



FEBRUARY 2014



# 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 Healthcare Disaster Council, 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 January:*

- Office of Emergency Services (OES) reported they have updated the San Diego County Disaster Plan App. They also reported they are mailing out tsunami evacuation plans for coastal residents.
- The age group with the highest numbers being seen for the flu are in the range of 20-40 years old who are completely healthy with no underlying illness.
- International Association of Healthcare Security and Safety (IAHSS) elected a new president. Their national meeting will be held in San Diego, May 14-16, 2014.
- The first two (2) Hospital Preparedness Program (HPP) 12 deliverables are due February 3, 2014.

## Trainings and Drills

### **Hospital Exercise**

**April 9, 2014**

County EMS DOC (MOC) will be used in a Communications Support Role.

### **Joint EOC / WebEOC Workshops**

#### Available Dates:

#### Agenda:

9:00 - 10:30: SEMS/NIMS Introduction  
10:30 - 11:30: WebEOC Overview  
11:30 - 12:30: WebEOC Subject Specific  
12:30 - 1:30: Lunch (on your own)  
1:30 - 4:30: EOC Section Specific

**March 27, 2014** (Operations Section)  
**July 17, 2014** (Planning-Intel Section)  
**September 25, 2014** (Finance Section)

Registration is available via email at: [WebEOC@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:WebEOC@sdcounty.ca.gov). Please include your contact information and specify which *dates* and which *segments* you would like to attend.



# SAN DIEGO HEALTHCARE DISASTER COUNCIL



## This Month's Focus

### **Kaiser Permanente San Diego Excels in World Wide Radio Contest**

**William T. Parker M.D., Zion Hospital, Disaster Radio Communications  
Kelly M. Cheffet, HEM, Emergency Manager**

One requirement of The Joint Commission (TJC) is that hospitals have alternate ways to communicate with outside resources in the event of a disaster where one or more of the normal channels of communication can fail.

One of the back-up communication methods chosen by many hospitals is to have an amateur radio station. These stations must be operated by trained personnel who are licensed by the Federal Communications Commission. We feel, however, that to be effective, these operators need additional training to simulate the conditions they might encounter in a real disaster.

As part of this training our Disaster Radio Communications team participated in the "CQ World Wide DX SSB Contest" over the weekend of October 26 and 27, 2013.

To put this contest in perspective, it is international in nature and attracts participants from all over the world. It is common for teams of amateur radio operators to travel to distant countries to participate. This year participants included over 8,000 official entries and many more casual operators.

Participation in this contest requires rapid and accurate transmission and reception of information in a noisy and busy environment. In addition, many of the operators encountered in these contests can have limited English skills and speak with unfamiliar accents. As such, we felt that operating in this contest would provide training for our Kaiser Permanente Amateur Radio Network (KPARN) team members.

### **Results**

The object of the contest is to see how many different stations around the world that a participating station can contact during the 48 hours of the contest. Credit is given for contacting different countries and getting into regions that are rare.

We operated the contest a total of about 5 hours. We picked those times where propagation from the rest of the world to Southern California was best and busiest to give us maximum exposure.

We had 45 contacts in 26 different countries. We were able to make contacts on all six continents of the world. We contacted places as diverse as the Philippines, the Madeira Islands off the northwest coast of Africa, Aaland Island in northern Europe near the Arctic Circle, and Siberia. Most of these contacts were made by Bill Sperling, M.D. who was operating in his first contest.

### **Summary**

This contest is a test of the station performance as well as a training exercise for the operators. In this contest the radio and antennas at the Kaiser Permanente San Diego Medical Center functioned very well. Both operators agreed that it was an excellent chance to practice and develop our operating skills.

William T. Parker M.D. W8QZA  
Disaster Radio Communications  
Kaiser Hospital, San Diego, California

### **Participants:**

Bill Sperling M.D., KJ6EGQ  
Bill Parker M.D., W8QZA

