

# MRC REGION IX THE CONVERSATION

Winter 2008

Happy New Year!

## Western Summit

The MRC Western Summit was a great success in Las Vegas this year. Regions VIII, IX and X participated in a three day summit and training. Guest speakers included the Regional Health Administrator from Region VIII Dr Zachary Taylor. His presentation on obesity challenged the MRC unit leaders to get involved at a local level to combat this public health emergency.

Captain Tosatto, Director of the Medical Reserve Program, presented on our future endeavors and thanked everyone for their participation in the corps. The program is growing in many directions and more and more organizations are recognizing our efforts at the local level. Captain Tosatto wanted the unit leaders to understand that we are still a locally focused volunteer organization.

As the program grows and the local units become more integrated into state and national workgroups our expertise and knowledge of preparedness and public health initiatives expands. Therefore our Western Summit will grow to include sessions that assist the local units with their

day to day activities. The Western Summit is enhanced by local participation and suggestions. If there is a topic you would like us to have at the 2008 summit please send those to my email and I will bring it to the planning committee.

We had over 100 leaders participate in this year's Western Summit. It was a great opportunity to share best practices across the West. The Regional Coordinators of the West have decided to continue this in 2008 in one of the other regions. We are looking at having the Summit in either Region VIII or X. Be on the look out for more information on this in the Spring! You can use your MRC/NACCHO funding for travel to the summit.



## DHHS

### Flu Season

Best time to get vaccinated

October-November.

Although getting vaccinated in during flu season still has many benefits.

Those most susceptible to the flu

Children under 5

Pregnant women

People 50 and over

Those of any age who have a chronic illness

Those living in long term care facilities

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Ready Kids by the Department of Homeland Security

## Technical Assistance Interviews

You may have noticed an increase in the amount of information that the National Program Office is requesting on the website. Well you should have noticed it while UPDATING the website.

These new questions are a way for us to provide better technical assistance to the individual units. Each MRC unit in Region IX will have a TA assessment conducted by the regional coordinator. Starting in February 2008 I will be arranging interviews. Two weeks prior to your interview I will request you fill out as many answers as you can to the questions.

I will then review each one and conduct an assessment based on your individual answers.

The interview assessments will take 30-45 minutes based on your answers. Future assistance from the regional and national office can be better geared towards the needs of the units at the local level based on your answers to the questions. Also we can utilize this information to promote the program at the national level to our partner organizations.

Please take a little time to look over the questions at your leisure and see if there are any questions you may have in regards to the questions or access to the website.

The assessment process will take the entire year to complete. The Region IX office will create a schedule that will have 3-4 TA assessments completed each month.

If you applied for the capacity building funding through the MRC, it will be available as soon as your paperwork is submitted to NACCHO. So get that paperwork in!



## California Rough and Ready

The California Emergency Medical Services Authority (EMSA) invited the California MRC units to participate in this year's Rough and Ready Demonstration and Training event held in Los Alamitos, California in August.

Over 54 volunteers from 12 California MRC units participated. Working along side response agencies for the State of

California, the MRC units were able to experiment within their trained capacity, a simulated major California disaster. The MRC units were given the opportunity to participate in the state's emergency response plan and assure their role in disaster response within the state. This is a great accomplishment for the State of California and the MRC

leadership around the state. Working together in large scale training allows for recognition of the organization and validity at the local level for increased partnerships.

Congratulations to the State of California MRCs.



California MRCs