

PALMETTO

The Newsletter of the
South Carolina Medical
Reserve Corps

PREPAREDNESS



Getting Ready for 2015

By Deborah Beasley, State Volunteer Coordinator

Although South Carolina made it through the past year without any major disasters, we need to remember to stay vigilant and ready to respond.

Being “ready” is all about personal preparedness. This means keeping informed, making a plan and building a kit. According to FEMA’s 2012 report¹ on personal preparedness, at least 55 percent of Americans now understand the need to plan for disasters.

What can our MRCs do to be better prepared?

First of all, ensure your profiles are up-to-date in SCSERV, including contact information so we can reach you when needed. Please be sure to update every page.

Are you participating in drills, exercises and training? We are trying to make training easier and more convenient by offering online training through eLearning. Have you logged into your account and taken a class yet? If not, please contact your local volunteer coordinator for more information and assistance.

These are just a few ways to be prepared. Remember it starts at home and then branches out into the community.

Thank you for volunteering to work with public health! As always, it is a pleasure working with you, and I look forward to strengthening our partnership in 2015.

¹ FEMA (2012). FEMA National Survey Report, Research Findings: What Have We Learned? Page 6. Retrieved on Jan. 7, 2015 from www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/83190

In This Issue:

Getting Ready for 2015	1
Welcome DCVMRC, from ASPR!.....	2
SC Veterinary Reserve Corps	2
Upcoming Behavioral Health Team Training	2
News from the Midlands Region MRC	3
News from the Western Piedmont MRC	4
News from the Pee Dee MRC.....	5
News from the Lowcountry MRC	6

Welcome DCVMRC, from ASPR!

Nicole Lurie, M.D., M.S.P.H. Assistant Secretary for
Preparedness and Response
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services



I'd like to welcome, officially, the entire Medical Reserve Corps network to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR).

In ASPR, we take great pride in building resilience and strengthening health security in our communities. We want health to withstand all types of hazards, from natural disasters to emerging infectious diseases, and we recognize that our nation's readiness depends in large part on having strong, day-to-day systems. With your focus on public health every day and your support for communities in times of need, the MRC network fits perfectly into the ASPR family.



Also, check out this YouTube video welcome to the MRC from ASPR and OEM:
<http://youtu.be/rmffCwdvgAg>

Already, MRC contributes to resilience and health security in many ways. MRC units have been working to educate community members on Ebola and help state and local health departments respond to public concern. Year after year, you support influenza vaccination clinics. You sponsor community-wide training events on preparedness, and so much more.

The relationship forged with the Office of the Surgeon General adds value to ASPR's mission, and your support system grows in this transition to ASPR.

MRC's community connections, fostered over the past 12 years, are appreciated and admired within ASPR. MRC brings an outstanding history of service, dedication and volunteerism. I know I speak for the rest of ASPR in saying that we are proud and excited to have MRC join our ASPR family. Welcome home!

South Carolina Veterinary Reserve Corps

In mid-September the Division of the Civilian Volunteer Medical Reserve Corps approved addition of a new South Carolina MRC unit. This unit is the South Carolina Veterinary Reserve Corps (SCVRC).

The purpose of the SCVRC is to supplement emergency response efforts by providing a specialty unit of trained volunteers who can assist with animal-related issues in disasters. The unit will be comprised of veterinarians, veterinary technicians, animal care assistants, veterinary practice managers and others who have interest and experience in animal issues. The scope of the VRC is intended to be statewide but will be tailored to the county, regional or state level as determined by the scale of the emergency event.

The unit director, along with the unit coordinator and unit lead veterinarian, are currently developing recruiting materials and other resources and plans necessary to build the unit. They look forward to interacting with all other S.C. MRC units in coming months and years.

For more information about this new unit, please contact Marie Queen at marie.queen@scav.org and (803) 254-1027.

