

PHHS BLOCK GRANT SUCCESS STORY 2016

EMS SYSTEMS PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

PROTECTING THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF CALIFORNIA RESIDENTS AND VISITORS.

Issue: What happens when hikers, motorists, and members of society get injured while visiting the wonders of California? The California Highway Patrol (CHP) Air Operations Unit, classified as Advanced Life Support (ALS) Rescue, gets a call for assistance.

CHP Air Operations Unit works every day with California medical responders; its 15 helicopters assist in rescues off cliff sides, out of deeply forested areas, on roadsides, and on California freeways. These helicopters are specially built with hoists, night vision, and state-of-the-art avionics, and are equipped with ALS medical equipment needed to stabilize an injured person and transport them to the nearest hospital.

Intervention: The EMS Authority used FFY 2016 funding from the PHHS Block Grant to conduct bi-annual inspections on the CHP fixed-wing helicopter medical equipment to re-classify them as ALS Rescue Aircraft providers.

The EMS Authority completed inspections on seven of eleven ALS rescue helicopters at CHP Divisions and expects to finish inspections by February 1, 2017.

A helicopter inspection includes:

- verifying that all electronic medical equipment is maintained on an ongoing basis;
- assuring that the required medication is carried and has not expired;
- confirming that all airway maintenance, bandages and dressings, cardiac care, immobilization equipment, intravenous supplies, comfort care, and personal protective equipment is on board and accounted for.

The CHP has taken the packaging of the supplies a step further. All CHP helicopters are now standardized. If a CHP pilot/paramedic transfers to a helicopter in another CHP division s/he knows exactly where all needed supplies and medications are located.

Impact: On October 17, 2016, the CHP was given an award for Excellence in Police Aviation from the International Association of Chiefs of Police¹. This award acknowledges the work of the CHP that has enhanced the safety and effectiveness of its Air Operations Program.