



HEPPPC

NEWSLETTER

Health & Emergency Preparedness Planning Council

May 2010

Health Care Agency

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Integrity
Service*

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FIRST RESPONDER PROPHYLAXIS PLANNING

The Health Care Agency's Health Disaster Management Division (HDM) recently hosted the First Responder Prophylaxis planning meeting at the Garden Grove Community Center. With over 30 participants from local fire and law enforcement agencies, city emergency management, ambulance companies, military and other response agencies, this meeting was the first of several First Responder Priority Prophylaxis Planning discussions that will occur throughout the county in the next few months.

The goal of this initiative is to ensure that our first



responders - fire, law enforcement, public safety, ambulance, marine safety and government personnel - are prepared to

respond to a countywide aerosolized anthrax event by pre-positioning medications for these groups. This effort will ensure first responder agencies are able to maintain countywide response operations as well as provide assistance during the operation of community based Point of Dispensing (POD) sites.

The focus of this meeting was to discuss the goals of the program, the benefits of this initiative, and to address planning considerations that include the prepositioning of medications, storage considerations and planning for multiple response organizations. Additional meetings will be held in order to target specific groups and agencies. If you or your organization would like additional information regarding this planning initiative, please contact Elizabeth Daoust at edaoust@ochca.com or 714-834-6231.

HDM RECOGNIZES 2009 POD EXERCISE PARTICIPANTS DURING ANNUAL POD SEMINAR

May 12th kicked off the POD planning season as the City of Garden Grove hosted HDM's annual POD seminar at the Garden Grove Community Center. Designed as a highly interactive seminar, this event provided over 110 participants with an understanding of the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS), the Cities Readiness Initiative (CRI) and POD programs. The seminar also introduced the participants to the POD process by placing them in a POD like environment and running them through the dispensing process by providing them with a free lunch. Al Hendrickson, the Cities Readiness Initiative Coordinator for the California Department of Public Health, was on hand to observe Orange County's approach to providing the community with POD information and stated that "the Orange County Health Care Agency provided an outstanding introduction to public health preparedness and dispensing operations in their POD seminar. The program certainly lived up to its national "best practice" moniker."

At the end of the event, HDM recognized previous POD exercise participants involved in the 2009 POD exercise. Those in attendance included Captain Tim Sawyer from the Garden Grove Fire Department, Officer Robert Perez from the Santa Ana Police Department, Don Maus from the Rancho Santiago Community College District and Steve Rhyner, Emergency Manager for the City of Rancho Santa Margarita. Each participant received a certificate congratulating them on a job well done in 2009 and setting the bar for our 2010 participants.



Captain Tim Sawyer reiterates the need for POD participation.



Officer Robert Perez (left) and Don Maus discuss how the POD program has enhanced their partnership within their city.



Participants look on as they receive POD overview information.

Thank you to all those who attended and made this year's seminar a success.

Dedicated to enhancing public health preparedness levels through education, resource and best practice sharing.

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