



Medical Reserve NEWS

Fall/Winter 2011

“Logic will
get you
from A to B.
Imagination
will take you
everywhere.”

– Albert Einstein

MRC partners with new agency

The Medical Reserve Corps of Southern Nevada is excited to announce its partnership with the Las Vegas Senior & Veteran's Village. The mission of this community project is to create unique and comprehensive housing for seniors and US veterans with onsite support services. As one of a number of local partners, MRC volunteers will have the opportunity to provide services to residents including: education, nutritional programs, exercise training, medical services, mental health counseling, specialized activities, special events and more.

Opportunities for MRC volunteers may include:

- **Medical** – Screen, educate, perform preventive health services, offer nutritional information
- **Mental Health** – Counsel, educate
- **Non-Medical** – Help with special events/activities, support medical volunteers, perform administrative duties and/or specialties (i.e., massage, Pilates, etc.)
- **Pharmacy** – Educate, offer advice about medication
- **Veterinary** – Perform pet health exams, free microchipping and discounted spay/neuter, connect residents with shelters for pet adoption

The location of this facility is near Charleston and Las Vegas Boulevard. Plans for redesign are in the works, and we intend to involve MRC volunteers from the start.



Volunteers receive FEMA Training

Thanks to Stacey Belt, coordinator of the Western Nevada MRC and certified FEMA trainer, for providing Incident Command System training to MRC volunteers and staff from the Clark County Office of the Coroner and Medical Examiner on Nov. 12. We plan to repeat this classroom training next year.

Below is a note from Doug Young, PA, who took the class: *"Please thank Stacey for taking her time to come down and do this class for us. I, like you, am not an 'online' learner. I am on the computer hours daily and the last thing I want to do is to try to decipher federal 'trick questions' on my time off. She was able to make this information interesting and related it to real world issues in which we may be involved (yes, the air show disaster and IHOP)."*

MRC units assist with hurricane recovery efforts

A total of 155 MRC units around the country reported preparedness and response activities related to Hurricane Irene. Some units continue to support recovery efforts in their communities. Many units reported that they performed sheltering functions:

- staffing or assisting with the set-up of 107 community shelters and 15 functional/special needs shelters
- working at 65 shelters in support of the American Red Cross

Units also indicated that they provided the community with:

- health education

- emergency communications support
- surge staffing to local hospitals, emergency management agencies and public health departments

It is estimated that volunteers provided a total of 11,000 hours, based on the 57 units that reported hours of service. Additionally, many units reported that they used this opportunity to perform call-downs and notifications as part of their general preparedness planning. MRC units within the affected regions reported that they had an additional 1,096 volunteers from 344 units that were ready to volunteer if needed.

"Service Animal" defined

Service animals are defined as dogs that are individually trained to do work or perform tasks for people with disabilities. Service animals are working animals, not pets. The work or task a dog has been trained to provide must be directly related to the person's disability. Dogs whose sole function is to provide comfort or emotional support do not qualify as service animals under the ADA. When it is not obvious what service an animal provides, only limited inquiries are allowed. Only the following two questions may be asked:

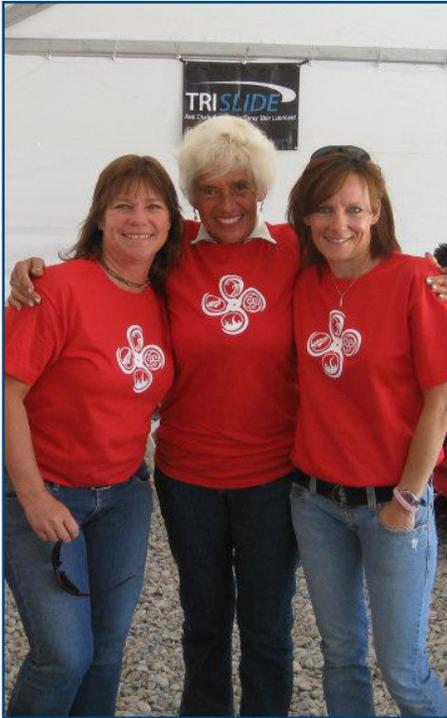
1. Is the dog a service animal required because of a disability?
2. What work or task has the dog been trained to perform?

You may not ask about the person's disability, require medical documentation, require a special identification card or training documentation for the dog, or ask that the dog demonstrate its ability to perform the work or task.

For more information about service animals, including where they are allowed, visit http://www.ada.gov/service_animals_2010.htm.



MRC in action!



Above: Elemental Running (Terry Maurer; Phyllis Dougherty, RN; and Dana Clark). Below: Drive through flu clinic exercise (Leslie Wulff, RN)



Above: Family Fur & Fun Festival, 10/8/11 (Cortez Williams, Susan Vondracek, LVT and Melissa Schalles, LVT); Right: Sunrise Mountain Ministry (Jeremy Logan, EMT-I and Sheila Stephens, PT)



Victory Black Mountain Church (Dr. Shamoan Ahmad and Jerre Greenhalgh, RN)

Exploring the NTEF mission

The National Toxic Encephalopathy Foundation (NTEF) is a 501(c)3 nonprofit project of United Charitable Programs. It was formed in 1998 to provide education, services, referrals and eventually research into the effects of the chemicals in the environment

upon the brain and central nervous system. They have now expanded to incorporate all organ systems adversely affected by the exogenous chemicals we are exposed to via inhalation, ingestion or absorption via ocular or dermal exposure.

Toxic encephalopathy is defined as effects upon the brain and cognitive functions from chemicals, resulting in short-term memory effects, disorientation, neurological tremors, aphasia, aphonia, muscular dysfunction and loss of coordination, in addition to respiratory and endocrine problems. There is no cure or treatment. This is a progressive neurological disorder that impacts not only the person but, their entire family. The only way to mitigate the effects is avoidance of environmental exposures, which often leads to isolation from society.

Chemicals in our environment are now being connected with ADD/ADHD, Parkinson's, depression, immunological problems and other illnesses, in addition to the longstanding and well-known connections with asthma, migraines and dermal effects.

An NTEF principal has been elected to represent Nevada, as one of two statewide disability representatives, on FEMA's Region 9 Functional Needs Working Group. This is the first group of its kind to develop recommendations to make sure all disabled citizens are covered in the event of an emergency.

For more information, visit NTEF-USA.org.



Welcome New Volunteers

Congratulations to the following new volunteers for completing all requirements to volunteer with the MRC of Southern Nevada and for being added to the active volunteer list.

- Kristina Amos, LPN
- Rebecca Edgeworth, MD
- Dorothy Engler, RN
- Bruce Handelman, MD
- Cheryl Kaftan, RN
- Jeramy Logan, EMT-I
- Phillip Oliveira, Med Student
- Abigail Pajimula, RN
- Andrea Spencer, Nursing Student



Become Part of the MRC Team

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www.MRCNevada.com

For national program information, go to
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. "Like" us!