



Region IV MRC Update

February, 2008

Welcome New MRC Units!

Please welcome our newest units:

Okeechobee County MRC - The newly formed Okeechobee County Medical Reserve Corps, located in Okeechobee Florida, was created to “make a difference in our community when disaster strikes.” This unit was formed as a result of the partnership between the Okeechobee County Division of Emergency Management and the Okeechobee County Health Department.

This brings us to a total of 135 registered units within our eight-state region, 717 across the US. 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. Units may apply for registration through the MRC website. Your support for these new units as they develop is very much appreciated.

2008 MRC Leadership Conference and Training: Call for Posters

The Office of the Civilian Volunteer Medical Reserve Corps is happy to announce the [2008 MRC National Leadership and Training Conference](#), to be held April 8-11, 2008 in Portland, Oregon. Medical Reserve Corps leaders (unit coordinators and directors) are invited to participate in this networking, knowledge-sharing and training conference. This conference will provide all of you with a great opportunity to share promising practices, ideas, and strategies, and to learn from experts in the fields of public health, preparedness and volunteer management.

There will be an opportunity for all of you to share some of your local promising practices and lessons learned by participating in this year's poster session. Please visit the website find the ["Call for Posters" application](#). Poster abstracts will be due no later than February 1, 2008.

This year the posters will be showcased during the 'Director's Welcome' evening event on April 8th and during the concurrent sessions held on April 9th and 10th. Posters will remain on display throughout the entire conference so that attendees can view them at their leisure.

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

Upcoming Events of Interest

- February 1 – **Deadline for Poster Abstracts** for the MRC National Leadership Conference and Training
http://www.magnetmail.net/forms/display_form.cfm?fid=13988&rtype=nonmm
- February 14, 10:00 – 11:15 a.m. ET – **Dealing with Animals in Emergencies** webcast <http://www.ualbanycphp.org/GRS/eventCurrent.cfm?id=100>
- February 19-22, Atlanta, GA – **NACCHO Public Health Preparedness Summit**
<http://www.phprep.org/>
- March 17-19, Nashville, TN – **National Disaster Medical System Summit**
<http://guest.cvent.com/EVENTS/Info/Summary.aspx?e=15950fa7-f5c7-4e55-9658-7cf496e56855>
- March 17, Atlanta, GA – **Healthy People 2020 Region III/IV Meeting**
<http://www.healthypeople.gov/hp2020/>
- April 8-11, Portland, OR – **MRC National Leadership Conference and Training**

National Response Framework Released

On January 22, the Department of Homeland Security released the National Response Framework, a guide to how the nation conducts all-hazards response. From the website:

“Thanks to the tireless efforts of the hundreds of stakeholders from across the Nation, the National Response Framework (NRF) is now complete and becomes effective March 22, 2008.

Please note that until that time the National Response Plan, dated 2004, with Notice of Change amendments from 2006, remains in effect.”

The National Response Framework and associated resources are available at <http://www.fema.gov/nrf>

Helpful Online Resources

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 [Resolving Conflict Between Volunteers](#), [Philanthropy News Digest: Disaster Relief](#), [RAND Enhancing Public Health Preparedness](#) and [The Resource Center: Sample Forms Collection](#).

Topics include:

[Avian Influenza/Pandemic Flu](#) (57)
[Communication](#) (40)


[Mental Health](#) (42) 
[Natural Disasters](#) (62)

[Funding/Sustainability](#) (54) 

[Risk Management & Liability](#) (49)

[Community Preparedness](#) (78) 

[Volunteer Relations](#) (87) 

 denotes new items in topic since the last newsletter

Upcoming Health Observances

February is National Heart Month

<http://www.heart.org>

February 1 is Wear Red Day



Women &
Heart Disease

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

February 14 is National Donor Day



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

March is National Nutrition Month



http://www.eatright.org/cps/rde/xchg/ada/hs.xsl/NNM_2007_home.htm

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](#)