

OPERATIONS DIVISION

EMERGENCY OPERATIONS

TEAMWORK

The Signal Hill Police Department is committed to being prepared to handle any emergency situation that comes our way, whether it is a natural disaster or large scale criminal attack. As emergency situations become more commonplace in today's society, emergency operations capabilities in Signal Hill continue to evolve to maintain a state of readiness along with the ongoing emergency services needed to deal with any situation. The Emergency Operations Center (EOC) stands ready to activate at a moment's notice to any one of the three levels identified in SEMS/NIMS requirements.

The Signal Hill Police Department is fortunate to have a part-time Emergency Operations Coordinator, Richard Johnson, who oversees the day to day operations of the EOC.

In 2016, Mr. Johnson completed the annual revision of the City's Emergency Operations Plan (EOP). This comprehensive document is in full compliance with state and federal standards for content and format. Copies of the EOP were distributed to all City Departments, surrounding jurisdictions and the county Operational Area Emergency Operations Center. Additionally, the EOP can be viewed on the City's web page. The plan is updated when new requirements are posted by SEMS/NIMS.

Signal Hill Emergency Operations regularly provides training to all City employees on emergency response, preparedness, and functions of the EOC. During the past year, SHPD began to bring City staff into compliance with SEMS/NIMS training requirements for



field responders and employees who have responsibilities staffing the EOC. Progress has been significant toward achieving full compliance with these requirements.

Signal Hill Emergency Operations continues to promote and maintain readiness status of the City's Community Emergency Response Team (CERT). The CERT team consists of volunteers from the community that have been given specialized emergency training that can be utilized in the event of an emergency. The CERT team makes it possible for a neighborhood to be self-sufficient until first responders can arrive. In 2017, the Signal Hill and Long Beach CERT, along with the Long Beach Search and Rescue Team, joined together to participate in a full response scenario at Fox Studios exterior "New York" street film set. The teams attended refresher skills workshops before engaging in search, rescue,

treatment, and transportation operations of injured "victims" located throughout the buildings on the film set. The all-day event was exciting and allowed our team to meet and train with our surrounding jurisdictions as well as work within a realistic neighborhood setting.

In 2017, a new and welcomed addition joined the Emergency Management staff. Volunteer Angel Hernandez works on a part-time voluntarily basis with the Emergency Management team. Angel holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Emergency Management and continues to pursue training opportunities by attending CSTI training courses.

Both Mr. Johnson and Mr. Hernandez have taken a personal interest in making sure the Signal Hill Police Department is ready to respond to any and all emergency situations. The Emergency Operations have proven to be invaluable to the members of this Department, City, and community.

