

The CA-6 Chronicles

The latest news and information from the
San Francisco Bay Area Disaster Medical Assistance Team, DMAT CA-6
— Visit us at www.dmatca6.org —

Vol. 8, No. 11

November, 2008

Caregivers to the Nation...Building a bridge between hope and despair



Founded in 1997

Mark Your Calendars

- **06 Dec** – Holiday party! See below for additional information.

2009 Calendar

- **07 Feb** – Team meeting/training
- **01-30 Apr** – CA-6 on-call month
- **04-08 Apr** – ESF 8 Summit '09, Dallas, TX.
- **02 May** – Team meeting/training
- **08 Aug** – Team meeting/training
- **01-31 Aug** – CA-6 on-call month
- **01-31 Oct** – CA-6 on-call month
- **05 Dec** – Holiday party

Commander's Corner

By David Lipin, Commander

Happy Thanksgiving everyone! We're finally winding down from a very active "disaster season". The federal team spent nearly a month in the field at the DNC and then Hurricanes Gustav and Ike, and the non-profit team spent over 40 days in the field at wildfires (just returning from one last week) and providing medical care to our local supporting agencies. Time for a breather, and a party (see Holiday Party details below)!

Federal On-Call

Federal members, please update your availability on the website for our Dec on-call month.

In 2009, we're up for Apr, Aug, and Oct. If the hurricane business continues "as usual", we can look forward to another busy season next summer. For federal members, we're going to set new on-call expectations. Namely, if you want to continue to be a federal member, you need to make yourself available for deployment during our on-call months (with

reasonable exceptions). So please make arrangements and set expectations now with your employer, co-workers, family, friends, etc., that you may have to deploy during these months.

Final Edition?

We'll soon complete the merger into the new non-profit structure. This newsletter and website will cease in their current forms. Look for something new and different in the near future.

We've Moved!

It's finally happened. We've moved out of the Menlo Park facility we've occupied for so many years, and are now located at EMSA Station 2 as part of our merger into the new CDMSA. Our new address is 3660 Thomas Rd #A, Santa Clara, CA 95054. New phone numbers will be forthcoming, but for now our old phone numbers still work.

BART Director McPartland

Congratulations to John McPartland for his recent election to the BART Board of Directors, winning a solid majority of the vote. John is leaving his job with BART Safety Office, and will be sworn in as a Director in December.

Member of the Year

While we're on the subject, don't forget that voting is underway for our Member of the Year.

The criteria is fairly simple – consider someone who has gone "above and beyond" in support of the team, and someone who hasn't previously been selected. We've included several nominations for your consideration; however, you may vote for anyone on the team:

- Brian Blaisch continues to sacrifice his family and practice to meet the needs of the team; he's always fair and compassionate, and works behind the scenes to keep the team going.
- Sam Bradley is a charter team member, and has been our Training Officer since nearly the start. She seldom deploys, but passed on our recent Ike deployment so she could run Urban Shield for us.
- Kathy Burgardt stepped up as Plans Section Chief, even though NDMS does not even recognize the planning function and so doesn't recognize all the work she does.
- Eileen Burwell has been active in, and supportive of, the team prior to her official federal membership status. She's consistently been there for the team, first as facility coordinator, and now as one of our administrators.
- Dan Guerra is another charter team member. He has lately been active as Deputy Plans Section Chief, helping revise our mob plan and working with the home team on our recent deployments.

Our previous Distinguished Members are not eligible:

- 2007 – Kevin Sankey
- 2006 – John McPartland
- 2005 – Brian Buckhout
- 2004 – Terry Holbrook
- 2003 – Bill Bush
- 2002 – Bonnie Atencio
- 2001 – Steve La Plante
- 2000 – Walt Sanders
- 1999 – Barb Center

- 1998 – Dave Lipin
- 1997 – Don Cheu

You may vote by emailing Bonnie at administration@dmatca6.org, by mailing your vote (on a simple piece of paper) to our new address, or in-person (can be anonymously) at the holiday party.

Dues '09

Yes, it's that time again! A dues form is attached to the end of the newsletter. New members who joined after Oct 1st don't need to pay dues for 2009. Please note the new address for mailing in dues.

NDMS Conference Call System

We occasionally have section or group conference calls using the NDMS conference call system. This system has now been updated with more lines, more security, and specific access profiles for each NDMS member.

Each NDMS member must configure their own profile. (I strongly suggest you do it now, as this will be the last time this information is in the newsletter.) You must use your profile to log in for conference calls.

The procedure to access a MeetingPlace call is as follows:

- Dial 1-877-872-1001. You'll be connected to a menu system.
- Press 2 to "access your profile".
- You will be asked for your profile number. The profile number is, in numeric form, the first letter of your first name, the first 2 letters of your last name, and the last 4 digits of your SSN. For example, John Smith, SSN: xxx-xx-3010, will have a profile number of 5763010.
- After entering your profile number, you will then be asked for a profile password. Everyone has a temporary password of 123456. Immediately after entering your temporary password, the system will say that your password has expired and ask you to enter a new password. This is where you select a new numeric password (that you can remember!).

