



NEWS



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Sheriff's Department shows off Aviation Unit's new home

Paola Baker, Daily Press

Posted: May 23, 2017, 6:08 PM



Members of the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department's Aviation Unit prepare one of their helicopters for a water drop demonstration on Tuesday at the San Bernardino International Airport. [James Quigg, Daily Press]

SAN BERNARDINO — Under cyan-colored skies on a hot Tuesday morning, San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department and **San Bernardino County Fire Department** aviation personnel began to gear up for a hoist rescue.

The four-man team, comprised of sheriff's pilots and County Fire air medics, efficiently placed a stranded victim into a rescue harness and hoisted the man to the Air Rescue 308 helicopter.

While medical aid was on hand, it wasn't needed at this particular rescue — the victim, a sheriff's deputy, was participating in an aviation demo hosted on Tuesday.

Together with the County Fire, Sheriff John McMahon and several officials hosted a luncheon at the San Bernardino International Airport Tuesday morning. The airport is now the home for the sheriff's Aviation Unit and boasts an expanded, 51,000-square-foot hangar that houses all 15 of the department's aircraft.

Gleaming helicopters and small planes, emblazoned with the Sheriff's Department logo, were on full display during Tuesday's event as officials spoke about the new hangar and how it continues to facilitate mutual operations between both departments.

"We used to have some helicopters at our hangar in Rialto and others in other locations, but now we can house them all together, which makes operations much easier," McMahon said.

The Sheriff's Aviation Unit is one part of the two-section Emergency Operations Division, which employs 50 personnel and manages thousands of reserve deputies and other volunteers throughout the county. Volunteer Forces Unit Lt. Al Daniel said these volunteers play a key role in various sheriff's operations, such as assisting in rescues and evacuations during the Blue Cut Fire last year.

"These people volunteered thousands of hours to assist us in various duties — leaving their personal careers to come help us — at no cost to the taxpayer. They've saved the county over \$10 million just in the last year," Daniel said.

Several local media outlets were invited to tour the new hangar and watch personnel demonstrate their skills with two simulations. The first was a water drop, where pilots use a special harness to scoop up water that can then be dropped over fires. The Aviation Unit has been instrumental in combating wildfires in the region, County Fire Assistant Chief Tim Porter said.

“(The helicopters) provide aerial support while we’re on the ground fighting the fires or attempting to find stranded victims for a hoist rescue,” Porter said. “They even come equipped with infrared scanners that can map fires and pinpoint hot spots we wouldn’t be able to find on the ground.”

The bond between both departments was plain to see at Tuesday’s event, with officials from both departments praising each other’s efforts in providing the best they can to the region’s residents.

“Some law enforcement agencies can get competitive, but not us — we truly enjoy working together,” McMahan said. “We’re committed to providing the best standard of public safety to San Bernardino County.”

<http://www.vvdailynews.com/news/20170523/sheriffs-department-shows-off-aviation-units-new-home>

Medical Experts Caution Intubation Procedures Put Children at Risk

CBS2 News

Posted: May 23, 2017, 11:02 PM

LOS ANGELES (CBSLA.com) – Medical experts across the Southland are calling for changes to intubation procedures they say prevent paramedics from using potentially life-saving technology on choking children.

Paramedics have two options to remove an obstruction from a child’s airway in an emergency: they can put an oxygen mask over a child’s face or insert a tube into his or her throat and force oxygen directly into the lungs.

A decision was made in the late 1990s not to allow L.A. County paramedics to use tubes on kids after county officials conducted a landmark and controversial study. When paramedics were called to a child who couldn’t breathe on an odd day of the month, they were told they must use a mask – on the even days, a tube.

The study found the tubes could slip out of place and sometimes ended up in the esophagus by mistake. L.A. County officials decided to remove the tubes for kids from all of its ambulances as a result. Many other counties have since followed suit.

L.A. County’s medical director at the time of the decades-old decision was Sam Stratton.

“We found that there’s no difference in the two methods as far as the outcome of the child,” he said.

San Bernardino County Fire Chief Mark Hartwig, who is also a paramedic, says technological advances have all but eliminated the complications L.A. County found in its research, however.

Tiny cameras with powerful lights now allow paramedics to see into the child’s throat to make sure they slip the tube in between the vocal cords and into the windpipe. And a new technology called capnography sounds an alarm the moment a tube slips out of place.

“You insert the tube right through the cords there,” he explained. “As you can see, it slips right into the cords.”

Chief Hartwig says paramedics always start with an oxygen mask – but if the child’s airway is blocked and the mask isn’t working, the only option to provide life-saving oxygen his paramedics have is to insert a tube past the obstruction.

San Bernardino County’s medical director ordered the tubes for kids removed from ambulances there in October. Hartwig wants them back.

Asked if he thought kids’ lives could be saved if the tubes were placed back in ambulances, he said plainly: “Of course.”

L.A. City Fire Department’s Medical Director Dr. Mark Eckstine says it’s time for another study in light of the new technology.

“I would love to do it,” he said. “Because there is nothing worse than being that provider with a child who doesn’t survive and think, ‘Were it not for having this tool, he would have had a better outcome.’”

Pediatrician and former paramedic Daved van Stralen, Riverside County’s former emergency medical director, is also calling for change.

“When tubes come back to the rigs, children who have been dying will no longer die,” van Stralen said. “And they will go home to their families to play, they will go home to their families to grow up, they’ll go to school, they’ll have jobs, they’ll have families of their own ... I believe that, I know it.”

<http://losangeles.cbslocal.com/2017/05/23/caution-intubation-procedures-children/>

Fire Destroys a Desert Heights Home

Z107.7 News

Posted: May 24, 2017

A home in the Desert Heights area of Twentynine Palms is a total loss after a fire Tuesday afternoon, and smoke from the fire could be seen for miles. Firefighters from Twentynine Palms, Wonder Valley, the Combat Center, and Joshua Tree were called to the home of Joanie Johnson and the late Jocko Johnson, in the 70300 block of Winters Road about 4 p.m. When they arrived, they found the home fully involved in flames. The fire had spread to outbuildings, including a shed, buses, and a Conex box. Johnson said she lost “everything,” although firefighters were able to save a 5th-wheel RV, one outbuilding, and a kitten. The homeowner and her dogs escaped injury. The cause of the fire is under investigation.

<http://z1077fm.com/fire-destroys-a-desert-heights-home/>