



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE PUBLICATION

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COUNTY RECOGNIZED AS LEADER IN COLLABORATION WITH EMERGENCY HEALTHCARE PARTNERS

Federal Agency Names Health and Human Services' Emergency Medical Services as Model Community for Work with Emergency Medical Providers, Disaster Preparedness

The County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency (HHS) is one of five jurisdictions named a "model community" demonstrating best practices in collaboration between public health and emergency medical providers.

"This is a tremendous national honor and a testament to the work of the health care and emergency response professionals that serve the people of the San Diego County," said Board of Supervisors' Chairman Ron Roberts, District Four.

The honor was given by the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the Terrorism Injuries: Information, Dissemination and Exchange (TIIDE) Partnership, which selected the County from 13 jurisdictions that applied for the designation. Members of TIIDE include emergency physicians, surgeons, and emergency medical technicians from across the nation.

"This is most gratifying, because it comes from our peers in emergency medicine," said Wilma Wooten, M.D., M.P.H., County Public Health Officer. "Our successful partnerships with healthcare professionals have made San Diego County a national leader in disaster preparedness."

The award was presented today in Atlanta, GA, at the TIIDE meeting.

"The Hospital Association of San Diego and Imperial Counties (HASDIC) is a proud partner in emergency planning, and works closely with County Public Health staff, the San Diego County Trauma System, the Council of Community Clinics, fire departments, ambulance companies and other key healthcare and response organizations," said Steven A. Escoboza, President and CEO, HASDIC.

The health care and emergency response coalition work on a number of different issues including:

- Medical oversight of both public health and emergency care;
- Education for emergency care and public health providers about each others' role;

- more -



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- Commitment in developing and maintaining relationships through regular meetings, team building exercises, and planning;
- Inclusion of community stakeholders (local businesses, clinics, universities, etc.), into the planning processes;
- Creation of disaster plans developed locally, involving public health and emergency care providers; and
- Aggressive pursuit of funding.

TIIDE is comprised of members of the American College of Emergency Physicians, American College of Surgeons, American Medical Association, American Trauma Society, National Association of Emergency Medical Service Physicians, National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians, National Association of State Emergency Medical Service Officials, National Native American Emergency Medical Services Association and the State and Territorial Injury Prevention Directors Association.

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