HAPPENINGS of PORT ST. JOHN Inc.
Weekly Edition
November 13, 2026

Central Florida Hospitals Unite to Train 25 Healthcare Professionals for Hazmat and Chemical Emergencies



Following training, all attendees participate in a simulated hazardous materials incident.

When a hazardous materials incident sends contaminated patients to the emergency department, hospitals must be ready to act immediately. Last week, 25 healthcare professionals from healthcare organizations across Central Florida took a major step toward that readiness, completing a three-day Hospital Emergency Response Team (HERT) train-the-trainer program hosted by Parrish Healthcare at Parrish Medical Center, October 27–29, 2026.

The regional training brought together participants from Parrish Medical Center, HCA Healthcare, AdventHealth, Health First, Nemours Children's Health and Halifax Health to strengthen hospital readiness and response capabilities during hazardous materials incidents, chemical exposures, patient decontamination events and other emergencies. Among the 25 graduates was one four-legged standout: Colby, a service dog who joined the training and earned recognition as an honorary graduate.

The program concluded with a realistic emergency response simulation, giving participants the opportunity to demonstrate their newly acquired skills, apply personal protective equipment (PPE) protocols, practice patient decontamination procedures and coordinate emergency response efforts in a simulated hazardous materials incident.

Representatives from Brevard County Emergency Management, the Florida Department of Health, Titusville Police Department and Titusville Fire Department attended the final simulation to observe the exercise and support the collaborative training effort. Their participation reinforced the importance of coordination among hospitals, public safety agencies and emergency management partners when responding to community-wide emergencies.

“Our Board of Directors has long expected us to be at our highest level of readiness in cooperation with Titusville Fire and Police to protect our North Brevard community,” said George Mikitarian, President and CEO of Parrish Healthcare. “Bringing



Class participants practiced doning and doffing personal protective equipment (PPE).



All 25 graduates pose with their graduation certificates alongside special participant Colby, a registered service dog who joined the training and earned recognition as an honorary graduate.

healthcare professionals together from across the region strengthens our collective ability to respond to emergencies. This training represents an investment not only in our healthcare teams, but in the safety and well-being of the communities we have the privilege to serve."

The three-day train-the-trainer program was funded by the Central Florida Disaster Medical Coalition (CFDMC) and facilitated by Hot Zone USA, an emergency response, safety training and hazardous materials equipment provider.

The training responds to a gap regional hospitals have worked to close for years: a shortage of trained hospital decontamination personnel. Findings from the annual Central Florida medical surge exercise identified decontamination readiness as an opportunity for improvement, prompting regional hospitals to prioritize comprehensive training that would allow them to establish, train and maintain their own emergency decontamination teams.

"For the past decade, the annual medical surge exercise in Central Florida has highlighted the need for trained decontamination personnel at all hospitals," said Lynne Drawdy, Executive Director of the Central Florida Disaster Medical Coalition. "This program provides hospitals with the knowledge and practical experience needed to establish and sustain effective decontamination teams, strengthening preparedness throughout our region."

"Seeing 25 healthcare professionals complete this training and demonstrate their skills during the final simulation is a tremendous accomplishment," said Leigh Spradling, Senior Safety and Emergency Preparedness Specialist at Parrish Healthcare. "Just as important is the collaboration we witnessed among our healthcare organizations and community response partners. Together, we are better prepared to protect our patients, team members and communities when it matters most."

Through hands-on instruction, realistic scenarios and collaborative exercises, graduates are now equipped to help strengthen emergency decontamination capabilities within their respective healthcare organizations and share their knowledge with fellow team members. The successful completion of the program marks another important step toward building a more prepared, coordinated and resilient regional healthcare response network.

Parrish Healthcare Open Interviews

Parrish Healthcare hosts open interviews every Tuesday, 9:00 a.m. to 12 p.m. at Parrish Medical Center, 951 N. Washington Ave., Titusville.

