

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. 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.
2. Coordination between prehospital care personnel, receiving facilities, and the EMS Agency allow for maximum resource allocation and efficient patient distribution.
3. Exercises and drills that simulate realistic situations and are planned carefully with clear objectives to permit evaluation of response plans as well as identifying training needs. County facilitated exercises/drills will follow the Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP) standards.

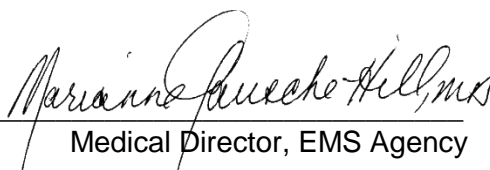
POLICY:

- I. Statewide Medical & Health Exercise (SWMHE) –annual exercise that includes all HCC partners and governmental agencies.
 - A. Hospitals and clinics participating in the Hospital Preparedness Program (HPP) are required to participate in the annual SWMHE.
 - B. When invited by a hospital or clinic, provider agencies should participate in the annual SWMHE including exercise planning sessions and after-action debriefings conducted by the hospital or clinic, whenever possible.
 - C. In the absence of the annual SWMHE, LAC EMS Agency may conduct a Countywide Medical and Health Exercise in its place.
- 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. This drill will be conducted quarterly on the first Thursday of March, June, September and December at 3:00 PM. All facilities that possess a LAC MRSAT satellite radio phone are required to participate.
 2. The EMS Agency will initiate the drill utilizing the satellite radio system purchased with Hospital Preparedness Program (HPP) funds. DRCs and TCs will be polled using a roll call system on the established LA DRC network.
 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
- 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, HCC Surge exercise, SWMHE Table Top).
 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**