

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AUTHORITY

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**Press Release****CONTACT: June Iljana (916) 616-0181*****Golden Guardian 2012 Disaster Medical Response Exercise***

Sacramento – The California Emergency Medical Services Authority (EMSA) organized a training exercise for a medical response to a catastrophic earthquake. The full-scale earthquake medical response exercise was from June 4-6 and is part of the California Emergency Management Agency's annual Golden Guardian readiness exercise. The activities are federally-funded and are an integral part of EMSA's grant-supported preparedness activities.

"The goal of the exercise is to evaluate the integration of state disaster medical resources and practice how the different organizations and resources coordinate to provide medical response to save lives and minimize injuries," said Dr. Howard Backer, EMSA Director. "Working with our local, state and federal partners, we aim to ensure readiness to help Californians when needed."

Helicopters from the California National Guard, REACH, CALSTAR and Mercy Air Ambulance services transported the mock patients from Mather airport to the exercise site Sacramento State University. Ambulance strike teams from American Medical Response met the helicopters in the landing zone and transported the patients to a mobile field hospital operated in cooperation with disaster response teams from Scripps, Tenet, and Stanford Health Systems. Nursing and EMS students from Sacramento State's College of Continuing Education served as the volunteer patients.

"Sacramento State is proud to contribute to efforts that save lives in California. Practical learning has long been a hallmark of our campus, and the readiness exercise highlights our students' tremendous impact on the communities we serve," said Sacramento State President Alexander Gonzalez.

The Emergency Medical Services Authority (EMSA) is responsible for coordinating the State's medical response to a major disaster.

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Photos of the exercise with captions and photo credits are available for use at

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/calemaphotos/sets/72157630005321767/>.



The Emergency Medical Services Authority hosted the Golden Guardian 2012 Disaster Medical Response Exercise at Sac State June 6, 2012. Photo by Justin Short/ Cal EMA.



Dr. Howard Backer, Director of the Emergency Medical Services Authority, welcomes participants to the Golden Guardian 2012 Disaster Medical Response Exercise at Sac State June 6, 2012. Photo by Brad Alexander/ Cal EMA.



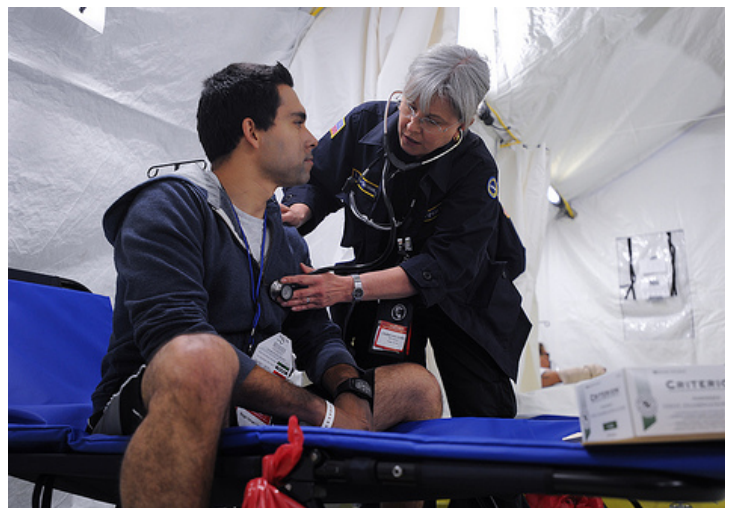
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