



# Region IV MRC Update

October, 2008

## **Medical Reserve Corps Response to Tropical Storm Hanna, Hurricane Gustav, and Hurricane Ike**

**Southwest Alabama MRC** was activated by the Alabama Department of Public Health over the Labor Day weekend to assist in staffing 8 shelters as well as the evacuation center.

**North Alabama MRC** assisted with staffing in their local Red Cross Shelter.

**Project HELP MRC** (AL) assisted in staffing two general and two special/medical needs shelters in Birmingham.

**MRC GEM** (Georgia East Metro) assisted with staffing in their local Red Cross Shelter for evacuees from Gustav.

**East Central Health District MRC** (GA) was activated to assist in staffing a Red Cross shelter.

The following Kentucky MRC units assisted in staffing the Federal Medical Station that sheltered Gustav evacuees with medical needs: **North Central MRC, Madison County MRC, Boyle County MRC, Green River MRC, Lincoln County MRC, Lincoln Trail MRC, Montgomery County MRC, Louisville MRC, Bracken County MRC, Gateway MRC, WEDCO MRC, Northern KY MRC, Christian County MRC, Bullitt County MRC, Jessamine County MRC, Oldham County MRC, and Lawrence County MRC.**

**Louisville MRC** (KY) provided care at a local shelter after winds from Hurricane Ike caused extended power outages.

**Lee County** (MS) **MRC** assisted with shelter staffing and had physicians on standby to provide a clinic, if necessary.

**Middle TN MRC** provided nurses to Red Cross shelters in the Nashville area as the state sheltered evacuees from the Gulf Coast.

**Memphis/Shelby County MRC** (TN) assisted in staffing shelters for evacuees from the Gulf Coast.

**Chattanooga-Hamilton County MRC** (TN) provided RN's to local Red Cross shelters.

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

### Additional National Preparedness Month Activities

In addition to the National Preparedness Month Activities listed in the September newsletter, several other MRC's engaged in activities to build community preparedness and resilience. To see National Preparedness Month activities and information from across the country, visit the National Preparedness Month Blog: <http://www.ready.gov/journal/journal.html>.

**North Alabama MRC** distributed preparedness materials on Be Ready Sunday, as well as at the Madison County Medical Society Alliance Fall Meeting and the Community Free Clinic. North Alabama MRC also participated in Career Panels and a mock disaster at Alabama's Be Ready Camp.

**Woodford County MRC** (KY) participated in a Pandemic Flu tabletop exercise. The goal of the exercise was to define the role of the volunteer team pre-event to best aid the people of Woodford County.

**Mercer County MRC** (KY) provided a two-sided preparedness display at Kroger and Wal-Mart, and supplied shoppers with a preparedness kit shopping list. Almost 500 copies of the shopping list were distributed.

**Allen County MRC** (KY) participated with a variety of response partners in the County Preparedness Fair.

**Coastal South Carolina MRC** provided family preparedness information at local farmers' markets, and to the local Health Occupations Students of America chapter.



Woodford County MRC Coordinator Sarah Cunliffe (standing, right) leads MRC volunteers in a pandemic flu tabletop exercise

#### Improving Influenza Vaccination Rates among Healthcare Personnel

Did you know that in 2006, influenza vaccination rates for healthcare personnel were less than 50 percent? Many professional agencies and organizations, including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the National Foundation for Infectious Diseases (NFID), the Infectious Disease Society of America, and the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Health Care Organizations (JCAHCO) recommend annual influenza vaccinations for health care personnel (HCP) because of their increased risk of contracting and transmitting influenza. Because adults can spread the influenza virus for up to one day before onset of flu symptoms, it is especially important that healthcare personnel receive the vaccine to avoid spreading the virus to family, patients and coworkers.

The Healthy People 2010 goal for influenza vaccination in all adults is 60%. If you would like to help spread the word about influenza vaccination for healthcare personnel, fact sheets, posters and other resources are available here:

<http://www.hhs.gov/ophs/programs/initiatives/vac toolkit/index.html>

For more information on Healthy People 2010, visit:

<http://www.healthypeople.gov/default.htm>



### Upcoming Events of Interest

- October 16, 1:00 – 2:30 p.m. ET – **Mass Antibiotic Dispensing: Engaging At-Risk Populations** Webcast, <http://www2a.cdc.gov/phtn/atrisk/default.asp>
- October 29, 1:00 p.m. ET – **Pandemicflu.gov PlanFirst** Webcast, [http://www.pandemicflu.gov/news/panflu\\_webinar.html](http://www.pandemicflu.gov/news/panflu_webinar.html)
- January 8-9, 2009 – Jacksonville, FL – **Region IV Medical Reserve Corps Conference and Training**
- February 18-20, 2009 - San Diego, CA – **Public Health Preparedness Summit** <http://www.phprep.org/2009/abstract.cfm>
- April 4-8, 2009 – Dallas, TX - **2009 Integrated Medical, Public Health, Preparedness and Response Training Summit** (MRC National Conference) <http://teams.hhs.gov/conference/>

### Regional Conference - Save the Date!

The 2008-09 Region IV MRC Conference and Training will be held January 8-9 in Jacksonville, FL. Details on the exact location will be coming soon. The Conference Planning Committee is currently developing the conference agenda based on input from local leaders (if you are a local leader and have not received the survey, please contact the Regional Coordinator).

Items that are already on the agenda for this conference are:

- MRC Program Update
- NACCHO Update
- 2008 Hurricane Response Panel Discussion
- Best Practice Sharing
- Hot Topic Roundtables

There will also be training sessions, concurrent sessions and plenty of time for networking with fellow MRC leaders. Hope to see you there!



Main Street Bridge, over the Saint Johns River  
Jacksonville, FL.

### 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:

- [Volunteer Background Checks: Giving Back Without Giving Up On Privacy](#)
- [Mass Fatalities Institute](#)
- [Recognition Principles](#)
- [ACS: Help for Cancer Patients After Hurricane Ike](#)

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

## Upcoming Health Observances

October is National Breast Cancer Awareness Month



<http://nbcam.org/>

October 5-11 is National Fire Prevention Week


<http://www.firepreventionweek.org>

October 10 is World Mental Health Day

<http://www.wfmh.org/00WorldMentalHealthDay.htm>

November is Diabetes Month



 American Diabetes Association.

<http://www.diabetes.org/communityprograms-and-localevents/americandiabetesmonth.jsp>

November is Lung Cancer Awareness Month

[http://www.lungcanceralliance.org/involved/lcam\\_month.html](http://www.lungcanceralliance.org/involved/lcam_month.html)

November 1 is International Volunteer Managers Day



<http://www.volunteermanagersday.org/>

November 20 is the Great American Smokeout

<http://www.cancer.org/docroot/subsite/greatamericans/Smokeout.asp>

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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](#)