



Region IV MRC Update

January, 2009

Resolve to Be Ready in 2009

Have you resolved to be ready? The Ready Campaign wants to make it easy for all Americans to make and keep a resolution to be prepared. The Ready.gov website contains a toolkit for helping your community to Resolve to Be Ready. The toolkit is available here:

<http://www.ready.gov/america/about/resolve2009.html>



2008 Hurricane Season Report Released

The Office of the Civilian Volunteer Medical Reserve Corps has released the report “The Medical Reserve Corps Response to the 2008 Hurricanes – Final Report.” This report summarizes Medical Reserve Corps activity during the 2008 Hurricane Season, and contains a section specifically on the activity in Region IV. From the Executive Summary:

“More than 170,000 medical, public health and other volunteers help to improve the health, safety and resiliency of their communities by serving on local Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) units. MRC volunteers can make significant contributions to response and recovery efforts after major events, as amply demonstrated in the aftermath of disasters such as Hurricane Katrina in 2005, the Greensburg tornado and the Southern California wildfires in 2007. The 2008 hurricane season provided further confirmation of the ability of local MRC units to enhance their communities' resiliency and capacity to respond to a public health emergency.

Over 1500 MRC members volunteered over 30,000 hours locally in response to Hurricanes Ike and Gustav and Tropical Storm Hanna. These volunteers came from 63 MRC units in 14 states, and they performed a myriad of different tasks (based on the needs in their local communities)....”

The full report is available here: <http://www.medicalreservecorps.gov/Hurricane/2008Report>

Volunteers Building Strong, Healthy, and Prepared Communities

President-Elect Selects New Head of Health and Human Services

On December 11, President-Elect Obama selected former Senator Tom Daschle as the Secretary of Health and Human Services. The Secretary of Health and Human Services is in charge of DHHS, a department that includes such agencies as the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services, the Food and Drug Administration, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the Health Resources and Services Administration. The Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response also reports to the Secretary of DHHS. Senator Daschle has been leading the health policy team during the transition and has recently written a book on the health care crisis. Jeanne Lambrew was also named Deputy Secretary.

Trust for America's Health Releases Ready or Not? 2008

Trust for America's Health and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation released the report, Ready or Not? Protecting the Public's Health from Diseases, Disasters, and Bioterrorism. States were scored based on ten key indicators, from whether the state's public health lab could meet the requirements of the pandemic flu plan to whether the state has a Medical Reserve Corps state coordinator. The report paid particular attention to the effect of state and federal budget cuts on public health preparedness, "States are being asked to do more with less, jeopardizing our safety, security, and health," said Risa Lavizzo-Mourey, M.D., M.B.A., president and CEO of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. "We all have a stake in strengthening America's public health system, because it is our first line of defense against health emergencies." To view the full Ready or Not? 2008 report, visit:

<http://healthyamericans.org/reports/bioterror08/> or view their video here:
<http://healthyamericans.org/reports/bioterror08/video/>

2009 Integrated Summit – ESF8 Partners Unite!

This year, Medical Reserve Corps has joined with its Emergency Support Function 8 partners to provide an integrated training summit for Medical Reserve Corps, ESAR-VHP, National Disaster Medical System and the Office of Force Readiness and Deployment. The Integrated Summit will be held April 4-8 in Dallas, Texas at the Hilton Anatole. "The Training Summit will enhance the knowledge, skills, and abilities of participants, which in turn will improve their competency to deliver public health and medical care services during disasters of any origin. Expert faculty will present on key topics such as clinical care, leadership skills, volunteer management practices, and response team issues. Networking with these expert faculty members and fellow participants, many of whom are the nation's leaders in the area of public health emergencies, will give access to the latest in emergency response and coordination capabilities." More information is available at <http://www.hhstrainingsummit.org>

Upcoming Events of Interest

- January 8-9, Jacksonville, FL – **Region IV MRC Conference and Training**
- January 22, 1:00-2:30 p.m. ET – **Psychological First Aid** webcast <http://www.adph.org/ALPHTN/Default.asp?id=1884>
- January 29, 1:00-2:30 p.m. ET - **Mass Antibiotic Dispensing: Partnering with Tribal Governments and Communities** webcast <http://www2a.cdc.gov/phtn/webcast/tribal/default.asp>
- February 4, Little Rock, AR (and via videoconference) - **Disaster Medicine 101: Post-Earthquake Public Health and Medical Issues in the New Madrid Seismic Zone** <http://www.cusec.org/news-a-events/events-calendar/92.html>
- February 6 – **Deadline for Submission of Poster Presentations for 2009 Integrated Summit** <http://www.hhstrainingsummit.org>
- February 18-20, San Diego, CA – **2009 Public Health Preparedness Summit** <http://www.phprep.org/2009>
- April 4-8, Dallas, TX – **2009 Integrated Medical, Public Health, Preparedness and Response Training Summit** <http://www.hhstrainingsummit.org>

2009 Hurricane Season Forecast Released

The Tropical Meteorology Project at Colorado State University has released its first forecast for the 2009 Atlantic Tropical Storm Season. They are predicting a “somewhat above-average” season, with 14 named storms, 7 of them hurricanes. They are also predicting a slightly higher than average chance of at least one major hurricane making landfall on the East Coast (39% as compared to an average 31%). The Tropical Meteorology Project will release additional forecasts as hurricane season gets closer. More information on these forecasts and the Tropical Meteorology Project is available here:

<http://hurricane.atmos.colostate.edu/>

Useful Tools and Information Online

Just a reminder: There is a collection of websites that may be useful to MRC Unit Coordinators available at: <http://www.furl.net/members/Region4MRC>. Recent additions include:

- [Ready or Not 2008](#)
- [How Nonprofits Can Use Social Media](#)
- [Achieve Your Goals by Focusing on Critical Activities](#)
- [Resolve to be Ready 2009](#)

For regular public health and emergency preparedness updates, check out the [Region IV News Updates](#)

Upcoming Health Observances

January is National Blood Donor Month



<http://www.aabb.org/content>

January is National Radon Action Month



<http://www.epa.gov/radon/nram/index.html>

February is American Heart Month

<http://www.americanheart.org>

February 6 is National Wear Red Day



<http://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/health/hearttruth/>

February 14 is National Organ Donor Day



<http://www.organdonor.gov/>

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Don't forget to regularly visit the [National MRC Website](#): sponsored by the [Office of the Surgeon General](#)

Medical Reserve Corps is a partner program with [Citizen Corps](#)