

CHA News Release

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Lessons from Wildfires, Hurricanes, Mass Shootings Top Agenda at Hospital Disaster Planning Conference

Strategies for Responding to Cyberattacks and Mass Casualty Shootings Also Will be Highlighted

SACRAMENTO (September 24, 2018) – The massive wildfires, devastating floods, catastrophic hurricanes and horrific mass shootings that have gripped not only California but our nation over the past couple of years are all real-time reminders of how vulnerable each one of us is to disaster, no matter who we are or where we live. Recognizing the importance of learning from past disasters and the need to prepare for the future, hospital and public safety officials from across California have gathered in Sacramento to discuss hospital emergency preparedness in the Golden State.

Nearly 800 nurses, doctors, public health officials and disaster readiness experts are in attendance at the 2018 “Disaster Planning for California Hospitals” statewide conference, sponsored by the California Hospital Association (CHA). The three-day event, being held Sept. 24-26 at the Sacramento Convention Center and the Hyatt Regency Sacramento, is titled “Voices of Experience, Lessons for the Future.”

“With every disaster that occurs lessons are learned, which in turn helps health care professionals and first-responders better prepare for the future,” said Cheri Hummel, CHA’s vice president of emergency management and facilities. “At this year’s conference, those on the frontlines of last year’s firestorms, floods and other disasters will share their firsthand accounts with their peers from around the state.”

Kicking off the event is a full-day “pre-conference” session on Monday, Sept. 24 focusing exclusively on the lessons learned from last fall’s Wine Country and Santa Barbara firestorms and the associated

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mudslides in Montecito. Multiple panels of speakers from such organizations as Kaiser Permanente, Sutter Health, Santa Barbara Cottage Hospital, the California Department of Public Health and the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development will share details on hospital evacuations, patient clinical and support activities, employee assistance, stress counseling for patients and communities, and restoration of health care services to impacted communities. Monday's sessions will take place from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Hyatt Regency Sacramento.

On Tuesday, Sept. 25, conference attendees will hear a first-hand account of the difficulties faced by medical personnel who responded to the devastation caused by Hurricane Maria which ravaged Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands last year. Keynote speaker Brandon Boyd, Stanford Health Care's administrative director of emergency management, will share tips for assisting vulnerable patients when there is no running water, no electricity and limited transportation options. Boyd's session will take place on Tuesday from 8:30-10 a.m. at the Sacramento Convention Center, Exhibit Hall C.

Also on Tuesday morning, the impacts to patient care caused by a cyberattack will be detailed by Craig Felty, vice president of patient care services at Hancock Regional Hospital in Knox, Indiana. Felty will share the lessons learned from a January attack on his hospital, when hackers demanded a ransom payment in bitcoin in exchange for a decryption key. This second keynote session of the day is slated from 10:45 a.m. – noon at the Sacramento Convention Center, Exhibit Hall C.

The horror of the largest mass shooting in our nation's history and the heroism that followed will be recounted in the closing general session on Wednesday, Sept. 26 from 10:45 a.m. to noon at the Sacramento Convention Center, Exhibit Hall C. Dr. Dave Macintyre, a trauma surgeon at Sunrise Hospital in Las Vegas, will recount the experiences he and his team faced in treating more than 250 patients who were injured during the mass shooting at the Route 91 Harvest Festival on the famed Las Vegas strip

Other educational sessions at the conference will focus on bridging the gap between the FBI and the medical community, preparing for the safe evacuation of hospitals, and effective workplace violence prevention training programs.

The conference is the largest gathering of hospital emergency preparedness professionals in California.

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