

The Medical Reserve Corps



Orange County

Spring 2008

Vol. 3, No. 1

Newsletter



NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK

a message by
The Acting Surgeon General



Dear MRC Leaders and Volunteers,
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.

The attacks of September 11th, 2001, Hurricane Katrina, and other disasters have taught us time and time again that volunteers are a vital and imperative piece to any response. Rather than waiting for disaster to strike, you have already stepped up and answered the call to serve your community and the nation. I am so proud to share your stories and promote the MRC to every audience to whom I speak.

Disasters have taught us time and time again that volunteers are a vital and imperative piece to any response.

At the recent MRC National Leadership and Training Conference, the spirit and energy you brought was inspiring. I was, and continue to be, impressed by the activities you engage in to support the public health, preparedness, and response needs of your communities. As each unit grows stronger and better able to provide support through their initiatives, trainings, and events, a community's ability to bounce back from disaster increases. The MRC is making a tremendous impact on the resiliency of communities across the country.

What makes this program even more inspiring is that the work is done by those asking for little in return except the chance to give of their time and skills to improve the lives of those around them. Each MRC volunteer deserves my sincere "thank you" for their commitment to volunteerism and charitable nature. You are making amazing contributions toward the strengthening of our nation's resilience in times of crisis.

Therefore, I wish to extend my deep appreciation for your time, expertise, and generosity in giving of yourself to strengthen the health and preparedness of your community and of the United States.

With sincere thanks,
Steven K. Galson, M.D., M.P.H.
RADM, USPHS
Acting United States Surgeon General

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If you know anyone ready to volunteer for disaster preparedness, ask them to call the OC MRC Office at (714) 834-2335. They will receive instructions.

Help build our volunteer base.

Get ready now!

Do not wait for a disaster.

Cover photographs from Laguna Coast Wilderness Park taken 4/26/08. - R Perez

OC Volunteer Mutual Aid Drill a Success



MRC Coordinator Peggy McCormick is pictured with Agency Director Julie Poulson and the resolution which was presented to the Health Disaster Management Division Medical Reserve Corps during the Feb. 26 Board meeting.

On Feb. 26, 2008 the Orange County Board of Supervisors recognized local leaders for the success of a Volunteer Mutual Aid Drill held during Sept. 2007 and presented each with a Board resolution. Among those recognized included HCA's Health Disaster Management Division Medical Reserve Corps (MRC).

The Drill was a full scale exercise designed at the direction of the Orange County Sheriff's Department and the Orange County California Citizen Corps Council. Representatives from Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT), Medical Reserve Corps, Neighborhood Watch, Volunteers in Police Services (VIPS), Fire Corps and Operational Area planning partners including the Radio Amateur Civil Engineering Services (RACES), American Red Cross and the Volunteer Center of Orange County comprise the council.

The planning team included 18 people who represented 13 jurisdictions/organizations. The coordination required to plan, develop, organize and implement a volunteer drill of this caliber was a large undertaking and a first of its kind in Orange County.

The planning team designated seven objectives to be evaluated: the Incident Command System, Communications, Team Organization, Personal Safety, Victim Safety and Recovery, Fire Safety and Search and Rescue/Damage Assessment.

The drill was designed to train volunteers in the Incident Command System,

combine all volunteer programs into a mutual aid environment and simulate a realistic catastrophic earthquake with hands on training. In order to accomplish a lifelike and challenging exercise environment, multiple scenarios were developed that tested various volunteer programs which have different roles and missions.

Volunteers from 26 different local jurisdictions and several volunteer programs were combined into one drill. This required support and dedication on both days to coordinate 480 volunteers, 55 staff members and 40 observers.

