



News Release

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Rio Arriba County Hosts Mass Casualty Exercise for Local Responders, September 21

RIO ARRIBA COUNTY, New Mexico, August 8, 2013— On September 21, the Rio Arriba County (RAC) Emergency Management Department will be hosting a Mass Casualty Incident (MCI) Exercise at the Ohkay Owingeh Hotel and Casino beginning at 8:30a.m. The exercise will include mock emergency scenes in which a significant amount of personnel and emergency equipment is used to respond to situations resulting in mass casualties.

Agencies who will be participating in the exercise will be Wrecker Holmes, American Red Cross, Las Clinicas Del Norte, Española Fire/EMS, the Sangre De Cristo Parish Chaplain, the New Mexico National Guard, RAC EMS and Fire Departments, New Mexico State Police, and the Espanola Police Department.

According to the RAC Emergency Management Department, this exercise is in place to provide a hands-on, lifelike training experience for emergency personnel to better prepare them for emergency occurrences in the future.

Funding for the exercise is provided through a grant received from Homeland Security. The grant requires that recipients be National Incident Management System (NIMS) compliant, which means certain trainings must have already been completed and emergency plans must be in place for disasters. Other factors include population size and hazard and disaster occurrence in the area. Once applicants meet

requirements, one is eligible to qualify for the grant. Every year Rio Arriba County applies for the grant and usually receives a sum of money, which is mandated specifically for trainings amongst law enforcement and emergency responders.

For more information, call the RAC Emergency Management Department at (505) 747-1941.

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