



# Medical Reserve NEWS

Fall 2008

“Don’t wait.  
The time  
will never be  
just right.”

– Napoleon Hill

## September is National Preparedness Month

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security sponsors National Preparedness Month to encourage Americans to take steps to prepare for emergencies in their homes, businesses and schools.

Volunteers who attended the last MRC meeting received a Viatek Weatherband Radio Dynamo Flashlight as incentive to start a kit. This nifty gadget doesn’t require batteries and can charge a cell phone. If you missed the meeting and would like a radio/flashlight, send a photo of your kit to the MRC office.

Visit these helpful websites as you prepare your kit. If you don’t have Internet access, contact MRC program coordinator Paula Martel at 759-0877 to receive hard copies of the guide(s).

**GENERAL PREPAREDNESS:** [www.SouthernNevadaHealthDistrict.org/preparedness/default.htm](http://www.SouthernNevadaHealthDistrict.org/preparedness/default.htm) or [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov)

**PET PREPAREDNESS:** [www.avma.org](http://www.avma.org)

### We’re Counting on You

Whether you volunteer at MRC-sponsored events throughout the year or you are interested in emergency response only, we are counting on you.

Please let us know if circumstances change and you are no longer available to serve as an MRC volunteer. Thank you.

## MRC's Year-to-Date Stats

As of Aug. 1, 2008, 43 Medical Reserve Corps of Southern Nevada volunteers have logged 330.5 hours at 19 events . . . *that's AWESOME!* The majority of those hours were devoted to the health district's Hepatitis C investigation.

Other activities included: conducting chart reviews and wound swabs during a Group A Strep outbreak; performing blood pressure screenings at health fairs; staffing first aid stations at athletic events such as the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure, Special Olympics and Desert Dash Adventure Racing Series; and distributing preparedness information at community events.

Those who volunteer 10 or more hours will be entered into a raffle for some **great** prizes! Current raffle ticket holders include:

<u>VOLUNTEER NAME</u>	<u>NO. OF HOURS</u>
Camila Camburn, RN	27
Jose Lopez III, EMT-I	17
Mindy Hsu, Pharmacy Intern	16
Siboney Zelaya, RN	16
Harriett Alvarado, RN	14.5
Kathy McGonigle, RN	14
Changiz Bidari, MD	14
Lex Anderson, RN	13.5
Margaret Wilson, RN	14
Jennyne Procida, RN	12
Christine Petersen, MD	11.5

**But wait...**

**here's still time to get 10 hours of service!**

Below is a list of volunteer opportunities for the remainder of the year:

- **POD NV Exercise – Oct. 23**  
Review screening forms and administer vaccine
- **Choose to Move Festivals – Sept. 13 and 27**  
Conduct blood pressure screenings and medication reviews

- **Desert Dash Races – Oct. 4 and 19, Nov. 8 and Dec. 31**  
Staff first aid stations
- **Family, Fur & Fun Festival – Oct. 11**  
Staff pet preparedness and first aid station
- **Bootleg Mountain Bike Race – Oct. 25**  
Staff first aid station
- **Silverman Triathlon – Nov. 9**  
Staff first aid station

For more details or to volunteer, contact Paula Martel at 759-0877 or [martel@snhdmail.org](mailto:martel@snhdmail.org).

## Required Training for MRC Volunteers

In order to maintain eligibility for federal grant funding, all leaders and volunteers with the Medical Reserve Corps of Southern Nevada are required to complete two online courses in the National Incident Management System (NIMS). NIMS is a comprehensive system designed to improve response operations during an emergency or disaster using the Incident Command System, which is the national standard for communication and organization among first-responders.

### **IS-100: Introduction to Incident Command System**

<http://www.training.fema.gov/EMIWEB/is/is100.asp>

### **IS-700: National Incident Management System**

<http://www.training.fema.gov/emiWeb/IS/is700.asp>

Following completion of the online training and exam, you will receive a certificate of completion to your personal e-mail address. Forward the e-mail to Paula Martel at [martel@snhdmail.org](mailto:martel@snhdmail.org) so the certificate may be placed in your file.

If you do not have access to a computer, call the MRC office at 759-0877 for a hard copy of the course summary and exam instructions.

## Helping with the Hepatitis C Forum



In response to the largest hepatitis C outbreak of its kind, MRC volunteers supported the health district on Saturday, April 19 at a public forum for concerned citizens. Volunteers welcomed and distributed information to attendees, providing mental health counseling and handing out disaster preparedness information.

For more information about the hepatitis C investigation, visit [www.SouthernNevadaHealthDistrict.org/outbreaks/index.htm](http://www.SouthernNevadaHealthDistrict.org/outbreaks/index.htm)

## Ensuring the Safety of Household Pets and Service Animals

To assure compliance with federal and state laws, the Las Vegas Urban Area requested and received technical assistance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to develop preparedness plans for household pets and service animals during emergencies. The MRC program coordinator, along with volunteers Dr. Debbie White and Karin Cartwood, recently collaborated with representatives from animal control agencies and local emergency management offices to develop a plan to be added as an Annex to the Clark County Emergency Operation Plan.

The plan is currently in draft form. Once approved, the MRC will begin a campaign to recruit licensed veterinary volunteers. Additionally, the unit will develop training and exercises to correspond with the plan.

During a wide-scale emergency, the Medical Reserve Corps of Southern Nevada will:



- Provide Nevada-licensed veterinarians and veterinary technicians
- Provide trained volunteer support staff
- Provide just-in-time training as needed

The current Clark County Emergency Operations Plan may be viewed online at: [http://www.accessclarkcounty.com/depts/administrative\\_services/oem/Documents/EOP\\_MANUAL\\_04.pdf](http://www.accessclarkcounty.com/depts/administrative_services/oem/Documents/EOP_MANUAL_04.pdf)

## New Volunteers

Please welcome these new MRC volunteers:

Hocine Attou, LADC

Gina Brown

Robert Byrd, Paramedic

Michelle Conners, Paramedic

Katherine Craddock

Nicolle de Guzman, Pharm Tech

Virginia Douglas, MFT

Tamra Down

Stephanie Fell, Pharm Tech

Jeffrey Fiti, EMT-I

Howard Gelfand, MD

Celena Gillespie, Pharm Tech

Racquel Gioannini, Pharm Tech

Kay Godby, RN

Jacqueline Harris, MFT

Teresa Hayden, RN

Dustin Holland, EMT-I

Joan Israel, LCSW

Dail Jordan, RN

Priya Joshi

Alyssa Kendall, EMT-B

Kristin Mahler

Ken Mead, EMT-B

Nancy Menzel, RN

Jason Molitz

Tatiana Morales

Caroline O'Sullivan, DVM

Kathleen Oettinger, LADC

Elizabeth Petersen, RN

Erin Rambis

Wanda Roper, LCSW

Amanda Shafer, RN

Liana Snyder, LADC

Katharine Stainaker

Connie Yao, LCSW

## Reunited!



*At the Governor's Points of Light Award dinner, two MRC volunteer nurses sat next to each other trying to remember how they knew each other.*

*A few weeks later, Becky Van Blankenstein sent the following message to Paula Martel: "Patty (Murphy) was my RN when I gave birth to my oldest daughter in 1996 at Lake Mead Women's Hospital. So, MRC is bringing RNs together on many levels."*



**Become part of the MRC team.**

**For local information, contact:**

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**For national program information,  
go to [www.medicalreservecorps.gov](http://www.medicalreservecorps.gov)**

