

# Airport Disaster Drill

A multi-agency airport disaster drill took place on October 9 at the Santa Barbara Airport. This drill is an FAA mandate required every 3 years. An MTD bus was used to simulate the aircraft fuselage, which had suffered a collapsed landing gear for the purposes of the training exercise. SBCC EMT students role-played the victims complete with theatrical make-up used to simulate various injuries.

The drill played out in real time with fire, EMS, airport personnel, and law enforcement agencies responding incrementally to the scene of the incident. First responding fire units controlled the simulated fire, with subsequent arriving responders triaging and treating the victims. Patient tracking, transporting, and communication with area hospitals are all part of the drill, either actual or simulated. Other agencies including local airlines and The American Red Cross, conducted their portion of the training exercise on the UCSB campus.

Evaluators were utilized to document the various aspects of the training for later analysis to develop suggestions for improvement.



Fire apparatus staged prior to the training exercise.



Chief de Ponce conducts the pre-drill briefing at Station 8.



College students role-playing as airline passengers



Chief de Ponce works with his command staff to direct operations.



Treatment areas established with patients awaiting transport.



ARFF Engineers Olga Herrera and Spencer Simonds upon completion of the drill.