

Malibu/Lost Hills Station Personnel Participate In 10th Annual Joint Agency Active Shooter Drill at Pepperdine University

As part of its ongoing commitment to the safety and well-being of students, faculty, and staff, Pepperdine University has partnered with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, and other law enforcement and fire agencies for the past 10 years to conduct annual Active Shooter Drills. The drills focus on four key areas: Prevention, Intervention, Rescue, and Family Reunification. While prevention efforts occur year-round, the annual drill focuses on the remaining three areas, with new, innovative tactics incorporated each year.

This year's training took place over the course of two days, August 6th and 7th, 2014. It simulated a shooting incident at the Malibu campus where law enforcement and fire personnel responded and took action. This year, the drill incorporated the Los Angeles County Fire Department's new Tactical Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Program – firefighters working side-by-side with deputies and Pepperdine University's Department of Public Safety personnel, in an effort to respond to potential victims in the quickest and safest manner possible. Law enforcement and fire personnel had a two-day training session to put into practice the actions they would take in a real-life scenario. Sheriff's personnel who attended the training were from Malibu/Lost Hills Station and would likely be the first law enforcement agency to respond in a real-life incident.

Historically, medical response to potential victims occurred only when the threat was neutralized. Recent active shooter incidents have caused both law enforcement and fire agencies to identify and implement new strategies to hasten rescue efforts. For this new strategy, three areas were identified: A "Hot Zone" where the suspect is located or the incident is occurring; a "Warm Zone" where there is no immediate danger, but there is still risk to first responders; and a "Cool Zone" where there is virtually no risk, such as an area removed from the incident where fire and paramedic personnel can stage and triage victims.

The scenario began with a 9-1-1 call received from a student who reported the sound of rapid gunfire outside one of the buildings. The sound of live fire was created with blank ammunition, giving the exercise a realistic effect. When law enforcement personnel arrived at the designated drill site, they found Pepperdine University students lying in front and inside the building, acting as victims in various stages of

injury and wearing wound-simulating make-up. As law enforcement made their way through the courtyard and into the building, they encountered injured victims and heard their pleas for help. They assessed the casualties as they made their way through the building and methodically searched for the suspects. Fire department personnel were escorted into the “Warm Zone” by deputy personnel armed with simulated weapons. Once inside, they contacted “wounded” victims, provided primary triage and lifesaving care, and carried them out on gurneys. They treated the mock-victims in the parking lot while deputies located the suspects and neutralized the threat.

The training continued down the hill at Alumni Park, which is an open field where Air Rescue 5 and numerous helicopters from participating agencies landed. Ambulances transported mock-victims from the triage area down to the field, where they were carried in a basket to the helicopters and their flight was simulated to coordinating trauma centers.

Los Angeles Police Department, Los Angeles Fire Department, California Highway Patrol, Ventura County Sheriff’s Department, United States Secret Service, and McCormick Ambulance personnel also participated in the exercise. Victim injury makeup was provided by MUD: Make-Up Designory School of Makeup Artistry.

For more information about Malibu/Lost Hills Sheriff’s Station, click:

www.losthills.lasd.org



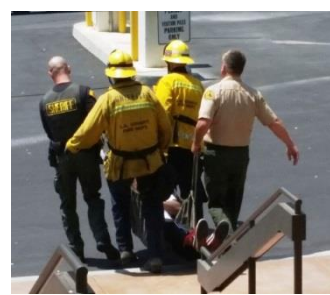
Approaching the building.



Approaching the building.



Deputies escorting fire personnel into the Warm Zone.



Assisting fire personnel carry a victim to the Cool Zone.



Debriefing the drill.



Carrying a mock-victim for helicopter transport.