

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

15th Annual Earthquakes Mean Business Seminar. February 6, 2009 in St. Louis, MO. Sponsored by the Gateway Citizens Corps Coalition. See <http://www.gatewayccc.us/earthquake.htm> for more information.

2009 Local, State and Federal Public Health Preparedness Summit. February 18-20, 2009 in San Diego, CA. Sponsored by NACCHO. For more information, visit <http://www.phprep.org>.

Volunteer Management Workshop. March 17, 2008 (day before 2009 Missouri Public Health Preparedness Conference) in Columbia, MO. Limited to 50 participants. More information available soon.

2009 Missouri Public Health Preparedness Conference. March 18-19, 2009 in Columbia, MO. Sponsored by the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services. More information available soon.

2009 Integrated Medical, Public Health, Preparedness and Response Training Summit (MRC National Conference). April 4-8, 2009 in Dallas, TX. Sponsored by the Office of the Civilian Volunteer Medical Reserve Corps (OCVMRC), National Disaster

REGION VII



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://teams.hhs.gov/conference/>.

MRC Leaders to Attend 2009 Public Health Preparedness Summit

Three Region VII MRC leaders have been selected to receive scholarships to attend the 4th Annual Public Health Preparedness Summit to be held in San Diego, CA on February 18–20, 2009. The scholarship recipients from Region VII are **Charlie Bryan**, Coordinator of the MRC of Kansas City in Kansas City, MO; **Kim Ens**, Director of the Douglas County, KS MRC in Lawrence, KS; and **Melanie Hooks**, Coordinator of the Southeast Nebraska MRC in Lincoln, NE. The National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) will reimburse these scholarship recipients for airfare, lodging and Summit registration fees. An allowance will also be provided, based on a per diem basis, for any meals not provided by the Summit.

The Public Health Preparedness Summit offers a variety of plenary, panel, and poster presentations, roundtable discussions, and interactive workshops focused on building, enhancing, and sustaining our nation's ability to plan for, respond to, and recover from disasters and other public health emergencies.

The 2009 Public Health Preparedness Summit will feature more than 200 workshops, interactive sessions, posters, and roundtable discussions designed to help participants build and sustain the public health capacity for disaster response in their communities. Numerous sessions will provide learning opportunities to enhance MRC training and emergency response, including:

- The Utilization of the MRC to Provide Emergency Response to Prevent Communicable Disease Spread
- Louisiana Volunteer Program Integration: MRC and ESAR-VHP
- Training Standardization of MRC Core Competencies
- Preparing our POD Volunteers: An Interactive Workshop for Trainers
- The MRC as a Public Health Resource
- Volunteers and Interstate Mutual Aid: A Regional Approach
- The MRC Role in Developing and Exercising Community Alternate Care Site Plans

For more information on the 2009 Public Health Preparedness Summit, visit <http://www.phprep.org>.

MRC Report on Response to 2008 Hurricanes

The 2008 hurricane season provided further confirmation of the ability of local MRC units to enhance their communities' resiliency and capacity to respond to a public health emergency. Over 1,500 MRC members volunteered more than 30,000 hours locally in response to Hurricanes Ike and Gustav and Tropical Storm Hanna. These volunteers came from 63 MRC units in 14 states, and they performed a myriad of different tasks (based on the needs in their local communities), such as:

- Staffing general shelters, special/medical needs shelters and Federal Medical Stations
- Providing evacuation support prior to landfall and re-entry support for returning evacuees
- Immunizing responders and community members
- Supporting communications, operations and logistics at Emergency Operations Centers
- Establishing a co-located animal shelter for evacuees' pets
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- Conducting behavioral health evaluations
- Providing staffing support for family medicine clinics, hospitals and comfort stations

The Office of Civilian Volunteer Medical Reserve Corps has compiled a report documenting the MRC units' activities, using information provided by MRC unit leaders and the MRC Regional Coordinators. The report is available on the MRC website at <http://www.medicalreservecorps.gov/Hurricane/2008Report> and it can be obtained through the MRC News and Events web page.

New Model Estimates Emergency Evacuation Needs for Health Care Facilities

From AHRQ website, December 2008

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) has developed a computer model that estimates the evacuation needs of health care facilities. This model is for use before a mass casualty event or natural disaster to estimate the time required to evacuate patients and other evacuees from health care facilities and other locations and transport them to receiving facilities.

Called the Mass Evacuation Transportation Model, it considers:

- The transportation requirements of different types of patients.
- The numbers of available ambulances, wheelchair vans, and buses.
- The location of evacuating and receiving facilities.
- The surge capacity of receiving facilities (any number of evacuating and receiving facilities can be specified).

The primary output of the model is the total number of hours necessary to transport patients from the evacuating facilities to the receiving facilities. The model also shows the number of trips made by vehicle types, allowing planners to anticipate resource needs.

The Mass Evacuation Transportation Model project was conducted by AHRQ with collaboration and funding from FEMA and HHS' Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR). The model is available at <http://massevacmodel.ahrq.gov>. In addition, two documents accompany the model: the user manual (<http://www.ahrq.gov/prep/massevac/manual/massevacum1.htm>) and a description of the model's design and

assumptions
(<http://www.ahrq.gov/prep/massevac/description/>).

