



PRESSRELEASE
NATIONALPUBLICSAFETYDISPATCHERWEEK
April 9 - 15, 2000

For the past several years, Public Safety Agencies nationwide have recognized the pivotal role played by telecommunicators, dispatchers, communications operators, radio control personnel, ALL those people, by whatever job title, who utilize telephones, radios, computers and technical skill to provide support to Law Enforcement, Fire Services, Emergency Medical Services and other governmental field personnel.

Each year, the second week of April is dedicated to the men and women who serve as public safety telecommunicators. In 1991, Congress proclaimed it as a nationally recognized week of recognition.

The Monterey CHP Communications Center celebrates this year's National Telecommunicators Week - April 9 - 15 - in honor of their dedicated dispatchers who handle several thousand wireless 9-1-1 calls each month within a four-county area: Monterey, Santa Cruz, San Benito and southern Santa Clara counties. They dispatch CHP officers and coordinate with allied agencies for other law enforcement, fire services and emergency medical services response to the needs of the public in emergencies and on a routine basis.

This year the local CHP is recognizing their dispatchers with a mid-week barbecue. The Communications Center's Dispatcher of the Year will receive a Commander's Commendation and throughout the week other small gifts of appreciation will be delivered to express appreciation for all 19 CHP dispatchers who work around the clock, all year long, to support their officers in the field and help keep the public safe.

When you dial 9-1-1 on your cellular phone in California, a CHP dispatcher answers that call - know where you are and stay on the line so they can help get the assistance you need! **Remember 9-1-1 is for emergencies only.**

For information about the Communications Center or the week's events, please contact [insert appropriate contact person], (831) 455-1822.

Facts About the Monterey CHP Communications Center

Number of employees: currently 19 civilian Communications Operator II, two Communications Supervisors

Entry Level CO II pay per month: \$2,578, Top Step CO II pay per month: \$3,132

Training: Six weeks initial Academy training, one-year probationary period

Average length of service: 10 years

Consoles: two primary radio consoles (made by Avtec), four telephone consoles

Telephone calls received in March:

11,205 cellular/wireless 9-1-1 calls

13,632 on non-emergency and other lines