



MAY 2016



SAN DIEGO HEALTHCARE DISASTER COALITION

This Month in the Coalition

The citizens of San Diego count on us to be prepared in the event of a disaster. We as the San Diego Healthcare Disaster Coalition and Support Services proudly accept this challenge

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Each month at the San Diego Healthcare Disaster Coalition (SDHDC), disaster preparedness professionals come together for in-depth, passionate dialogue about a range of topics. Here's a glimpse at some of the discussion in May:

- ◆ MHOAC and Regional MHOAC Programs
- ◆ CHA Conference Update
- ◆ May MCI Exercise Debrief

Trainings and Drills

OES Regional TTX

May 24th, 2016

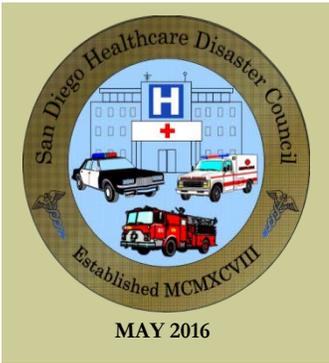
Transportation Classification Drill – “TRAIN”

June 1st, 2016 0900

CDPH

Emergency Preparedness Training Workshop

June 27-29, 2016



SAN DIEGO HEALTHCARE DISASTER COALITION

This Month's Focus California Statewide Medical Health Exercise

Managing Disaster Information in Incident Communications

Submitted by Adrian Lopez, Safety Officer, Scripps Mercy Hospital, San Diego, CA

Incident communication is a broad and complex component of Emergency Management. One critical piece of incident communication is information management. Disaster information influences all aspects of the disaster management continuum from mitigation to recovery. Information is a valuable resource for any decision maker managing a disaster. Availability of information has grown significantly over the past several years, due to advances in technology and applications. It then becomes a matter of how to manage this valuable commodity.

It begins with data or information collection. Where is the information coming from and is the source reliable? Misinformation or unreliable sources can create additional issues and hinder response activities with the potential to create secondary disasters in the disaster management chain of events.

Next is the prioritization of information collected and the balance between too little information, that one cannot develop effective plans or objectives to respond, to the other extreme of having too much information where the time and resources needed could overload the response efforts. This creates ineffective solutions or plans to the disaster response objectives formed by decision makers in the incident command system. There should be just enough information to develop plans that can meet or exceed the disaster objectives. Information can also assist in execution of the plans by operational personnel, minimizing the unnecessary utilization of limited resources.

Not all information can be pre-packaged, as incidents are extremely unpredictable and dynamic. The nature of information collection and dissemination practices fall on a fine line between effectively managing established information requirements and having the ability to be flexible enough to process unestablished information into the disaster management process. This becomes a critical process as time and resources are limited in a disaster. The information is also dynamic and must be refreshed or eliminated when it is no longer needed and or becomes irrelevant.

Information management is a dynamic piece and has the potential to be passed over. It does not become tangible until those responding to the incident process the information. Effectively collect data to allow comparison of essential (tangible) versus speculative decisions. Then, collecting enough to effectively plan and then execute to accomplish the objectives set by the Incident Command allows for an effective information management plan. The focus then remains on the existing disaster at hand, instead of the deviations created by misinformation and mismanagement of the information obtained.