



Region IV MRC Update

March, 2008

Welcome New MRC Units!

Please welcome our newest units:

Polk County Medical Reserve Corps – Bartow, FL - The mission of the Polk County Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) is to improve the health and safety of Polk County communities and to assist our neighbors across the country by organizing and utilizing public health and medical volunteers.

WEDCO District Medical Reserve Corps – Cynthiana, KY – The WEDCO District MRC will cover the counties of Nicholas, Harrison and Scott.

Volusia County MRC – DeLand, FL – Based out of the Volusia County Health Department, this MRC unit is working with United Way, Emergency Management and local hospitals.

This brings us to a total of 138 units within Region Four, 729 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.

And on a side note, this newsletter marks three years of the Region IV MRC Update. Thanks for reading! In the very first issue, we had 37 MRC units. We've come a long way!

MRC Response to Recent Severe Weather

On February 5 and 6, tornadoes tore through the Southeast killing fifty-five, injuring dozens and displacing many from their homes. Through its partnerships with Emergency Management, the Nashville Chapter of the American Red Cross and the Centerstone Community Mental Health Center, the Middle Tennessee Medical Reserve Corps responded to the destruction in Macon County, Tennessee. Macon County was one of the hardest hit areas, and the MTMRC responded to the Red Cross shelters with nurses, behavioral health professionals and chaplains.

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

2008 MRC Leadership Conference and Training Portland, Oregon - April 8-11

Pre-Conference Training – This year, there will be several pre-conference training options open to attendees. Information will be coming out soon so that you can make a decision in advance regarding which one to attend.

Sessions – As always, there will be concurrent sessions on a wide variety of topics, many led by local MRC unit leaders. Concurrent sessions have been lengthened to an hour this year to allow greater time for discussion. Plenary sessions will include Core Competencies, the Role of Veterinarians, and the MRC Deployment Project. This year's keynote speakers include the Acting U.S. Surgeon General and the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response. There will also be roundtables, facilitated networking sessions and the regional breakout session.

Posters – This year, the posters will be available for viewing throughout the conference. There will be over 60 poster presentations showcasing the activities of MRC units across the nation! *Remember, registration closes March 14 and is limited to MRC leaders.* Registration and other information available at <http://www.medicalreservecorps.gov/Conference/2008>

Upcoming Events of Interest

- March 13, 10:00 – 11:15 a.m. ET - **Pandemic Planning for Academic Institutions** <http://www.ualbanycph.org/GRS/eventCurrent.cfm?id=101>
- March 17, Atlanta, GA – **Healthy People 2020 Regional Meeting** <http://www.healthypeople.gov/hp2020/regional/GA/default.htm>
- March 20, 2:00 – 3:00 p.m. ET - **Timely Public Health Surveillance (NC DETECT)** <http://nccphp.sph.unc.edu/symposium/index.htm>
- March 26, 2:00 – 3:00 p.m. ET – **Creating Vigilant, Prepared and Resilient Communities for Homeland Security** http://www.dlnets.com/ntpi_26Mar08.htm
- March 27, 2:00 – 3:00 p.m. ET – **Public Health Emergency Legal Preparedness PREP-inar** <http://www.naccho.org/topics/emergency/PREP-inars.cfm>
- April 8-11, Portland Oregon – **MRC Leadership Conference and Training**
- June 10, Chapel Hill, North Carolina - **Behavioral Health All-Hazards Readiness and Response Training Continuum Conference**

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:

- [How to Cut Crutch Words When Giving A Speech](#)
- [How to Lead People for Results](#)
- [Helping States Prepare for and Respond to Psychological Consequences](#)
- [Kentucky's grassroots network helps at-risk populations prepare](#)

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

Upcoming Health Observances

March is National Nutrition Month



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

April 7-13 is National Public Health Week



National Public Health Week

April 7-13, 2008

www.nphw.org

Climate Change: Our Health in the Balance

<http://www.nphw.org/nphw08/default.htm>

April 27 – May 3 is National Volunteer Week

<http://www.pointsoflight.org/programs/seasons/nvw/>

May 6-12 is National Nurses Week

<http://www.nursingworld.org/FunctionalMenuCategories/MediaResources/NationalNursesWeek.aspx>

May 11-18 is National Women's Health Week

<http://www.womenshealth.gov/whw/>

May 18-24 is National Emergency Medical Services Week

<http://www.acep.org/practres.aspx?LinkIdentifier=ID&id=30212&fid=1702&Mo=No&acEpTitle=EMS%20Week>

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](#)