

# 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

**2009 Integrated Medical, Public Health, Preparedness and Response Training Summit.** 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://www.medicalreservecorps.gov/2009TrainingSummit> or <http://www.hhstrainingsummit.org/>.

**2009 Nebraska Association of Emergency Management Conference.** April 17-19, 2009 in Grand Island, NE. Sponsored by the Nebraska Association of Emergency Management. For more information, visit [http://www.naem.us/2009\\_conference\\_info.htm](http://www.naem.us/2009_conference_info.htm).

**AHRQ Releases Recommendations for National Emergency Evacuation System**  
From AHRQ E-Mail, February 24, 2009

The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) has released a new report entitled *Recommendations for a National Mass Patient and Evacuee Movement, Regulating, and Tracking System*, which recommends developing a coordinated multi-jurisdictional evacuation system that builds on existing resources and procedures available at the state, local, and federal level.



To develop a national system to locate, track and regulate patients and evacuees leaving disaster areas, the report recommends collecting eight essential data elements to identify each patient or evacuee, their health status and location from existing data sources like hospitals. It also recommends collecting baseline inventory levels of key resources such as available hospital beds and ambulances or other medical transportation. Appendixes discuss issues related to implementation of a national system, including:

- Legal issues such as HIPAA compliance
- Existing tracking systems at the local, regional and federal level
- Institutional record systems for hospitals, nursing homes, shelters, and other facilities
- Existing systems that inventory and identify available resources

Existing AHRQ-funded tools that can support a national system described in this report include:

- The National Hospital Available Beds for Emergencies and Disasters (HAVBED), which can help identify available hospital beds
- The Mass Evacuation Transportation Planning Model, an online tool that estimates the number and type of medical transportation needed to evacuate patients
- The Hospital Surge Model, an online tool that estimates, based on user-selected scenarios, the hospital resources needed to treat victims of various disaster events

The recommendations report was developed by AHRQ with critical input and leadership from the Department of Defense. The report and other AHRQ-funded Public Health Emergency Preparedness are available at <http://www.ahrq.gov/prep>.

### State MRC Coordinator Appointed in Missouri

In February, the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS), Center for Emergency Response and Terrorism, appointed **Sharlet Kern Howren** as the state's MRC/Volunteer Management Coordinator.

As the state's MRC/Volunteer Management Coordinator, Sharlet's duties will include:

- Facilitating the coordination between local MRC units and various state agencies and programs
- Coordinating state MRC activities with the MRC Regional Coordinator and the Office of the Civilian Volunteer Medical Reserve Corps
- Developing policies, training modules and a statewide public health volunteer system to meet capacity needs of public health
- Working closely with the coordinator of the state's Emergency System for Advance Registration of Volunteer Health Professionals (ESAR-VHP) system, known as Show-Me Response, as part of a national integration model to improve disaster preparedness and response

Sharlet received a dual bachelors degree in Political Science and Sociology from the University of Missouri. She has worked for the State of Missouri since 1993 and has worked in the DHSS emergency preparedness program since 2002. Since 2005, Sharlet has coordinated the department's public health volunteer program, which is designed to assist local public health agencies in developing and implementing local public health volunteer systems. She will maintain this role along with her duties as the state MRC coordinator.

Please welcome Sharlet Kern Howren to the position of MRC/Volunteer Management Coordinator. Her contact information is:

Sharlet Kern Howren  
MRC/Volunteer Program Coordinator  
Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services  
Center for Emergency Response and Terrorism

(573) 522-4098  
[sharlet.howren@dhss.mo.gov](mailto:sharlet.howren@dhss.mo.gov)

### 2009 Integrated Medical, Public Health, Preparedness and Response Training Summit: MRC and ESAR-VHP Topics and Agenda Items

As you know, the upcoming 2009 Integrated Medical, Public Health, Preparedness and Response Training Summit is going to offer many training, information sharing, and networking opportunities that are open to all attendees. In addition to the weekend workshops and the theme-specific tracks that have been developed to cover key topics (such as animal care, behavioral health, clinical care, mass fatality response, patient movement/reception, pharmacy, public health preparedness and response, and response teams), the MRC/ESAR-VHP sub-planning committee has developed a number of sessions and activities that may be of particular interest to MRC and ESAR-VHP participants. Much of the specifics around the MRC/ESAR-VHP related agenda items are detailed below.

Each MRC and ESAR-VHP participant will receive an "MRC/ESAR-VHP Conference Planner/At-A-Glance" as part of their on site registration packet. Conference organizers will also send this planning guide to each registrant in advance of the 2009 Integrated Medical, Public Health, Preparedness and Response Training Summit via e-mail. In the meantime, please take a few moments to review the following information and begin thinking about what you may be interested in participating in once on site. Also, be sure to visit the [2009 Integrated Medical, Public Health, Preparedness and Response Training Summit Web site](#) for more details regarding this training event. You'll find information on the additional keynote sessions, workshops, tracks, etc. that are open to all attendees.

