

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

IAEM 56th 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>.

Kansas Association of Counties 33rd Annual Conference and Exhibition. November 16-18, 2008 in Wichita, KS. Sponsored by the Kansas Association of Counties. For more information, visit <http://www.kansascounties.org/index.asp?NID=10>.

2009 Local, State and Federal Public Health Preparedness Summit. February 18-20, 2009 in San Diego, CA. Sponsored by NACCHO and other organizations, including the Office of the Civilian Volunteer Medical Reserve Corps. For more information, visit <http://www.phprep.org>.

2009 Integrated Medical, Public Health, Preparedness and Response Training Summit (MRC National Conference). April 4-8, 2009 in Dallas, TX. Sponsored by the Office of the Civilian Volunteer Medical Reserve Corps (OCVMRC), National Disaster Medical System (NDMS), Emergency System for the Advance Registration of Volunteer Health Professionals (ESAR-VHP) and the U.S. Public Health Service Office of Force Readiness and Deployment (OFRD). For more information, visit <http://teams.hhs.gov/conference/>.

REGION VII



MO DHSS Appoints ESAR-VHP Coordinator

The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) recently appointed Carole Schutz to the position of Show-Me Response Coordinator. Show-Me Response is the State of Missouri's Emergency System for Advance Registration of Volunteer Health Professionals (ESAR-VHP) compliant volunteer management system for the registration, credential validation, management and deployment of volunteers.

Carole may be contacted at:

Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services
Center for Emergency Response and Terrorism
930 Wildwood Drive, P.O. Box 570
Jefferson City, MO 65102
(573) 526-0577
carole.schutz@dhss.mo.gov

MRC Marketing and Outreach Work Group Seeks Members

The Office of the Civilian Volunteer Medical Reserve Corps (OCVMRC) is sponsoring an MRC Marketing and Outreach Work Group. This group will focus on developing resources for the entire MRC network, including general promotions and the promotion of various specific topics, such as preparedness, the Surgeon General's priorities, public health initiatives, and the relationship with the National Association of County

and City Health Officials (NACCHO). The group will meet via conference call as a whole once a quarter to review the efforts of the sub-committees, which will meet more frequently to develop materials related to their topic areas. It is important that all members of the MRC Marketing and Outreach Work Group are committed to creating and sharing the best possible resources for promoting the brand, image, and mission of the Medical Reserve Corps and are able to give of their time on a monthly basis to support this group.

Please share the work group application, available from Regional Coordinators and the OCVMRC, with anyone you think may be an asset to this work group. Those who have previously developed successful marketing materials for MRC units are greatly desired. We are interested in volunteers, leaders, state coordinators, and others who are excited about spreading the word about the MRC! For those interested, please complete the application and submit it to Dagayla Burks (Dagayla.Burks@hhs.gov) along with up to three samples of your work (MRC-related or other) **no later than Tuesday, November 25, 2008**. The application requires the user to have Adobe Reader. To download a free copy of this program, please visit <http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html>.

Work group leaders, Grace Middleton and Dagayla Burks of the OCVMRC and Sarah Wood of NACCHO, will review and respond to all applicants on or before December 15, 2008. We look to schedule the official kick-off of this new work group in the first couple weeks of the New Year!

Thank you for your interest in the work group, and we look forward to receiving your application! And please remember to spread the word about this group to the members of your unit who may be interested.

NACCHO Offering Psychological First Aid Instructor Train-the-Trainer Workshops

The National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) is accepting applications for Psychological First Aid MRC Instructor Train-the-Trainer Workshops. NACCHO will be offering four training sessions for individuals interested in learning how to become an instructor in an MRC-approved Psychological First Aid course.

Psychological First Aid (PFA) is a supportive intervention offered to individuals in the immediate aftermath of disasters and other public health emergencies. PFA is

also a useful intervention to assist MRC volunteers and other responders in coping with the emotional stress associated with disaster response.

This Train-the-Trainer workshop will prepare participants with the necessary knowledge and skill set required to conduct psychological first aid training using the Psychological First Aid Field Operations Guide developed by the National Child Traumatic Stress Center and the National Center for PTSD. Applicants who are selected and successfully complete the Instructor Train-the-Trainer Workshop will be expected to offer the PFA course to MRC volunteers in their local unit, region, or state.

