



## News Release

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**For Immediate Release** (Valley Center, CA) The Rincon Band of Luiseño Indians is providing ambulance services to the Rincon Reservation and surrounding north county communities on a 24 hour basis, seven days a week.

The Rincon Fire Department will continue to deploy paramedics and EMTs on the three fire trucks owned by the tribe. The result of a cooperative agreement between Mercy Medical Transport Services and the Rincon tribal government, the ambulance, medical supplies and equipment will be provided by Mercy, a private ambulance company. The tribal government will pay for the paramedics and operations overhead.

“It’s an incredible arrangement for the Rincon tribe and neighboring communities, as it shortens response time to the hospital, which is an important factor in saving lives of victims of trauma, heart attack and other serious life threatening events,” stated Rincon Tribal Chairman Bo Mazzetti.

The ambulance, which covers the largest service area of any paramedic unit in San Diego County, serves the Valley Center and Palomar Mountain communities, as well as the San Pasqual, Pauma, La Jolla and Rincon Reservations, according to Captain Pietro Balestracci of the Rincon Fire Department.

“It’s a real pleasure to work with Mercy. They are truly dedicated to the medical emergency needs of our communities. Now they can add another ambulance to their arsenal, and the Rincon Fire Department can add another complementary public service,” noted Balestracci.

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### 1-1-1-1 Rincon rolls out Ambulance

Mazzetti added, "This is another example of tribal governments working with local governments and private providers to improve public safety services for tribal members, and our neighbors, at no cost to local taxpayers." The Rincon tribal government currently funds additional Sheriffs' patrols to both the reservation and the adjacent unincorporated communities.

The Rincon Fire Department is funded from Harrah's Rincon Resort and Casino gaming revenues, and employs 31 full and part time firefighters. The tribal fire department has 6 full time paramedics and 25 EMTs. The fire department houses three fire trucks, of which one is a high rise ladder truck, a paramedic fire engine, and a four-wheel all-terrain fire vehicle. The Rincon Indian Fire Department provides paramedic and fire protection services on the Rincon Reservation, Valley Center and surrounding communities.

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