### 2009 Integrated Medical, Public Health, Preparedness and Response Training Summit Topics (MRC and ESAR-VHP developed workshops, tracks, 'plenary', and other sessions):

#### Weekend Workshops (4 hours) (April 4-5, 2009)

- Elements of Sustainability for Grass Roots Organizations (April 5, 1-5 pm)
- Fundamentals of Volunteer Management (April 5, 1-5 pm)
- MRC-TRAIN: The Basics (8 am-12 pm)

Office of the Civilian Volunteer Medical Reserve Corps, Department of Health and Human Services, Region VII  
601 E. 12<sup>th</sup> Street, Room S-1801, Kansas City, MO 64106 (816) 426-2829 (816) 426-2178 Fax

- Facilitated eCDLS Exercise and Train-the-Trainer (April 4, 1-5 pm)
- Linked In or Left Out: Social Marketing and Interactive Social Media for Public Health Preparedness and Response (April 5, 8 am -12 pm)
- Special Topics in Public Health (April 4, 1-5 pm)
- MRC New Leader Workshop (April 4, 8 am -12 pm)
- Will Your Community Survive?: Practical Models to Build Resilience (April 5, 1-5 pm)
- Understanding the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (April 4, 1-5 pm)

### **MRC Recognition and Networking Reception (April 5, 6-8 pm)**

### **MRC/ESAR-VHP Developed Tracks (75 minutes) (April 6-8, 2009)**

#### *Coordinated Activities*

- Working Towards NIMS Compliance for Responders (April 6, 1:15-2:30 pm)
- Changing the Culture of Preparedness by Working in a Collaborative Environment (April 7, 10:15-11:30 am)
- Integrating a DMAT Team, Medical Reserve Corps, and ESAR-VHP Program: The Rhode Island Experience (April 7, 1-2:15 pm)
- Models of Collaboration for Interstate Mutual Aid: Partnerships Across Disciplines and Jurisdictional Lines (April 8, 8:30-9:45 am)

#### *Leadership Skills, Operational Support, and Sustainability*

- Elements of Sustainability for Grass Roots Organizations (April 6, 1:15-2:30 pm)
- Volunteer Program Enhancement: Strategies for Sustained Growth (April 8, 8:30-9:45 am)
- Breaking Through the Clutter: Effective Leadership Communication (4/7, 1-2:15 pm)
- Managing Organizational Conflict During Disasters (April 7, 10:15-11:30 am)

#### *MRC/ESAR-VHP (Special Topics)*

- Making An Impression: Marketing and Promotion for Preparedness and Response Programs (April 6, 1:15-2:30 pm)
- Responses MRC Units Have Participated in: Lessons Learned (April 7, 10:15-11:30 am)

- MRC Involvement in Public Health Activities (April 7, 1-2:15 pm)
- Ways to Utilize MRC Volunteers (April 8, 8:30-9:45 am)

#### *Volunteer Management*

- Developing Training Plans and Integrating MRC Core Competencies Into Training Programs (April 7, 10:15-11:30 am)
- When it Rains Volunteers: Managing Spontaneous Unaffiliated Volunteers (April 6, 1:15-2:30 pm)
- Perspectives on MRC Regionalization (April 7, 1-2:15 pm)
- Shaping Volunteer Management Through Customer Focused Strategy (April 8, 8:30-9:45 am)

### **Breakfast/Lunch Plenary Sessions (April 6-8 (open to all MRC and ESAR-VHP attendees))**

- OCVMRC Director Welcome/Acting Deputy Surgeon General Address (4/6, 12-1 pm)
- ESAR-VHP: An Update and Successful State Models of Integration/Coordination of Local Volunteer Efforts (April 7, 7:15-8:15 am)
- Volunteerism in Response to Emergencies: Critical Issues of Law and Policy (April 7, 11:45-12:45 pm)
- MRC Deployment Update (April 8, 7:15-8:15 am)

#### **Other Details**

- General Conference Keynote Sessions (April 6-8 in am)
- MRC/ESAR-VHP Conference Orientation Sessions (April 5, 5:15-5:45 pm and April 6, 7:45-8:15 am)
- MRC Recognition and Networking Event (April 5, 6-8 pm)
- MRC Regional Breakout Meetings (April 6, 3-5 pm)
- Roundtables by Topic (April 7, 4:30-5:30 pm)

For additional information on the 2009 Integrated Medical, Public Health, Preparedness and Response Training Summit, visit <http://www.medicalreservecorps.gov/2009TrainingSummit> and <http://www.hhstrainingsummit.org/registration.php>.