



Medical Reserve NEWS

Fall/Winter 2009

Say "No" to SPAM (but not **really** the spiced ham variety)

Several MRC volunteers have indicated that e-mails sent from health district staff are winding up in their "Spam" or "Junk E-mail" folders. (Perhaps this could be the reason we haven't heard from many of you for a while!)

Staff have learned that many anti-virus software programs (i.e., Norton) protect their users by kicking out e-mail messages that are delivered as part of a large distribution list. With 315 volunteers on our roster, this may be the cause of misdirected e-mails.



If you find emails from the health district in your "Spam" or "Junk E-mail" folder, add the following e-mail addresses to your contact list: martel@snhdmail.org and moran@snhdmail.org. Additionally, contact staff if you are encountering this problem so they can determine how widespread it is. Staff are reducing the size of distribution lists, which may help.

We like hearing from you! Call Paula Martel, MRC Coordinator, at (702) 759-0877 with any feedback and/or suggestions.

Age is a case of mind over matter. If you don't mind, it don't matter.

– Satchel Paige



MRC Quarterly Meeting



Save the Date!

DATE: Thursday, Jan. 7, 2010 ~ 12-1 p.m. OR 6-7 p.m. (attend only one)

LOCATION: Southern Nevada Health District, 625 Shadow Ln. ~ Clemens Room

PRESENTATION: The role of MRC in a family assistance center following a mass fatality event

SPEAKER: John Fudenberg, Asst. Coroner, Clark County Office of the Coroner/Medical Examiner



MRC Program Officer and USPHS Lieutenant, Sam Schaffzin, receives the inhaled 2009 H1N1 vaccine on Oct. 10 from MRC volunteer Jill Ortiz, RN.

MRC helps with 2009 H1N1 vaccine response

As of the end of November, 55 Medical Reserve Corps of Southern Nevada volunteers have logged 539.25 hours in Southern Nevada Health District 2009 H1N1 vaccine clinics. Clinics have been held at the Ravenholt Public Health Center and at high schools throughout the community.

Thanks to each MRC medical and non-medical volunteer who has given their free time to support this effort.

Survey Says?

Before the end of the year, MRC will conduct a survey to assist staff in determining each volunteer's emergency and non-emergency availability, level of personal emergency preparedness and opinions regarding the local MRC unit. Information from this survey will be compiled to assist staff in developing a program that meets the expectations of the health district and our community, as well as those of the MRC volunteers.

Thank you in advance for taking time to complete the online survey. (A hard copy of the survey will be mailed to volunteers without Internet access.)

Veterinary preparedness workshop trains vet staff

In September, 40 veterinarians and veterinary technicians participated in a workshop and exercise specific to disaster preparedness and response at the Oquendo Center for Clinical Education.

The morning workshop included lectures on personal, family, practice and community preparedness, the Incident Command System and how to set-up temporary animal shelters.

The afternoon exercise was developed using an earthquake scenario. As a result, 20 dogs delivered by Clark County Animal Control

from the Lied Animal Shelter were decontaminated, examined, micro-chipped and placed in a temporary shelter set-up by exercise participants. Licensed veterinary professionals received eight education credits from the Nevada State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners for participating in the workshop and exercise.

This event will be repeated in September, 2010.



MRC volunteer Susan Vondracek assists with microchipping a local shelter dog.



MRC volunteers participate in a mock decontamination.

First aid course well attended

The MRC of Southern Nevada hosted its first ever American Heart Association Heartsaver® First Aid course. In August, 21 MRC volunteers completed the training, which included hands-on practice. Due to its success, this class will be repeated at the beginning of the year and is for medical and non-medical volunteers.



Splints, splints and more splints during first aid course.

Tax Credits: Another perk to MRC involvement

Volunteers in the United States may receive tax deductions from the federal government on many costs associated with volunteering, such as mileage and other travel expenses, parking, uniforms, etc. These deductions apply only if you are not getting reimbursed for these expenses, and you are itemizing on your tax form (not using the 1040EZ form).

