

**National Academies**  
Ensuring Continuity and Resilience  
of the U.S. Blood System

**AABB Interorganizational Disaster Task Force**

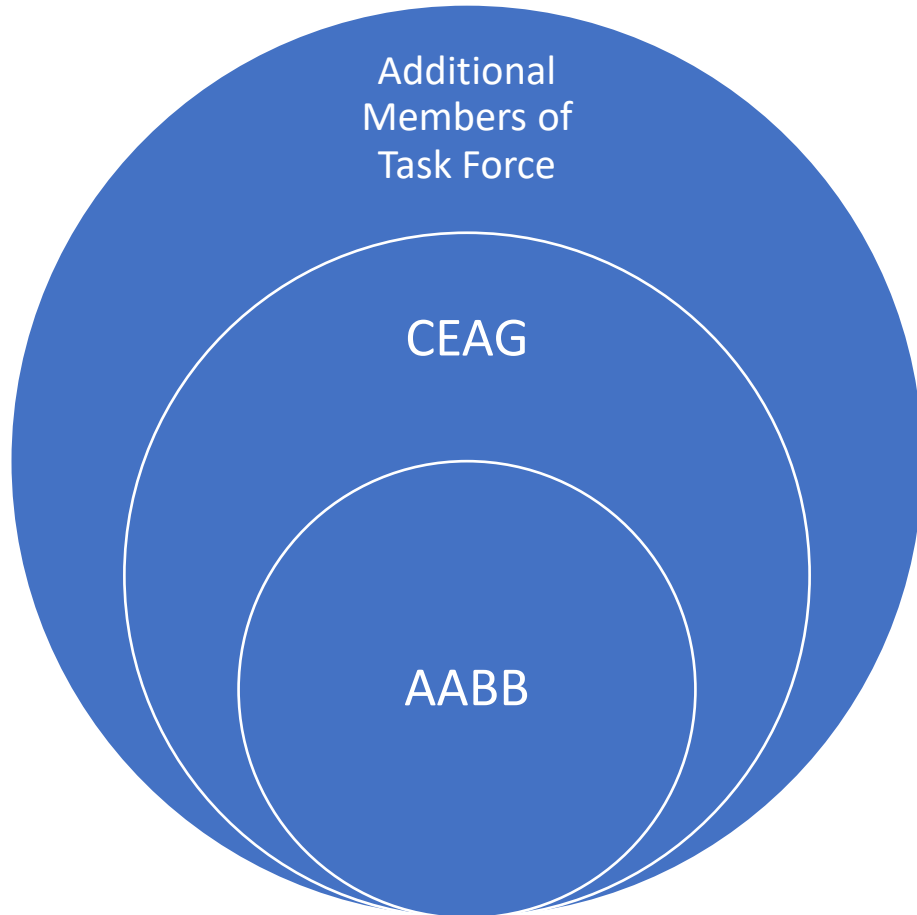
**John Hagins**  
Chief Executive Officer  
Community Blood Center

