

Augustine Casino evacuates as part of emergency drill

Staff reports
The Desert Sun
November 13, 2006

Augustine Casino, in Coachella, held a full evacuation of its facilities at 8 this morning as part of a new Emergency Preparedness program, casino officials announced.

Casino management arranged the surprise evacuation to demonstrate to employees and patrons alike that emergency situations can come up at anytime and the casino is prepared to handle them.

Authorities with the Augustine Band of Cahuilla Mission Indians called today's drill a chance to gauge how prepared the casino would be in the face of an emergency.

"Safety is our number one priority and we will do whatever we can to promote a safe environment for our visitors," one official said today.

An estimated 300 patrons and 140 employees were evacuated from the casino as part of the drill.

Guests and employees were led to a nearby parking lot as security and facility employees secured the property as part of emergency procedures.

Guests received a free Emergency Preparedness first aid kit for participating and employees wore t-shirts that said "Stay Alert – Stay Alive." Augustine is one of the first businesses in the Coachella Valley to hold a full emergency drill involving both employees and guests.

The Emergency Preparedness drill is part of a program implemented recently at the casino to proactively address potential emergency situations.

Employees received an initial training session that covered potential emergency situations and the actions employees would take if such emergencies occurred. The goal of the evacuation drill was to put employees and guests through a simulated situation to become better prepared to handle a real life situation.
