

# MEDICAL RESERVE CORPS REVIEW

"Volunteers Building Strong, Healthy, and Prepared Communities"

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER SERVING THE MEDICAL RESERVE CORPS UNITS OF IOWA, KANSAS, MISSOURI AND NEBRASKA

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## Upcoming Events

**Kansas MRC Meeting.** August 15, 2008 in Topeka, KS. Hosted by the Shawnee County MRC. For more information, contact Gary Brown, Regional MRC Coordinator, at (816) 426-2829 or [gary.brown@hhs.gov](mailto:gary.brown@hhs.gov).

**2008 ASTHO-NACCHO Joint Conference.** September 9-12, 2008 in Sacramento, CA. Sponsored by the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) and the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO). For more information, visit <http://www.naccho.org/conferences/asthonaccho2008/index.cfm>.

**2008 Iowa Governor's Homeland Security Conference.** September 30-October 1, 2008 in Des Moines, IA. Sponsored by the Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division. For more information, visit <http://www.iowahomelandsecurity.org/Home/GovernorsHomelandSecurityConference/tabid/173/Default.aspx>.

**Regions VII and VIII MRC Conference.** October 2-3, 2008 in Kansas City, KS. Sponsored by the Office of the Civilian Volunteer Medical Reserve Corps, Regions VII and VIII. For more information, contact Gary Brown, Regional MRC Coordinator, at (816) 426-2829 or [gary.brown@hhs.gov](mailto:gary.brown@hhs.gov).

**IAEM 56<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference and EMEX.** November 15-20, 2008 in Overland Park, KS. Sponsored by the International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM). For more information, visit <http://www.iaem.com/events/annual/intro.htm>.

## Registration Open for Regional MRC Conference

Registration is now open for the Region VII and VIII MRC conference, to be held on October 2-3, 2008 at the Great Wolf Lodge adjacent to The Legends at Village West in Kansas City, KS. To register for the conference and make your hotel room reservations, please visit [www.regonline.com/Region\\_VII\\_VIII](http://www.regonline.com/Region_VII_VIII).

This year, MRC leaders from Region VII (Iowa, Kansas, Missouri and Nebraska) will join their colleagues from Region VIII (Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah and Wyoming) to network and share valuable information that can be applied to their respective local MRC units.

This two day training, leadership and networking conference will include an array of presentations and workshops on public health, emergency preparedness and response, volunteer management and other topics of interest to MRC units, such as:

- Terrorism
- Animals in Disasters
- Mid-America Alliance
- ESAR-VHP

- Highlights and Challenges of Local MRC Units
- MRC Program Update
- NACCHO Update
- MRC New Leaders Workshop
- Psychological First Aid
- MRC-TRAIN
- MRC Resources and How to Utilize Them

As with previous regional and national conferences, hotel accommodations for participants will be covered by NACCHO (one person or room per MRC unit). For information on the Great Wolf Lodge Kansas City, see [www.greatwolfodge.com](http://www.greatwolfodge.com). This hotel is immediately adjacent to The Legends at Village West ([www.legendsshopping.com](http://www.legendsshopping.com)), one of the Kansas City metropolitan area's newest shopping, dining and entertainment areas.

For more information on the conference, contact Gary Brown, Regional MRC Coordinator, at (816) 426-2829 or [gary.brown@hhs.gov](mailto:gary.brown@hhs.gov).

### September is National Preparedness Month

For the fifth consecutive year, September is National Preparedness Month. The MRC is a national-level partner with the Department of Homeland Security's month-long initiative to educate the public about the importance of emergency preparedness. We strongly encourage MRC units to take this time to provide information, host events, and sponsor activities that disseminate emergency preparedness messages and promote action in your communities.

Please send information about your unit's preparedness activities during the month of September to your MRC Regional Coordinator. This information will be added to the official National Preparedness Month Calendar and a report on the involvement of the MRC in this readiness campaign. While this is a national initiative, we recognize that it takes local communities to reach individuals about the importance of preparedness. Since public health preparedness is a priority of the Office of the U.S. Surgeon General and the MRC, we thank you in advance for your participation in this important initiative.

To learn more about National Preparedness Month, review the National Preparedness Month Calendar, or seek answers to Frequently Asked Questions about the campaign, please visit [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov). We look forward to hearing about your MRC unit's involvement in National Preparedness Month.

### Guidance on NIMS Compliance for MRC Units Developed

The Office of the Civilian Volunteer Medical Reserve Corps has developed guidance for MRC units on National Incident Management System (NIMS) compliance. This guidance was developed in response to confusion among MRC leaders on how to be "NIMS compliant." This guidance is consistent with NIMS guidance established by FEMA. It is hoped that this guidance will not only clarify the issue of NIMS compliance for MRC units, but will also foster the utilization and implementation of NIMS and ICS within MRC units and the communities they serve.

Key provisions of the guidance include:

1. All MRC leaders and members must be trained in ICS-100 and IS-700 or their equivalents, and have received certificates of completion for these courses. It is expected that all MRC members will meet this baseline level of understanding, regardless of their position or employment status (i.e., paid or volunteer) within an MRC unit.
2. Certain members of an MRC unit may require intermediate or advanced NIMS-related training based on their expected position and responsibility during an emergency. This additional training will be determined by each MRC unit, based on its needs, requirements, organization, composition and utilization within the larger framework of its community's existing public health, medical and emergency services infrastructure.
3. The Office of the Civilian Volunteer Medical Reserve Corps encourages MRC units to use the online training courses provided by FEMA's Emergency Management Institute Independent Study Program or FEMA courses taught in a classroom setting by appropriate instructors. However, MRC units can utilize other equivalent training courses as long as the courses meet the objectives described in the NIMS National Standard Curriculum Training Development Guidance.

This guidance is posted on the MRC website at <http://www.medicalreservecorps.gov/NIMSGuidance>