

PALMETTO

The Newsletter of the
South Carolina Public
Health Reserve Corps

PREPAREDNESS



10 Year Anniversary: SC Public Health Reserve Corps

Dear South Carolinians,

The Public Health Reserve Corps (PHRC) invites you to help us celebrate our ten-year anniversary by recognizing and congratulating our volunteers. Our disaster volunteers are special members of our communities who train, exercise, and deploy to support the Public Health needs of our state during disasters and public health outreach activities.

We also celebrate those who support PHRC disaster volunteer engagement: the employers who allow volunteers time off and cover their shifts, volunteers' families who manage home schedules and routines to cover a volunteer's absence and our public health program managers and staff who provide volunteers with 'Just in Time' training and manage on site activities. We thank you all for being an extended member of our PHRC family and your dedicated support.

PHRC volunteers are determined and committed. Over the last ten years PHRC volunteers were present at numerous events: providing behavioral health support at the Diamond Sugar Refinery fire, giving immunizations at H1N1 points of dispensing and later at seasonal flu clinics, educating coastal communities on hurricane evacuation planning and preparedness, partnering with the American Red Cross to support shelters during hurricane Matthew, providing tetanus shots during the 2015 flood, and maintaining a presence with their regional Healthcare Coalitions and Volunteer Organizations Active in Disasters.

Looking forward, we pledge to increase volunteer outreach opportunities, support your public health campaigns, and link you to local exercises and training opportunities. Thank you for all you do for the citizens of South Carolina!

Sincerely,
The PHRC State and Regional Volunteer Coordinators

In This Issue:

10 Year Anniversary: SC Public Health Reserve Corps.....	2
Volunteers Needed: PHRC-Logistics Strike Teams	3
PHRC Upcoming Events.....	3
News from the Upstate PHRC	4
News from the Midlands PHRC	5
News from the Pee Dee PHRC	7
News from the Low Country PHRC...	8
South Carolina Veterinary Reserve Corps (SCVRC).....	10
Summer Heats Up and So Do Our Pets	11

Volunteers Needed: PHRC-Logistics Strike Teams



If you're a PHRC volunteer really looking for an opportunity to become actively engaged in DHEC's disaster response operation, then joining a PHRC Logistics Strike Team (PHRC-LST) is for you!

What is the Role of Logistics?

Logistics provides all the support needs for an incident, such as ordering resources and providing facilities, transportation, supplies, equipment maintenance and fuel, food service, and communications.

As a member of the PHRC-LST, you will assist DHEC in providing a variety of job functions including Blu-Med Trailer and POD construct and disassembly, equipment maintenance, warehousing, inventory, material handling, transportation, food service, communications and general administrative support.

Why a Strike Team?

This strike team offers an opportunity for small group interaction and provides for better alignment with member expertise and interest. The development of the PHRC-LST provides a structure for targeted training, operational planning, and exercises.

Who Can Join?

Anyone who doesn't mind working outdoors in hot and cold temperatures and can lift and carry twenty-five pounds. Or, depending on the task, you may sit for hours at a time at an emergency operations center.

How Can I Learn More or Sign-up?

If you would like to know more about this great opportunity or how to become involved, contact your regional PHRC Volunteer Coordinator or Deborah Beasley at (803) 898-4472 and beasleds@dhec.sc.gov.

PHRC Upcoming Events

Annual Hospital Preparedness Program Summit

May 25-26, 2017

Sponsored by the South Carolina Society for Healthcare Emergency Management (SCSHEM) and South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC)



This year we are honored to present CAPT Patrick Denis, with the US Public Health Service and Executive Officer of the national Medical Reserve Corps Program, as a guest speaker. CAPT Denis will present on May 25th from 10 - 11 a.m.

Registration for the summit is free. If you would like to attend, please contact your local PHRC Volunteer Coordinator.

Persons With Access And Functional Needs (PAFN) Emergency Preparedness Survey

During the month of April and May 2017, PHRC volunteers from across the state will be conducting a PAFN emergency preparedness survey project.

The purpose of the survey is to help DHEC measure the preparedness level of individuals who are home-bound and electricity dependent and to provide emergency preparedness information with potential Special Medical Needs Shelter shelterees.

The project will take place in two phases. First volunteers will conduct a door-to-door campaign to obtain callback numbers from potential survey participants. The second phase will be to conduct the telephone survey. If you are interested in participating in this survey project, please contact your regional Volunteer Coordinator or Deborah Beasley at beasleds@dhec.sc.gov and 803-898-4472.

