



# COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE PUBLICATION  
April 21, 2008

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## **COUNTY TESTS EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AT MOCK ANTHRAX ATTACKS** *Simulated Events to Take Place Tuesday, April 22, 2008*

The County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency's (HHS) Emergency Medical Services will test its emergency response plan during two simulated anthrax attacks.

The bioterrorism drills will take place on **Tuesday, April 22, 2008**. The first will be held at the HHS's South Region Center, located at **690 Oxford St. in Chula Vista from 10 a.m.-**

**Noon.**

A second drill will take place at the **Workforce Partnership, 3910 University Avenue in San Diego from 1:00-2:30 p.m.**

"These events are a great opportunity for emergency personnel to test their response plans for a health emergency or disaster," said Chairman Greg Cox, San Diego County Board of Supervisors.

Volunteers and other County employees participating in the Points of Dispensing (POD) exercise will be directed through a series of stations where they will check in, register, and receive mock antibiotics; simulating they have been exposed to anthrax. Participants will also conduct an exit interview and receive answers to any questions they may have.

These events are part of a series of exercises that will help the County practice distributing mass quantities of medicine in the case of an epidemic or bioterrorism attack.

"The recent wildfires have shown that developing disaster preparedness plans and practicing them on a regular basis, as we do, helps us to better respond during a catastrophe," said Wilma Wooten, M.D., M.P.H., County of San Diego Public Health Officer.

Local health departments around the nation are organizing similar exercises to test their preparedness plans and give staff and volunteers ongoing practice in executing those plans.

For more information or to participate in future emergency preparedness exercises, call (619) 409-3133 (south) or (619) 229-5409 (central).

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