



COUNTY OF YOLO

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 2, 2018

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Active Shooter Training and Exercise at Historic Courthouse Oct 15-18

(Woodland, CA) – The Yolo County Emergency Medical Services Agency, in partnership with local fire and law enforcement agencies, will conduct an active shooter training and exercise October 15-18 at the Historic Courthouse, located at 725 Court Street in Woodland. This four-day event will focus on Yolo County’s response utilizing a unified approach, which will include various scenarios to give first responders an opportunity to train in simulated, real-life situations, in real-time.

In recent years, mass shootings have taken many lives across the country. As a result, the Yolo County Emergency Medical Services Agency, in conjunction with first responders, have evaluated the county’s preparedness to respond and have established a response and treatment plan to assist in protecting and saving lives in such a situation. Fire and law enforcement agencies have recognized the need for operating guidelines, conducted Rescue Task Force training and identified the equipment necessary to effectively respond to and treat victims of an active shooter. The Yolo County Emergency Medical Services Agency has utilized Homeland Security grant funding to purchase the medical equipment.

“This event will involve a simulation of the Yolo County Intentional Mass Casualty response plan and procedures to help ensure a coordinated, timely and effective response and recovery in the event of a major incident within Yolo County,” said Yolo County Emergency Medical Services Agency Administrator Kristin Weivoda. “The effort is intended to exercise the capabilities of all first responder agencies, testing coordination of the skills and techniques necessary to collectively respond.”

“Our preparedness level improves with each of these realistic exercises designed to test our response to difficult, dangerous scenarios,” said Woodland Fire Chief Becky Ramirez.

The training will start with three 30 minute instructional sessions and then participants will face up to three simulated active shooter scenario exercises inside the Historic Courthouse. The scenarios will include a law enforcement response and response from fire personnel. Participating agencies include: fire and police departments from the cities of Davis, West Sacramento, Winters and Woodland, and UC Davis; the Yolo County Sheriff’s Office and the Emergency Medical Services Agency; American Medical Response; and the Yolo Emergency Communication Agency.

As there will be significant law, fire and emergency personnel present during the exercise period from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., October 15-18, the public is being notified ahead of time. The exercises are intended to bring a level of realism to the drill, which may include the firing of blanks to simulate an active shooter and victims with make-up simulating gun shoot wounds. Because of the sensitive nature of the activities, the exercise is closed to the general public. The media, however, will have access on October 15 from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and interviews can be accommodated. To coordinate media access, contact Kristin Weivoda (530) 321-3620.

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