News from the Upstate PHRC

By Joanne Hobbick, Volunteer Coordinator

Upstate PHRC: 'Notes From The Field'

by Lee Anne Hagan with Paula Spitz

Hurricane Matthew left hundreds of thousands of displaced citizens and travelers without shelter, food, or water. I was very fortunate to have been able to volunteer for the victims of Hurricane Matthew along with a fellow volunteer and RN, Michelle Spitz (both members of PHRC-MRC). We lent our support to the American Red Cross in shelters, working around the clock to provide necessary aide and treatment to individuals and families. They had found themselves temporarily homeless, without electricity, needing medical care, or suddenly stranded on their way through our state on buses that could not travel any further due to the hurricane.

Michelle and I worked 24 hours a day, resting on cots in the first aid room of the shelter. We administered medications, checked blood sugars, helped patients with respiratory equipment, evaluated conditions, and determined if and when they needed to be transported to hospitals.

It was exhausting work, but I would volunteer again in a heartbeat.



Lee Anne Hagan, RN
Med/Surg at Oconee
Memorial Hospital of
Greenville Hospital System



Michelle 'Paula' Spitz, RN
Tri-County Technical College
Faculty LPN program.
AnMed Rehabilitation
Hospital -Anderson

Upstate PHRC Deployment Training Honor Roll

Congratulations to the Upstate Public Health Reserve Corps volunteers who have completed their deployment training: Background check, Orientation, FEMA Incident Command ICS 100, National Incident Management NIMS 700, DHEC's Role in Emergency Operations, HIPAA 202, and OSHA Hazardous Communications Standard, Agency Employee Safety.

Alisha Hime
Michael Brown
Steven Brown
Latasha Bomar
Donald Crowl
Janet Dickson
Leigh Freeman
Barbara Freese
Germaine Gilbert
Susan Going
Shelley Grund
Danielle Harris
Deborah Harley
Catherine Henderson
Linda Hutton
Johnny Johnson

Josilla Johnson
Brittany Kay
Joel Livesay
Katheryn Long
Ruth Martin
Linda Moskow
Suzie Nickerson
Marie O'Dell
Bhargav Pandya
John Penman
Amber Pennington
Edwina Rowland
Kathryn Smathers
Michelle Paula Spitz
Deanne Williams
Roger Williams

Welcome On Board!

The Upstate PHRC shouts out to our new volunteers:

Stalena Walton, RN (Cherokee County)
Julia Stewart, EMT (Greenville County)
Brandy Hood, Pharmacy Tech (Spartanburg County)
Jenna Gettings, Veterinarian (Anderson County)
Debra Pruestel, EMT (Greenville County)

April First Quarter Meetings:

The dates and site for our April first quarter meetings will be sent out in our March housekeeping notes and posted on the calendar at www.scserv.gov. Our badge maker is up and running with the new DHEC logo and we will be remaking badges during the April meetings. Looking forward to seeing you there.

UPSTATE PHRC partnership with HOSA: Health Occupation Students of America

The Upstate PHRC unit participated in a partnership with Cherokee county's Blacksburg High School HOSA team for their Medical Reserve Corps project. The HOSA team's goal was to identify how to make a public health outreach campaign more effective. They concluded that a public health campaign could reach more people if the outreach message and tools were creative. The students then chose three public health concerns: distracted driving, opioid abuse, and Zika. Next, they developed the creative tools that encouraged participants to learn about the public health issue, encouraged participation of targeted audiences, and increased awareness of the issue's effect on local communities.

The team's campaign toolbox held surveys, PowerPoint videos, posters, gift cards, cut out mosquitos, partnership campaigns, brochures, and handouts - all of which they developed. Finally, the students used their campaign toolbox at local colleges, high schools, middle schools, and community events. One example of their creative tools was to cut out green paper mosquitos that were numbered on the back. At a local high school basketball game, the students handed the paper mosquitos out. During half time the school principal allowed the team to speak briefly on Zika prevention and call out the number for winning a mosquito prevention gift basket. Great job HOSA at Blacksburg High School!



From left to right: Heaven Marks - Senior, Taylor Sanford - Senior, Kimberly Jones - Junior

News from the Midlands PHRC

By Scott Phillips, Volunteer Coordinator

The South Carolina Midlands Region PHRC has been busy the last few years and with every real-life event, training, or exercise, our volunteers have been with the Region every step of the way. From Tropical Storm Hermine to Hurricane Matthew in 2016, having robust men and women ready to heed the call to serve their fellow citizens makes the planning and response that much more engaging. Imagine, 300 gung-ho, fully trained volunteers chasing you down to accept the challenge during a response. That is Midlands Region!