- **Registered Nurses (RN)**
  - Emergency Department, Med/Surg & Operating Room
  - Charge Nurses
  - Cardiovascular Invasive Specialist
  - Rapid Response
  - Discharge
  - Labor & Delivery
- **Medical Technologists**
  - CT/MRI
  - Radiology
- **Surgical Scrub Techs**
- **Nursing Assistants**
- **Medical Assistants**
- **Cardiovascular Invasive Specialist (CVIS)**
- **Paramedics**
- **Pharmacists**
- **Pharmacy Technicians**
- **EMTs**
- **EMT - Paramedics**
- **Surgical First Assistant**
- **Clinical Systems Analyst**
- **DI Sleep Technologist (RPSGT)**
- **Respiratory Therapist**

For additional information regarding open positions within Parrish Healthcare, please visit parrishhealthcare.com/careers.

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PARRISH HEALTHCARE

Parrish Healthcare Welcomes Dr. Dylan Patel, Fellowship-Trained Foot and Ankle Surgeon, to North Brevard



Parrish Healthcare and Parrish Medical Group (PMG) are pleased to welcome Dylan Patel, DPM, AACFAS, DABPM, a fellowship-trained foot and ankle surgeon, to the North Brevard community. Dr. Patel brings advanced surgical training, specialized expertise and a strong commitment to compassionate, patient-centered care to help individuals throughout the community maintain mobility, reduce pain and improve their quality of life.

Dr. Patel specializes in the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of a wide range of foot and ankle conditions, offering both surgical and nonsurgical treatment options tailored to each patient's individual needs and goals. His clinical expertise includes, but is not limited to: foot and ankle trauma and fracture management, sports injuries, reconstructive surgery, total ankle replacement, tendon and ligament repair, minimally invasive procedures, bunions, hammertoes, arthritis, plantar fasciitis and diabetic limb salvage.

Dr. Patel earned his Bachelor of Science degree from Saint Louis University and his Doctor of Podiatric Medicine degree from the Dr. William M. Scholl College of Podiatric Medicine at Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine & Science. He completed his surgical residency at Advocate Christ Medical Center, a Level I Trauma Center in Oak Lawn, Illinois, and subsequently completed an advanced fellowship in innovative foot and ankle surgery through AdventHealth in the St. Petersburg-Tarpon Springs area of Florida, further developing his expertise in complex reconstructive techniques and advanced surgical approaches.

Throughout his education and training, Dr. Patel demonstrated a commitment to leadership and professional excellence, serving as class president during medical school and chief resident during his surgical residency. He is board qualified by the American Board of Foot and Ankle Surgery and board certified by the American Board of Podiatric Medicine.

Dr. Patel believes in treating every patient with the same compassion, respect and dedication he would extend to his own family. Outside of medicine, he enjoys traveling with his wife, playing basketball, spending time with family and cheering on his favorite sports team, the Chicago Bears.

Dr. Patel is conveniently located at Parrish Healthcare Center in Port St. John, located at 5005 Port St. John Parkway, Suite 2100 in Port St. John, Florida and is currently accepting new patients. For more information about Dr. Patel, or to schedule an appointment, please visit parrishhealthcare.com/dylanpatel or call 321-268-6868.

Brevard County Accepting Requests for Flood Clean-Up Assistance

Brevard County announces a request portal for residents seeking volunteer assistance with flood clean-up efforts. This program connects homeowners affected by recent flooding with partner volunteer organizations that can help with removal of mud, ruined furniture, wet flooring and damp drywall from flooded homes.

All services are provided free of charge, but assistance is not guaranteed and will depend on available volunteer resources and identified needs throughout the community. Residents are asked to submit only one request per household and to provide the following information:

- Name and contact information
- Household details
- Photos of damaged areas

By collecting this information, residents in need will be connected with trusted volunteer partners who can provide safe and effective cleanup support. Residents can apply by completing the online form at: forms.juvare.com/forms/93e32c51-c1d4-4920-9642-f60248d6efba

3500 Carole Ave., Port St. John
LIBRARY HOURS: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 9 a.m.-6 p.m., Friday and Saturday 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Wednesday 12-8 p.m., Sunday 12-5 p.m.

Holiday Library Hours

The library will be open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Wednesday, November 25 and will be closed Thursday, November 26 and Friday, November 27.

