

San Gorgonio Memorial Hospital Holds Ebola Drill

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On Friday, October 10, San Gorgonio Memorial Hospital conducted a brief drill that tested the hospital's response to a mock patient portraying a suspected Ebola patient.

Jan Merrick, San Gorgonio Memorial Hospital's Emergency Preparedness Coordinator, partnered with the Riverside County Department of Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response program to test how the SGMH Emergency Department Associates would respond to a potential Ebola patient.

SGMH Emergency Department staff reacted quickly to the suspected Ebola patient, role-played by registered nurse Karen Craven, from the Riverside County Department of Public Health. Craven was interviewed and was immediately placed in one of the emergency department's isolation rooms after mentioning she had recently been in a West African country where Ebola is present. SGMH staff proceeded to follow proper Ebola response measures before Merrick revealed that they were actually participating in an emergency drill.

"With the help and guidance of the Riverside County Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response, our ED Associates showed true professionalism as they treated the mock patient," said Merrick. "Making sure our Associates are prepared for any scenario, including Ebola, is a top priority for SGMH."

The exercise is part of an overall preparedness plan by county health officials to ensure that each hospital in Riverside County is ready in case a patient with a contagious virus like Ebola arrives at a local medical facility. Local health officials have been communicating for weeks with Riverside County hospitals, medical clinics and first-responders to make sure the best information is provided to our health partners.

According to the World Health Organization's website, "Community engagement is key to successfully controlling [Ebola] outbreaks."

For more information about Ebola, please visit San Gorgonio Memorial Hospital's website, at www.sgmh.org.