- Follow the prompts to attend a call, and enter the meeting ID number when prompted.



Holiday Party!

Come one, come all! Bring your family, and invite potential new team members!

This year the team holiday party is at Laura Miller's house, 968 Regal Ave in Berkeley, Saturday, December 6th, 4pm to 9pm.

Parking is a bit tight, so carpool if you can. Or just park on one of the streets in the area and walk to the house. (Laura says it's a lovely walk in the hills!)

Laura's phone number is (510) 525-6658 if you need last-minute help finding the party!

Bring a potluck dish for 6. Drinks and utensils will be provided by the team (but feel free to BYOB!).

Feel free to bring photos, scrapbooks or other DMAT memorabilia. And if you've got a favorite CD, bring that too. We'll put up a slide show, reminisce over the team's history, get to know our newer members, and of course say "thanks" to our families for putting up with all of our why-would-anyone-want-to-do-that behavior!

Here's the Google Maps link to Laura's house:

http://maps.google.com/maps?f=d&saddr=eastshore+flow&daddr=968+Regal+Rd%3B+Berkeley&hl=en&geocode=CSGmP1oFZj0yFXuJQ_QIdbO61-CEW3s4K8PnWvO%3B&mra=pe&mrcr=0&sll=37.871006,-122.274961&sspn=0.065044,0.154495&ie=UTF8&il=37.871601,-122.285557&spn=0.065044,0.154495&z=13



Plans Briefing

By Kathy Burgardt, Plans Section Chief

The big news for Plans will be restructuring the mobilization and demobilization processes due to our move to Santa Clara. As of this writing, we are not sure how that will look to team members. However, our goal is make the mob/demob process as user friendly as possible.

As we look ahead to our federal on-call month, please remember two things: time and demob. First, you should allow more time for the new mobilization process because it will be different. Second, there is a demobilization process that all team members should plan for. There's always a desire to get home after a deployment, but the demob step is necessary for the team because we need your gear and uniforms returned, and because we'd like to have everyone accounted for.

Meanwhile, when you respond to the federal on-call status request, do sign up for Home Team if you are not available to deploy. It saves a great deal of time if we can scroll through the responses and know who to call. When you sign up for Home Team, you don't even need to indicate specific availability. **SIGNING UP FOR HOME TEAM IS JUST ONE CLICK ON THE WEBSITE!**

Reminder: check the accuracy of your contact information on the website.

Haiti 2009

By Andy Stevermer, Haiti Mission Coordinator

Dear SKCDT, ODMT and SFBAY DMAT Members,

The Seattle King County Disaster Team, in collaboration with the Oregon Disaster Medical Team and

the San Francisco Bay Area Disaster Medical Assistance

Team, will continue its annual, training and humanitarian mission to rural Haiti in February 2009. This mission is done in concert with the Twinning Program of the Roman Catholic Church sponsored through a parish in Maryland. Team members have participated in this mission over the past eight years. In past years we have sponsored two missions, but this year there will be a single mission. There are other opportunities to participate in Haiti missions in June and October 2009, but we will not be hosting these other missions.

The mission is to provide primary care services to several mountain communities in the Grand Anse Province of western Haiti. The mission will staff two teams in February 2009. Each team will have twelve members and will provide one week of primary care. The dates for the mission are listed below. All teams will travel into Haiti on a Saturday, and return to the US on the following Sunday. Some individuals may prefer to stay for both weeks of the mission in either February or June. This is acceptable. There will be a \$30 increase in the down-payment if you stay for two weeks to cover the additional week of evacuation insurance.

Team One: Feb 7-15, 2009

Team Two: Feb 14-22, 2009

Each team will provide five days (Monday through Friday) of clinical services at an austere rural dispensary in the community of Leon, Haiti. The two days after the clinical days are for travel and for some sightseeing/shopping. Each year we also provide a community outreach component that requires some members to outreach into surrounding communities to identify and refer ill patients to the clinic and/or hospital.

Each team will have twelve members; four physicians, two PAs or NPs, four RNs, paramedics or EMTs, one pharmacist, and one medical laboratory technologist. All team members are required to

be flexible in their roles and may be asked to help out in a variety of ways in the patient treatment process. This includes helping in the pharmacy, lab, eyeglass program and the patient referral process.

Interested team members must commit to the full nine days of the mission, and must be individually responsible for their expenses during the mission. The personal cost of the mission is about \$1000.00 for the entire nine days. This includes all travel, food, and lodging.

A sample agenda for the nine days of the mission is outlined below. All team members are expected to participate in a full nine-day mission, and will travel as a team to and from Haiti.

