

# County agencies hold exercise for responders



Tehama County Sheriffs Sgt. Rod Daugherty gives a briefing Thursday before the start of a statewide health exercise held at Ridgeway Park to test Tehama County's preparedness for emergencies. Julie Zeeb - Daily News

By **Julie Zeeb**, *Daily News*

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Marion Rocksvold takes down information from new arrivals at the shelter on Thursday at Ridgeway Park where a statewide health exercise was held to test Tehama County's preparedness for emergencies. Julie Zeeb - Daily News

Red Bluff >> Two days after a real-life emergency in Rancho Tehama Tuesday that left six people dead, Tehama County agencies were back at work Thursday practicing preparedness in Red Bluff for a previously scheduled statewide health exercise meant to test the readiness to respond.

Gathering early in the morning, Tehama County Sheriff's Sgt. Rod Daugherty, the Office of Emergency Services manager for the county, briefed participants, including several Red Bluff High School students.

The students, from the Spartan Fire Career Technical Education program and EMS classes, portrayed disaster victims at Ridgeway Park.

The scenario for the exercise was a tsunami on the coast displacing people, who traveled to Tehama County in need of shelter, Daugherty said.

"The idea in the scenario is that Red Cross is so overwhelmed that we as a county have to man our own shelter for two to three days until we can get help here," Daugherty said. "This exercise is about being prepared and we hope we find out if we have the right forms and information for how to do this so that if we have to set this up in the middle of the night we're good to go. It makes things easier when you've had practice ahead as we know with incidents like the one in Rancho Tehama. We had practiced and it seems to have worked well in our ability to respond."

Sheriff Dave Hencratt stopped in to check on the exercise and said the work done in past county preparedness exercises helped significantly with the respond to Tuesday's incident.

The county participates in the statewide health exercises annually, said Cheyenne Humphrey, a supervising public health nurse who was the public information officer for the exercise.

"It's a chance to test our ability to respond to both natural and man-made disasters," Humphrey said. "It also gives us a chance to collaborate with different community partners, agencies and volunteer organizations. The exercises give us a chance to put faces to names and build relationships so they're in place when something happens. We recently wrote up a shelter plan and this particular exercise is to practice setting up our shelter."

Eric Kiltz, formerly a public information officer for Red Cross, attended as a consultant to observe and give feedback. He said he was impressed and Tehama County had done a good job.

Kaylanie Sandefer is a senior at Red Bluff High School in the Spartan Fire program and said she plans to become a paramedic.

"I'm planning to go into the medical field so I'm really excited to be a part of this exercise and see in real life how things are done," Sandefer said.

If an evacuation or a need to seek shelter happens in Tehama County, residents can get an alert notification through the sheriff's department. To sign up, visit <http://tehamaso.org/tehama-alert/>.

The exercise was a collaboration between the sheriff's department and Tehama County Health Services Agency and included Tehama County Department of Social Services, Tehama County Administration, Search and Rescue and Environmental Health. Providing Essentials For Tehama Shelter, or PETS, and the Salvation Army assisted.

Daugherty thanked the Salvation Army, which not only fed the group Thursday, but had been feeding law enforcement during the shooting incident in Rancho Tehama Tuesday.