



OCTOBER 2015



## SAN DIEGO HEALTHCARE DISASTER COUNCIL

### This Month in the Council

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

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*Each month at the San Diego Healthcare Disaster Council (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 October*

- ◆ Hospitals are testing patient tracking capabilities in an October exercise.
- ◆ In the next two months, the 2015 Hazard Vulnerability Assessment (HVA) will be completed.
- ◆ In November 2015, many SDHDC entities will participate in a Point of Dispensing (POD) exercise.

### Trainings and Drills

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**November 17-19, 2015**  
**November Statewide Exercise/Drill**

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## **Emergency Management Program Performance Improvement: Quadrant-based Emergency Management Committees**

By: Kelly Cheffet

Kaiser Permanente San Diego is the largest healthcare provider in San Diego County serving 1 out of every 6 people in the county (597,383 members).

Given the size and scope of the Medical Service Area (MSA) as well as the Affordable Health Care Act driven increase in membership, it was quickly determined that KPSD was unable to maintain efficiency in mitigating, preparing, responding, and recovering from disasters with only one hospital-based Emergency Management Committee.

KPSD's major facilities are scattered throughout the 4,200 square mile MSA. Facilities include one medical center with 414 licensed beds, a 78-bed Emergency Department, 3 ambulatory surgery centers, 20 Medical Office Buildings, and 9,000 employees distributed throughout four quadrants within San Diego County.

To address the need, an additional emergency management committee was deployed beginning in 2013 in each of the 4 outpatient quadrants (North, Central, East, and South).

The committees are composed of the Medical Office Administrators (MOAs) and Clinical Supervisors (CS) from each Medical Office Building (MOB) within the quadrant which ranges from 2 to 6 MOBs. They are the key owners of the emergency operations plan development and execution during exercises and real events. The committees meet in a central location in the quadrant on at least a quarterly basis to coordinate, train, drill, and share best practices.

The advent of the regional committees proved invaluable during the firestorms of May 2014. One and half weeks prior to the start of the first fire in Rancho Bernardo, the North County EM Committee conducted a table-top exercise regarding a wind fueled fire originating in...you guessed it...Rancho Bernardo.

Upon debriefing the wildfire event, the committee made up of experienced and some less experienced managers felt the planning and coordination conducted, and in particular the routine table-top exercises, positioned them well in response to the fire storm. All the while Executive Leadership is very pleased with the large task of the EM program being broken down into more manageable and efficient chunks.

It is said that all disasters are local, and each committee will continue to develop and improve in preparation for an event should it begin in their own backyard.