



Region IV MRC Update

July, 2008

Welcome New MRC Units!

Please welcome our newest unit:

Calhoun County MRC, located in Jacksonville, Alabama, was registered in May. The mission of their MRC is to engage health care professionals in helping the community prepare for, respond to and mitigate emergencies, disasters and pressing public health needs by providing a group of readily trained and available volunteer professionals who supplement and assist local medical emergency response systems.

This brings us to a total of 140 units within Region Four, 765 across the United States. If you know of a community that would like to start its own MRC unit, please have them contact the Regional Coordinator, Elizabeth Fitch, at (404)562-4276 or Elizabeth.fitch@hhs.gov. Your support for these new units as they develop is very much appreciated.

Free Online Core Disaster Life Support training available to MRC Members

The American Medical Association Center for Public Health Preparedness & Disaster Response and the National Disaster Life Support Foundation is now offering the free online Core Disaster Life Support® training course to members of the Medical Reserve Corps. This is an all-hazards, awareness-level course. The course comprises nine modules, a pre-test and a post-test.

The AMA designates this educational activity for a maximum of 4.0 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™. Non-physicians may request a certificate of participation indicating the AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™. eCDLS users who complete the free course by September 30, 2008 will receive the CDLS course manual, the AMA virtual library CD-ROM, *Responding to Public Health Emergencies*, and a CDLS wallet-card.

The course is available to Medical Reserve Corps members through MRC-TRAIN: <https://www.mrc.train.org> – Course ID # 1012300 MRC members will need to have or create an account in order to access the course through MRC-TRAIN, and can then register and receive a password via e-mail specific to this course.

Medical Reserve Corps: Volunteers Building Strong, Healthy, and Prepared Communities

Medical Reserve Corps Response to Midwest Floods

A number of MRC units in the Midwest have either activated their volunteers to respond or placed them on standby. Here is a brief summary of MRC activity reported to date:

- The Adams County MRC (Quincy, IL) was activated to provide tetanus shots. Over 2,000 shots were provided.
- The Douglas County MRC (Tuscola, IL) worked with CERT, EMA and local firefighters to perform disaster recovery assessments in the county following the recent floods.
- The Lake County MRC (Waukegan, IL) was put on standby by to assist flood victims.
- The Southeast Wisconsin MRC (Waukesha, WI) was put on alert to provide mental health professionals due to flooding.
- The Wisconsin Technical Rescue Operations Team MRC (Kaukauna, WI) was put on stand by with boats, swift water techs and support personnel/Medical personnel to assist in the evacuation and rescue of people in the Fond du Lac/Oshkosh area due to flooding.
- Due to flooding, the Johnson County MRC (Franklin, IN) was activated to provide tetanus shots. Over 300 shots were given and three additional clinics have been scheduled.
- 100 members of the Montgomery County MRC (Crawfordsville, IN) were put on stand-by as a resource due to flooding in Indiana. The Indiana Department of Homeland Security EOC was notified of the MRC's availability.
- The Clinton County MRC (Frankfort, IN) is on standby due to the floods.

Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality Creates Natural Disasters Web Page

A new [Web page](#) to help community and emergency planners prepare for hurricanes and other natural disasters is available on the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality Web site. The tools and resources highlighted can help community and emergency planners: reopen shuttered hospitals to meet casualty demand; use community call centers for crisis support; provide mass medical care with scarce resources; evaluate hospital disaster drills; and locate nursing homes, hospitals, and available resources within communities or nearby States. The material will be available throughout hurricane season, which ends November 30. Select for more information on AHRQ's public health emergency preparedness tools and [resources](#).

CDC Emergency Response PSA's and Podcasts

Just a reminder: The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have created PSA's and Podcasts for a variety of threats. These can be found here:

<http://www.emergency.cdc.gov/disasters/psa/>.

Upcoming Events of Interest

- July 22, 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. ET “**Improving Disaster Communication: The Role of Poison Centers in Public Health**” <http://www.adph.org/alphtn>
- July 23, 2:00 – 3:00 p.m. ET “**Avian Influenza Response Training for Emergency Responders**” http://www.dlnets.com/ntpi_23Jul08.htm
- July 24, 1:00 – 3:00 ET “**Bridge the Gap: Community Surge and Resiliency**” <http://www.adph.org/alphtn>
- July 29-30, Biloxi, Mississippi - **Every Second Counts: Responding to People with Disabilities in Times of Disaster** <http://www.southcentralpartnership.org/default.aspx?ID=791>
- September 30, 2008 – **Deadline for receiving free materials with completion of eCDLS** (see front page): <https://www.mrc.train.org> course # 1012300

September is National Preparedness Month

In 2007, the Ready Campaign partnered with national, regional, state and local government organizations to highlight the importance of public emergency preparedness throughout the month of September. September 2008 will mark the fifth annual National Preparedness Month. Organizations of all kinds are encouraged to join the National Preparedness Month Coalition to help promote preparedness month activities in their communities.

For more information on National Preparedness Month, you can:

- [View the 2008 NPM Home Page](#)
- [View the Calendar](#)
- [Register as a Coalition Member](#)
- [View the Frequently Asked Questions](#)

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:

- [CDC Extreme Heat PSA's and Podcasts](#)
- [National Response Framework Resource Center](#)
- [Public/Private Legal Preparedness Initiative](#)
- [IS-808 Emergency Support Function #8 – Public Health and Medical Services](#)

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

Upcoming Health Observances

July is National Fireworks Safety Month

http://www.preventblindness.org/news/releases/061908_1.html

August is National Immunization Awareness Month



<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/>

September is National Preparedness Month



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

September 16 is Get Ready Day (Pandemic Influenza)



<http://www.getreadyforflu.org>

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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](#)