

MEDICAL RESERVE CORPS REVIEW

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

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REGION VII



Upcoming Events

Basic Disaster Life Support (BDLS) Course. March 14, 2008 in Kansas City, MO. Sponsored by the Region VII Office of the Civilian Volunteer Medical Reserve Corps. For more information or to register, contact Gary Brown, Regional MRC Coordinator, at (816) 426-2829 or gary.brown@hhs.gov.

Psychological First Aid Train-the-Trainer Courses. March 5, 2008 in Kansas City, MO and March 10, 2008 in Columbia, MO. Sponsored by the Region VII Office of the Civilian Volunteer Medical Reserve Corps. For more information or to register, contact Gary Brown, Regional MRC Coordinator, at (816) 426-2829 or gary.brown@hhs.gov.

2008 Missouri Emergency Management Conference. March 25-28, 2008 in Branson, MO. Sponsored by the Missouri State Emergency Management Agency. See <http://sema.dps.mo.gov/semapage.htm> for additional information.

2008 MRC National Leadership and Training Conference. April 8-11, 2008 in Portland, OR. Sponsored by the Office of the Civilian Volunteer Medical Reserve Corps. For more information, contact

Gary Brown, Regional MRC Coordinator, at (816) 426-2829 or gary.brown@hhs.gov.

Registration Open for MRC National Leadership and Training Conference

The Office of the Civilian Volunteer Medical Reserve Corps is pleased to announce that registration is now open for the 2008 MRC National Leadership and Training Conference. The conference will be held in Portland, Oregon from April 8-11, 2008. To register, please visit the [MRC homepage](#) and click on the "[2008 National Leadership & Training Conference](#)" button in the left-hand frame of the screen. This web page includes detailed information on the conference and a link to registration.

MRC unit leaders (coordinators and directors) and program partners are invited to participate in this four day training, leadership and networking conference. The conference agenda reflects the requests for training and information that the MRC program received from both seasoned and newly developed MRC communities, and includes an array of topics in public health, emergency preparedness, volunteer management and other areas of interest to MRC leaders.

Please note that NACCHO and the Office of the Civilian Volunteer Medical Reserve Corps will be reviewing the registration list carefully prior to the conference. If we determine you are not qualified to attend, you will be contacted to cancel your registration and hotel accommodations. Only one unit leader representative per MRC will be eligible to have conference lodging covered for up to 4 nights. Airfare will not be covered. If you purchase an airline ticket and it's determined you are not eligible to attend, conference organizers will not be held responsible for the cost associated with the ticket. Feel free to contact Chicquita Hairston (CHairston@naccho.org) with questions related to registration.

Call for Posters

There will be an opportunity for attendees to share some of local promising practices and lessons learned by participating in this year's poster session. Please follow the below link(s) to find the "Call for Posters" application. Poster abstracts are due no later than February 1, 2008. This year the posters will be showcased during the Director's Welcome evening event on April 8th and during the concurrent sessions held on April 9th and 10th. Posters will remain on display throughout the entire conference so that attendees can view them at their leisure.

To access the "Call for Posters" application, visit:

<http://www.medicalreservecorps.gov/Conference/2008>

http://www.magnetmail.net/forms/display_form.cfm?fid=13988&rtype=nonmm

Please contact Samuel Schaffzin, at Samuel.Schaffzin@hhs.gov or (301) 443-2134 with questions related to the Call for Posters.

We look forward to seeing you in Portland, Oregon on April 8, 2008!

BDLS Training to Be Offered in Kansas City

The Office of the Civilian Volunteer Medical Reserve Corps, Region VII, is please to announce the availability of a **FREE Basic Disaster Life Support (BDLS) class on March 14, 2008**. The course will be conducted in the Richard Bolling Federal Building, 601 E. 12th Street, Kansas City, MO 64106. The facilitators and instructors for this course are members of the Northeast Missouri MRC, which is accredited by the Disaster Life Support

Foundation as a Regional Training Center. As a result, this course will be especially relevant to MRC members.