ADULTS

Community Support Advocate: Mondays November 23, 1:30 – 5 p.m. The Community Support Advocate assists with housing, SNAP, social security, healthcare and insurance, and senior resources. Appointments and walk-ins are accepted. See the Reference Desk for details.

Yarn Group of PSJ Library: Fridays in November, 1 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. The yarn group is a group of adults that enjoy knitting and crocheting. They are happy to help you learn. All levels are welcome.

Port Readers Book Club: Wednesday, November 18, 6:30 p.m. Join us for a lively discussion of Salt: A World History by Mark Kurlansky.

Book Worms Book Club: Wednesday, November 18, 6:30 p.m. Enjoy a lively discussion about the book Grapes of Wrath by John Steinbeck.

YOUTH SERVICES

Sensory Playtime: Tuesdays, 10:30-11:30 a.m. Ages 3 and up.

Tabletop Game Night: Tuesdays, 5:00-6:00 p.m. All ages.

Family Movie: Mondays, 4:00-6:00 p.m. All ages.

Read Your Way to K:

Little Laptime: Mondays from 9:30-10:00 a.m. On November 16, class will begin at 10:00 a.m. Ages 0-1.

Story Time with Ms. Jo: November 16 from 9:30-10:00 a.m. Ages 0-5.

Little Movers & Groovers: Thursdays and Fridays, 9:30-10:00 a.m. Ages 0-5. No class on November 26.

Toddler Story Time: Thursdays and Fridays from 10:30-11:00 a.m. Ages 3-5. No class on November 26.

Playdate: Thursdays and Fridays, 10:00-10:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m. Ages 0-5. No class on November 26.

Flooding Clean-Up Kit Distribution at Select Brevard County Libraries

Brevard County is distributing flood clean-up kits for to Brevard County residents impacted by recent flooding at Brevard County libraries in the most-impacted areas, while supplies last, by library staff during regular operating hours:

- Melbourne Public Library, 540 E. Fee Ave., Melbourne
- Palm Bay Library, 1520 Port Malabar Blvd.
- S. Mainland Public Library, 7921 Ron Beatty Blvd.-West Melbourne Public Library, 2755 Wingate Blvd.

The flood clean-up kits include: 1 5-gallon bucket, 14” broom, 14” squeegee, mop head, brushes, sponge, work gloves, rubber gloves, mask, garbage bags and liquid cleaner.

SpaceX Moves Starship Booster To Launch Pad For 'Squeeze Test' Ahead Of Double-Catch Attempt

SpaceX moved its latest Starship first stage, known as Super Heavy Booster 22, to the launch mount that its Starbase facility in South Texas on November 9 ahead of Flight 15. The historic flight is scheduled to launch on Friday, November 13.

During the launch test, SpaceX plans to catch both Booster 22 and Starship's Ship upper stage with the launch tower's "chopstick" arms in a double landing catch. SpaceX has never tried the double catch before. If successful, it will be the first full recovery of an orbital rocket in history. Booster 22 was used for final catch testing upon arrival at the launch pad - a suspended squeeze test at catch height - on November 10th.

SpaceX has used the chopstick arms during Starship flights before. It successfully caught Super Heavy on three separate occasions, but the company has never attempted a catch of Ship, which flies higher and farther than the booster. It’s a more challenging target.

SpaceX only reached orbit with Starship for the first time on Flight 14 in September this year.

Flight 15 will break new ground if all goes well, and it will give us a look at the future: SpaceX plans to catch Super Heavy and Ship on all operational Starship missions, as this recovery strategy will allow the company to boost the mega-rocket’s launch cadence.

SpaceX also wants to fly Starship incredibly often, so that it can build out its Starlink V3 broadband constellation and even bigger Starmind AI data-center network. Indeed, Elon Musk has said the company is eyeing 10,000 Starship flights per year by 2030.

The plan is that Flight 15 will launch from Starbase on Friday, November 13 during a 75-minute window that opens at 5:45 p.m. EST. Super Heavy will return to Starbase for its catch about 6.5 minutes after liftoff. Ship will follow suit about 22 hours later, after it has deployed 26 Starlink V3 spacecraft into LEO and completed 14 circuits of our planet.