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# News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Clark County Faces “Divert” Situation**

(Las Vegas, Nev. – August 10, 2000) – Clark County is currently experiencing what is known as a “divert” situation. This occurs when hospitals face a shortage of critical care and emergency room beds in response to ambulance services experiencing a higher volume of calls.

In response to this situation the Clark County Health District is urging residents to utilize the appropriate medical facilities for their illnesses and injuries and to reserve the use of emergency services for life-threatening medical situations.

Dr. Kwalick, chief health officer for the Health District, states, “Residents can help alleviate this problem by using emergency rooms and the 9-1-1 system for critical care situations only. Family physicians and urgent care centers are the best means for receiving non-critical care.”

Urgent care provides treatment of injuries or illnesses that are not life threatening but need immediate attention. This includes lacerations that may require stitches; sprains; urinary tract, upper respiratory and ear infections; insect bites; rashes; sore throats; diarrhea; and coughs and congestion.

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