

# 'Adverse events' claim 2 at SMDC

■ Eight local hospitals cited for mistakes in 2009.

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While the number of patient deaths in Minnesota hospitals as a result of mistakes or accidents fell dramatically last year, two of the four that did

occur happened at Duluth's SMDC Health System. In the sixth annual report of "adverse health events" released by the Minnesota Department of Health today, SMDC also saw a patient given the wrong medicine resulting in serious disability, a woman inseminated with the wrong sperm, serious falls and a

patient-against-patient sexual assault in the mental health unit. In a knee replacement, surgery on the wrong leg was caught in time, but not before the wrong leg was given regional anesthesia. In all, four events were at St. Mary's Medical Center and six at SMDC Medical Center (formerly Miller-Dwan

## EDITORIAL

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Medical Center). SMDC Medical Center's tally was the most reported by a Northland hospital.

Five were not preventable, SMDC spokeswoman Beth Johnson said. "There was nothing we could have done differently," she said. That included the deaths of a diabetic patient from hypoglycemia at St. Mary's Medical Center and one seemingly healthy patient who died prior

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## 'WE NEED HELP'

— Elisabeth Preval, Haiti's first lady



Haitians search for survivors under the rubble of a collapsed building on Wednesday, one day after an earthquake hit Port-au-Prince. The death count from the 7.0-magnitude earthquake was estimated at 40,000 as of Wednesday night. Ricardo Arduengo / Associated Press

- Tens of thousands feared dead from 7.0 Haiti earthquake
- Third of the country's population of 9 million in need of aid
- Obama promises comprehensive relief effort and Marine deployment

**JONATHAN M. KATZ**  
Associated Press

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti — Dazed survivors wandered past dead bodies in rubble-strewn streets Wednesday, crying for loved ones, and rescuers searched collapsed buildings as officials feared the death toll from Haiti's devastating earthquake could reach into the tens of thousands. The first cargo planes with food, water, medical supplies, shelter and sniffer dogs headed to the Western Hemisphere's poorest nation a day after the magnitude-7 quake flattened much of the capital of 2 million people. Tuesday's earthquake brought down buildings great and small — from shacks in shantytowns to

President Rene Preval's gleaming white National Palace, where a dome tilted ominously above the manicured grounds. Hospitals, schools and the main prison collapsed. The capital's Roman Catholic archbishop was killed when his office and the main cathedral fell. The head of the U.N. peacekeeping mission was missing in the ruins of the organization's multistory headquarters. Police officers turned their pickup trucks into ambulances to carry the injured. Others carried injured to hospitals in wheelbarrows and on stretchers fashioned from doors.

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The quake displaced thousands of injured children, who were left to sit on sidewalks in Port-au-Prince and wait for medical help.

## UMD professor hopes for good news, braces for worst

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Pray for Haiti and its people. That's the request of Jean "Rudy" Perrault, a Haiti native who teaches music at the University of Minnesota Duluth. He spent Wednesday frantically trying to check on the welfare of family members in and around Port-au-Prince, the Caribbean nation's capital. "It's been an emotional roller coaster ride," Perrault said of the experience. "Any time the phone rings, I rush to get it, but I'm also afraid of what news there will be on the other end." He was able to contact his sister Tuesday night and learned that she was OK. But the whereabouts of Perrault's mother and father remained a mystery. Perrault said his sister lives above the city on a hill and had not been able to reach anyone down below in



Rudy Perrault's family lives in the Port-au-Prince area. He learned Tuesday night that his sister is OK but he hasn't spoken to his parents since the earthquake. Carrie Kohlmeier / Fox 21 News

the city proper when he first spoke to her. "It's total devastation; she says it's a war zone. She said it's almost like you took a bomb and just dropped it on the city." "Not knowing about my family members has been unbearable," he said. "With each call I get, I brace for the worst. But I've also received a lot of calls of support."

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## Well-traveled educator to lead Marshall School

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A Minnesota native with an international resume will become the new leader of Marshall School. The independent school announced Wednesday its decision to hire Michael Ehrhardt, an administrator at an

American school in London, to permanently fill the head of school post left behind by Barbara Brueggemann when she abruptly resigned in late August. "Overall, the faculty is very excited about this choice," said Anne Castle, a teacher at Marshall and a member of the

search committee that selected him. "I think he is going to be re-energizing us and setting us down a great path for the future." Ehrhardt, who grew up in Lakeville, Minn., has been an educator for more than 16 years serving as a teacher, administrator and director of

information technology at various schools, including posts in London, Brazil and Cyprus. He has a bachelor's degree from St. Olaf's College, a master's degree in journalism from Columbia University, a master's degree in educational administration from the University of Massachusetts-

Lowell and a doctorate of educational administration from the University of Minnesota. He was selected ahead of 29 other applicants, said Jim Jarocki, the head of the Marshall search committee and a member of the school's board of trustees.

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EHRHARDT: Native of Minnesota