Recent Activities—from June 2016

Healthcare Coalition

Monthly- volunteers are actively engaged in our Healthcare Coalition meetings in Lexington every first Friday of the month. They provide input and guidance for the program as well as learn about other community partners and how they fit into ESF-8. Volunteers are also actively engaged in the SCHEART Amateur Radio Training Net every Thursday morning at 9:30. This Healthcare Emergency Training Net allows those operators interested in responding to sharpen their skills with their radios.

Richland County Vector Control (6/20)

Zika, the mosquito-borne virus, became a hot topic last year, and when volunteers were needed to assist the Richland County Vector Control program with container-breeding surveys, Roger Mull ran with it! With the *Aedes albopictus* and *Aedes aegypti* breeding in anything holding water (tires, roof gutters, plant pots, bird baths to name a few), having extra hands on deck to notify residents of their potential breeding sources made those communities much safer from the disease. Good job Roger! www.cdc.gov/zika/



CPR/AED Training (7/16)

A way of giving back to the volunteers for their unselfish service—a free CPR/AED training is provided every year during the summer. Through cooperation with the American Heart Association

and PHRC volunteer Craig Scott, eleven volunteers took the 4-hour training and became certified. Once we firm up details, notification will be sent out for one in summer 2017!

South University Training Event (8/26)

Five volunteers assisted South University's annual training event by providing their expertise in Behavioral Health during disasters; being runners for the event and assisting in communications amongst the other participants; and being on standby for First Aid.



PHRC Volunteer Jeff Rose

DHEC Employee Flu Shot Campaign (October)

To get ahead of the impending Influenza season, two volunteers made themselves available throughout the month of October to travel around to multiple DHEC facilities to assist with inoculations. By assisting with this campaign, the volunteers made the DHEC community a safer place for clients to visit.



Gary Lennert, Buddy Witherspoon at USC Flu Clinic

Hurricane Matthew Response (10/6-12)

By living in South Carolina our state is fully aware of the potential for hurricanes from June 1st until November 30th. Once Hurricane Matthew skirted by our coast, our response ramped up throughout the state. Although the majority of that response was focused on the coastal region, our volunteers were placed on standby to assist. Four volunteers stepped up to potentially staff a county Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and drive to Charleston on the Columbia Fire Department Metropolitan Medical Response (MMRS) Evacuation bus to transport people back to Columbia. Even though neither had to be done, the volunteers were at the ready to assist.

USC Flu Clinic (11/9)

Previously cancelled as a result of Hurricane Matthew, four volunteers assisted in standing up the POD and providing 230 shots to University of South Carolina students. Although late in the season, the flu clinic was deemed a success!

TEEX MGT 319 Mass Prophylaxis Preparedness & Planning Course (12/15-16)

Four volunteers had the opportunity to sharpen their knowledge of what it takes to work in a POD and participated in an exercise to apply what they learned. Since PODs are a main staple in our response, it was great to see volunteers get ready to step up when needed!

UPCOMING MIDLANDS PHRC ACTIVITIES

As we get closer to warmer weather, the opportunities for volunteers will increase with exercises and trainings. Currently we are looking at volunteer participation in the National Disaster Medical System (NDMS) in May as we have done every other year in Columbia and offering the CPR/AED course as mentioned above. With 42 activities last year, we hope 2017 brings even more chances to our PHRC volunteers!

News from the Pee Dee PHRC

By Jenny Latour, Volunteer Coordinator

Blu-Med Tent

The Blu Med tent is a mobile shelter with capacity for fifty cots, electricity, climate controlled, running hot water, sink and shower. The unit is engineered to withstand 100 mph winds and is designed for civilian medical surge missions for use in mass casualty incidents. On Saturday, February 11th, 2017, Pee Dee Region staff and volunteers met with the State Guard to assemble the Blu Med tent for our Region.

A special word of thanks goes to the State Guard, who is partnering with us to house and assemble the Blu Med tent in the event of a disaster. Faye Dorman and Jenny Latour were also onsite for this event.



Jeff Buddington, David McGlothlin



Julie Schroll, Jean Sox provide support for the assembly of the tent frame.

Hurricane Matthew struck South Carolina on October 8th, 2016. PHRC volunteers answered the call to help staff the Regional Coordination Center in Florence SC, supporting emergency communications between healthcare facilities making decisions about evacuations. Special thanks to volunteers David McGlothlin and George Mudd. PHRC volunteer nurses Julie Schroll and Cynthia Nerheim helped staff Special Medical Needs Shelters in Sumter, Marion and Lake City South Carolina, providing assistance to families with medical needs forced to leave their homes due to the effects of the storm. A BIG THANK YOU goes to all of these volunteers who stepped up when the community needed them!

