

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

Kansas MRC Coordinators Meeting. July 2, 2009 at 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. at the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, Curtis State Office Building, 1000 SW Jackson, Topeka, KS 66612. Contact Sonia Jordan, Kansas Hospital and Volunteer Outreach Coordinator, at (785) 296-5201 or sjordan@kdheks.gov for more information.

NACCHO Annual Conference. July 29-31, 2009 in Orlando, FL. For more information, visit <http://www.naccho.org/events/nacchoannual2009/index.cfm>.

Missouri MRC/Public Health Volunteers Meeting. August 4, 2009 at 1:00-4:00 p.m. at the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services, 930 Wildwood, Jefferson City, MO 65102. Contact Sharlet Kern Howren, Missouri MRC/Volunteer Program Coordinator, at (573) 522-4098 or sharlet.howren@dhss.mo.gov for more information.

2009 Region VII LEPC/TERC Emergency Planning and Response Conference. August 6-9, 2009 in Kansas City, MO. Sponsored by EPA Region VII and FEMA Region VII. For more information, visit <http://www.marc.org/gti/lepc-terc>.

2009 National Conference on Community Preparedness. August 9-12, 2009 in Arlington, VA. Sponsored by FEMA's Community Preparedness Division and the International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM). For more information, visit <http://www.iaem.com/NCCP2009.htm>.



IAEM 57th Annual Conference and EMEX 2009. October 31-November 5, 2009 in Orlando, FL. Sponsored by the International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM). For more information, visit <http://www.iaem.com/events/Annual/intro.htm>.

2009 Integrated Training Summit Highlights



MRC Recognition and Networking Event at the 2009 Integrated Medical, Public Health, Preparedness and Response Training Summit.

The 2009 Integrated Medical, Public Health, Preparedness and Response Training Summit was held at the Hilton Anatole Hotel in Dallas, TX on April 4-8, 2009. For the MRC program, this summit replaced the MRC National Leadership and Training Conferences

which have been held annually for the last several years. Over 3,000 people attended the 2009 Integrated Medical, Public Health, Preparedness and Response Training Summit, including more than 500 MRC leaders from across the nation. The Summit brought together representatives from the MRC, the National Disaster Medical System (NDMS), the Emergency System for the Advance Registration of Volunteer Health Professionals (ESAR-VHP), and the U.S. Public Health Service.

Highlights of the Summit included:

- Pre-Summit workshops: MRC New Leader Workshop and MRC-TRAIN: The Basics
- Theme-specific tracks on key topics such as animal care, behavioral health, clinical care, mass fatality response, patient movement and reception, pharmacy operations, public health preparedness and response, and response teams
- An MRC recognition and networking event
- Welcome from the MRC Program Director and the Acting Deputy Surgeon General
- Regional breakout sessions
- "Hot topics" roundtables
- Plenary sessions on MRC/ESAR-VHP integration, Federal deployment, community resilience, and law and policy issues
- Announcement of an OCVMRC-American Red Cross Joint Memorandum and the OCVMRC Strategic Plan
- Information sharing and networking opportunities for all participants

Many of the presentations given at the 2009 Integrated Medical, Public Health, Preparedness and Response Training Summit are available at <http://www.hhstrainingsummit.org/presentations/2009.php>.

Animals in Disasters Courses Available

This summer, FEMA Region VII, in conjunction with the University of Illinois Regional Institute for Community Policing, is sponsoring two **FREE** courses on *Household Pets and Service Animals in Disasters: Evacuation and Emergency Sheltering*. These courses will be held at the following locations:

- **June 23, 2009:** FEMA Region VII, 9221 Ward Parkway, Kansas City, MO, 64114. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. Training begins at 9:00 a.m. and will conclude at 4:00 p.m.

- **August 19, 2009:** Butler County Community/4-H Building, 206 N. Griffith, El Dorado, KS 67042. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. Training begins at 9:00 a.m. and will conclude at 4:00 p.m.

According to the course announcement, "this awareness level course is designed to integrate the knowledge and shared resources of emergency operations and management level personnel who are responsible for developing, coordinating and implementing state and local emergency operations plans, with other key community personnel who have roles and responsibilities in emergency animal disaster planning in order to effectively develop a successful and cohesive response to disasters that incorporates household pets and service animals and helps to alleviate the panic of crisis and minimize the consequences of disasters that affect the household pet and service animal owning population in order to return the jurisdiction to normal as quickly as possible following a major disaster."

Course objectives include:

1. Synthesize the societal impact of household pet and service animal ownership with the necessity to include the needs of this population into disaster planning as it relates to the PETS Act.
2. Increase the awareness of key emergency animal evacuation and transportation issues and strategies to address these issues when developing emergency animal evacuation and transportation plans.
3. Increase the awareness of key emergency animal sheltering issues and strategies to address these issues when developing and integrating emergency animal sheltering plans into their community's emergency operations plan.
4. Increase the awareness of resources available and the necessity to develop a public awareness campaign for use in their community which will increase awareness in the household pet and service animal owning population of their personal responsibility in disaster preparedness for the safety and the well-being of their animals.

Course participants will receive:

- A participant manual
- A copy of the Pocket Evacuation Planner
- A CD containing the complete resources for developing emergency evacuation and

sheltering plans and a community awareness program.

Lunch will also be provided to course participants.

For more information, contact Lindsay Buhr, Program Coordinator, at (217) 206-6033 or lbuhr2@uis.edu

Highlights of Recent MRC Unit Activities

Bollinger County MRC

- 10 MRC volunteers participated in NIMS training on April 23rd.

