Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant
SUCCESS STORY 2017

Emergency Medical Services Systems Planning & Development
Emergency Medical Systems Authority Completes Inspections on Rescue Helicopters

Issue: When multiple wildfires burned throughout California, the Governor declared a State of Emergency. The California Highway Patrol (CHP) Air Operations Unit – an Advanced Life Support (ALS) Rescue state responder – was tapped as a resource to assist in the rescue of individuals and families trapped in burning areas. CHP uses their helicopters to assist allied agency partners in missions like search and rescue and medical transport. With planning and organization these resources are kept ready to respond in such disasters.

CHP helicopters are inspected by the state's Emergency Medical Services Authority (EMSA) and certified for air rescue operations. The EMSA continues to conduct bi-annual inspections on the CHP rotary wing helicopter medical equipment in order to re-classify them as ALS Rescue Aircraft providers.

Intervention: The EMSA has completed inspections on all 11 ALS rescue helicopters at CHP Divisions.

Continued helicopter inspections include:

- verifying that all electronic medical equipment received ongoing maintenance;

- assuring that the required medication is being carried and is 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.

Impact: On October 9, 2017, Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. issued a "Proclamation of a State of Emergency" for Napa County and Solano County due to the Atlas Fire that started on October 8, 2017. CHP helicopters were a resource ready to assist in caring for the public health and safety of the individuals and families that were under mandatory evacuations.

Bi-annual inspections certify that these rescue helicopters have appropriate and necessary equipment so they are ready to go at a moment's notice.