

MEDICAL RESERVE CORPS REVIEW

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

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Upcoming Events

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/semepage.htm> for additional information.

Nebraska Governor's Conference on Community Service.

March 31-April 1, 2008 in Omaha, NE. Sponsored by the Nebraska Volunteer Service Commission. For more information, visit <http://www.regonline.com/Checkin.asp?EventId=173759>.

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.

Nebraska Association of Emergency Managers Annual Conference.

April 11-13, 2008 in Grand Island, NE. Sponsored by the Nebraska Association of Emergency Management. For more information or to register, visit the conference website at www.naem.us.

Missouri Hospital Association Statewide Healthcare Disaster Planning Meeting.

April 17-18, 2008 in Lake Ozark, MO. Sponsored by the Missouri Hospital Association. For more information, contact Leslie Porth at lporth@mhanet.com or (573) 893-3700 ext. 1305.

2008 MRC National Leadership and Training Conference

The 2008 MRC National Leadership and Training Conference will be held on April 8–11, 2008 in Portland, OR at the Portland Hilton and Executive Tower.

The theme of this year's conference is "Prepared Volunteers, Resilient Communities, Strong Nation."

Join government and nongovernmental organizations, public health, emergency preparedness, and volunteer management experts, and fellow community-based MRC leaders for this four day knowledge-sharing, leadership, and training 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, preparedness, volunteer management, and other areas of interest to MRC members. This conference is an ideal meet-and-greet opportunity for local MRC leaders to share promising practices and strategies.

Due to the tremendous program growth in the past few years and to space restrictions, registration and attendance at the 2008 MRC National Leadership and Training Conference will be limited to MRC unit leaders (coordinators and directors) and our program partners. Please note that NACCHO and the Office of the Civilian Volunteer Medical Reserve Corps will be carefully reviewing the registration list prior to the conference. If it is determined that a registrant is not eligible to attend, the individual will be contacted to cancel his/her

registration and hotel accommodations. Only one leader representative per MRC unit will be eligible to have conference lodging covered for up to four nights. Airfare will not be covered. If an individual purchases an airline ticket and it is determined that person is not eligible to attend, conference organizers will not be held responsible for the cost associated with the ticket.

Conference Registration

To access the conference's online registration site, please visit:

www.regonline.com/2008_MRC_NationalLeadershipConference.

Registration will remain open until Friday, March 14, 2008. MRC leaders applying for lodging support are required to register no later than Friday, February 29, 2008. Please feel free to contact Chicquita Hairston at NACCHO (CHairston@naccho.org) with questions related to registration.

Conference Agenda

You may view and download the agenda for the 2008 MRC National Leadership and Training Conference. The conference agenda is available at [NLC Agenda](#). Please note that the agenda will be updated regularly as it becomes finalized.

Updating Your MRC Unit Profile

The Office of the Civilian Volunteer Medical Reserve Corps asks all MRC 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. Some MRC leaders have expressed some confusion over what it means to "update the MRC unit profile." Since the profile system was updated last summer with revised and additional fields, please be sure to review, update and add information in all of the fields in all of the sections, including:

- Basic Unit Information
- Jurisdiction Information
- Regular and Emergency Contact Information
- Volunteer Counts
- Unit Activities
- Additional Unit Information

The Office of the Civilian Volunteer Medical Reserve Corps has noticed that updates are particularly needed in the following areas:

- Unit Descriptions. Many MRCs continue to use outdated unit descriptions, some that were first entered upon their application for registration. These descriptions are part of your profile that is visible to the public and should be accurate and current. Make it interesting! You never know who might be looking at the profile . . . it might be a potential volunteer, partner or funding agency. For examples of how you might want your unit description to look, visit:

<http://www.medicalreservecorps.gov/File/Unit%20Descriptions.doc>

- Unit Activities. Many stakeholders would also like to know more details about the activities that your MRC unit is involved in. The description should be concise and, again, interesting. Some examples can be found at:

<http://www.medicalreservecorps.gov/ActivityReporting>.

Important: The Office of the Civilian Volunteer Medical Reserve Corps provides information on your activities to national and regional leaders and partners on a regular basis, but this information can't be shared if MRC units don't provide it to the Office of the Civilian Volunteer Medical Reserve Corps.

- 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 the Office of the Civilian Volunteer Medical Reserve Corps to have an accurate picture of the entire MRC network, as well as its strengths and weaknesses.

Information on how to update your unit information is available on the MRC website at:

<http://www.medicalreservecorps.gov/MemberResources/UpdateUnitInformation>.

Thank you for ensuring your unit profile is current!

Highlights of MRC Activities across the Region

Butler County, KS MRC

The Butler County MRC continues recruitment activities throughout the county. The MRC unit is also planning a medical support exercise for late spring.

Douglas County, KS MRC

On January 18, 2008, the Douglas County MRC conducted hand washing demonstrations for students at Wakarusa Valley Elementary School during their first-ever health fair.

MRC volunteers helped out at Lawrence Memorial Hospital's Healthy Hearts Fair on February 9, 2008. Volunteers conducted blood pressure screenings and helped patients fill out paperwork. MRC volunteers conducted a total of 105 blood pressures checks.

On February 12, 2008, the MRC conducted an Emergency call-down exercise to see how many volunteers could be reached in the event of an emergency. 23 MRC members were contacted immediately and 14 additional MRC members promptly returned the call.

Jefferson County, KS MRC

On January 16, 2008, Jefferson County MRC volunteers staffed "Germ City," a learning event in which students at Jefferson West Elementary and Intermediate Schools in Meriden and Ozawkie 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.

Linn County, IA MRC

The Linn County MRC has a public health doctor working with several groups to address issues related to recruitment, liability and training. They are currently preparing to develop unit operating procedures, a training program, and a recruiting presentation.

The MRC unit also has an equipment trailer, which is now packed with medical supplies and equipment for use in an emergency.

Shawnee County, KS MRC

On January 9, 2008, Shawnee County MRC volunteer nurses conducted a tetanus vaccination clinic for a farm/agricultural convention.

On the same day, MRC volunteers assisted with six Wellness Check clinics, providing blood pressure and glucose screening, as well as height, weight and BMI measurements for participants.

Southeast Nebraska MRC

At its January 29, 2008 meeting, the Southeast Nebraska MRC discussed new policies and procedures, a new recruiting plan and focus; and possible activities and events for the unit to staff. During the well-attended meeting, the MRC established new goals and activities for the unit for the upcoming year.

St. Louis County, MO MRC

On January 12, 2008, the St. Louis County MRC conducted an orientation training session for volunteers covering MRC Core Competency 1.

On January 26, 2008, the St. Louis County MRC conducted an eight hour training session for volunteers covering MRC Core Competencies 1, 2 and 3.

Stoddard County, MO MRC

In January, the Stoddard County MRC developed a survey to determine the location of individuals with special needs within the county. The survey also requests information from individuals who would be interested in volunteering their skills during special events and emergencies.

Texas County, MO MRC

On January 10, 2008, the Texas County MRC held its quarterly meeting, in which call-down procedures were addressed, proper hand washing procedures were demonstrated, and mental health in disasters was discussed.

If your MRC unit has participated in a public health, medical or emergency preparedness activity that is not listed here, please let the Regional Coordinator know (gary.brown@hhs.gov) so that your story can be shared.