

April 2009



MEDICAL RESERVE CORPS VOLUNTEER NEWSLETTER

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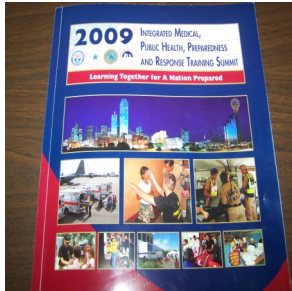
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EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS SUMMIT Debra M. Tscheschlok, R.N., B.S.N.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services sponsored the 2009 Integrated Medical, Public Health, Preparedness and Response Training Summit. The goal was "to provide a national training summit for full-time, intermittent and other potential Federal, State and local responders as well as the leaders of the various component organizations."

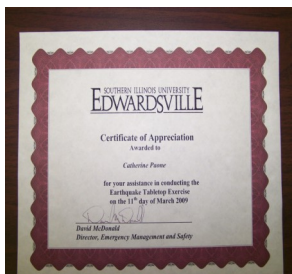
The cost to attend the conference was picked up by National Association of County and City Health Officials (**NACCHO**), which is the national organization representing local health departments. I was fortunate that they made this funding available to me since the Medical Reserve Corps program is essentially an unfunded program and we need to attend these conferences to stay up on current trends. One thing I learned at the conference is that federal expectations for the MRC are changing. They would like to see more online training available to volunteers, see volunteers in a state registry, and would like to be able to mobilize volunteers that want to be mobilized to other states as needed. At the federal level, they are even beginning to do exercises with volunteers. They want all volunteers in their state registries once they are up and running correctly. Locally, we will, also, try to move forward in these areas as we are able to do so and will keep you informed of any changes we make. This will be good news for some volunteers and not so for others who want less involvement. It is my intent to meet the needs of both as we plan our future course.



SUMMIT



TRAINING



EXERCISE



**HEALTH
FAIR**

ACTIVITIES

It has been a very busy winter for MRC Staff and Volunteers.

Cathy Paone, MRC Volunteer Coordinator, attended the MRC-IL meeting in Springfield on January 30, 2009. Region 5 and State reports were given and additional training opportunities were announced. Each attending MRC unit gave an update on recent/current/future activities. Many ideas for possible future activities for our unit were noted. Oh, the directions we can go!

Eleven volunteers attended the Orientation Training session held at the Madison County Health Department on February 9, 2009. All received the newly developed Volunteer Handbook and Training Manual. It was so nice to be able to meet all our new volunteers.

In March, Debra and Cathy assisted in conducting a tabletop emergency response exercise at SIUE and Cathy participated in the Fourth Grade Health Fair at Meadowbrook Intermediate School.

We continue to work on updating our Volunteer files. If you have any additions, corrections or updates, please, call or e-mail Cathy (618-296-6096, cmpaone@co.madison.il.us).

RECRUITMENT HELP

We are still seeking volunteers for the Madison County Medical Reserve Corps. We currently have 150 volunteers; far away from our overall goal of 1000 volunteers. If each of our current volunteers could recruit one additional volunteer in the next six months, we would be at 30% of our goal! Existing volunteers are the best recruiters!!! If you know anyone, who wishes to participate and become a Madison County Health Department MRC volunteer, please, have them call Cathy Paone, MRC Volunteer Coordinator at 618-296-6096 or e-mail her at cmpaone@co.madison.il.us. Thank you!

NATIONAL ESAR-VHP

The MRC web site (www.medicalreservecorps.gov) provided the following information about the "Integration of the Medical Reserve Corps and the Emergency System for Advance Registration of Volunteer Health Professionals."

The National Emergency System for Advance Registration of Volunteer Health Professionals (ESAR-VHP) program "provides guidance and assistance for the development of standardized State-based programs for registering and verifying the credentials of volunteer health professionals in advance of an emergency or disaster. Each State program collects and verifies information on the identity, licensure status, privileges, and credentials of volunteers. The establishment of State programs built to a common set of National standards gives each State the ability to quickly identify and assist in the coordination of volunteer health professionals in an emergency. State ESAR-VHP programs are intended to serve as the state-wide mechanism for tying together the registration and credential information of all potential health professional volunteers in a State. States may include non-health professional volunteers in their registries."

MRC and ESAR-VHP leaders have determined the system that works best for our local and State jurisdiction. We will continue to update you on the Illinois ESAR-VHP registration process.

HANDBOOK AND TRAINING MANUALS

Our new Volunteer Handbook and Training Manual is now available to all volunteers who have completed an Orientation Training session. All materials have been updated and will serve as a great refresher course on our MRC unit, Public Health 101, Incident Command System, Strategic National Stockpile, and Family Preparedness. Please, call us to schedule a date and time to pick up your copy.

"The great success of the MRC program really belongs to you. Without your community public health, preparedness, response, and outreach activities, the program would not be nearly as visible or viable."

CAPT Rob Tosatto

Director

*Office of the
Civilian Volunteer
Medical Reserve
Corps*

TRAINING OPPORTUNITY

CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) training will be available at Anderson Hospital. The class is scheduled to begin May 5, 2009 and will run for eight consecutive Tuesdays from 7:00 to 9:30 PM. If you are interested or have further questions, please, call Eric Brandmeyer, Assistant Director—ED, Anderson Hospital, 618-391-6516. www.citizencorps.gov/cert

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS KITS

The National Office of Citizen Corps, FEMA Community Preparedness Division recently came out with an article "Does your Emergency Preparedness Kit Contain Recalled or Expired Items?" They recommended that in light of the recent peanut recall, citizens should go to the Food and Drug Administration's web site (<http://www.accessdata.fda.gov/scripts/peanutbutterrecall/index.cfm>) to check for any recalled peanut products and, also, check your kits for expired or other possible recalled items (www.recalls.gov). It is important that you, your family, and your pets be prepared with safely stocked kits!

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