

PURPOSE: To provide guidelines for conducting system wide disaster preparedness exercises and drills for Emergency Medical Services (EMS) participants in Los Angeles County (LAC). This policy defines the roles of EMS provider agencies, health care facilities and the EMS Agency during disaster preparedness exercises and drills.

PRINCIPLE:

1. Exercises are an important component of preparedness, by providing the whole community with the opportunity to shape planning, assess and validate capabilities,
2. Disaster preparedness exercises/drills should involve but not limited to active participation from Health Care Coalition (HCC) partners which includes: prehospital care personnel, hospital, ancillary healthcare providers (Ambulatory Surgery Centers, Community Clinics, Coroner, Dialysis Centers, Emergency Management Departments, Home Health and Hospice Center, Long Term Care Centers) and EMS Agency staff to improve coordination and communication between all involved entities.
3. Participation in County-facilitated exercises and drills will adhere to the Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP) standard, to ensure a consistent and effective approach to exercise design, conduct, and evaluation.

POLICY:


- I. Participation in an annual exercise that includes all HCC partners and governmental agencies. (e.g., Statewide Medical & Health Exercise [SWMHE], Medical Response and Surge Exercise [MRSE], etc.)
 - A. Hospitals and clinics participating in the Hospital Preparedness Program (HPP) are required to participate in the annual exercise designated by the HPP exercise planning team.
 - B. When invited by a hospital or clinic, provider agencies should participate in the annual exercise designated by the HPP exercise planning team, including exercise planning sessions and after-action debriefings conducted by the hospital or clinic, whenever possible.
 - C. In the case of a real incident the annual exercise designated by the HPP exercise planning team may be cancelled.
- II. LAC EMS Agency Exercise – drills and exercises sponsored by the EMS Agency. These are conducted with LAC HCC partners.
 - A. Satellite Radio Drill

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APPROVED:


Director, EMS Agency


Medical Director, EMS Agency

1. The EMS Agency will initiate the drill utilizing the satellite radio system. HPP Participants designated as No ED hospitals and representative organization of Clinics and Long Term Care facilities will be polled using a roll call system on the established LA DRC network.
 2. This drill will be conducted quarterly on the first Thursday of March, June, September and December. The poll will begin at 3:00 PM and each participating facility will be called.
 3. The drill will conclude once all participants have responded to the roll call or after three attempts, whichever comes first.
 4. The EMS Agency will contact non-respondents by email or phone after the drill concludes to notify the hospital that they were not connected to the LA DRC network or that a response was not heard.
- B. HAvBED Drill- See Ref. No. 1122, Bed Availability Report
- C. Family Reunification Center exercise - All HPP participants will participate in the annual exercise in conjunction with LAC to ensure preparedness, as per the HPP exhibit.
- D. Provider Agency Multiple Casualty Incident (MCI) Drills – designed for provider agencies and the EMS Agency to expediently and efficiently determine patient destinations based on resource availability of hospitals.
1. The provider agency generally initiates the drill by:
 - a. Pre-arranged drill – EMS Agency is notified in advance and provided with specific information regarding the date, time and nature of the drill.
 - b. Random unannounced drill – EMS Agency is contacted by the provider agency without prior notification. The EMS Agency may poll hospitals for resource availability or provide patient destination as requested by the provider agency.
 2. The EMS Agency may request a pre-arranged MCI drill with a provider agency for training purposes of MAC staff.
 3. Analysis and evaluation of the drill may be conducted jointly by the provider agency and the MAC.
- E. Regional Exercises/Drills – designed to train, test and validate plans and capabilities, and identify areas for improvement amongst the HCC partners.
1. All HPP participants will participate in exercises and drills in conjunction with LAC and community partners to ensure preparedness, as per the HPP exhibit (e.g., Regional decontamination drill, annual Table Top exercise).

2. Any Non-HPP participants may be invited to participate in any or all exercises/drills.

CROSS REFERENCE:

California Civil Code, Section 56.10 (c) (1)

Prehospital Care Manual:

Ref. No. 519, **Management of Multiple Casualty Incidents**

Ref. No. 1122, **Bed Availability Reporting**

Ref. No. 1122.1, **Bed Availability Report**