School Based Vaccination Clinics

Influenza results in hospitalizations of thousands of people each year and some deaths. This past Fall, South Carolina DHEC launched a campaign to get Flu shots to children through School Based Vaccination Clinics. PHRC volunteer nurses joined the effort by taking the



training and then becoming team members to go to the Schools to provide flu shots to children in Marion, Marlboro, Chesterfield, Darlington and Georgetown counties. Special thanks to Fran Long, Phyllis Douglas and Sally Russell, the volunteer nurses! Please check out our website at www.scdhec.gov/flu if you would like more information on Flu.



Beverly Landrum, Robert Cartner, Kim Bailey at "Passport to Preparedness"

Mosquitoes and Zika!

The Pee Dee Region Public Health Reserve Corps participated in the "Passport to Preparedness" at Coastal Carolina University on September 29th, 2016. This year an outstanding group of volunteers and staff provided educational information to students on mosquitoes and how to avoid their bite! A special microscope was hooked up to show students magnified views of real mosquitoes!

Cans of mosquito spray were on hand for display for the students to view and educational materials were provided concerning travel recommendations to areas where Zika was being locally transmitted by the mosquito population. Thanks go to volunteers Beverly Landrum, Luz Elena Kuhler, Ann Flynn and staff members Kim Bailey and Robert Cartner for their support of this community outreach event. Visit www.scdhec.gov/mosquitoes for more information on mosquitoes and bite prevention.

News from the Low Country PHRC

By Ann Sports, Volunteer Coordinator

Thank you to the volunteers who responded to being available to assist during Hurricane Matthew in October 2016. Even though we were asked to "stand-down", it means so much that so many of you were ready and willing to deploy.

Public Health Preparedness is discussing the need to use PHRC volunteers in the following capacities: Special Medical Needs Shelters (assisting with set-up and/or working at shelter) and assisting in our Regional Coordinating Center. Training will be available for those of you who are interested. Contact me at sportssa@dhec.sc.gov.

Recent Activities

HOSA Future Health Professionals

On September 9, 2016, the HOSA Future Health Professional students sponsored a September 11 National Day of Remembrance Service at Ashley Ridge High School. Volunteers, Barb Grube and Margaret Martin attended. Ann Sports, Volunteer Coordinator gave a quick overview of the MRC program. On

February 15, 2017, the Ashley Ridge High HOSA students presented on the PHRC to faculty. Deborah Beasley was in attendance to provide support and answer questions.

Red Ribbon Run and Walk

A Red Ribbon Run and Walk was held at Wannamaker Park in North Charleston on September 10, 2016. A PHRC exhibit was on display to help recruit volunteers and share preparedness information.

Medical Countermeasures POD

The South Carolina State Guard held a Medical Countermeasures Point of Dispensing Operation with DHEC on November 12, 2016. Thank you PHRC Volunteers Mary Ann Porter and Dan Cole for being able to attend. Volunteer Barbara Nyenhuis attended in her State Guard role.



MaryAnn Porter, Ann Sports, Dan Cole

Lowcountry PHRC Meeting

Ann Sports met with a couple of the volunteers during the December 2016 holiday season for a casual breakfast meeting. The meetings were held in Orangeburg and Charleston. Barbara Nyenhuis, Barb Grube, Dan Cole and Jack Lieb were in attendance.



Ann Sports, Barbara Nyenhuis, Barb Grube, Dan Cole

Ebola Exercise at MUSC

MUSC reached out to me on February 14 asking for a PHRC volunteer to be a patient for an Ebola Exercise that was scheduled for February 15. A big thank you to Barbara Nyenhuis for being able to help on such short notice. You rock Barbara!

Upcoming Events/Activities

Health Fair

The Tri-County Black Nurses Association held a Health Fair in Charleston on February 25. There will be a PHRC exhibit there to help recruit volunteers program and share preparedness information.

HOSA Conference

The 2017 HOSA Future Health Professional State Conference was held March 8-10, 2017 at the Convention Center in North Charleston. DHEC PHRC coordinators served as competition judges and guest speakers. The Lowcountry PHRC also participated by securing vendor space and setting up a recruitment exhibit.

NACCHO Public Health Preparedness Conference

The NACCHO PHP Conference will be held in Atlanta, GA, April 24-28, 2017. A 2017 MRC Leadership Training Summit will be held on April 24, 2017. The MRC Summit will provide an in-depth leadership training on some of the newest MRC tools and resources, provide an opportunity to build connections among MRC leaders and program partners, and facilitate discussion around how MRC units can best achieve their local missions. Low country and Midland PHRC coordinators will be in attendance this year and will be able to bring back information to share with volunteers.



