

*Ukiah Valley
Medical Center*



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UKIAH VALLEY MEDICAL CENTER PARTICIPATES IN DISASTER DRILL

Imagine...an earthquake has just occurred in Ukiah. Falling shelves containing home and garden chemicals injure shoppers at a local home improvement store. Many have broken bones, cuts and have been exposed to harmful chemicals like pesticides and weed killer.

This is the scenario at a disaster drill, organized by Ukiah Valley Medical Center (UVMC) on Thursday, March 10, 2005.

In cooperation with several regional agencies, the hospital will be testing the emergency preparedness system to be sure that local agencies and staff are ready for the worst.

The drill begins with victims being brought into the UVMC emergency room at 9am by the Ukiah City Fire Department and Ukiah Ambulance. Decontamination tents will be set up in front of the hospital to clean those who were contaminated by the harmful chemicals.

The disaster drill will end at 11am followed by a debriefing.

According to UVMC's Employee Health Nurse and Safety Officer Anne Dent, RN, this drill is an excellent way to be sure that all local agencies are working together to provide the best care in the shortest amount of time for a large scale incident. "I am delighted that we live in a community where we have excellent emergency responders who work together constantly to make sure we're ready for whatever incident may come our way," said Dent. "It is always good to work together as a team to exercise our coordination and response to a disaster."

"Disaster exercises assess the effectiveness and evaluate the readiness of our community emergency preparedness programs and communication links," said Jarrod McNaughton, UVMC Director of Marketing and Development. "Working cooperatively to implement and practice the procedures of community responses is vital to maintaining readiness."

The exercise is a cooperative effort of many agencies including Ukiah Valley Medical Center, City of Ukiah Fire Department, Ukiah Ambulance, Mendocino College, Ukiah High School, County of Mendocino Public Health, Ukiah Adult School, Pacific Union College and the Emergency Medical Services Agency.

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Ukiah Valley Medical Center is a member of Adventist Health, a not-for-profit health care system headquartered in Roseville, California, and affiliated with the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Spanning California, Hawaii, Oregon and Washington, the organization is comprised of more than 85 distinct business units, including 20 hospitals—controlled, managed or leased—with over 3,100 beds, 17,500 employees, numerous clinics and outpatient facilities, 16 home care agencies and two joint-venture retirement centers. For more information, visit www.uvmc.org or www.adventisthealth.org.