- Saturday: Travel to Miami through Port-Au-Prince (PAP) to Leon. (We will be traveling on a morning flight into PAP in order to take an afternoon flight into Leon)
- Sunday: Clinic setup, relaxation and acclimation
- Monday to Friday: Clinical days in Haiti
- Saturday: Sightseeing and shopping in Jeremie
- Sunday: Travel to Port-Au-Prince and then to Miami

There are many SKCDT, SFBAY DMAT and ODMT members that have participated in this mission in the past eight years. These individuals could provide you with a realistic and candid description of the mission. We can also provide you with some additional written information about the country/mission if needed. Questions about personal health and safety, needed skill sets, language, culture, and packing supplies are common. All of this information will be provided in extensive detail if you decide to participate in the mission.

Haiti is the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere. Medical conditions there are austere. Team members must have the physical and mental endurance to function

in this environment. Although medical evacuation insurance will be provided, medical care in Haiti is very limited and cannot be guaranteed. For the most part, your team will be your primary medical care if needed.

A passport and current immunizations are required. There will be a weight restriction on your personal baggage due to the use of small aircraft for in-country transport. These details will be explained further if you decide to participate.

Team members will be selected on a first come first serve basis keeping in mind the required, fixed composition of the teams. SKCDT, SFBAY DMAT and ODMT members will be given the first opportunity to participate in the mission. Please submit your registration ASAP. Positions not filled by team members will then be filled through an open recruitment process as a means of successfully completing the mission and potentially recruiting new members to the DMATs.

To facilitate planning and minimize last minute cancellations, we are requiring a \$285 non-refundable down payment (\$315 if you are staying for two weeks) to hold your position for the mission. (Remember, this is first-come-first-serve, so don't wait until the last minute if you want to participate.) Once payment is received, we will confirm your participation on one of the mission teams. You are not confirmed to participate until you receive a written confirmation. Following confirmation, the down payment will not be refundable. If the team member cannot participate for any reason, the down payment will be forfeited. Forfeited down payments will be used to purchase medical supplies for the mission.

The down payment is used to cover the cost of lodging and food in Jeremie on return, airfare to and from Jeremie, gratuity to house-staff at the rectory where the teams stay in Leon, host gift for Pere Jean Farda (our host in Leon), travel evacuation insurance, and transportation between airports in

Port-Au-Prince. Pharmaceutical supplies are supported through the Parish Twinning program, and food/shelter in Leon is provided by Pere Jean-Farda and the St. Paul's Catholic Church in Leon. **The affiliation with the Catholic Church is critical to the success of the mission, however, this is not an evangelical mission. Our mission is medical!**

In addition to the down payment, each team member will be responsible for paying for the cost of their own airfare to and from Port-Au-Prince. This cost is generally \$600-700 from Seattle. All team members will be asked to coordinate their own travel. We will let you know what flight to take into and out of Haiti to coordinate with the team. Travel to and from Miami is flexible, but the teams should plan on entering Haiti as a team. Customs, airport chaos, and linguistic barriers make passage through the Port-Au-Prince airport challenging. It is much better to do this as a team. The details of transportation will be worked out as the time draws closer.

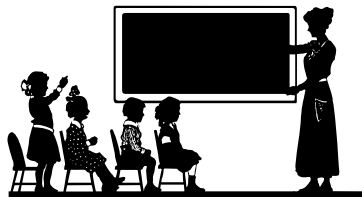
If you want to participate in this mission, please complete and submit the Haiti 2009 Registration Form available from your team commander. The information on this form is required to promote communication during the preparation for the mission, ensure safety during the mission, acquire individual traveler's insurance and ensure clearance through the Haitian Ministry of Health. In addition to the registration form and the \$285 (or \$315 if you are staying two weeks) deposit, please send a two by two inch photo (passport sized) of yourself, copy of your professional license and a copy of your diploma from your professional school. (This information is needed to get clearance through the Ministry for Health.) Submitting all of the information at one time will facilitate our preparations for the mission. No confirmation of participation will be provided until a completed application and all

requested information is submitted and a confirmation letter is returned.

Advanced planning and flexibility of the team members is critical to the success of this mission. Most team members find this mission to be both professionally and personally rewarding. As an emergency response team, the mission helps to build cohesiveness and creativity in team operations. I hope that you will seriously consider this unique training opportunity.

Every team member is liable for any risks they incur on the trip. The SKCDT takes great caution in ensuring risks are minimal.

Feel free to contact Andy Stevermer (astevermer@aol.com) if you have any questions about this mission.



Training News

By Sam Bradley, Training Officer

Have you done your ICS Training yet? IS 100, 200, 700 and 800 will soon be required for federal deployment. See the Links article below for the online course specifics.

