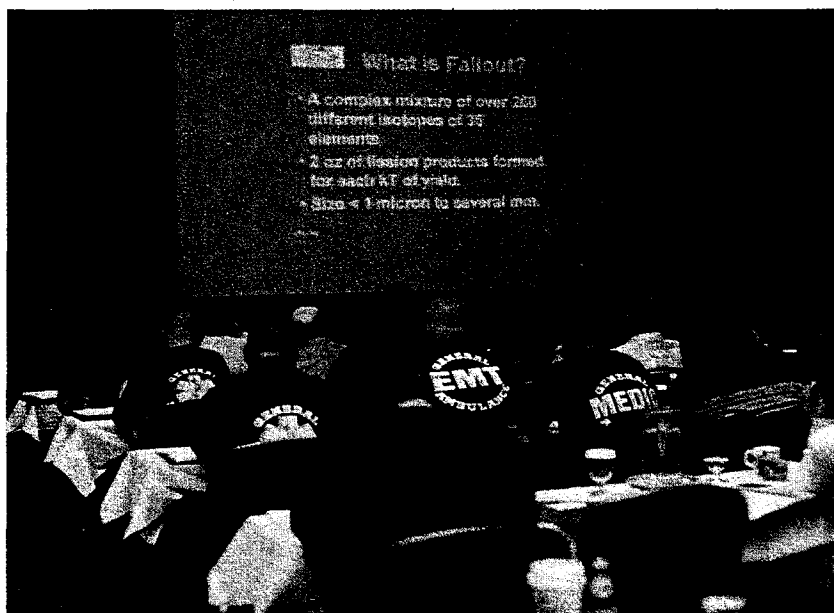


GVMC: Prepared for all hazards

First basic disaster certification course

A new standardized Basic Disaster Life Support Course (BDLS) for healthcare providers was held for the first time in West Virginia last November. The 190 healthcare providers who attended received national certification from the American Medical Association. They learned the “all hazards” disaster-management approach—preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation—to serve the needs of the public in case of a mass casualty event. The attendees included 16 M.D.s, 23 D.O.s, 86 R.N.s, 30 E.M.S. workers, 12 allied health professionals, three social workers, three respiratory therapists and 17 other health-related disciplines.

The comprehensive eight-hour course was held at The Greenbrier in White Sulphur Springs. It was coordinated by the Greenbrier Valley Medical Alliance for Disaster Preparedness, with funding and sponsorship by the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources, Monroe Health Center, Southeastern Area Health Education Center at West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine, Greenbrier Valley Medical Center and The Greenbrier. An advanced certification course is being considered for the



Attendees of the first BDLS certification course in West Virginia are absorbed in a lecture about fallout.

near future for those people who have already achieved the BDLS certification.

West Virginia prepares: Computer-based bioterrorism education

The West Virginia University Virtual Medical Campus in collaboration with the W.Va. Area Health Education Center is sponsoring free educational courses on disaster readiness. The project is a self-paced, online series of three computer courses providing free CME and CEU (continuing education credits) to healthcare professionals who must be able to deal with bioterrorism and other disaster events effectively, efficiently and professionally. The three

courses are “Terrorism Recognition and Reporting,” “Multidisciplinary Response” and “Acute Care of Patients from WMD Events.” To register, go to <http://vmc.wvu.edu/hrsa/>.

Mock disaster drill

The Southeastern Area Health Education Center is planning and implementing a multiple county-wide mock drill project based on a bioterrorist or other disaster event scheduled for this spring. If you are interested in participating on the planning committee for the mock disaster drill, or if you like additional information about the online courses, contact Patti Crawford at crawford@wvsom.edu or call 304-647-6298. ●