Preferred eligibility criteria to participate in the Instructor Train-the-Trainer workshop includes:

- Individuals with a mental health/behavioral health professional background; or
- Individuals who hold leadership positions within their local, regional, or state MRC unit; or
- Individuals with previous instructor training experience (for adult learners); or
- Individuals with previous disaster response experience.

If you believe you meet any or all of the eligibility criteria above and are willing to meet the training expectations, please complete the application available at <http://www.naccho.org/topics/emergency/MRC/scholarship.cfm>, indicate your first and second choices for workshop dates and locations, and return your application no later than November 21, 2008. Completed applications should be forwarded to:

Chicquita Hairston
NACCHO
1100 17th Street, NW, Second Floor
Washington, DC 20036
(202) 783-1583 (Fax)
chairston@naccho.org

Please note that there are a limited number of spaces available for this training. Upon review and acceptance of your application, you will receive a follow-up letter with specific information on the training location and time.

If you have specific questions regarding this training or instructor qualifications, please do not hesitate to contact Jack Herrmann at (202) 507-4228 or by e-mail at jherrmann@naccho.org.

We look forward to receiving your application.

Scholarships Available for 2009 Public Health Preparedness Summit

The Office of the Civilian Volunteer Medical Reserve Corps (OCVMRC) and National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) are pleased to offer assistance to 50 eligible MRC volunteers to attend the 2009 Public Health Preparedness Summit. These scholarships are intended to promote national awareness of the MRC program and build connections between MRC volunteers and local, state, and federal public health professionals.

Selected applicants will be reimbursed for airfare, lodging and Summit registration fees. An allowance will also be provided, on a per diem basis, for any meals not provided by the Summit.

The Summit offers the opportunity for public health professionals to share best practices, lessons learned, and updates on preparedness activities nationwide through a variety of interactive sessions, hands-on learning workshops, and social opportunities that will leave participants inspired, energized and connected to their colleagues when the Summit concludes.

In order to be eligible for this scholarship opportunity:

- You must be in a leadership position with an existing registered MRC unit.
- Your unit profile on the MRC website (<http://www.medicalreservecorps.gov>) must be updated (*see below for more information).
- You must be able to attend the entire 2009 Public Health Preparedness Summit.
- You must complete a post-conference evaluation for NACCHO on the usefulness of the conference (reimbursements will be issued after NACCHO receives this evaluation).
- You must complete the entire application, providing answers to all of the questions (see below).

Applications are available at:

<http://www.naccho.org/topics/emergency/MRC/scholarship.cfm>.

Only one applicant per MRC Unit will be reviewed.
Applications must be received by November 28, 2008. Selected Individuals will be notified by December 10, 2008.

Please return application via email to Chicquita Hairston at chairston@naccho.org.

Additional information on the conference is available at <http://www.phprep.org>.

In order to qualify for the Summit scholarship, your unit's profile must have been updated since October 1, 2008. Valid updates are those that address changes and provide complete information in all of the profile fields. For example, a new leader registering as a user and being added to the profile would not qualify.

The OCVMRC asks all units to update their profile on the MRC website at least once every three months so that the most current information about the unit and its initiatives and activities are available. This allows for a clearer illustration of individual units and the MRC network as a whole. Please be sure to review, update and add appropriate information to all of the fields on the unit profile.

We have noticed that updates are particularly needed in the following areas:

- **Unit Descriptions.** Many MRCs continue to use the unit description that they first entered upon application for registration. These descriptions are part of your profile that is visible to the public and should be interesting, accurate and current. Examples are available at <http://www.medicalreservecorps.gov/File/Unit%20Descriptions.doc>.
- **Unit Activities.** Many stakeholders would like to know more details about the activities that MRC units are involved in. The description should be concise and, again, interesting. See <http://www.medicalreservecorps.gov/ActivityReporting> for examples.
- **Additional Unit Information.** This section was added to the profile system in August 2007 and it includes a number of objective questions about the organization, composition, integration, and planning for your unit. This information is not part of the unit profile that is visible to the public, but it is extremely necessary for us to have an accurate picture of the entire MRC network, as well as its strengths and weaknesses.