Educational eNewsletter

On October 19, 2008, MedicU.com released its new educational newsletter call EdQuickie Educational eNewsLetter and will release the next edition on November 21, 2008. Tim Walker of MedicU.com stated that the company' goal is to release one edition per week; however, he also stated that because the content is multimedia rich and each edition signifies new multimedia-based applications on its site at <http://www.medicu.com/edquickie.htm>, the one per week may become one per two weeks.



Links!

This section contains links to websites that members need to access as part of maintaining their membership in the federal and/or non-profit teams:

- **NDMS Members** – the official NDMS website for federal team members: <http://teams.hhs.gov>. Ask Bonnie if you need help logging in.
- **CredentialSmart** – Credential verification system for federal team members:
<https://www.credentialismart.net/credsmart/login.jsp?org=91100>. Ask Bonnie for your username and password.
NOTE: this system is currently down. We will notify everyone when the system or its replacement is operational.
- **myPay** – Your federal payroll information and paystubs can be reviewed and updated online at <https://mypay.dfas.mil/mypay.aspx>.
- **Hatch Act** – federal regulations that govern political activities of federal employees. All federal team members need to email Bonnie after they've reviewed this: www.osc.gov/documents/hatchact/haflyer.pdf.
- **ICS** – take required ICS 100, 200, 700, and 800b courses online for free at <http://training.fema.gov/IS/crslist.asp>. Then email the certificates to Bonnie.



San Francisco Bay Area Disaster Medical Assistance Team

3660 Thomas Road #A

Santa Clara, CA 95054

Fax: (650) 412-1815

2009 Regular Member Annual Dues Statement

Covers Period from January 1, 2009 through December 31, 2009

Name: _____ Email: _____

Regular Member Dues if paid by January 1, 2009 = \$25.00	\$25.00
Late fee if paid between January 1 and January 31, 2009 = add \$5.00	\$ _____
Late fee if paid between February 1 and February 28, 2009 = add \$10.00	\$ _____
Late fee if paid after February 28, 2009 = add \$15.00	\$ _____
If dues in arrears for 2008 = \$40.00 per overdue year	\$ _____
<i>Tax-deductible Voluntary Donation to SFBAY DMAT (not required)</i>	\$ _____
TOTAL AMOUNT:	\$ _____

Check #: _____

Visa / MasterCard (circle one) #: _____ Exp. Date: _____

CVV: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

Members will receive the San Francisco Bay Area Disaster Medical Assistance Team monthly newsletter and receipt of email related to disaster medicine, field deployments and other activities of the team. Email addresses and all other member information are kept confidential. No mailing lists are ever sold to third parties. Information may be shared with NDMS, the State of California EMS Authority, the California Department of Motor Vehicles, law enforcement, and/or the SFBAY DMAT insurance agencies as needed for documentation of certification, licensure, background suitability, and ability to be deployed.

Dues are not required for participation and membership in the federal entity HHS/ASPR/OPEO/NDMS/DMAT CA-6. Dues are required for participation and membership in the non-profit entity San Francisco Bay Area Disaster Medical Assistance Team and its non-profit activities.

Payment may be made by check, money order, Visa or MasterCard in US funds only. Checks should be made out to 'SFBAY DMAT' and mailed to the DMAT office address listed above. There has been no increase in dues for the current year. Late fees are added for those paying dues late to encourage members to pay at the beginning of the year and to save the additional effort and cost of issuing further reminders.

The San Francisco Bay Area Disaster Medical Assistance Team is a 501(c)3 corporation, and is registered in the State of California as a non-profit public benefit corporation. Donations are deductible to the fullest extent of the law. Donations over \$100.00 will be acknowledged by a receipt. All other donations will be acknowledged by receipt if requested. Copies of the Financial Statement for the latest filed year are available upon request.



DON'T GIVE THE GIFT OF FLU

**Contra Costa Health Services needs
Pharmacy and other Medical and Non-medical Volunteers
For a Drive Through Flu Clinic Exercise**

Saturday, December 6, 2008

8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

(Free Flu Vaccinations given from 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.)

Hilltop Mall
2200 Hilltop Mall Road
Richmond, CA 94806

Free Continental Breakfast and Lunch Provided!

Contra Costa Health Services will be holding a free drive through flu clinic on a Saturday at the mall for all ages.

We will use this exercise as an assessment of our ability to effectively administer vaccinations to large numbers of people during a health emergency*.

The following types of volunteers are needed:

- **Licensed personnel who can give injections (especially those with pediatric experience)**
- **Greeters**
- **Line Monitors**
- **Exit Staff**
- **Observers**
- **Evaluators**

To volunteer for this exercise or for more information, please contact Donna Mann, 925-313-6751, dmann@hsd.cccounty.us

! THIS IS ONLY A DRILL !

***There is no health emergency nor is there a shortage of flu vaccine.**