BDLS training is widely recognized as providing a comprehensive overview of the principles and practices associated with public health and medical emergency response operations. This course will:

- Provide MRC members with information on common organizational plans, terminology, methods of scene evaluation and victim classification for disaster recognition and response.
- Introduce MRC members to the "D-I-S-A-S-T-E-R" paradigm, principles of "MASS" triage, and management of all-hazards events, e.g., chemical, biological, nuclear, radiological, explosive or natural disasters.
- Provide MRC members with information on the healthcare provider's role in the public health and incident management systems, as well as community mental health.

Due to funding limitations, participation in this course is limited to 30 students. It is our goal to make this training available to local MRC coordinators and/or directors and, if space allows, other MRC unit members.

If your MRC unit is in receipt of a NACCHO capacity-building award (and your application listed training as a potential use of this award), this funding may be used to cover the cost of transportation, meals and lodging associated with this training course. Please contact me if you have questions about the use of various funding for this type of course.

If you or a member of your MRC unit would like to attend this training course—and we certainly encourage you to do so—**please RSVP to Gary Brown, Regional MRC Coordinator, at (816) 426-2829 or gary.brown@hhs.gov by February 15, 2008**. Again, local MRC unit coordinators and/or directors have priority to attend this training, and any remaining openings in the course will be made available to other local MRC members.

Psychological First Aid Train-the-Trainer Courses Available

The Office of the Civilian Volunteer Medical Reserve Corps, Region VII, is pleased to announce the availability of two **Psychological First Aid Train-the-Trainer classes**. One class will be conducted on March 5, 2008 in the Richard Bolling Federal Building, 601 E.

12th Street, Kansas City, MO 64106. Another class will be conducted on March 10, 2008 at the Columbia/Boone County Health Department, 1005 W. Worley Street, Columbia, MO 65203. These courses will be taught by staff of the Missouri Department of Mental Health.

The MRC program endorses the use of the principles and techniques of Psychological First Aid by local MRC units and members. These courses will be conducted in a "train-the-trainer" format, which will enable course participants to subsequently provide the training to members of their own MRC units.

Objectives of this training include:

- Instruct MRC leaders in the principles and practice of Psychological First Aid.
- Teach MRC leaders to recognize the signs of acute stress and show them how to provide assistance during these stressful events, and provide basic psychological support in the aftermath of traumatic events.
- Provide MRC leaders with the skills and techniques necessary to teach Psychological First Aid to MRC members.

If your MRC unit is in receipt of a NACCHO capacity-building award (and your application listed training as a potential use of this award), this funding may be used to cover the cost of transportation, meals and lodging associated with this training course. Please contact me if you have questions about the use of various funding for this type of course.

Participation in these courses is open to MRC leaders and volunteers from throughout the region. If you or a member of your MRC unit would like to attend this training course, please RSVP to Gary Brown, Regional MRC Coordinator, at (816) 426-2829 or gary.brown@hhs.gov by **February 15, 2008**.

100 Scholarships Available for MRC National Conference

The Office of the Surgeon General and NACCHO are pleased to offer assistance to 100 eligible MRC leaders to attend the 2008 MRC National Leadership and Training Conference. These scholarships are intended to build connections among MRC leaders and program partners, and better enable MRC units to achieve their local missions. Selected individuals will receive travel support (airfare, rail, or other form of transit) to the conference in Portland, Oregon. If awarded, all receipts

of travel must be shown to receive the full reimbursement.

In order to be considered for this scholarship opportunity:

- You must be in a leadership position with an existing registered MRC Unit.
- Your Unit Profile on the MRC website (www.medicalreservecorps.gov) must be updated.
- You must be able to attend the entire 2008 MRC National Leadership and Training Conference.
- You must complete a post-conference evaluation and provide follow-up feedback on the usefulness of sessions and topics covered at this conference. This information will be shared with the Office of the Civilian Volunteer Medical Reserve Corps.
- You must complete the entire application, providing answers to all required questions (see <http://www.naccho.org/mrctravel>).

