



# Medical Reserve NEWS

Spring 2010

**“Promise me you’ll always remember: You’re braver than you believe, and stronger than you seem, and smarter than you think.”**

*– Christopher Robin to Pooh*

## 2009 MRC Volunteer Hours

On Dec. 31, 2009, there were 322 volunteers on the Medical Reserve Corps of Southern Nevada roster. In 2009, 128 volunteers volunteered 1,423 hours at 38 events. (H1N1 clinics are counted as one event. MRC staffed 18 H1N1 clinics in 2009.) Fifty volunteers who volunteered more than 10 hours were recognized with an MRC logo fleece blanket and two tickets to “Bodies...The Exhibition.”

Those volunteering more than 20 hours in 2009 are:

- Harriett Alvarado, RN = 59
- Jon Pennell, DVM = 54.5
- Jerre Greenhalgh, RN = 47.75
- Alan Croft = 43
- Murlin Hampton, RN = 33
- Moises Gomez, RN = 31.75
- Ella Duhaime, RN = 31.5
- Jeannette Londergan, LPN = 28.5
- Virginia Douglas = 28.25
- Phyllis Dougherty, RN = 27
- Patty Murphy, RN = 25.5
- Jose Lopez III, EMT-I = 22.5
- Nancy Menzel, RN = 21
- Sue Bennett, PharmD = 20.76

Thank you to all our volunteers for your commitment to the Medical Reserve Corps both locally and nationally!



## Graduating?

**Please let us know if you graduate so we may congratulate you and, if applicable, move you into a more appropriate volunteer category. Thanks!**

# MRC in Action!



*Veterinary and medical volunteers provided preparedness information and first aid support at the Wag-a-Tail Walk-A-Thon. Left: Dr. White and Veterinary Technicians treat a dog for heat exhaustion.*



*Medical Reserve Corps of Southern Nevada's April 2010 quarterly meeting included a communication exercise among volunteers facilitated by Scott Emerson, CEO of the American Red Cross of Southern Nevada*



*Above: Our newest member. Right: Cortez Williams and Susan Vondracek, LVT distribute pet preparedness information at the Clark County Library District's Petstacular event.*



## MRC subject to SNHD Procedures

When MRC volunteers are augmenting health district staff, they are subject to the same policies and procedures that apply to employees (i.e., signing in/out, lunch breaks, cell phone use, etc.). Procedures specific to assisting the health district in administering vaccine have been developed and approved by health district administration. They include understanding and utilizing chain of command, utilizing assigned supervisors, providing proof of licensure (if applicable) and training. A copy is available upon request.

## Survey Results

Thank you to the 111 volunteers who completed the MRC Satisfaction Survey that was initially distributed in January and again mid-February. To see the full survey results, contact Paula Martel. Significant finds include:

- Half of the survey participants have been with the MRC for more than 2 years.
- 39 percent volunteered more than 12 hours over last year.
- 54.6 percent rated their MRC experience as excellent; 37percent as good; 6.5 as adequate; 1.9 as poor.
- Scheduling conflicts and lack of time were the main reasons for lack of participation in MRC activities.
- Most prefer to volunteer for emergencies with public health initiatives and community events coming in a close second.
- Request to increase training specific to emergencies including exercises and drills.
- Interest for more opportunities for medical students/non-medical volunteers.

## Volunteers Choose

In January, you were asked to choose a level of involvement/commitment that best works for them based on their personal availability and preference.

Volunteers who didn't choose an option were assigned to Option 3. The options are:

- Option 1: State or federally declared emergencies (licensed/certified health care professionals only)
- Option 2: State, Federal and Local responses
- Option 3: Local responses only

If you have a question about the options or want to confirm your choice, contact Paula Martel.

## Western Veterinary Conference

On Feb. 17, Paula Martel and Jon Pennell, DVM/EMT-I, distributed information about the Medical Reserve Corps, as well as emergency preparedness information to licensed veterinary technicians at the Western Veterinary Conference's (WVC) 2010 Technician Fair. Another highlight of the WVC was the election of Dr. Pennell to the WVC Board of Directors. Congrats, Dr. Pennell!



## FEMA Training

If you have not completed the mandatory FEMA training, please do so soon. MRC requires all volunteers to complete Incident Command System 100a and 700a (NIMS). Both are free and available at:

<http://training.fema.gov/emiweb/is/is100a.asp>  
<http://training.fema.gov/emiweb/is/is700a.asp>

Click the link on the upper right of the page that reads: "Take this Course-Interactive Web-based Course-EMI learning site." After completing the course and taking the test, you will receive a certificate in your email. Forward the certificate to Paula Martel at [martel@snhdmail.org](mailto:martel@snhdmail.org) or Deborah Moran at [moran@snhdmail.org](mailto:moran@snhdmail.org).



## Operation Medicine Cabinet

With the rate of prescription and over-the-counter drug misuse and abuse on the rise in Southern Nevada, Operation Medicine Cabinet aims to cut the drug supply line—home medicine cabinets—by offering safe and proper disposal of unused and expired drugs.

Operation Medicine Cabinet is a partnership of the University of Southern Nevada Drug Abuse Awareness Team, Narcotics Education Foundation of Nevada, Southern Nevada Water Authority, Clark County Coroner's Office, KLAS-TV Channel 8 and Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department.

On Feb. 20, more than 200 vehicles dropped off unused and expired drugs at a collection event sponsored by Operation Medicine Cabinet. This amounted to 287 pounds of tablets and capsules, which equals 127,283 oral doses.

Go to [www.operationmedicinecabinetlv.org](http://www.operationmedicinecabinetlv.org) or [www.facebook.com/operationmedicinecabinetlv](https://www.facebook.com/operationmedicinecabinetlv) for additional information.

## New Volunteers

Please welcome our newest members:

- Thomas Alfreda, Jr., DO
- Ryan Barlow, Medical Student
- Sarah Bickle, EMT-B
- Shannon Burke, Pharmacy Intern
- Kathleen Campos, RN
- Lillian Dickey, RN
- Brett Dragun, EMT-B
- Ivan Erwin
- Christina Flink, Nursing Student
- Rhonda Hawley, OT
- Marisse Herrera, Medical Student
- Rachel Kaplan, Medical Student
- Blaine King, Medical Student
- Marie Kotarska, EMT-B
- Donald Kwalick, MD
- Johnnie Leyva, CNA
- Henry Lok, Medical Student
- Sarita Lundin, EMT-B
- Stephenie Matosich, Medical Student
- Steven Nickle, Medical Student
- Dennis Olsen, DVM
- Sandy Pham, Pharmacy Intern
- Katie Ray, LVT
- Jackie Rennirt, Nursing Student
- Micia Roby, Med Student
- Giovanna Santovito-Carducci, RN
- Cameron Tregaskes, Medical Student
- Rita Varney
- Daniel Webster, Medical Student
- Robert Weiss, Paramedic



### Become Part of the MRC Team

**For local information, contact**  
 Paula J. Martel, Program Coordinator  
 Medical Reserve Corps  
 Southern Nevada Health District  
 P.O. Box 3902, Las Vegas, NV 89127  
 (702) 759-0877, Fax (702) 386-1853  
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[www.SouthernNevadaHealthDistrict.org](http://www.SouthernNevadaHealthDistrict.org)  
[www.MRCNevada.com](http://www.MRCNevada.com)

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

## We're on Facebook!

Following the lead of MRC units nationwide, we created a Facebook page. Find us under Medical Reserve Corps of Southern Nevada. We will initially use it to highlight MRC activities and provide links to partners. "Friend" us!