On July 15, 2020, EMSA Director Dr. Duncan swore in Louis Bruhnke as the Authority’s new Chief Deputy Director.

Louis J. Bruhnke has been appointed chief deputy director at the Emergency Medical Services Authority. Bruhnke has served as associate director at the North Coast Emergency Medical Services Agency since 1998 and has been a flight paramedic for Cal-Ore Life Flight since 2011. He was a paramedic for City Ambulance of Eureka from 1996 to 2016. Bruhnke was a paramedic on the Hoopa Valley Reservation from 1996 to 2010. Welcome aboard!
During the 1960s, a Los Angeles cardiologist named Walter S. Graf became concerned about the lack of actual medical care being provided to coronary patients during emergency transportation to a hospital. In 1969, while serving as president of the Los Angeles Chapter of the American Heart Association, Graf created a "mobile critical care unit." The unit consisted of a Chevy van, a registered nurse, and a portable defibrillator. That same year, LA County Supervisor Kenneth Hahn persuaded the county’s Board of Supervisors to approve a pilot program to train county firefighters as "Mobile Intensive Care Paramedics." At the time, change to existing state law was necessary to allow personnel other than doctors and nurses to render emergency medical care. In turn, Hahn recruited two state legislators, and, on April 1, 1970, Senator James Wedworth introduced Senate Bill 958. Assemblymember Larry Townsend later joined as a co-author, after which the bill became known as the Wedworth-Townsend Paramedic Act.


The California EMS Authority is proud to recognize our state’s illustrious EMS history, championed by generations of collaborators and innovators on the frontlines of patient care. This anniversary commemorates the remarkable contributions of California’s emergency medical services providers, true heroes rising to the call of duty with a common goal: saving lives.
Save The Date

California State Virtual Stroke Summit
Starts Morning for Half a Day
June 8, 2021

California State Virtual STEMI Summit
Starts Morning for Half a Day
June 9, 2021

For more information contact:
Farid Nasr, M.D.
(916) 431-3685 or farid.nasr@emsa.ca.gov
A registration brochure will be posted on the EMS Authority website.

Paramedic License Fee Increased

On Wednesday, July 1, 2020, paramedic license application fees increased by $25.00. The following is a list of the new fees:

Initial In-State Paramedic License Application: $275.00
Initial Out-of-State Paramedic License Application: $325.00
Initial Challenge Paramedic License Application: $325.00
Renewal Paramedic License Application: $225.00
Reinstatement Paramedic License Application: $275.00
California EMS Awards


These words describe the 86,000 licensed or certified EMS providers in California. They demonstrate these qualities every day by coming to the aid of others when they are most in need and working to ensure that the EMS system operates well. However, each year, due to circumstance or extraordinary effort, certain individuals among us shine the brightest.

EMSA is accepting nominations for consideration for the 2020 California EMS Awards Program! This year, EMSA is extending the nomination deadline to December 31, 2020. EMSA will announce the 2020 California EMS Awards recipients in Spring 2021.

EMS providers, supervisors, and managers are encouraged to nominate any deserving individual for recognition. Nominations can be submitted at any time.

Nominate an EMS Hero for 2020!

https://emsa.ca.gov/awards/
COVID-19: An EMSA Picture Story

Sadly, COVID-19 has been historically noteworthy for its devastating impacts to the health and wellbeing of so many people around the world. Yet in responding to our new reality, COVID-19 has been remarkable in showcasing our innate humane ability to adapt and come together to align with common goals: preventing illness, reducing suffering, and saving lives.

From the early onset, EMS has played a significant role in California's COVID-19 response.
Grand Princess Mission

Early EMSA response activity focused on planning and coordination and collaborating with all local, regional, state, and federal partners.

Federal and state officials at FEMA Region 9 base of operation (above) readied for the arrival of the Grand Princess cruise ship at the Port of Oakland (left) in early March.
And there's a good chance you have, too!
Read about Resusci Anne: “How a Dead Girl in Paris Ended up with the Most-Kissed Lips in History.”

EMSMA coordinated ambulance strike teams to transport patients from the Grand Princess cruise ship to the Asilomar Hotel and Conference Grounds in Pacific Grove.

In the early going, EMSA consulted with state and local health departments to release interim guidance for COVID for EMS providers with an emphasis on preparedness and precaution.

**Did You Know?**

Even though we all wear the same 511’s, EMSA and CAL-MAT are a diverse group comprised of people from all different walks of life, with different experiences, skills, and favorite pumpkin spice treats. However, there’s one thing we ALL have in common…

**We’ve kissed the same two lips.**

And there’s a good chance you have, too!
San Mateo

In late March, EMSA assisted with the setup and eventually oversaw the provision of medical care at a government authorized alternate care site in San Mateo County.
San Mateo

CAL-MAT and Cal Guard personnel built tent structures for staff to work, train, and decompress away from patients and guests.

Throughout the response, training on proper PPE use has been a high priority at all alternate locations housing COVID patients, especially training facility staff.
The activation of EMSA's Department Operations Center (DOC) brought in lots of new faces in a hurry, with dozens of California Medical Assistance Team (CAL-MAT) and Cal Guard personnel quickly joining the ranks to assist with planning and coordinating response efforts.
Going Above and Beyond the Call

At EMSA, we are just as passionate about what we do as we are passionate about who we do it with. EMSA is extremely grateful for the contributions of all who have lent their talents, skills, and energy throughout the pandemic and wildfires.