Please note: Only one application per MRC unit will be accepted.

Applicants will be selected based on the following priority criteria:

1. MRC Units that did not receive a capacity-building award in 2007-2008.
2. MRC Units that received a \$5,000 capacity-building award in 2007-2008.
3. MRC Units that received a \$10,000 capacity-building award in 2007-2008

Applications must be received by February 15, 2008.

Selected individuals will be notified by February 27, 2008.

MRC Volunteers Bring Germs "to Life"

On January 16, 2008, 248 students at Jefferson West Elementary and Intermediate Schools in Meriden and Ozawkie, Kansas, came face-to-face with "germs" in "Germ City." This learning event, a resource of the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, was staffed by Jefferson County MRC volunteers. The students learned where they commonly come into contact with germs, the best method for hand washing, and just how difficult it is to fully remove germs from

hands. The event was scheduled and sponsored by the Jefferson West Health Committee.

For more information on this event or the Jefferson County, KS MRC, contact Jane Shirley, Jefferson County MRC Coordinator, at (785) 863-2447 or jshirley@jfcountyks.com.



Jefferson County, KS MRC volunteers staff "Germ City," in which children learned about germs and proper hand-washing techniques.

National Response Framework Released

Adapted from DHS Press Release, January 22, 2008

On January 22, 2008, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) released the *National Response Framework (NRF)*, successor to the National Response Plan. The NRF, which focuses on response and short-term recovery, articulates the doctrine, principles and architecture by which our nation prepares for and responds to all-hazard disasters across all levels of government and all sectors of communities. The NRF is responsive to repeated federal, state, local and private sector requests for a streamlined document that is less bureaucratic and more user-friendly. The NRF also focuses on preparedness and encourages a higher level of readiness across all jurisdictions.

The NRF was released following an extensive process of outreach and coordination between DHS and key stakeholders representing federal, tribal, state and local governments, non-governmental agencies and associations, and the private sector. The latest public comment period for the base document of the NRF closed on October 22, 2007, and the comment period for the support annexes closed on November 10, 2007.

The final documents reflect the nearly 5,700 comments received from participants of the process.

The NRF is intended for senior elected and appointed leaders, such as federal department and agency heads, state governors, mayors, tribal leaders, city managers and the private sector. Simultaneously, it informs emergency management practitioners by explaining the operating structures and tools routinely used by first responders and emergency managers at all levels of government.

The NRF is designed to be scalable, flexible and adaptable; always be in effect; and articulate clear roles and responsibilities among local, state and federal officials

In addition to releasing the NRF base document, the Emergency Support Function Annexes and Support Annexes will be released and posted online at the NRF Resource Center (www.fema.gov/nrf). The annexes are a total of 23 individual documents designed to provide concept of operations, procedures and structures for achieving response directives for all partners in fulfilling their roles under the NRF.

Upon finalization and publication of the NRF base document and annexes, a large focus will be to initiate an intensive nationwide training and exercise program to embed the NRF into the nation's preparedness and response cycle. Implementation of the NRF training and exercise strategy will include awareness training, position-specific training, exercises (tabletop and functional), and sustainment training.

To make the NRF a 'living system' that can be revised and updated in a more nimble, transparent fashion, the NRF Resource Center (www.fema.gov/nrf) was developed; it is an on-line repository of the component parts of the NRF. The Resource Center will allow for on-going revisions as necessary to reflect real-world events and lessons learned. The NRF and the annexes will go into effect 60 days after publication in the *Federal Register*.

Doniphan County Forms Region's Newest MRC

Welcome to the Doniphan County, KS MRC! They are the 10th MRC unit in Kansas and the 30th MRC unit in Region VII. Sheryl Pierce is the MRC unit coordinator. She may be contacted at (785) 985-3591 or dchd@carsoncomm.com. Please contact Sheryl and welcome her to the region's community of MRC units.