

MRC REGION IX

THE CONVERSATION

Winter 2007

Sun and Snow Issue

Region IX Summit

Its that time of year again, when the Region IX Medical Reserve Corps gets together to talk about the issues and share our best practices. This winter's meeting is going to be focused on the future of the Medical Reserve Corps.

We are going to meet in Los Angeles, California February 8th and 9th, 2007 at the Embassy Suites Los Angeles Airport North.

I am working on the agenda right now and it's a scorcher. Full days and dinner meetings. The set up is going to basically be the same as last year's meeting.

Thursday February 8th:
State of California Meeting
Thursday Evening:
Optional Socializing
Friday February 9th:
Regional MRC Summit

The Regional portion on February 9th is a full day of MRC National Ideas and Direction. A representative from the Program Office will explain the Strategic Plan and the new Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response ASPR/ESF 8 plan and where the local MRCs fit in. Lieutenant Hoard will also present on the national organizations that we are reaching out to in the Washington D.C. area and conferences throughout the nation.

The National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) is going to present a fresh look at how to get integrated at a local level with the health departments. They will also speak to what their organization will do outside the capacity funding opportunity that has just passed. This will include how the organization will assist the local



units to get more marketing in their neighborhoods.

For those new units who have never attended a summit or for the new leader of an existing MRC unit, this is the family meeting. We get together to talk about where we are and what direction we are going. This is the pre-national conference meeting. It's a great opportunity to hit up some of our more established MRC units for their plans and operational guidelines.

We also generate ideas for the future meetings in Region IX. The next planned MRC meeting for the region will be held in Las Vegas in October.

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Region IX MRC Summit
February 9, 2007
Embassy Suites LAX North
Los Angeles, California
National MRC Conference
April 17-20
Westin Hotel
Providence, Rhode Island

Region Call Down Exercise

The Region IX Medical Reserve Corps office recently conducted a call down exercise to all regional units. This functional exercise simulated the communication capability of the Region IX MRC units to respond to a request for information. The exercise was conducted over the period of October 6-11, 2006.

Background

- ✦ In 2005 the Region IX Medical Reserve Corps Office conducted the first call down exercise to confirm all telephone numbers available to the National Program Office and the Region IX Office were accurate on the National website.
- ✦ In June 2006 the Region IX MRC office conducted an email call down exercise to all current MRC units in Region IX.

Goal

The goal of the Region IX Medical Reserve Corps exercise was to improve operational readiness of the Region IX office and the Medical Reserve Corps units within the Region.

Purpose

The purpose of this exercise was to recognize communication discrepancies on the MRC National Website contact information for Region IX MRC units.

Objectives

The objective of the exercise is to:

- ✦ Confirm that the National Program Office has an accurate contact number listed on the national website for those interested in volunteering for an MRC in Region.

Scenario

The Region IX MRC conference call held in July 2006, announced that the Regional office would be conducting a call down exercise sometime in October. The exact date was left to be determined. This exercise was conducted over a government holiday weekend to simulate the response levels comparable to the Labor Day holiday weekend immediately following Hurricane Katrina. The Region IX MRC Office utilized the available telephone numbers on the Medical Reserve Corps National website at www.medicalreservecorps.gov to contact each MRC unit in the Department of Health and Human Services Region IX consisting of California, Arizona, Nevada, Hawaii, Palau and Guam

THE STATS!

Here are the overall results from the exercise. If you are interested in knowing your individual results please call me office at anytime.

12 units did not respond to the call down exercise. This results in a 72% response of Region IX units.

7 of the currently registered units had incorrect contact information listed on the National website.

86% had correct information

Upcoming Health Events

National Health Observances

Health observances are days, weeks, or months devoted to promoting particular health concerns. A planning guide developed by the National Health Information Center lists national health observances, along with the sponsoring organizations and information about supporting materials. The guide is available at:

<http://www.healthfinder.gov/library/nho/>

Local Tool Box

The Medical Reserve Corps has arrived.

This means that through partnering at a local level MRC units will be more sustainable as the future of the program grows.

The MRC is most effective if units are integrated at the local level. This means full coordination by our unit leaders with partner organizations such as local emergency management, local health departments and local Citizen Corps Councils.

Remember to utilize the

great work being done by the States and Federal government as a tool for local partnerships.

Take legislation like SB 3678 to your potential local partners and let them know that if they had not considered the MRC as a resource, prior to a disaster is always the best time.

You can also use the Metropolitan Medical Response Systems (MMRS) to fund your local unit. MMRS jurisdictions were given guidance from the

Homeland Security Grant Program that they CAN give local MRC units up to \$25,000!

Another opportunity for integration can be found in larger areas that have Super Urban Area Security Initiatives (SUASI). These local planning groups are looking for MRC units that can assist their communities.

Find the tools in your local box and get to WORK.

Next Regional Conference Call January 25 at 3:30pm



Arizona

Steps ahead of the rest. The State of Arizona Citizen Corps Council has created a Medical Reserve Corps workgroup. This group of MRC leaders is developing along with some of the county health departments, the first steps of resource typing for an MRC volunteer.

The entire council is developing volunteer resource typing to fall in line with NIMS compliance and to become a deployable asset around the state and throughout the nation. The first draft of these documents were handed out at the last national conference.

In other news the Arizona MRC is welcoming three new units to their State:

Cochise County, La Paz County and Navajo MRC. Welcome to all of you and get ready to become part of a very productive state with the Medical Reserve Corps.



Work hard. Play hard.