South Carolina Veterinary Reserve Corps (SCVRC)

by Marie Queen and Charlotte Krugler, DVM

The SC Veterinary Reserve Corps (SCVRC) is holding six one-day Awareness Level Small Animal Emergency Sheltering classes in February, March and April in cooperation with several South Carolina county Emergency Management Division agencies. These classes were made possible because of a generous grant from the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) entitled SC Regional Preparedness for Animals in Emergencies with a focus on Community Resiliency.

This Awareness Level class provides knowledge and skills needed to work in an emergency pet shelter which would support pet owners evacuating with their pets who cannot find other means of safe shelter. Topics include an ICS overview, setting up and tearing down shelter supplies, duties of shelter staff, and overviews of diseases, parasites and animal behaviors. This skill set would be beneficial to volunteers who can assist in a disaster with people evacuating with pets who seek safe shelter for themselves and their pets. As part of the grant, the six counties hosting the trainings also receive several large pet crates to assist them in building emergency pet shelter supply inventories.

This class was developed by the Florida State Animal Rescue Coalition (FL SARC) and is certified by the FL

Department of Emergency Management and is listed in the US Department of Homeland Security courses. More than 1300 volunteers have completed the course in Florida as it is considered a required prerequisite for FL animal emergency responders. So far in SC, 31 attended last June, and 26 have attended the two offerings held in SC this February. The Beaufort County class is pictured.

SCVRC is led by the SC Association of Veterinarians (SCAV) with assistance from Animal Health Programs staff of Clemson University Livestock-Poultry Health (CULPH). CULPH leads the state Emergency Support Function (ESF)-17: Animals/Agriculture Emergency Response as part of South Carolina's Emergency Operations Plan and SCAV is a critical support agency for ESF-17. The main goal of the SCVRC is to augment South Carolina's MRC units by developing and training a volunteer group to help people with animal and agriculture-related issues during disasters -- to keep everyone safe.

For more information about the SCVRC, please contact:

Ms. Marie Queen, Unit Leader
South Carolina Association of Veterinarians
PO Box 11766, Columbia, SC 29211

Marie.queen@scav.org
803-254-1027

Summer Heats Up and So Do Our Pets

By Kevin Elliott, DVM and member, South Carolina Veterinary Medical Reserve Corps

Picnics, swimming, hiking, beach trips... Summer is here!

As you enjoy this time of year, be mindful of our furry family members because they are not as well suited for outdoor activities.

Dogs and cats do not have sweat glands like we do. They regulate their body temperature by panting and seeking cooler areas in which to rest. When outdoor temperatures climb above 90 degrees, pets have a much harder time staying cool. Unfortunately, many pets will not remain inside or will not refuse to go on a walk. That loveable Labrador retriever will still chase that tennis ball all around the yard if you throw it.

Elevated body temperature from outdoor heat is unfortunately a very real concern for pets during the summer months. Normally a dog and cat will have an internal body temperature of 101.5 to 102.5 F. Temperatures in dogs and cats consistently above 103.5 F, especially if it continues to rise, is cause for concern. Heat stroke is a condition in which animals lose their ability to dissipate environmental heat and their body temperature can rise in most cases above 106 F. It can lead to organ dysfunction and death. Dogs with longer, thicker hair coats and those with smaller more compacted faces and airways are at higher risk for heat related problems.

Symptoms to watch for that may indicate your pet is too hot and may need veterinary medical attention are:

- Panting non-stop
- Drooling excessively
- Dazed or drunken appearance
- Inability to stand
- Vomiting--sometimes with blood
- Diarrhea--sometimes with blood or dark and tar-like
- Small pinpoint red spots/ blood spots called petechia on skin or gums.



As pet owners we need to be mindful of our animal's health and be proactive in keeping them safe. Fortunately, heat related injury can be prevented.

As you enjoy the summer remember these helpful tips to help keep your pets safe:

- If your pet likes walks, take them out early in the morning or later in the evening when temperatures are milder.
- Always provide fresh water for your pet. Water in outside bowls will quickly become as hot as the outdoor temperature.
- Never leave your pet unattended in a vehicle. Temperatures in cars can quickly rise above 120 degrees in a matter of minutes when the air conditioner is not on.
- Watch that pavement--concrete and asphalt can remain very hot even later in the day when the sun has gone down. Your pet can burn his pads easily on this hot surface.
- Don't leave your pet unattended outside with balls or toys during the summer. They sometimes just don't know when to stop having fun.

If you suspect your pet is having a heat related incident call or go to your local veterinary clinic for medical advice.

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

