



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DATE: June 5, 2012
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Officials Participate in Firefighting and Rescue Scenarios

On May 25th, San Bernardino County Fire and the San Bernardino County Professional Firefighters Local 935 teamed up to present a training exercise at the Richard Sewell Training Center in San Bernardino. The County fire department's firefighters constantly train and conduct drills throughout the year in an effort to provide its citizens with the best protection possible.

Local elected and appointed officials, as well as members of the media, had the opportunity to first observe and then participate in a variety of fire, rescue, and emergency medical services scenarios. Participants were invited to role-play and participate as victims, firefighters, and rescuers. This type of hands on experience provides participants a unique perspective and thereby an enhanced understanding of the services provided by first responders.

The exercise started with a chest pain and cardiac arrest scenario involving a patient who was experiencing a simulated heart attack. In this scenario, guests provided initial care and called for help. Rescuers performed a detailed assessment, which included a twelve lead EKG, CPR, advanced cardiac life support procedures, and simulated transportation to a local STEMI receiving facility. STEMI equipped facilities or hospitals maintain staffed cardiac catheterization labs and follow special medical protocols and procedures aimed at providing rapid life saving treatments to those experiencing heart attacks.

The second scenario was a traffic accident with multiple trapped patients requiring extrication with the Jaws of Life. Guests practiced with the hydraulic extrication tools, and took a turn at using the Jaws of Life to force open a damaged car door. Others assisted with extrication, patient care, patient packaging, and transport. Patients transported from this type of accident would be taken to a specialized hospital, a Trauma Center, which would be staffed with a trauma surgeon and treatment team. Arrowhead Regional Medical Center and Loma Linda University Medical Center are both designated Trauma Centers.

The third and final scenario was a simulated fire attack and victim rescue using the fire props at the Richard Sewell Training Center. Participants were given the opportunity to assist with extending hose lines, forced entry, fire attack, searches, victim rescue, and patient care. San Bernardino County Sheriff's Aviation provided a simulated medical air transport of the burn victim from this scenario to the local regional burn center, Arrowhead Regional Medical Center.

Photos of the exercise have been posted on the website at www.sbcfire.org under latest news.

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