Saline MRC Recognizes Volunteers

At its December meeting, the Saline MRC hosted a dinner to honor its outstanding volunteers and community partners for their support of the MRC unit in 2008. The Saline MRC Business of the Year for 2008 was awarded to KMMO radio. KMMO, through their public service announcements, assisted the Saline MRC in achieving their goal of doubling the number of their volunteers from 20 to 40 and educating the citizens of Saline County on the purpose and mission of the Saline MRC. **Pete Hollabaugh** accepted the award on behalf of KMMO radio.

According to **Russ Donnell**, Saline MRC Coordinator, the choice for the Outstanding Volunteer of the Year award was very difficult, since there were two individuals who had distinguished service to the Saline MRC. As a result, the Saline MRC selected two of its volunteers as Outstanding Volunteers of the Year for 2008: **Dr. Pam Deutsch** and **Louise England**. Russ Donnell stated, "These individuals were go-to volunteers who went above and beyond expectations, responded to call outs and participated in community events sponsored by the Saline MRC."

Congratulations to KMMO radio, Dr. Pam Deutsch and Louise England!



Russ Donnell presents the Outstanding Volunteer of the Year award to Dr. Pam Deutsch.



Russ Donnell presents the Outstanding Volunteer of the Year award to Louise England.



Pete Hollabaugh of KMMO radio accepts the Business of the Year award from Russ Donnell, Saline MRC Coordinator.

New FEMA Training Courses Available

In December 2008, FEMA released a number of new training courses related to the National Incident Management System (NIMS), Incident Command System (ICS) and National Response Framework (NRF). These courses are available online through the Independent Study Program. These courses include:

- [IS-700.a – NIMS An Introduction](#) (new; December 22, 2008)
- [IS-805 Emergency Support Function \(ESF\) #5 – Emergency Management](#) (new; December 17, 2008)

- [IS-814 Emergency Support Function \(ESF\) #14 – Long Term Community Recovery](#) (new; December 17, 2008)

FEMA also released the following online courses earlier in 2008:

- [IS-102 Deployment Basics for FEMA Response Partners](#) (new; September 9, 2008)
- [IS-807 Emergency Support Function \(ESF\) #7 – Logistics Management and Resource Support Annex](#) (new; August 29, 2008)
- [IS-801 Emergency Support Function \(ESF\) #1 – Transportation](#) (new; August 7, 2008)
- [IS-802 Emergency Support Functions \(ESF\) #2 - Communications](#) (new; August 7, 2008)
- [IS-810 Emergency Support Function \(ESF\) #10 – Oil and Hazardous Materials](#) (new; August 7, 2008)
- [IS-813 Emergency Support Function \(ESF\) #13 – Public Safety and Security Annex](#) (new; August 7, 2008)
- [IS-775 EOC Management and Operations](#) (new; August 6, 2008)
- [IS-100.a Introduction to Incident Command System](#) (revised; July 28, 2008)
- [IS-100.LEa Introduction to Incident Command System, for Law Enforcement](#) (revised; July 28, 2008)
- [IS-100.PWa Introduction to Incident Command System for Public Works Personnel](#) (revised; July 28, 2008)
- [IS-100.SCa Introduction to Incident Command System, for Schools](#) (revised; July 28, 2008)
- [IS-200.a ICS for Single Resources and Initial Action Incidents](#) (revised; July 28, 2008)
- [IS-812 Emergency Support Function \(ESF\) # 12 Energy](#) (revised; May 21, 2008)
- [IS-809 Emergency Support Function \(ESF\) #9 – Search and Rescue](#) (May 21, 2008)
- [IS-808 Emergency Support Function \(ESF\) #8 – Public Health and Medical Services](#) (April 11, 2008)
- [IS-804 Emergency Support Function \(ESF\) #4 – Firefighting](#) (April 11, 2008)
- [IS-800.B National Response Framework, An Introduction](#) (February 4, 2008)

In addition, two basic ICS courses specifically designed for public health and medical personnel are available from FEMA:

- [ICS-100HC - Introduction to ICS for Healthcare/Hospitals](#)

- [ICS-200HC - Applying ICS to Healthcare Organizations](#)

For more information on FEMA courses available online, visit <http://training.fema.gov/IS/>.

FEMA Revises National Incident Management System

Adapted from FEMA press release, December 18, 2008

On December 18, 2008, FEMA released a revised National Incident Management System (NIMS). NIMS provides a consistent nationwide mechanism for Federal, State, tribal and local governments, and private sector and nongovernmental organizations to effectively work together to prepare for, respond to and recover from emergency incidents. The basic tenets of NIMS remain unchanged, but the revision includes several key changes, such as:

- Expansion and clarification of existing NIMS concepts.
- Differentiation between the purposes of NIMS and the National Response Framework (NRF) by identifying how NIMS provides the action template for the management of incidents, while the NRF provides the structure and mechanisms for national-level policy for incident management.
- Greater emphasis is placed on the role of preparedness.
- The order of NIMS components has been reorganized to mirror the progression of an incident.
- Integration of private sector partners and NGOs has been more fully integrated throughout NIMS.

For more information on the NIMS revision, see the following:

- http://www.fema.gov/pdf/emergency/nims/NIMS_PressRelease.pdf
- http://www.fema.gov/pdf/emergency/nims/NIMS_FactSheet.pdf
- http://www.fema.gov/pdf/emergency/nims/NIMS_WhatsNew.pdf
- http://www.fema.gov/pdf/emergency/nims/NIMS_FAQs.pdf
- http://www.fema.gov/pdf/emergency/nims/NIMS_core.pdf