DHEC Training Announcement for DHEC Behavioral Health

Robert Carlton, the State Social Work/Disaster Behavioral Health consultant has started planning for regional behavioral health training for DHEC Behavioral Health Teams, and key behavioral health community partners. A one-day training curriculum and table top discussion will be developed to increase cohesion among trauma responders and enhance their ability to provide evidence-based interventions as part of a potential coordinated regional response.

The training events will be offered in each of the regions and will focus on the impacts of disaster trauma and the behavioral health aspects of a mass fatality/casualty event.

Details, including the dates, times and locations, are still being worked out. However, our goal is to complete the training events by the end of July 2015.

Stay tuned for more information from your local MRC volunteer coordinator as Robert plans this next-step training for the DHEC Behavioral Health Teams.

News from the Midlands Region MRC

By Scott T. Phillips, Volunteer Coordinator

Greetings! The South Carolina Midlands Region MRC has been hard at work over the last year, participating in over 56 activities. From attending local meetings to full-scale exercises, the S.C. Midlands Region MRC is making the Midlands of South Carolina a more prepared and safer place to live!

Activities

Active Shooter Drill at Palmetto Health Richland, January 24, 2014

MRC volunteers participated as patient actors in this active shooter drill at Palmetto Health Richland hospital.

Fort Jackson POD Exercise, February 3, 2014

MRC volunteers braved the cold and rain with members of the Moncrief Army Community Hospital and Columbia Metropolitan Medical Response System to practice the dispensing of antibiotics.

Points of Dispensing (POD) Lead Call-down Drill, March 27, 2014

MRC volunteers, designated as POD leads, exercised to see how quickly they could respond to an aerosolized anthrax event and then report findings back to the local health department.

Statewide Hurricane Exercise, June 3, 2014

MRC volunteers assisted with setting-up a Special Medical Needs Shelter at Aiken Regional Medical Center.

Post Office BDS Exercise, July 23, 2014

MRC volunteers helped set-up a POD at the West Columbia Post Office in response to an anthrax event. Unloading and loading the response trailer, assisting the clients through the POD, and easing the minds of those contaminated was all part of the exercise.

DHEC Flu Clinics, October 2014

MRC volunteers assisted DHEC staff in administering flu vaccine to DHEC employees. Volunteers not only administered vaccines but helped with gathering and compiling medical paper work.

BluMed/Communications Exercise, February 5-6, 2015

This joint BluMed/Communications exercise at the S.C. Fire Academy included partners from Aiken Regional Medical Center, Midlands Regional Medical Assistance Team, Piedmont Medical Center, and the Midlands Region MRC. Friday morning's exercise focused on redundant communication capabilities with partners from SCHEART, Midlands Incident Management Team, Columbia Metropolitan Medical Response System, and Aiken County.

Upcoming Activities

NDMS Exercise

The National Disaster Medical System (NDMS) full-scale exercise is scheduled for May 12-13, 2015. This exercise allows for volunteer physicians, nurses, and respiratory therapists to integrate in a federal response centered on a large scale event involving our local NDMS hospitals.

Amateur Radio Training Net and Healthcare Coalition Meetings

The Amateur Radio Training net and Midlands Region Healthcare Coalition meeting are held every Thursday at 9 a.m., and the first Friday of the month. Volunteers who participate in each activity on a regular basis add to the preparedness of the Midlands Region of South Carolina.



Carole Crow (left) and Craig Scott (middle) assist with the USC Flu Clinic on October 2, 2014

News from the Western Piedmont MRC

By Joanne Hobbick, Volunteer Coordinator

NDMS Spring Exercise 2014

The Western Piedmont MRC Behavioral Health Team partnered with the S.C. Department of Mental Health for the National Disaster Medical System (NDMS) exercise held at Greenville Spartanburg Airport in Greer, South Carolina. This was the first time a behavioral health tent was set up and manned in our region NDMS exercise. MRC volunteers provided mental health assessment and triage for arriving patients who had been evacuated from an earthquake in Kentucky. Volunteers also provided assessment of emergency staff through direct observation teams. The command staff of the exercise said the volunteer input during the hot wash was highly valued and would be addressed in future operating procedures. Our Behavioral Health Team and partners did a wonderful job.

