

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>.

New AHRQ Online Tool Estimates Resources Needed for Emergency Response

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) has just released a new Web-based interactive tool to help hospitals and emergency planners identify resource requirements to treat an influx of patients due to major disasters such as an influenza pandemic or a terrorist attack.

The Hospital Surge Model provides essential resource information for emergency planning strategies. It is able to estimate, by day, the number and flow of casualties needing medical attention for scenarios selected by users. These scenarios are consistent with the Homeland Security Council's National Planning Scenarios. For instance, planners can use the model to estimate:

- How many patients each hospital unit will need to treat each day following an event.
- Casualty arrival patterns and peak days of patient care.
- Day-by-day use of the personnel, equipment, and supplies needed by each hospital to treat casualties.
- A daily count of anticipated deaths and patient discharges.

The Hospital Surge Model was developed by AHRQ in collaboration with HHS' Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR). For more details on the Hospital Surge Model, visit the AHRQ Web site at <http://hospitalsurgemodel.ahrq.gov>. Other

AHRQ emergency preparedness tools and resources are available at www.ahrq.gov/prep/.

Saline MRC Activated for Search and Rescue Operation

On September 14, 2008 at approximately 7:30 a.m., Russ Donnell, the Saline (MO) MRC Coordinator was contacted by the Marshall, MO Police Chief, who requested MRC assistance in a search for a missing juvenile in a heavily wooded section of town.

MRC members Louise England, Bob England, Mary Kay Donnell and Russ Donnell reported to the Saline County Health Department to initiate the call down procedures to activate the Saline MRC and load up equipment and supplies for the local deployment. MRC members were asked to report as soon as possible to the Marshall Police Department for staging if they were able to respond.

At approximately 8:40 a.m., the Marshall Police Chief requested that the Saline MRC assist the Saline County Sheriff's Department with a grid search in a designated area of the search location. MRC members were provided a description of the juvenile, his clothing, and the search location. The Saline MRC and Saline County Sheriff's Department responded to the search staging area from the Marshall Police Department. Prior to arriving at the search staging area, the MRC members were notified that the juvenile had been located.

According to Russ Donnell, the Marshall Police Chief was grateful for the assistance that the Saline MRC provided to the community, and for the MRC unit's willingness to activate and deploy members and resources in support of the Marshall Police Department. To learn more about the Saline MRC's participation in this search operation, please contact Russ Donnell at (660) 886-3434 or donner1@lpha.dhss.mo.gov.

Shawnee County MRC to Begin Flu Vaccination Campaign

The Shawnee County Health Agency, in partnership with Shawnee County Public Schools, will be providing flu shots to school-aged children (K-12) this fall. An estimated 6,000 flu shots will be given over the next two months, beginning Friday, October 10th and ending on Tuesday, November 25th. According to Don Jenkins, Shawnee County MRC Coordinator, this campaign would not be possible without MRC volunteers, who will

be logging an incredible 528 volunteer hours over this 31 day campaign.

According to Don Jenkins, this flu vaccination campaign is based on increasing evidence that children are more likely to develop serious complications from influenza, and there is a decrease of influenza in communities when vaccinations are provided to school-aged children.

This campaign will provide numerous opportunities for both medical and non-medical MRC volunteers to participate, and the Shawnee County MRC is looking forward to the challenge, said Don Jenkins. The campaign is set up to immunize students at 60 schools in 31 days. The Shawnee County Health Agency will be utilizing volunteers to fill 55 vaccinator positions and 156 clerical and clinic flow positions during the campaign.

For more information on the Shawnee County Health Agency's flu vaccination campaign or on the Shawnee County MRC, please contact Don Jenkins at don.jenkins@snco.us.

