



Region IV MRC Update

September, 2008

Welcome New MRC Units!

Please welcome our newest units:

The Mississippi Veterinary Response Corps is a sub-unit of the MS Animal Response Team (MART). The MVRC was formed before Katrina, but since that time has evolved to a more deliberate and functional team of veterinarians from all areas of the state. The MVRC members are primarily private practitioners that work collaboratively with state and federal veterinarians.

Impact Club Jr. Medical Reserve Corps (AL) – Impact Club is a youth service program that engages middle and high school students in volunteer opportunities that provide vital assistance to the community while building skills in leadership and civic responsibility. Members reside in Mobile and Baldwin County and attend private, parochial, public schools, and some are home-schooled. The Impact Club Jr. MRC will support the Southwest Alabama MRC.

Mobile Jr. MRC (AL) – This MRC is established to educate the high school arena on four levels of community risk assessment: disease prevention, behavioral management, environmental, and statistical methods. Students will utilize these fields as primary areas of focus in reference to pre- disaster management and in terms of building a healthier local community. The Mobile Jr. MRC will also support the Southwest Alabama MRC.

South Central Tennessee MRC - In 2003, the South Central Regional Health Office began recruiting and training volunteers to respond in the event of a public health emergency. The South Central Tennessee Region is a twelve county region in South Central Tennessee with approximately 2,054 medical and non-medical volunteers representing the population. Volunteers were initially trained to assist during smallpox mass clinics. Since then volunteers have participated in annual training and exercises.

This brings us to a total of 146 units within Region IV, 781 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.

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

Medical Reserve Corps Units Engage in National Preparedness Month Activities

Many Medical Reserve Corps units have developed innovative ways of building community preparedness during September, which is National Preparedness Month. Activities planned in Region IV include:

The Lake Cumberland District MRC (KY), in conjunction with Emergency Management, is hosting a Community Preparedness Day event on Saturday September 20, 2008 from 9 A.M. to 6 P.M. in the parking lot of the local Wal-Mart. Numerous agencies from the community have been invited to come and share preparedness information with the community. The MRC will have a booth staffed by volunteers.

The UT Knoxville MRC (TN) is working with the Knoxville Center of the Deaf to provide information on being prepared. The MRC has developed a sheet that can be used for the various literacy levels who participate in the Center's activities. The Knoxville Emergency Management Agency has also developed a "Ready Kit Bag" and the MRC will be taking about 50 of these bags and the preparedness materials to the Center.



The West Tennessee Medical Reserve Corps will be sharing National Preparedness Month banners and brochures with all 21 of the health departments in September. They also are in the process of sending out a quarterly newsletter to all of the MRC volunteers with a column about National Preparedness Month. The MRC Coordinator will also be doing several programs with HOSA students.

The Barren River District MRC (KY) will be having a Disaster Preparedness Summit on September 13. This is open to the Barren River Area Development District.

The Chattanooga-Hamilton County MRC (TN) is staffing a booth at Hamilton Place Mall's Emergency Preparedness Fair to pass out information to shoppers about Personal Preparedness and Pet Preparedness, and to sign up additional volunteers. The MRC will also be participating in several health fairs throughout the month and providing training to HOSA students.

Montgomery County MRC and Gateway District Health Department MRC (KY) are collaborating for National Preparedness Month to provide personal preparedness information and MRC recruiting information on paycheck inserts for major companies in their area.

The Orange County Public Health Reserve Corps (NC) will be part of an Emergency Preparedness Fair for community members on September 20 at the local Wal-Mart. Public Health Reserve Corps volunteers plan to share Emergency Preparedness information as well as give away backpacks and emergency kit supplies.

Upcoming Events of Interest

- September 9, 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. ET **NSIP Fellows Share Promising Practices for Engaging People with ALL Abilities in National Service** webcast <http://serviceandinclusion.org/index.php?page=conf>
- September 11, 1:00 – 2:30 p.m. ET **Special Needs Populations in Disaster Response** webcast <http://www.adph.org/alphn/>
- September 9-12, Sacramento, CA – **ASTHO-NACCHO Annual Joint Conference** <http://www.naccho.org/events/asthonaccho2008/>
- September 25, 2:00 – 3:00 p.m. ET – **Help Older Adults Live Better, Longer: Prevent Falls and Traumatic Brain Injuries** webcast www.publichealthgrandrounds.unc.edu
- September 30, 2008 – **Deadline for receiving free materials with completion of eCDLS** (see July newsletter): <https://www.mrc.train.org> course # 1012300
- 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**

Medical Reserve Corps Units Respond to Tropical Storm Fay

The Florida Keys MRC provided two volunteers to assess patients prior to transport to the special needs shelter at Florida International University.

Lake County MRC (FL) was placed on standby due to the potential for special needs shelter openings.

Duval County MRC (FL) volunteers were placed on standby for potential special needs shelter staffing.

Southwest Alabama MRC volunteers were placed on standby due to the potential for shelter openings.

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:

- [NIMS Medical and Public Health Teams](#)
- [Calculating the Economic Impact of Volunteers](#)
- [Should Your Organization Use Social Networking Sites?](#)
- [Disaster Mental Health for States: Key Principles, Issues and Questions](#)

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

Upcoming Health Observances

September is National Preparedness Month



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

September 16 is Get Ready Day (Pandemic Influenza)



<http://www.getreadyforflu.org>

September is National Food Safety Education Month

<http://www.foodsafety.gov/~fsg/september.html>

October is National Breast Cancer Awareness Month



<http://nbcam.org/>

October 5-11 is National Fire Prevention Week

www.firepreventionweek.org

November 1 is International Volunteer Managers Day



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

Regional Coordinator Contact Information

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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](#)