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November 17, 2016
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

County Public Health Department Conducts Disaster and Safety Exercise

On November 17, 2016, the Santa Barbara County Public Health Department is participating in an annual emergency preparedness exercise, along with the California Department of Public Health. The local public health department will be simulating an incident at a Santa Barbara based health care center and staff will be opening our department operations center to practice disaster response and safety procedures. Signs will be posted for this planned drill. There is no real emergency.

The safety of employees who provide essential services to our community is critical for the well-being of the residents of Santa Barbara County. As we practice our safety plans in health care and administrative settings, we will be ensuring that our staff can remain safe and that services to County residents are not interrupted.

Members of the Disaster Healthcare Partners Coalition in Santa Barbara will be participating in this annual exercise to prepare for emergencies and disasters. These exercises help the healthcare system to assure coordination during events and to develop adequate plans for response.

Accreditation and certification by many administrative agencies requires disaster and safety drills and the development of plans for operational continuity. This exercise will provide our staff and partner health care agencies the opportunity to meet those requirements.

The public is urged to enroll in the countywide alerting system for disasters and emergencies. "If we can't reach you, we can't alert you!" Sign up for email, text and landline alerts at www.AwareAndPrepare.org To receive updated information that may affect the health of your family, follow the Public Health Department on Twitter @SBCPublicHealth.

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