Nebraska MRC Volunteer Receives Award

Congratulations to Nebraska/Western Iowa MRC volunteer Kathy Mersch of Bellevue, NE, who recently received a "Be Prepared" Award from Nebraska Lt. Governor Rick Sheehy. The award was given for Mersch's efforts during tornado and high winds emergencies this summer, in which she helped mobilize and ensure volunteers' safety during recovery efforts. Kathy has been a member of the Nebraska/Western Iowa MRC since 2006. According to Tom McMahon, Nebraska/Western Iowa MRC Coordinator, Kathy regularly assists at community events, where she utilizes her EMT and Ski Patrol training to tend to peoples' health concerns.

For more information, please contact Tom McMahon, Nebraska/Western Iowa MRC Coordinator, at (402) 522-7970 or tmcmahon@uwmidlands.org.

MRC Units to Receive Resources from AHRQ

The Office of Civilian Volunteer Medical Reserve Corps is pleased to announce that the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) has agreed to provide to all MRC units several beneficial emergency preparedness resources.

AHRQ supports national emergency preparedness efforts by conducting and supporting health services research aimed at improving the status of public health preparedness in communities. As a convener and science partner, AHRQ sponsors research and expert stakeholder meetings that lead to the development of tools and resources to help communities prepare for public health emergencies. AHRQ also engages providers, first responders, and others working in the interest of public health on a range of regional and national preparedness issues to address such topics as medication and vaccine distribution, state and regional preparedness models, surge capacity issues, pediatric preparedness, and provider safety net issues.

AHRQ has created several resources that they believe are worthwhile for all MRC units. These resources include the following:

- *Adapting Community Call Centers for Crisis Support*. This report describes a model to enable community health call centers to support home-management and shelter-in-place approaches in mass casualty or public health emergency events.
- *Emergency Preparedness Atlas: U.S. Nursing Home and Hospital Facilities (CD)*. This atlas includes maps of all 50 states and the District of Columbia with the locations of hospitals, nursing homes and a variety of emergency management and bioterrorism preparedness regions in order to help identify health care facilities that could be available and prepared to provide assistance to their local community in an emergency.
- *Altered Standards of Care in Mass Casualty Events: Bioterrorism and Other Public Health Emergencies*. This report examines the need to change standards of medical care during a mass casualty event.
- *Decontamination of Children (DVD)*. This training video demonstrates hospital emergency department procedures for decontaminating children who have been exposed to hazardous chemicals.
- *Cross-Training for Mass Casualty Respiratory Needs (DVD)*. This training video shows clinicians who are not respiratory care specialists how to provide basic respiratory care and ventilator management in the event of a disaster that leads to a surge of patients who

require mechanical ventilation because of respiratory problems.

- *Community-Based Mass Prophylaxis: A Planning Guide for Public Health Preparedness*. This planning guide was written to complement CDC's Strategic National Stockpile Guidebook. The guide describes how to set up and run a dispensing/vaccination center.
- *Mass Medical Care with Scarce Resources: A Community Planning Guide*. This planning guide examines how to allocate scarce resources.

AHRQ also encourages MRC units to order a copy of Reopening "Shuttered" Hospitals to Expand Surge Capacity for your community. This comprehensive toolkit walks users through every aspect of re-opening a hospital. The easy-to-use three-ring binder includes facility-wide checklists and details on laws and regulations in four sample states. This and other resources can be found online at <http://www.ahrq.gov/prep>. For print copies, send an e-mail to ahrqpubs@ahrq.hhs.gov or call 1-800-358-9295.

AHRQ and the Office of the Civilian Volunteer Medical Reserve Corps encourage you to use these federally created documents and tools to start or supplement your own MRC preparedness library.

Nationwide Survey Finds Public Preparedness for Disasters Needs Improvement

A nationwide survey conducted by the American Red Cross and the Council for Excellence in Government found that amidst this year's active hurricane season, public preparedness for disasters needs improvements. To read the full press release and to gain some great insight, please visit: http://www.redcross.org/pressrelease/0,1077,0_314_820_8,00.html.

The MRC has a unique position within the communities they serve to provide education and resources to their families, friends, co-workers and neighbors. The Office of the Civilian Volunteer Medical Reserve Corps encourages MRC members to use this press release as a reminder of the importance of preparedness. To be ready will make response much quicker and your community more resilient.