



News Release

Public Communications ■ 500 S. Grand Central Parkway, 6th Fl., Las Vegas, NV 89155-1111 ■ Fax: (702) 455-3558

Contact: **Samantha L. Charles**
Public Information Officer

Phone: **(702) 455-5534**
Cell: **(702) 376-3764**
E-mail: **syc@co.clark.nv.us**

For Immediate Release

Thursday, July 7, 2005

Fictional Terrorist Incident on the Las Vegas Strip Part of Emergency Training Exercise

Several fictional emergency scenarios occurring on the Las Vegas Strip and elsewhere in Clark County are the focus of a historic, statewide exercise designed to test the preparedness of various local, state and federal agencies. The exercise, dubbed "Rotunda Thunda 05," will be conducted July 11 through 14 at the Clark County Government Center and the Las Vegas Convention Center.

The purpose of the exercise is to examine certain aspects of the recently published National Response Plan and National Incident Management System. It involves individuals who have decision-making authority from private and public agencies facing six simulated emergencies. Several of the emergency scenarios will be terrorist attacks in our community at events with large gatherings and popular places on the Strip.

A total of 78 local, state and federal agencies have participated in the planning of this exercise. Local agencies most active in the design of the exercise include Clark County, Clark County Health District (CCHD) and the Las Vegas Convention and Visitor's Authority. All of these agencies have collaborated on the development of a series of scenarios.

Clark County first responders, staff at eight hospitals and 11 UMC Quick Care facilities, emergency medical services providers Southwest Ambulance and AMR, and CCHD personnel will be the primary players.

Field exercises will take place in the South Hall of the Las Vegas Convention Center, 3275 Paradise Rd., while mock emergency activities will be coordinated by an Emergency Operations Center at the Clark County Government Center, 500 S. Grand Central Pkwy.

According to Clark County Emergency Manager Jim O'Brien, this exercise presents a rare opportunity for public safety agencies in Clark County.

"This exercise will give us the opportunity to put plans that we have practiced for years into action," said O'Brien. "Effective coordination among local, state and federal agencies will be paramount throughout this three-day exercise."

- more -

News release also available on the Internet at www.accessclarkcounty.com

Clark County Board of Commissioners

Rory Reid, Chairman ■ Myrna Williams, Vice-Chair ■ Tom Collins ■ Yvonne Atkinson Gates ■ Chip Maxfield ■ Lynette Boggs McDonald ■ Bruce L. Woodbury / Thom Reilly, County Manager

“The citizens of Clark County are the beneficiaries of this exercise since our community will find itself better prepared to deal with not only terrorist attacks, but other forms of emergencies as well,” said Commission Chairman Rory Reid.

“Nothing is more valuable in terms of preparing for a real-life emergency,” said Clark County Manager Thom Reilly. “The live portions of the exercise will give local and state agencies the opportunity to put many years’ worth of practiced plans into action.”

The Rotunda Thunda exercise will include numerous exercises that the media may cover, such as:

- **Casualty Collection Point**
Monday, July 11 at 8 a.m.
Las Vegas Convention Center
The Clark County Health District and emergency medical services agencies will be operating a simulated casualty collection point at the Las Vegas Convention Center. During an actual emergency, hospital services would be overwhelmed and a casualty collection point would be set up and staffed to serve patients. Actors will be playing the role of casualties during this portion of the exercise.
- **Clark County Coroner’s Office Decontaminates “Bodies”**
Monday, July 11 at 10 a.m.
Las Vegas Convention Center
The Coroner’s Office, in conjunction with the 355th Army Reserve Unit, will simulate the decontamination of 500 bodies that have been exposed to a chemical agent. During an actual emergency, it would be important to decontaminate human remains as quickly as possible in an effort to address possible public health issues and carry out tasks such as autopsies, the determination of cause and manner of death, and notification of next-of-kin.
- **Free Microchip Implants for the First 1,000 Pets**
Tuesday, July 12 at 9 a.m. through Thursday, July 14 at 8 a.m.
Las Vegas Convention Center
In an effort to test the capacity of the new Regional Mobile Emergency Animal Shelter, veterinarians will implant microchips in the first 1,000 pets brought to the Las Vegas Convention Center – **free of charge** to the public.

Citizens are asked to enter the Las Vegas Convention Center complex at the Swenson Road entrance (Swenson, south of Desert Inn Road) and follow the directional arrows and signs that indicate *Free Microchipping*. The event will be held indoors. Pet carriers and leashes are required.

#