The success of the 2007 Volunteer Mutual Aid Drill was dependent upon multiple agencies working together as a seamless unit and proved to be an accomplished model for how volunteer organizations will respond in support of emergency first responders in Orange County. Congratulations to the following individuals who received recognition during the Feb. 26 Board meeting:

| | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| Ken Bourne | OC RACES |
| Stephen Bowles | Seal Beach PD |
| Vicki Bowman | HCA |
| Christian Caswell | Santa Ana FD |
| Paul Catsimanes | City of Mission Viejo |
| Tammy Descoteaux | OCS D |
| Todd DeVoe | City of Dana Point |
| Elizabeth Eddlemon | City of Costa Mesa |
| Brenda Emrick | Costa Mesa FD |
| Katrina Faulkner | OCS D |
| Peggy McCormick | HCA |
| Victoria Osborn | OCS D |
| Nilda Patino de Berndt | City of Placentia |
| Thomas Slayton | OCS D |
| Steve Stempniak | Anaheim PD |
| Bette Weinberg | Volunteer Ctr of OC |

EMSA Calling OC Volunteers

by Peggy McCormick

The State of California’s Emergency Medical Services Authority (EMSA) has been working for the past two years to bring forth and implement the California Medical Volunteers Project (California’s ESAR-VHP Program).

This disaster volunteer computer program is designed to pre-register and pre-verify licenses of health care volunteers before an emergency or disaster, allowing better management of volunteer resources during a disaster.

All Orange County MRC (OCMRC) Volunteers are encouraged to visit the California Medical Volunteers web site <http://medicalvolunteer.ca.gov> and register. There is an opportunity for you to select your affiliation with the OCMRC. If you register, please check the box for OCMRC so I will know you have registered.

Registering now, before a disaster, allows verification of your license and credentials, promotes training opportunities, and helps disaster managers understand how many volunteers might be available. This will help us match your skills with the needs required in each emergency situation. Your registration information will become a part of a secure California Medical Volunteers Statewide Registry.

Your role will be to practice your profes-

sion or skill as either an individual called up at the time of a disaster or as part of an organized response team. Volunteers may participate in several ways including:

- As an individual called up only during extreme emergencies.
- As part of a community based Medical Reserve Corp.
- As a member of a State of California Medical Assistance Team.

Every attempt will be made to match your skills, competencies and license or registration level with your responsibilities during a response. However, there might be situations in which you will be asked to assist with activities that are less challenging than your routine scope of practice.

All health care professionals who wish to volunteer for activation to a significant disaster or public health emergency should register today. There is a need for Physicians, Registered Nurses, Veterinarians, Respiratory Therapists, Paramedics, Pharmacists, Mental Health Professionals, and Support Professionals (logistics, communications, drivers, etc.).

Register today at

<http://medicalvolunteer.ca.gov>

Orange County MRC Committees

| | |
|---------------|---|
| Mental Health | John Caccavale, MD, PhD Lori Creasey, JD, Chairpersons |
| Newsletter | Ramon Perez, MD |
| Pharmacy | Thuy Nguyen |
| Security | Chris Wright, CPP |
| Special Needs | L.A. Shulman, MD |
| Staff Support | David McCall |
| Veterinary | |

Volunteer Count

| | |
|-----------------------------|------------|
| Physicians | 31 |
| Physician Assistants | 9 |
| Nurse Practitioners | 4 |
| Nurses | 89 |
| Pharmacists | 45 |
| Dentists | 10 |
| Veterinarians | 1 |
| Mental Health Professionals | 105 |
| EMS Professionals | 52 |
| Respiratory Therapists | 0 |
| Other Public Health/Medical | 10 |
| Non-Public Health/Medical | 186 |
| Total | 542 |



Volunteers Building Strong, Healthy, and Prepared Communities

The Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) was founded after President Bush's 2002 State of the Union Address, in which he asked all Americans to volunteer in support of their country. MRC is a partner program of Citizen Corps, a national network of Volunteers dedicated to ensuring hometown security. Citizen Corps, along with the Corporation for National and Community Service, and the Peace Corps are all part of the President's USA Freedom Corps, which promotes volunteerism and service throughout the nation.

MRC units are community-based and function as a way to locally organize and utilize volunteers-medical professionals and others-who want to donate their time and expertise to promote healthy living throughout the year and to prepare for and respond to emergencies. MRC volunteers supplement existing local emergency and public health resources.

