



# MISSISSIPPI STATE HOSPITAL

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## For Immediate Release

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### MSH EMPLOYEE ATTENDS HOMELAND SECURITY TRAINING

Emergency Responder Wes Pegues, from Mississippi State Hospital, recently completed Homeland Security training at the Center for Domestic Preparedness (CDP), located in Anniston, Alabama.

Pegues, a Tupelo native, is a safety coordinator for the Safety and Investigative Services Department at Mississippi State Hospital. He holds degrees from the University of Mississippi as well as the Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

The CDP is operated by the United States Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency and is the only federally-chartered Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) training facility in the nation. Responders participating in CDP training courses are selected from the nation's 11 million emergency responders. The training ensures that responders gain critical skills and confidence to be better prepared to effectively respond to local incidents.

“The Center for Domestic Preparedness training in the Fundamentals of Healthcare Emergency Management not only showed me where to start, but gave me a handle on where I am going with our Emergency Operations Plan here at Mississippi State Hospital,” Pegues said.

The CDP provides federally-funded, interdisciplinary training for emergency responders in Mobile Training Teams (MTTs) across the United States and the U.S. Territories, for 10 response disciplines: Emergency Management, Emergency Medical Service, Fire Service, Governmental Administrative, Hazardous Materials, Healthcare, Law Enforcement, Public Health, Public Safety Communications, and Public Works.

*MSH, a facility of the Mississippi Department of Mental Health, was founded in 1855 and facilitates improvement in the quality of life for Mississippians who are in need of mental health, chemical dependency or nursing home services, by rehabilitating to the least restrictive environment, utilizing a range of psychiatric and medical services, which reflect the accepted standard of care and are in compliance with statutory and regulatory guidelines. The hospital is accredited by the Joint Commission.*

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**PHOTO ATTACHED:** Wes Pegues