**Chair**  
**AABB Interorganizational Disaster Task Force**

# Background: AABB Interorganizational Disaster Task Force

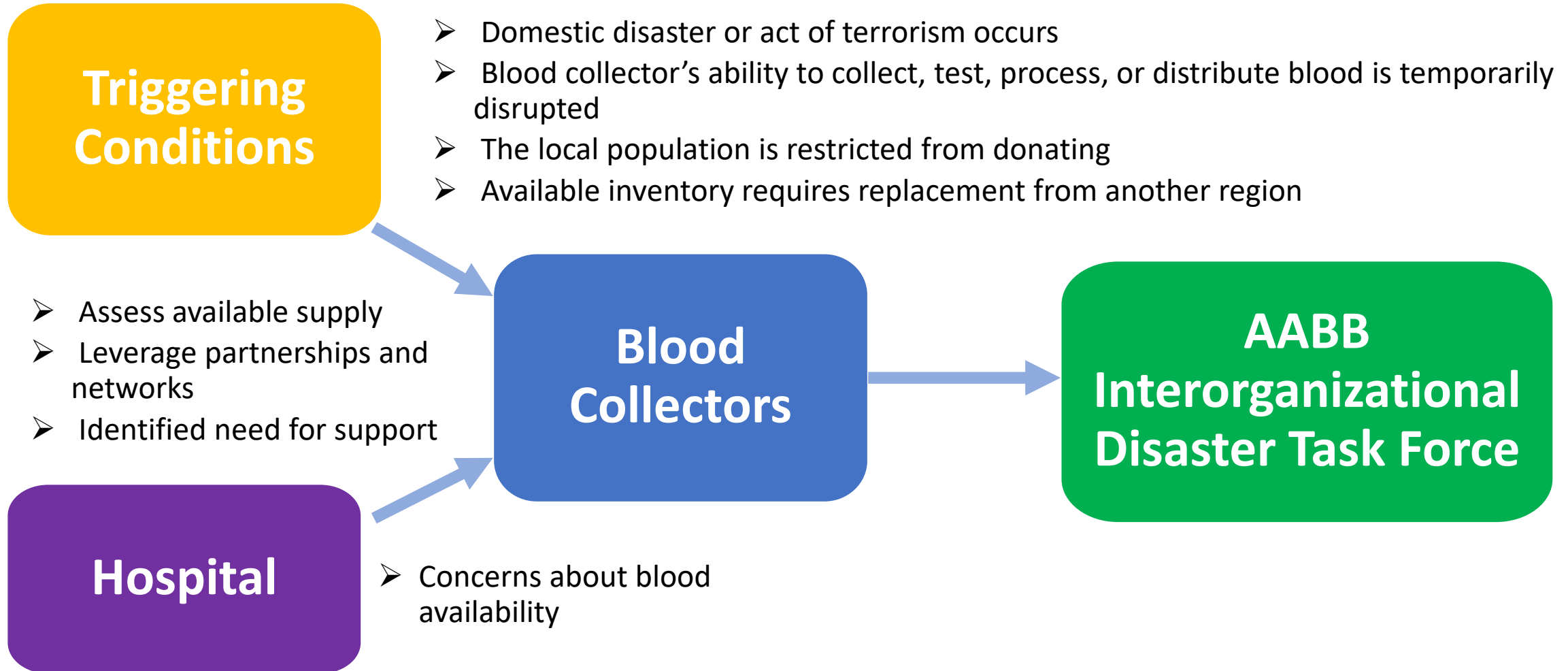
- Established in January 2002
- Purpose:
  - Help ensure that blood collection efforts resulting from domestic disasters and acts of terrorism are managed properly
  - Deliver clear and consistent messages to the public regarding the status of America's blood supply
  - Identify infrastructure challenges and coordinate transport of blood

# Composition of Task Force



- AABB: Designated coordinating body for Task Force
- Critical Event Assessment Group (CEAG)
  - America's Blood Centers
  - American Red Cross
  - Blood Centers of America
  - Liaison: Armed Services Blood Program
  - Liaison: HHS Office of Assistant Secretary for Health (OASH)
- Additional Members of Task Force:
  - American Hospital Association
  - College of American Pathologists
  - AdvaMed
  - National Marrow Donor Program
  - Plasma Protein Therapeutics Association
  - Liaison: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
  - Liaison: Food and Drug Administration.

# Before Activation



# Emergency Chain of Events

---

- AABB immediately convenes a meeting of the CEAG to assess environment.
- Local blood centers:
  - Estimate blood needs.
  - Assess available local supply.
  - Identify any infrastructure-related issues.
  - Communicate that information to the Task Force.
- CEAG determines strategy and coordinates efforts:
  - Constructing message to the blood community and donors.
  - Coordinating broad public message in conjunction with HHS.
  - Transporting and coordinating needed blood and supplies to the affected area.
  - Identifying priorities and determining next steps until event has been resolved.
- AABB communicates CEAG recommendations to other members of the Task Force.



# Timeline: Major Events

---

2002 - Task Force Established

---

2005 - Hurricane Katrina

---

2010 - Haiti Earthquake

---

2012 - Superstorm Sandy

---

2017 - Hurricanes Harvey & Maria

---

2017 - Las Vegas Shooting

---

2020 - COVID

---

2021- Winter Storm Uri

---

2024 - OneBlood Ransomware Incident

---

2024 - Hurricanes Helene & Milton

---

2025 - LA Wildfires

---

2025 - New York Blood Center Ransomware Incident

# Resources

- <http://www.aabb.org/disaster>
  - [AABB Interorganizational Disaster Task Force website](#)
    - [Disaster Operations Handbook](#)
    - [Planning for the 2026 FIFA World Cup](#)
- <http://www.aabb.org/blood-biotherapies/general/cybersecurity-in-blood-and-biotherapies>
  - [Cybersecurity in Blood and Biotherapies](#)
- Ramsey G, Berry F. An interorganizational task force for disasters affecting US blood supply. Vox Sang. 2025.