MRC volunteers include medical and public health professionals such as physicians, nurses, pharmacists, dentists, veterinarians, and epidemiologists. Other community members, such as interpreters, chaplains, office workers and legal advisors, can fill other vital support positions.

What Can MRC Volunteers Do?

Support local public health, while advancing the priorities of the U.S. Surgeon General:

-Promoting disease prevention

- Improving health literacy
- Eliminating health disparities
- Enhancing public health preparedness
- Assist local hospitals and health departments with surge personnel needs.
- Participate in mass prophylaxis and vaccination exercises and community disaster drills.
- Train with local emergency response partners

How Can the MRC Benefit Your Local Community?

- Bolsters public health and emergency response infrastructures by providing supplemental personnel
- Enables communities to meet specific health needs
- Allows the local community more autonomy-not as reliant on state and national resources
- Gives community members the opportunity to participate in developing strategies to make their communities healthier and safer
- Provides mechanisms for information sharing and coordination between all partner organizations
- Provides a dialogue between emergency management and public health agencies
- Allows for national recognition of local public health and emergency response efforts



Orange County Medical Reserve Corps Coordinator To Serve on NACCHO Committee

The National Association of County & City Health Officials has formed a Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) Workgroup. Orange County Health Care Agency Health Disaster Management's MRC Coordinator, Peggy McCormick, has been appointed to this committee by Robert M. Pestronk, MPH, NACCHO President.

NACCHO's success as the national voice for local health departments is dependent on member participation in advisory

groups such as this one for the Medical Reserve Corps. We would like to thank Orange County's MRC Coordinator for serving on this committee and representing Orange County. Medical Reserve Corps across the Nation will benefit from the work of this newly formed committee and Orange County, California is looking forward to the successes of the committee.



OC FAIR



The 2008 Orange County Fair is gearing up for another fabulous season July 11 - August 3. This year's theme is "SAY CHEESE" so grab your MRC Hat and Shirt and get ready to schedule a

shift at the Fair. This year we will work **July 18th through July 24th**. Many of you worked last year and we had a wonderful time.

We will be searching for 300-500 new Orange County MRC Volunteers to bring our total over 900. Strength comes in numbers. Bring your smile and your con-

tagious enthusiasm and let's build the OC MRC with some committed volunteers. Let's get prepared for Orange County's next disaster. The Orange County Fair is a great place to find new members.

Please call the Volunteer office:

(714) 834-2335 or

email pmccormick@ochca.com

if you are interested in working a shift at the Fair.

Dates and times will be arranged later after getting a pool of interested volunteers. Remember our presence is very important. MRC recruitment is our goal so please respond if you are interested in another fun time this year at the Orange County Fair.



Regional MRC Coordinators

MRC National Leadership Conference in Portland, Oregon “City of Roses” - Major Success!



The 2008 National Medical Reserve Corps Leadership Conference sponsored by the Office of the United States Surgeon General was held in Portland, Oregon, April 8-11.

Orange County, California was represented by the MRC Coordinator, Peggy McCormick. She presented three posters (1) *MRC Volunteer Recruitment, Training, Retention and Utilization of Volunteers*, (2) *Points of Dispensing Sites* and (3) *Special Populations*.

This national conference is held each year for MRC Leaders to bring forth and present best practices to all MRC's across the United States. MRC Leaders are asked to participate in the conference in a variety of ways to train and give information to new and existing MRC's. MRC Leaders may present Posters, present in break out training sessions, attend other trainings, serve on the planning committee for the conference and especially network with other leaders for ideas, trainings etc., to find what works and what does not.

This year's conference in Portland had approximately four days of great trainings

and networking for MRC Leaders as well as the regional break out meetings for all ten regions to meet their MRC Regional Coordinators and peers. This year had a great session on grant writing presented by Miriam Houghton, President of Expressions, for those MRC Leaders looking for sustainability and funding for training.

