

MEDICAL RESERVE CORPS

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

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HAPPY NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK!

To celebrate National Volunteer Week, the LLHD MRC is launching a bi-monthly newsletter. The newsletter will provide information about upcoming activities and highlight volunteer accomplishments. If you would like an upcoming activity published to share with fellow volunteers, please contact Heather with details.

National Volunteer Week reflects the power that volunteers have to “inspire by example” — volunteers both encourage those they help and motivate others to serve! This year's theme is "Volunteer to Change the World". National Volunteer Week was created in 1974 when President Richard Nixon signed an executive order to establish the week as an annual celebration of volunteering. Every year since that time, each U.S. President, along with many governors, mayors and other elected officials, has signed a proclamation promoting National Volunteer Week.

A MESSAGE FROM THE U.S. SURGEON GENERAL:

In recognition of National Volunteer Week, I wish to express my sincere gratitude for your on-going work in support of the Medical Reserve Corps. Your selfless actions and kind hearts contribute greatly to the well-being of your neighbors and communities.

RADM Steven K. Galson, Acting U.S. Surgeon General

BRIEF MRC HISTORY

After the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, many medical and public health professional sought to support emergency relief efforts, but there was no organized approach to channel their efforts. As a result, volunteers were turned away from assisting. The MRC program provides the structure necessary to deploy medical and public health personnel in response to an emergency, as it identifies specific, trained, credentialed personnel to respond to emergencies. The MRC is a specialized component of Citizen Corps, a national network of volunteers dedicated to ensuring hometown security.

The MRC is a nationwide, community-based organization. The MRC is sponsored by the Office of the Surgeon General. The Office of the Civilian Volunteer Medical Reserve Corps oversees activities of the ten MRC Regional Coordinators, who collaborate with state and local-level emergency preparedness and response personnel. When possible, the MRC collaborates with local Citizen Corps Councils to better protect, prepare, and serve communities.

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MRC TRAINING & LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

Portland, OR – As the new LLHD MRC Unit Leader, Heather Kozlowski attended the National MRC Leadership and Training Conference in Portland, Oregon. This was a week-long conference that focused on special populations, marketing, volunteer training, and networking with other MRC leaders.

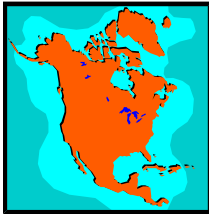
During the conference,

Heather attended specific sessions covering many topics—Elements of Sustainability, Health Department Information Sharing, Units and the Tribal Assistance Coordination Group, MRC-TRAIN Leadership Training, and Principles of Volunteer Management.

Having only been in this new position for a week, the timing of the confer-

ence was perfect. This was a great way for Heather to learn from others' experiences and ensure the longevity and success of our local MRC. As a group, we will all be benefiting from this experience. Keep your eyes peeled for new ways to get involved with the MRC and check the [website](#) regularly for updates.

NATIONAL MRC HEADLINES



Sonoma County, CA- MRC volunteers participated in a statewide hospital earthquake exercise (Golden Guardian). MRC volunteers also drilled a standardized licensing and credentialing process and START disaster triage skills with local hospitals.

Las Vegas, NV- MRC volunteers from the Las Vegas unit staffed medical tents at the Silverman Nevada Full Distance Triathlon. Several athletes were treated for hypothermia and exhaustion.

Coventry, RI - The Rhode Island MRC was activated for the recent meningitis outbreak. In total, the MRC members saw about 1200 children and family members at the elementary school, and did house calls for bloods draws and throat swabs for about 100 more.

Stories from [MRC website](#)

MRC LEADERS

The LLHD MRC is looking for volunteers who would like to be more active and serve as leaders. Duties may include staffing health fairs, providing orientation for new members, assisting with educational campaigns, and being the face of the MRC to the community. MRC leaders will

play the important role of helping to develop our MRC into a local asset. No two MRCs are the same; each MRC is tailored to the needs of the community it serves.

MRC Leaders will also have the opportunity to attend conferences and

other special events sponsored by the MRC. The great part of this organization is that you can dedicate as much or as little of yourself as you'd like. If you are interested in becoming a leader, please contact Heather.