When volunteers drive their own vehicles to carry out volunteer duties, including to and from trips to their volunteer service, the IRS permits a deduction of 14 cents per mile. MRC volunteers who want a tax deduction should keep good records of mileage in performing volunteer duties, and ask their tax preparation specialist for information on deducting volunteer expenses.

For more information go to www.irs.gov to review Publication #526 Charitable Contributions.



Meet the Staff:

Paula Martel
MRC Program Coordinator

Paula Martel has coordinated the Medical Reserve Corps of Southern Nevada since May 2003. This MRC unit was one of the original 42 units to receive demonstration grant funding in 2002 from the U.S. Surgeon General's Office to develop a cadre of health care professional volunteers to assist their local community throughout the year as well as during large-scale emergencies. Paula participates in the national MRC Capacity Building Workgroup, the Nevada State Citizen Corps Council and the Southern Nevada Community Organizations Active in Disaster.

Prior to joining the health district, Paula was employed by the California State Automobile Association adjusting first and third party automobile claims and working with its fraud investigations unit. In 1998, she transferred from Santa Cruz to Las Vegas accepting a position as a recognition and community affairs administrator, developing recognition and team-building programs for a 250-seat claim call center.

She presents workshops on volunteer management and is well respected in the community for her ability to coordinate volunteers both in the corporate and non-profit arenas.

Paula spends her free time supporting local homeless advocacy groups, as well as hiking, mountain biking and kayaking.

New Volunteers

Please welcome our new volunteers:

- Jeniffer Abelda, RN
- Stephanie Averbukh, Pharm Intern
- Michelle Blair, Pharm Intern
- Christopher Cao, Pharm Intern
- Matthew Carlson, Med Student
- Jason Chan
- Michele Clark, RN
- Kevin Cody, Nursing Student
- LaShare Edwards, Nursing Student
- Farhad Eghbalian
- Michele Eisma, RN
- Linda Erwin, RN
- Janice Evangelista, Nursing Student
- Jerifaye Flores, RN
- Nicole Grappo, EMT-I
- Frankie Guarino
- Kathryn Guinto, Pharm Intern
- Robin Hoover, RN
- Eileen Ilagan, Pharm Intern
- Carol Jarmel, RN
- Arthur Kaye, EMT-B
- Shawna Kennelly, EMT-B
- Casey Lubking, EMT-B
- Alexander Lund, Med Student
- MinhTu Ly, Pharm Intern
- Sean McFarland
- Kimberly Markoe, EMT-I
- Therese Mendoza, Nursing Student
- Amanda Mercer, Nursing Student
- Shantel Morris, Nursing Student
- Khanh Minh Nguyen, Pharm Intern
- KimChi Nguyen, Pharm Intern
- Mai-Huong Nguyen, Pharm Intern
- Ruthie Nguyen, Pharm Intern
- TamAnh Nguyen, Pharm Intern
- Tamdan Nguyen, Pharm Intern
- Thao Nguyen, Pharm Intern
- Khanh Anh Nguyen, Pharm Intern
- Mallory Novack, Med Student
- Kevin Oei, Med Student
- Jill Ortiz, RN

- Jennifer Peterson, Med Student
- Janet Purcell Gray, RN
- Laura Renner
- Todd Schwarting
- Allison Sergent, LVT
- Pamela Slaughter, Pharm Intern
- Whitney So, Pharm Intern
- Sheila Stephens, Pharm Tech
- Tera Tran, Pharm Intern
- Tracy Tran, Pharm Intern
- Lauren Traveller, Nursing Student
- Stephen Vargo, MD
- Jacqueline Washington, RN
- Kara Watarida
- Erika Wilson, Med Student
- Derrek Woodbury, Med Student
- Patrick Wuthrich, Med Student
- Olivia Yang, Pharm Intern
- Christopher Zaferes, RN/EMT-I



Become Part of the MRC Team

For local information, contact

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www.MRCNevada.com

For national program information, go to

www.MedicalReserveCorps.gov