Central Nebraska MRC

- Three MRC volunteers participated in the Mary Lanning Memorial Hospital Community Health Fair on March 28th, providing information on the MRC and conducting recruiting.
- MRC gave presentation to Broken Bow, NE LEPC, which is working to become a Citizen Corps Council with representation from the MRC unit.
- Conducted bi-monthly advisory council meeting on April 15th.
- Staffed display at Nebraska Association of Emergency Management Conference.
- MRC volunteers participated in a tabletop exercise with Buffalo County COAD in Kearney, NE on April 21st.
- Conducted NIMS-700 training at Juniata, NE Fire Department on April 23rd.
- Gave presentation to Nebraska Medical Assistants Conference in Hastings, NE on April 24th. Also staffed display at conference.
- Gave presentation to Noon Sertoma group in Hastings, NE on April 27th.
- Participated in tabletop exercise with University of Nebraska, Kearney Emergency Operations Team on April 30th.

Cooper County MRC

- Melanie Hein, MRC Unit Director, attended Missouri State Emergency Management Conference in Branson on March 24th.

Doniphan County, KS MRC

- Conducted first orientation meeting on March 10th.

- 10 MRC volunteers participated in the "March for Meals" parade on March 18th.
- 26 volunteers participated in an emergency activation drill as part of the statewide "March Health Madness" exercise on March 23rd.
- For National Bike Helmet Month, MRC volunteers distributed bike helmets to Head Start preschool children and educated them on proper bike helmet procedures.
- Distributed bike helmets and education materials to 17 low-income preschool children at Wathena USD 406 on May 14th.

Douglas County, KS MRC

- Conducted orientation for new volunteers on March 20th.
- Eight MRC volunteers supported Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department staff at a Hepatitis A outbreak mass dispensing exercise. Simulated vaccinations were given to 150 people in an hour.
- Conducted quarterly volunteer meeting on April 22nd. Discussed MRC-TRAIN and KSERV. Also updated volunteers on preparedness planning for vulnerable populations in Douglas County.

Eastern Nebraska/Western Iowa MRC

- 30 volunteers attended Psychological First Aid training on March 21st.
- Three MRC volunteers assisted the Douglas County Health Department in conducting an STD screening at the Black Family Health and Wellness Fair.
- 10 volunteers participated in Psychological First Aid for First Responders training on April 4th.
- On April 15th, four MRC volunteers partnered with the Douglas County Health Department to provide STD testing at the Red Dress Dinner, an event targeting women's health and wellness.
- MRC Decontamination Team held initial training session for 19 volunteers on April 25th.
- Three MRC volunteers provided blood pressure screenings at "Spring Into Safety," Sarpy County's annual safety expo, on April 25th.
- Eight volunteers provided first aid at Omaha's Cinco de Mayo parade and celebration.
- Four MRC volunteers conducted blood pressure checks and assisted Omaha firefighters in teaching first aid to children during the Omaha Police and Firefighters Safety Expo on May 2nd.

- 10 MRC volunteers participated in a full scale exercise on May 12th.
- 40 MRC volunteers participated in a triage exercise on May 16th.

Harvey County MRC

- Participated in a mass dispensing exercise as part of the statewide "March Health Madness" exercise on March 23rd.

Jefferson County MRC

- Three volunteers distributed family preparedness cards and booklets to community members at a local school-sponsored health fair on April 4th.
- MRC members provided hand washing and hygiene information to 62 Kindergarten students in a local elementary school on April 13th.

Northeast Missouri Medical Reserve Corps

- Three MRC members participated in a non-certified Basic First aid and CPR class on March 19th.
- Four MRC volunteers participated in School Bus Rescue training conducted by the Fire Chiefs Association on April 3rd.

Panhandle (NE) MRC

- Assisted local public health department with distribution of H1N1 educational brochures.

Saline (MO) MRC

- MRC volunteers participated in a POD exercise conducted by Saline County Health Department and Fitzgibbon Hospital on April 6th. MRC volunteers included clinical nurses, clerical staff and security.

Sedgwick County, KS MRC

- Facilitated shelter management training with American Red Cross for Sedgwick County Health Department personnel and volunteers on April 16th.
- Conducted orientation for new members and update for current members on April 25th.

Shawnee County, KS MRC

- On March 27th, Shawnee County Health Agency, with the assistance of 12 MRC

volunteers, completed a POD exercise in Auburn, KS.

- On April 14th, six MRC volunteers participated in a Psychological First Aid class.
- Six MRC volunteers participated in Psychological First Aid training on April 28th.
- Five MRC volunteers participated in a health fair at Security Benefit Group on May 1st. A booth was set up to share information about emergency preparedness and to promote the MRC.
- MRC volunteer conducted CPR training for a new CERT unit in Tecumseh, KS on May 9th.
- MRC volunteer provided CPR training for Shawnee County MRC and CERT volunteers as part of their required training on May 12th.

South-Central Missouri MRC

- Unit Coordinator gave presentation to local Rotary Club on April 6th. Presentation addressed history, purpose and mission of the MRC and importance of the community and its citizens being prepared for a natural or manmade disaster. Presentation also used to recruit new volunteers.
- On April 16th, the Phelps County Emergency Management Director provided training to 16 MRC volunteers on how to operate portable radios.

Southeast Nebraska MRC

- Five members of volunteer Unit Command Staff participated in an initial education and training design committee meeting on March 21st. Attendees of this meeting will begin setting the parameters for the unit's annual exercise and training.
- Held general membership meeting on March 21st.
- Unit Logistics Officer participated in a NACCHO-funded Psychological First Aid Train-the-Trainer course in Denver, CO on March 23rd.

Texas County, MO MRC

- Held monthly meeting on March 13, 2009 focusing on radio and call down procedures.
- Held Volunteer Appreciation Celebration on April 9th.
- Four MRC volunteers conducted wellness checks after storm on May 13th.