Lander University Well Check Teams and Closed POD Exercise

The MRC activity group at Lander University held their 2014 exercise on campus. The exercise concluded a three-year project on setting up a closed point of dispensing (POD) on campus, and included a Well Check Team initiative. Advised by Dr. Robbie South and Dr. Leslie Myers of the Lander Nursing Department, the MRC activity group partnered with the Presbyterian Pharmacy School to provide medicine to students, faculty and staff at a point of dispensing. The group also tested their unique Well Check Team assessment forms developed during their fall training. Well Check Teams traveled across campus to residence halls assessing the needs and health of student residents and reporting findings to the Well Check Team command center for further triage. The Lander faculty, staff, and students completed the exercise with a hot wash, offering keen observations and findings that were developed into a great 2014 fall semester training.



Photo: Allen Barbare, Deborah Derrick (MRC State Volunteer Coordinator), Barbara Barham, Lynette Rowland, James Colbert, Amber Pennington, Beverly Burton, Karen Hubbard, Kristin James (Spartanburg DMH), Natasha Patino (Greenville DMH), Joanne Hobbick (MRC Volunteer Coordinator). Taking the picture: Robert Carlton, DHEC State Disaster Behavioral Health Coordinator.

Call Down Drills 2014

Thank you all for participating in our quarterly call down drills. The unit participation was wonderful with volunteers providing timely responses to our call down requests. Call down drills provide our unit the opportunity to understand the number of our volunteers available should we be deployed. Also, the drills allow us to test our use of technology as we did with the eLearning drill, which had a wonderful response. I look forward to your participation in our 2015 drills. Thank you for being a part of the Western Piedmont MRC.

- Joanne M. Hobbick

News from the Lowcountry MRC

By Barb Grube, Volunteer Coordinator

Hampton County Active-Shooter Drill

In an effort to improve readiness and build on local capacity to respond to an active-shooter incident, Hampton County and school officials conducted a full scale exercise at Estill High School on October 31, 2014. The scenario involved two armed students seeking revenge against students and teachers they believed had bullied them. One exercise objective was to evaluate the ability to open and operate a reunification center as well as provide crisis counseling for all affected individuals.

As part of this objective, the Lowcountry MRC received a "request for volunteers" to supplement Hampton County and Estill High School behavioral health staff. Margaret Martin, Lori McFadden, Lindy Williamson, and MRC Behavioral Health Team volunteers participated in the exercise response administering psychological first aid to students and their families.

Lowcountry MRC Volunteers Complete Behavioral Health Team Orientation

Congratulations to the following Lowcountry MRC volunteers for completing the MRC Behavioral Health Team Orientation: Larry Groves, Shelley Lemerande, Jack Lieb, Lori McFadden, Kathryn Maday, Susan Miller, Barb Whitnack and Lindy Williamson. For information on how you may become part of the Lowcountry MRC BH Team, contact Barb Grube.

2014 Hurricane Expos

Lowcountry MRC volunteers participated in community 2014 Hurricane Expos at MUSC, Prince of Orange Mall, and area Lowe's and Walmart stores. Our members distributed emergency food supply shopping lists and hosted children's preparedness games from Ready.gov including "Build Your Kit" and "Hidden Treasures." Volunteers spoke to residents about the role of the MRC, volunteer opportunities and all-hazards preparedness. Many thanks to the following volunteers for participating: Lindy Williamson, Barbara Whitnack, Mary Tinley, Lori McFadden, Shelley Lemerande, Dr. Sewell Kahn, Dale Fletcher, and Jason Block.



MRC Volunteers participate in the 2014 Hurricane Expo at MUSC.

Visit our newly redesigned website for DHEC and SCSERV at www.scdhec.gov and www.scserv.gov.

Thank you for reading
Palmetto Preparedness,
The Newsletter of the South Carolina Medical
Reserve Corps.

