



HASC Briefs

City of Los Angeles Proposes New Plan for Commercial Waste Hauling

HASC recently provided testimony at a stakeholder meeting hosted by the City of Los Angeles, Department of Public Works, Sanitation Bureau. The Bureau is currently considering a plan that would potentially change the current waste collection environment for commercial properties, including hospitals, within Los Angeles. The Bureau believes 200 million tons of recycled materials are still entering our landfills and hopes to use the new plan to divert 70 percent of this waste by 2013.

Currently, commercial properties contract with a waste hauler

of their choice based on price, service and experience. HASC has voiced opposition to a proposed scenario in which trash haulers would have to win a request for proposal issued by the Bureau of Sanitation in order to operate in newly created “waste sheds” or defined territories, essentially eliminating the current pluralistic market of competitive bidding. The Bureau has not yet stated how many haulers will be allowed to operate in each exclusive waste shed nor has it indicated eligibility requirements for serving a particular area.

HASC will continue to voice

support for a non-exclusive franchise plan that preserves a hospital’s ability to negotiate with haulers that also meet state requirements. Hospitals are invited to provide comments to HASC. In addition, organizations can submit comments directly to the Department of Public Works at <http://san.lacity.org/>. A staff report will be submitted to the City Council for possible action in the fall.

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Statewide Survey of Hospital Emergency Codes Underway

All California hospitals are encouraged to participate in a statewide survey of hospital emergency codes being conducted by California Hospital Association’s Hospital Preparedness Program and the Regional Associations. The brief survey will take no more than 15 minutes to complete. To access the survey, go to <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/2011emergencycodesurvey>. The deadline to participate is Aug. 19.

Emergency codes alert providers and hospital employees to such important events as fires, active shooters, hazardous materi-

al spills and child abductions. In 2000, HASC’s Safety and Security Committee adopted a series of standardized codes and guidelines for California hospitals.

Periodic surveys of our members can reveal current trends that may be helpful when hospitals and health systems update their emergency codes. An update is projected within the next couple of months.

With 100 percent hospital participation, the survey can provide more complete data for all facilities to enhance their own safety, as well as the safety of patients

and visitors.

Survey results will be presented at a workshop following the Disaster Planning for Hospitals Conference scheduled for September 19-20 in Sacramento. The workshop, *Active Shooter — Steps to Mitigate Harm*, will be held Sept. 21.

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ReddiNet® Drill Successfully Tests New Capacity Standard

This year, working with local EMS Administrators (LEMSA), the ReddiNet® team enhanced its capacity to handle more system users and more transactions. With the LEMSAs' guidance, ReddiNet set a new standard as the first supplier to design a custom all-hazards load testing tool and the first to establish a capacity standard specifically for California hospitals responding to an earthquake.

ReddiNet conducted its initial system test of the new standard

on July 20. More than 95 percent of our subscribed hospitals participated in a drill designed to “slam the system.” Within the first 30 minutes of the one hour drill, the system successfully handled more than 400 individual users, 55 mass casualty incidents, 1,000 messages and 13 county-specific assessment polls, surpassing prior capacity tests by 40 percent. The test used only 12 percent of ReddiNet's recently expanded capacity, demonstrating that ReddiNet has plenty to spare.

This experience reinforces the importance of regular full-capacity drills for any emergency response system. A big thanks to our hospitals for their support and regular practice on ReddiNet. It is only through their thorough utilization of the system that ReddiNet can continue to test accurately.

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Support Local Health Care Heroes at 6th Annual Hospital Hero Awards

The 6th Annual Hospital Hero Awards will be held Friday, November 11, at the Marriott Hotel, Downtown Los Angeles. The Hospital Hero Awards, produced by HASC, is an annual media event honoring outstanding achievements and events that occur within hospitals throughout the HASC region. The event provides hospitals an opportunity to identify, recognize and reward excellence in the provision of health care at the front line. It honors health care professionals who are dedicated to patient care and those who help to create miracles for patients. Proceeds from the event benefit the National Health Foundation (NHF).

Five sponsorship levels make it



easy to show your support for local health care heroes and the work NHF does. For information about sponsorship, purchasing tickets and tribute journal ads, visit

www.hasc.org/2011/hospitalheroawards.

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