

VENTURING MAGAZINE

Moulage Artists by Mary Marcutto

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Venturing Crew 911 chartered at San Gabriel Presbyterian Church and from Capitol Area Council ran on August 7, 2013 a mass casualty full scale exercise for the Williamson County Nursing Conference. This is an annual nursing conference for the school nurses and health department nurses in our county. The following URL is for an article in the Texas Department of Public Safety monthly newsletter about the conference and the pivotal role Crew 911 played.

The Lead Controller, Zach Tuten, is the current Southern Region Boatswain and a Crew 911 member. He was in charge of the moulage (bloody makeup) artists, actor coaches, and Controllers for the exercise. Two exercises were run at the same time in two different classrooms and then the process was repeated a second time in the afternoon for a different group of nurses until all 140 nurses had an opportunity to play a part in the response of the exercise.



Since this conference, Crew 911 has participated as moulage artists in an armed intruder full scale exercise in Hutto, TX.

This exercise was at a school site that helped train emergency responders for: Fire, law enforcement and EMS, and City Emergency Operation Center staff on how to coordinate their response. The Crew also helped a local hospital with their full scale exercise in December, 2013. They prepared 14 actors from the local high school with make-up and coaching on their roles and then rode to the hospital on a 15 patient ambulance bus. The exercise was part of regional exercise that involved most of the hospitals in the region.

The Crew has had a long time history of doing moulage makeup as volunteers to help in our community emergency preparedness and response. In 2005 we provided the makeup and actors for "When Seconds Count" training video which was about the new way law enforcement would respond to an armed intruder in schools after Columbine occurred. In 2006, we helped our local health department during a mass medication dispensing drill as time keepers to assist the evaluators look at the efficiency of the process.



In 2007 when our regional Children's Hospital opened, our Crew provided the moulage makeup and coaching for the actors in an exercise to challenge their ER staff preparedness about 30 days after they opened.

We also helped run an exercise in 2009 for our local Search and Rescue Team at the end of a light structures search and rescue class and even coached the actors and placed them in the "damaged structures" in preparation for the students to practice the search and rescue skills.

The Crew got started running exercises through the practice they received teaching Wilderness First Aid classes since 2004. The course final scenarios have always involved realistic makeup and multiple actors to make the scene as realistic as possible. Our students have all said the final exercises are what have helped them feel confident that they could respond if ever placed in a situation where their skills were needed. Over the years, we have had several students come back to report they have used the skills and the way our youth ran the exercises have proved to be true to life from their own experience.

