



AUGUST 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 -August

- ◆ American Red Cross Services
- ◆ Health Center Partner's Role
- ◆ Statewide Medical Health Exercise, November 17, 2016 – Mid Planning Conference August 17th (Following HDC Meeting)

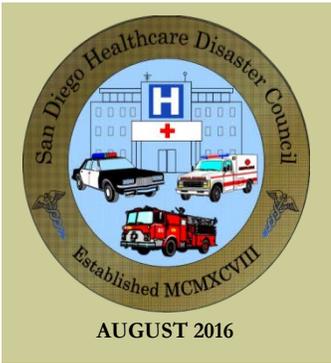
Trainings and Drills

California Hospital Associations (CHA)- Sacramento
Annual Disaster Conference
September 19-21, 2016

San Diego

Emergency Planning G-235 – CSTI Training
January 9-11, 2017

Save the Date - San Diego – FEMA MGT 439
Pediatric Disaster Response and Emergency Preparedness
February 16-17, 2017



SAN DIEGO HEALTHCARE DISASTER COALITION

San Diego Search & Rescue Team

Submitted by: Frank R. Motley , Senior Director, Scripps Corporate Support Operations

Within the state of California, each County's Sheriff's Department is mandated to keep and maintain a Search & Rescue (SAR) team to handle a myriad of missions that would otherwise overwhelm normal Law Enforcement (LE) operations. San Diego is no exception. The Sheriff's Department runs a Search & Rescue (SAR) team that is composed 100% of volunteers. These "unpaid professionals" are charged with the responsibility of responding to any Law Enforcement agency during an emergency involving a missing person. By utilizing volunteers for this role, the County of San Diego saves hundreds of thousands of dollars each year, and maintains a top notch search unit, recognized as one of the best in the US.

San Diego County has some of the most diverse terrain in the United States, with coastal regions, deserts, and mountains, urban and rural neighborhoods, and a huge variance in temperatures. With its generally moderate weather, it is a haven for outdoor enthusiasts. Unfortunately, often these enthusiasts get in over their head or fail to properly prepare for their endeavor and that's when Search & Rescue gets involved.

The San Diego Search & Rescue team specializes in back-country rescue and each member undergoes a 220 hour academy before graduating as a "Rescue Volunteer." The academy covers topics like wilderness first aid, land navigation, man-tracking, low and high angle rope work, rappelling, helicopter operations, and wilderness survival.

The SAR team is also utilized for "missing at risk" subjects, and many searches are conducted in urban areas. Additionally, SAR is used for declared emergencies and can be utilized to assist with road closures, property evacuations, and crowd control.

The San Diego SAR team is made up of 8 units, which consist of:

- Tactical Search
- Technical Rescue
- K9
- Medical
- Communications
- Mounted
- Motorized
- Training

These sub-specialties allow the units to have an even greater value on a search and the diversity leads to an overall strength. SAR practices the Incident Command System on each of its searches, and trains regularly throughout San Diego. Additionally, SAR maintains a mountain bike team and a quad team (what's a quad team?), both made up from members of each unit.

SAR is always looking for volunteers. IF this sounds like something of interest, here's the link for further information: <http://www.sdsheriff.net/sar/joinsar.html>