To the dozens of ambulance strike teams, hundreds of CAL-MAT and Guardsmen, and thousands of registered California Health Corps and Disaster Healthcare Volunteers. It has been an honor.
Indio/Riverside

As California started feeling significant impacts of communal spread by late March-early April, EMSA began embarking on auster missions across the state. That included providing resources to provide direct patient care and fully support operations at federal medical station (FMS) in Indio and Riverside Counties.

State and local efforts in Indio and Riverside took shape in quick order and the successes of the location helped establish protocols and procedures at facilities in other parts of the state, too. The crews even received a visit from California Lieutenant Governor Eleni Kounalakis.
A lot was learned at the FMS, located at the Riverside County Fairgrounds, including some best practices for curbside COVID testing.
By the end of Spring, there was no doubt that heightened planning would be needed, along with a sizable increase to EMSA’s operational and logistical footprint.

EMSAs’s Department Operations Center (DOC) became the central hub for state-procured ventilators, IV pumps, and other necessary medical equipment.
EMSA DOC

DOC personnel quickly adapted, working together to meet several urgent needs.
EMSA’s disaster medical response efforts are truly a collaborative affair. EMSA had the benefit of working with many personnel that served in California during previous missions, such as recent years’ wildfires. The connections made during those deployments have proven to be quite valuable.
Cal Guard

EMSA’s collaboration with federal agencies for COVID response has been unprecedented and, to say the least, appreciated.

We want to extend our gratitude for all of the support received from our federal and uniformed partners. Thank you for your service, time, and shared commitment to saving lives.
Ventilators

During the pandemic, EMSA has processed over 12,000 ventilator units, including charging, testing, and performing maintenance, all to manufacturer specifications.
When other states started getting hit hard by COVID, California rallied to assist. EMSA began deploying ventilators from the state stockpile to other areas in need, especially on the Eastern Seaboard.

Military Medical Support and Southwest Airlines were instrumental in making the transfers happen.
Alternate Care Sites

One of the alternate care sites established to supplement the healthcare system and hospital and patient needs was at the former Sleep Train Arena in Sacramento.

The arena, which was the home to Sacramento Kings and Monarchs years ago, was converted into a facility capable of holding upwards of 200 beds.
California Health Corps

EMSA was on location at the arena hosting a recruitment event for the California Health Corps. The Department of General Services joined to help EMSA and assist Health Corps volunteers navigate the application process.

Walking through the entrance, volunteers were greeted by well wishes from local elementary school children.
There were many additional alternate care sites set up throughout the state, as well as facilities that requested or required much-needed state and federal medical support.

In addition to CAL-MAT, the Guard and others mentioned, California's Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) has also played a large role. Operating at the local level, MRCs have been essential in the fight against COVID-19.

Even when overwhelmed, facility staff across the state welcomed deployed medical support personnel and ambulance strike teams with open arms (and a smile under the mask).
We're All in This Together
We're All in This Together
We're All in This Together
EMSA would like to thank all who have contributed to the statewide coordinated disaster medical response in 2020. Through the COVID-19 pandemic, seasonal wildfires, and everything in between, we are all EMS Strong.
Always On Standby

A lot goes into ensuring emergency medical care is delivered in a timely and appropriate manner and, in the world of EMS, preparation is the name of the game. While we commonly associate the things we see and hear – like lights and sirens, or scrubs and AEDs – with lifesaving emergency care, there is a great deal of tireless, invisible work being done in the background equally deserving of recognition.

Much like a 9-1-1 dispatcher relaying call info, or an ER nurse prepping to receive a transferred patient, there is a lot that goes on in the background at EMSA to ensure that California’s EMS systems operate effectively. The EMSA Office of Information Technology plays a big part, meeting the Authority’s technical needs and resolving complex issues, both preemptively and as they arise.

EMSA Chief Information Officer Keson Khieu recently spoke with government-IT news outlet Techwire about his role and vision.

Q: As CIO of your organization, how do you describe your role; and how have the role and responsibilities of the CIO changed in recent years?

A: As the chief information officer at the California EMS Authority (EMSA), my role is to understand the missions of EMSA and to translate that understanding to actionable projects that enable and enhance the Authority’s capabilities to achieve those missions. Note that nowhere did I mention technology. To me, technology is a tool. In my opinion, a CIO has to utilize other tools, too, such as the ability to work with people, in order to educate and protect the information assets that EMSA has been entrusted with to carry out its missions.[]

Q: In your tenure in this position, which project or achievement are you most proud of?

A: I am very technical, having worked in all areas in engineering and business. Yet, my happiness is not technical. It comes from my team. My team is dedicated, energetic, and customer oriented. We often share that we don’t make anything, we don’t manufacture or invent anything. We are here for our customers. And I can tell you, without hesitation, my team is the source of my happiness.

You can read the full interview here:

Techwire One-on-One: EMSA CIO on Value of Data, Analytics
Congratulations to Dr. Duncan and Commission Uner!

In October, Dr. Atilla Uner, Vice Chair of the Commission on EMS, and EMSA Director Dr. Dave Duncan were recognized by the California chapter of the American College of Emergency Physicians (Cal ACEP). Dr. Duncan was awarded with the EMS Achievement Award and Dr. Uner was presented with the Key Contact Award. Congratulations!