Steven K. Galson, M.D., M.P.H., Acting United States Surgeon General made a point to stop by each regional meeting and give a thank you to us all and say good-bye. Surgeon General Galson also made a point to speak about his concerns with childhood obesity, and teen drinking, and ask all MRC Leaders to provide education through our local MRC in these areas as part of our local MRC mission to help fight these two major health disparities.

Everyone had a great time at the conference making great connections as well as picking up some best practices until our next conference in Dallas, Texas for 2009.



Attendees visiting Region IX California Table at the Conference.



TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

MRC Orientations

Saturday September 13, 2008 9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.
 Saturday, October 11, 2008 9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

Training

- **FEMA** Independent Study Program <http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/>
 - Download a document, read/study, and take a test.
 - Introduction to the Incident Command System (IS-100)
 - Introduction to the National Incident Management System/ National Response Plan (IS700)
- **FEMA National Emergency Training Center - Virtual Campus**
<http://lstrng1.fema.gov/LearningSpace5/Program/UI/Main/Themes/Kendall/Main.asp>
- **CDC Public Health Training Network**
<http://www.phppo.cdc.gov/phtn/default.asp>
 The Public Health Training Network (PHTN) is a distance learning network of people and resources that takes training and information to the learner. The Archived Webcasts cover a broad range of public health issues.
- **CDC Emergency Preparedness & Response** <http://www.bt.cdc.gov/>
 - Training and Education - <http://www.bt.cdc.gov/training/>
- **U of Albany School of Public Health.** Resources and training for natural, chemical or biological disasters.Center for Public Health Preparedness e-Learning Center
<http://www.ualbanycphp.org/learning/default.cfm>
- **U of Minnesota School of Public Health.** FREE online modules
<http://cpheo.sph.umn.edu/cpheo/umncphp>
- **Mass Dispensing Sites:** A Primer for Volunteers
<http://www.sph.umn.edu/umncphp/massdisp/home.html>

OC MRC MISSION STATEMENT

To enhance
the emergency capabilities
of Orange County through advanced
registrations, organization and training
of volunteer health professions who can be
readily mobilized to respond to a major
emergency or disaster, whether man-made
or natural, when the existing health
infrastructure is overwhelmed and
unable to provide needed medical
care in a timely manner.

VOLUNTEERS

Orange County **Businesses and Organizations** that have
joined as Volunteers. Thank you for all your support.

American Academy of Pediatrics

ASIS Security Organization

Beckman Coulter, Brea

California Association Licensed Investigators

California Association Licensed Investigators
(200)-Pomona Valley

CalOptima

Calvary Chapel

Goldwing Road Riders Chapter R-Irvine

Goldwing Road Riders Buena Park Chapter

Huntington Beach Fire Academy

Impressions Magazine Orange County
Dentist Association

Las Lomas Clinic Nurses and Physicians

Local 324 Pharmacist Union

Leisure World Seal Beach

Leisure World Republican Women's Group

North County Jaycees

Trauma Intervention Program (TIP)

If any MRC Volunteer would like a presentation to
your business or special membership organization,
please call the MRC Office and ask for a speaker.



Advisory Board Members

William Buster, MD

Mark Chew, Pharm D

Chief Pharmacist, DMAT, HCA

Cynthia Coad, OTR, EdD

Past President, OC Citizen Corps Council

Thomas Coad, DDS

Terre Duensing

Div Manager, Health Disaster Management

James M. Ellis

Past President, OC Fire Chief's Association

Kristin Gericke, Pharm D

Director Clinical Pharmacy Management
CalOptima

William Habermehl

Superintendent
County Office of Education

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OC Department of Education

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Thuy Nguyen, RPh

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OC Sheriff's Department

Ramón Pérez, MD

Communications Committee MRC

Juliette Poulson, RN, MN

Director, OC Health Care Agency

Chip Prather

Fire Chief, OC Fire Authority

Julie Puentes

Hospital Association of Southern CA

Michele Revelle

Executive Director, OCMA

Herb Rosenzweig, RPh

Bill Stout

Director, Disaster Services
American Red Cross

Jeffrey Thrash

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ASIS International



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