational structure
3	Explain Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) deployment process
4	Describe Points of Dispensing (POD) operations and nurse responsibilities

Hospital Incident Command System (HICS)

Key HICS Principles

Unity of Command: Each person reports to ONE supervisor

Span of Control: 3-7 people per supervisor (ideal: 5)

Chain of Command: Clear, unbroken line of authority

Position	Role	Reports To
Incident Commander	Overall authority and responsibility	CEO/Administrator
Public Information Officer	Media and public communications	Incident Commander
Safety Officer	Monitors safety; can STOP unsafe operations	Incident Commander
Operations Section Chief	Directs tactical response (patient care)	Incident Commander
Planning Section Chief	Develops incident action plan	Incident Commander
Logistics Section Chief	Provides resources and materials	Incident Commander

Nurse Roles in HICS

- Medical Care Branch Director • Inpatient/ED Unit Leader • Triage Unit Leader
- Infection Control Officer • Employee Health Unit Leader • Labor Pool Coordinator

Strategic National Stockpile (SNS)

The nation's largest supply of potentially life-saving pharmaceuticals and medical supplies. Managed by CDC, can deploy within 12 hours to any U.S. location.

Deployment Process:

1. Governor requests through state health officer

2. CDC reviews and authorizes deployment
3. 12-Hour Push Packages deployed (broad spectrum supplies)
4. Vendor Managed Inventory follows (24-36 hours)
5. State distributes through Points of Dispensing (PODs)

- ✓ HICS provides standardized command structure with clear authority
- ✓ Unity of Command: each person reports to ONE supervisor
- ✓ SNS 12-Hour Push Packages reach any U.S. location within 12 hours
- ✓ Nurses serve in multiple HICS roles from clinical care to infection control