



St. Mary Medical Center

A member of CHW

St. Mary DRC Participates in Port Mock Drill

(Long Beach, CA, June 11, 2010) The St. Mary Medical Center Disaster Resource Center and the hospital's staff will participate in a mock explosion of the Port of Long Beach Harbor Drill on Monday, June 21st and Tuesday, June 22nd from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm on the St. Mary campus at 1055 Linden Avenue. St. Mary was selected as the hospital to receive staged victims of the drill. The purpose of the drill is to test the medical facility's ability to decontaminate victims of a chemical or radiological event and how well prepared the hospital is in case of a Port disaster.

Participants in the drill will include, in addition to St. Mary, the 9th Civil Support/National Guard, Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services, St. Joseph's of Burbank Hospital, Community Hospital of Long Beach, American Red Cross/Long Beach Chapter, the Long Beach Fire and Police Departments, L.A. County EMS Agency, Medic Alert Center and the Veterans Administration, Long Beach.

The drill calls for 50-100 victims to stress the system locally and overwhelm a hospital. St. Mary will notify LA County EMS agency to deploy St. Mary's Disaster Resource Center system (mock time line). Teams will be pre-deployed to St. Mary with mock call for back up decontamination teams. St. Josephs in Burbank and Community Hospital of Long Beach will have decontamination teams suiting up ready to assist St. Mary's. Volunteer victim groups will be moulaged, in bandages, with fake injuries and bleeding to simulate trauma.

In light of recent disasters – the 9/11 terrorist attack, Hurricane Katrina, Haiti and the floods in Tennessee and Arkansas, preparation is essential for medical facilities who are called into action to accept victims and provide additional services. Drills such as the mock Port of Long Beach explosion will be an education experience that will allow St. Mary Medical Center and other hospitals access preparation before an event occurs.

For more information about the St. Mary Medical Center Disaster Resource Center and the training sessions that they offer to the public, please call (562) 491-9376.

###