

Hi all –

We apologize for the delay in sending this information. The stats we are able to provide are an attempt to satisfy several individual requests by local media.

Snapdragon Stadium is state of California property managed by San Diego State University which is a state school. Even though the stadium is located within the jurisdiction of the City of San Diego, SD Fire-Rescue received the medical plan two days prior to the event. A heat injury/illness plan was not provided.

American Medical Response (AMR) has the contract for EMS services at the stadium and was the agency managing care of patients at the event. On several occasions prior to the event, the SDFD fire marshal, Deputy Chief Tosca and EMS Deputy Chief Pierce offered to collaborate with SDSU on the medical plan for the event, but it was clear that our input was not solicited. Chief Pierce did request that Falck work directly with Snapdragon to provide ambulances and this resulted in Falck advanced lifesaving (ALS) ambulances being at the stadium along with AMR apparatus.

It's also important to note that because the stadium is located within the City of San Diego, fire or EMS emergencies that occur at the stadium would potentially be handled by City of SD departments such as SDPD and SDFD. In this case, it was evident that the sheer number of patients at the game quickly overwhelmed the EMS resources on site and required assistance from SDFD.

At about 10:40 a.m., SDFD's dispatch center began receiving 9-1-1 calls from people at the event who were requesting medical aid. Even though AMR had resources at the event, including several first aid stations, the extreme heat and lack of shade caused the number of patients to increase quickly. Patients called from the stadium parking lot as well as from inside the stadium. At about 12:30 p.m., Chiefs Pierce and Tosca were considering a recommendation to SDSU to cancel the event because of the high volume of medical aid calls for service at the game. Ultimately, because cancelling the event wouldn't solve the problem, the recommendation was to allow the event to continue and address the multi-casualty incident with the fans in place at the venue.

With regard to SDFD resources that responded to the event, engines 18, 31, 45 and truck 45 were dispatched to the stadium to handle medical aid calls beginning at about 10:40 a.m. At 2:08 p.m. Chief Pierce decided to send in a task force which was made up of three engine companies and a battalion chief. The engine companies that made up the task force were: engines 9, 11 and 20. Battalion 4 was the battalion chief assigned to the task force. At one point, there were 7 engine companies and 1 battalion chief providing medical aid at Snapdragon Stadium. This was in addition to the resources pre-positioned at the event as part of the medical plan.

Attached you will find stats SDFD gathered that attempt to reflect the number of patients treated. The challenge is that because there were so many patients who needed assistance, each patient was not necessarily tracked as a data point. The goal of the SDFD crews who responded to the stadium was to reinforce the first aid stations and handle requests for medical aid. They treated many patients without taking the time to track each one because of the urgency of the circumstances. In addition, in the SDFD computer aided dispatch system, the response by a few crews to the stadium are reflected as one incident versus creating an incident for each patient. We do know that our task force crews tracked 14 heat-related responses and 5 of those patients were transported to local hospitals. In the attached table titled "SDSU Football Game at Snapdragon Stadium" you will find the number of incidents handled by the crews that arrived after 10:40 a.m. but this table doesn't reflect patients, it reflects incidents created in the computer aided dispatch system. The table titled "SDFD Labor Day Stats" provides the number of calls processed by the SDFD dispatchers on the listed weekends. There is also a comparison between Labor Day weekend 2022 and 2021.

I believe AMR provided local media with details as to the resources they had available for the SDSU football game.

SDFD is not offering interviews on this topic. The SDFD EMS team has again offered to collaborate with SDSU for the event they have scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 10, 2022. Let me know if you have questions.

Thank you,