



COUNTY OF ORANGE HEALTH CARE AGENCY

HEALTH DISASTER MANAGEMENT EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

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March 4, 2016

TO: Orange County Fire Chiefs
Orange County Ambulance Provider CEOs
Emergency Receiving Center CEOs
Howard Backer, MD, EMS Authority Director
California Department of Public Health

SUBJECT: Closure of Saddleback Memorial Medical Center – San Clemente

Saddleback Memorial Medical Center – San Clemente (SMMC-SC) notified Orange County Emergency Medical Services (OCEMS) of its intent to close the Emergency Department effective May 31, 2016. We understand that the acute care hospital will also close.

SMMC-SC is one of twenty-five designated Emergency Receiving Centers in the county and has no OCEMS-designated specialty services (i.e. cardiac, stroke, trauma). According to the most recent Office of Statewide Health Planning & Development (OSHPD) data from 2014, SMMC-SC's ten Emergency Department (ED) beds treated 14,428 patients, or 1.9% of the county total of 771,714 ED visits. OCEMS data indicates that the hospital provides care to an even smaller proportion of paramedic-escorted patients (3,518 patients, for 1.7% of the total county 9-1-1 volume). Initial system assessment indicates that the emergency and specialty capabilities within surrounding hospitals will be able to absorb and meet the demands of the displaced patients and ambulance transport times will not significantly increase.

As directed under California Health and Safety Code Section 1300, our office will conduct a complete impact analysis and report the findings to the California Department of Public Health (CDPH). As part of our impact analysis, there will be a public hearing at 9:00 am on Friday, April 29, 2016 at the next Emergency Medical Care Committee meeting. Any comments that you have on the impact of closing this service are welcomed and encouraged. We will accept written comments in lieu of oral comments at this meeting. Written comments should be addressed to my attention at the OCEMS office before Monday, April 25, 2016. The notice of public hearing will be published. Please contact me at (714) 834-2791 with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Tammi McConnell MSN, RN
EMS Administrator

TM:ee#2615:SMMC-SC Notice of Closure

cc: Orange County Fire EMS Coordinators
Base Hospital Physicians
Base Hospital Coordinators
Hospital Association of Southern California