BACKGROUND CHECKS

Waterford—One of the main components of a volunteer becoming registered with the MRC is a background check. This is to ensure patient safety during a vulnerable period. The LLHD MRC has been in contact with Chief Murray Pendleton, Waterford Police Department. Chief Pendleton will be conducting the background checks through the State Of Connecticut Department of Public Safety.

LLHD MRC is still in the

process of finding a facility or agency to perform the license verifications for medical professionals.

For volunteers who are already signed the acknowledgment form, you will be receiving a “Volunteer Criminal History Request and Authorization Form” in the mail. Please fill this out and return to Heather as soon as possible. For volunteers who have not already signed the acknowledgment form, it has

been included in the new orientation packets.

Our apologies for this repeat of information for the background checks to the individuals who have already completed the application process. We thank you for your understanding and prompt return of the new authorization form.



CONGRATULATIONS!

We would like to acknowledge the volunteers who have already completed their ICS 100 training online! These volunteers include:

Ira Haas

Ginny Haas

Nancy MacDonald

Nancy Padegenis

Kim Stone

And some have even completed the ICS 700! These volunteers include:

Ira Haas

Nancy MacDonald

Nancy Padegenis

Kim Stone

It's great to see that the training for our MRC is underway!

If you have completed these courses, but were not listed, please send Heather a copy of your completion certificates.

If you're having any trouble creating an account on [MRC TRAIN](#) or completing these courses online, please contact Heather for troubleshooting tips and assistance.

Please note that many courses on TRAIN offer CEU/CE credits!

Never doubt that a small group of committed people can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.

- Margaret Mead

LAUNCHING AN ONLINE ORIENTATION SESSION!

We have had several successful classroom orientation sessions. However, in an effort to reach more volunteers, we will be launching an online orientation session.

This will be on the LLHD website on the [MRC page](#). It will take you about a half an hour to complete. This orientation session includes all

the information that is being discussed at the classroom sessions. Topics include the history of the MRC, why LLHD is in need of an MRC, how to register to become a volunteer, and what is required of volunteers.

Upon completion of this orientation session, there will be an “Orientation Packet” for

you to print with helpful resources that will expand upon the information in the orientation. The materials include important websites/phone numbers and a guide for registering for the online training program.

This new orientation will be available in late May!



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WE'RE ON THE WEB!

The LLHD MRC is dedicated to providing trained clinical trained volunteers who will respond during a public health emergency.

VOLUNTEER ORIENTATIONS

March/April – To date, there have been three successful orientation sessions! Attendees included nurses, doctors, EMTs, paramedics, engineers, mental health workers, teachers, and contractors. It is very exciting to have such a wide variety of people interested in the LLHD MRC!

The orientation sessions reviewed what the MRC is, how it works locally, what is needed from volunteers, and the training process. Discussions after the orientation covered interesting topics such as coordination with CERT groups and other commitments, alternative methods to completing training online, the history of Ledge Light Health District, and how medical conditions can be accommodated during volunteer deployment.

Many volunteers have hit the ground running! Several have already completed the application, registered for an [MRC-TRAIN](#) account, and completed the online training. For those of you who requested class-room training, we are hoping to have enough people to fill a class and hold it at the end of May or beginning of June.

HELPFUL ACRONYMS

There are so many acronyms in public health, even professionals have a hard time keeping them all straight! Here is a list of some acronyms you may come across as an MRC volunteer:

APHA American Public Health Association
ARC American Red Cross
BOHTI Board of Health Training Institute
BT Bioterrorism
CDC Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
CERT Community Emer-

gency Response Team
BIA Bureau of Indian Affairs
BT Bioterrorism
CPHP Center for Public Health Preparedness
DHS Department of Homeland Security
DMAT Disaster Medical Assistance Team
ESAR-VHP Emergency System for Advance Registration of Volunteer Health Professionals
ESF Emergency Support Function

FEMA Federal Emergency Management Agency
HAN Health Alert Network
HHS Department of Health and Human Services
ICS Incident Command System
MCE Mass Casualty Event
NACCHO National Association of County and City Health Officials
NGO Non-Governmental Organization

NIMS National Incident Management System
OPHEP Office of Public Health Emergency Preparedness
POD Point of Distribution/Dispensing
SNS Strategic National Stockpile
SOP Standard Operating Procedure
TRAIN TrainingFinder Real-time Affiliate Integrated Network
WHO World Health Organization