

**EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AUTHORITY**

10901 GOLD CENTER DRIVE, STE. 400  
RANCHO CORDOVA, CA.95670  
(916) 322-4336 FAX (916) 324-2875



**DATE:** June 18, 2014

**TO:** Commission on EMS

**FROM:** Howard Backer, MD, MPH, FACEP  
Director

**PREPARED BY:** Bill Campbell, Senior Emergency Services Coordinator  
Disaster Medical Services Division

**SUBJECT:** The Disaster Medical Response Training and Exercise Program

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

Receive updated information on the EMS Authority's Disaster Medical Response Training and Exercise Program.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

None

**DISCUSSION:**

The Emergency Medical Services Authority (EMS Authority) responds to medical disasters by mobilizing and coordinating mutual aid resources and state mobile medical assets to mitigate injury and death. The EMS Authority manages a tiered Mobile Medical Assets (MMA) Program that will be utilized in the event of a disaster. These assets include Ambulance Strike Teams (ASTs), California Medical Assistance Teams (CAL-MATs), Mission Support Teams (MSTs), and Mobile Field Hospitals (MFHs). The MMA Program is augmented by the Disaster Healthcare Volunteers (DHV) Program that contains nearly 21,000 DHV volunteers including 43 Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) units at the local level.

In order to maintain response-ready teams and assets, the EMS Authority conducts and/or participates in trainings, drills, and exercises throughout the year. For every drill, tabletop and/or full scale exercise that is conducted, an After Action Report (AAR) is created that includes an improvement plan and corrective actions that will be used to improve future responses in disasters.

This year to date, the EMS Authority has participated in the following disaster exercises:

- 1) Quarterly Disaster Healthcare Volunteer drills (January 8/9 and April 2/3)
- 2) EMS Authority Disaster Medical Response Logistical Table Top Exercise (April 22)

Commission on EMS  
June 18, 2014

- 3) Cascadia Subduction Zone (CSZ) 2014 Logistics Tabletop exercise (March 5)
- 4) CSZ 2014 Rehearsal of Concept (ROC) drill (April 2)
- 5) The Ventura County Operation Medical Base (VCOMB) full scale exercise (May 1-3)

A brief description of these exercises follows:

On **January 8/9, and April 2/3** the EMS Authority conducted Quarterly Disaster Healthcare Volunteer drills. These ongoing drills were part of the DHV Quarterly Drill program of progressively complex drills to familiarize and test DHV System Administrators from local County and MRC organizations from throughout the state.

On **April 22**, the EMS Authority held a Logistics Table Top Exercise to address and implement corrective actions identified in the AAR from the August 2013 Disaster Medical Response Exercise at Moffett Airfield. Thirty three disaster medical responders from EMSA, the MST, and Specialized CAL-MAT's were in attendance.

On **March 5**, the EMS Authority participated in the Cascadia Subduction Zone (CSZ) 2014 Logistics Table Top Exercise along with other state and federal agencies. Exercise objectives included validation of the Emergency Function (EF) 7 annex in the California Cascadia Subduction Zone Earthquake and Tsunami Response Plan. In addition, logistics support protocols and the Transportation EF1 and Resources EF7 coordination were exercised.

On **April 2**, the EMS Authority participated in the CSZ 2014 Rehearsal of Concept drill along with other state and federal agencies. This was a time phased walkthrough of events that identified preparedness requirements and the interdependencies necessary to support the implementation of the CSZ Plan.

On **May 1-3**, the EMS Authority participated in the Ventura County Operation Medical Base Full Scale Exercise. The exercise scenario was a Multi Casualty Incident requiring the distribution of victims to the county's eight acute care hospitals. Hospital staff was augmented by Medical Reserve Corp (MRC) volunteers. The exercise was attended by General Baldwin of the California National Guard, the federal Region IX MRC Coordinator and Rear Admiral Nadine Simons, Assistant Surgeon General, U.S. Public Health Service..

The EMS Authority will be taking part in the following exercises:

- 1) CSZ 2014 Logistics Air Movement Drill (May 13)
- 2) CSZ 2014 Functional Exercise (May 14)
- 3) US&R/CAL-MAT Exercise (June 4 - 6)
- 4) Statewide Medical and Health Exercise (November 20)

On **May 13** the EMS Authority will participate in the CSZ 2014 Logistics Air Movement Exercise. The California Air National Guard and a group of state and federal disaster response specialists will receive an overview of staging areas, airfields and terrain familiarization. Additionally, the group will meet with operational area logistics personnel and attend a Point of Distribution (POD) discussion.

Commission on EMS  
June 18, 2014

On **May 14<sup>th</sup>** the EMS Authority will participate in the CSZ 2014 Functional Exercise. The EMS Authority will staff the Agency Representative position for the Public Health and Medical Emergency Function (EF) 8, the EF8 Coordinator and the EF8 Deputy Coordinator positions at the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES) State Operations Center (SOC). Exercise objectives include activation of the SOC, validation of the CSZ Plan and federal Public Health and Medical Emergency Support Function (ESF) and state EF coordination. The CSZ Plan, Annex X, Execution Checklist will be used as the official guideline.

On **June 4<sup>th</sup> through June 6<sup>th</sup>**, the EMS Authority will participate in a Full Scale Exercise at Moffett Field in Mountain View with San Francisco Bay Area CAL-MAT and Sacramento Valley CAL-MAT Units. Urban Search & Rescue (US&R) Task Forces will lead this exercise based on an earthquake scenario. This year, US&R expects that students and expert instructors from across the country will be training in this unique partnership. Activities such as this greatly add to the enhancement of the CAL-MAT program.

On **November 20**, the EMS Authority will participate in the Statewide Medical and Health Exercise (SWMHE) in partnership with the California Department of Public Health (CDPH). The exercise is designed as a multiphase exercise program for participants Statewide to exercise response to an emerging infectious disease. The exercise will provide a focused effort among partners in the Public Health and Medical Services EF8. This year's exercise will focus on a set of 13 objectives including the ability to conduct surveillance and subsequent epidemiological investigations to identify potential exposure and disease and address the possibilities of a pediatric surge.