Northern Territory emergency services, security and health and welfare agencies will be put to the test next week when the major Counter Terrorism Exercise *Outer Edge* is held in Darwin.

Chief Minister, Clare Martin, and Police Minister, Paul Henderson, today announced the exercise could involve up to 800 people in the Territory.

“Northern Territory Police will release details of the operation later this week, but for now I can confirm that while there may be some minor inconvenience it is business as usual at Royal Darwin Hospital,” Ms Martin said.

“Plans are in place to ensure this does not affect patients, staff, visitors or the emergency department.

“However, people will see major activity at the hospital and they need to be aware that there will be no cause for concern.”

Mr Henderson said while the terror threat in Australia has not increased since the September 11, 2001 events in the United States, it was important that our capacity to deal with incidents is tested and refined.

“We need to ensure that all of our emergency response agencies are prepared and ready to respond to a range of potential terrorist incidents,” Mr Henderson said.

The exercise will run from Tuesday 26 April to Friday 29 April.

NT Police will release details of the exercise later this week and there will be advertising over the weekend and next week to ensure Territorians know what to expect.

“People may see things happening that are out of the ordinary, and we don’t want them alarmed, Ms Martin said.

“Territorians should feel assured that their emergency and security services are prepared to deal with any incident that happens here.”

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