



# Medical Reserve Corps

A national network of volunteers engaging local communities to strengthen public health, emergency preparedness & response, and community resilience

MRC Monthly Report: March 2018

## Monthly at a Glance



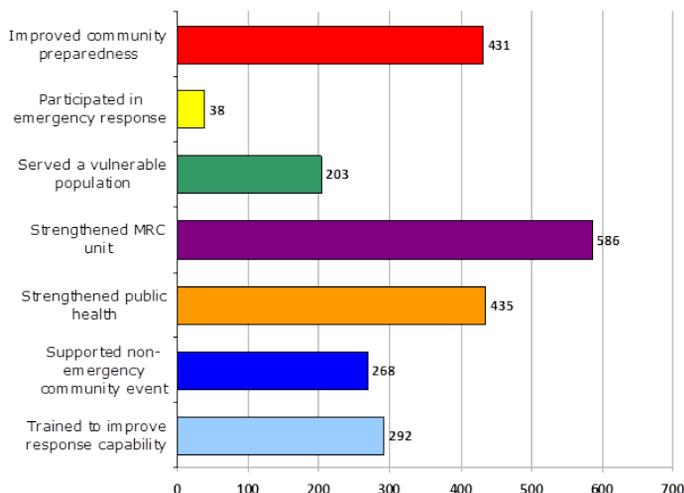
**918** MRC units

**191,487** volunteers

In response to winter storms in the Northeast, more than a dozen MRC units were activated or placed on stand-by to assist communities with warming centers and overnight sheltering operations, including providing medical and mental health support



## 856 MRC activities reported



The number of activities notes the number of unique entries by MRC unit leaders for the current month. MRC unit leaders also select impact areas for each activity, which may include multiple categories. Thus, the numbers in the bar chart may not equal the total number of activities.

## MRC: Building Strong, Healthy, and Prepared Communities

- ★ Forty-five **Fresno MRC (CA)** volunteers attended training led by the Fresno Fire Department Battalion Chief on firefighter rehabilitation protocols in high heat conditions.
- ★ **Manatee County MRC (FL)** was activated to provide emergency medical rehab to firefighters of East Manatee County Fire Department and Florida Forest Service as they battled a 10-acre fire that was located in a heavily-wooded area with residential structures nearby.
- ★ **Clark County MRC (IN)** volunteers assisted with a tetanus vaccination clinic hosted by the local health department after the community experienced severe flooding in early March. People exposed to flood water may be susceptible to tetanus if they have open wounds, or if they get cuts during flood clean-up.
- ★ **Greene County MRC (IA)** supported a local blood drive at Greene County Community Center. Volunteers helped register donors and staffed the post-donation canteen.
- ★ **Hampshire County MRC (MA)** volunteers helped to set up an emergency dispensing site (EDS) at Smith College to dispense Meningococcal B vaccines to students following a recent diagnosis. Four hundred thirty-one vaccines were administered.
- ★ **Minnesota Veterinary MRC (MN)** volunteers attended a training course with state and local partners titled "Emergency Response to Domestic Biological Incidents."
- ★ In 2016, approximately 800 6<sup>th</sup> graders in Richmond, VA, missed class time because they did not have the Tetanus, Diphtheria, Pertussis (Tdap) vaccination required to attend middle school. This year, **Richmond City MRC (VA)** and the Richmond City Health District partnered with the Mayor's office to reduce this number by providing Tdap vaccines to rising 6<sup>th</sup> graders in every elementary school in Richmond.
- ★ Eighteen **MRC units (CT, FL, GA, ID, MA, MI, NH, OH, OR, TN, SC, VT)** led and/or participated in "Stop the Bleed" training events, including eight events held on *National Stop the Bleed Day* on March 31.

## Strengthening the MRC Network

- ★ As part of the program's monthly Well Check Webinar series, MRC staff hosted a webinar on March 6, entitled "MRC Specialized Teams." During the webinar, local MRC unit leaders shared creative initiatives, best practices, and lessons learned with the greater MRC network. A recording is archived on the [MRC website](#).
- ★ On March 15, MRC program staff facilitated a webinar for MRC State Coordinators to share ideas and discuss best practices regarding integration of the MRC into state and local-level public health and preparedness infrastructures.
- ★ MRC leadership attended the Bataan Memorial Death March in White Sands, NM, on behalf of the MRC program. The annual march through desert terrain commemorates World War II heroes who were captured and forced to march to prisoner of war camps by Japanese forces in 1942. Volunteers, including those from New Mexico and Texas MRC units, are a critical part of the medical team that provides care and first aid to participants throughout the course.
- ★ MRC Regional Liaisons participated in various state / local MRC and coalition meetings to engage state leaders, unit coordinators, and volunteers. Examples include:
  - ★ Illinois MRC meeting
  - ★ Ohio MRC meeting
  - ★ Oregon MRC meeting
  - ★ Pennsylvania MRC meeting
  - ★ Virginia MRC meeting

## Enhancing Connectivity with MRC Partners

- ★ MRC leadership attended the 2018 Disaster Distress Helpline Steering Committee Meeting in Washington, DC.
- ★ On March 16, MRC leadership attended the Federal Interagency Disaster Research Meeting, organized by the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences in Bethesda, MD.
- ★ Region 6 MRC Liaison (AR, LA, NM, OK, TX) participated in ASPR's table top planning exercise for Louisiana's upcoming hurricane season.
- ★ Region 7 MRC Liaison (IA, KS, MO, NE) attended the Gateway Volunteer Network meeting in St. Charles, MO.
- ★ Region 8 MRC Liaison (CO, MT, ND, SD, UT, WY) presented about the MRC program and the "You are the Help Until Help Arrives" initiative during a Region 8 Million Hearts® webinar. Million Hearts® is a national initiative, co-led by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), that focuses on the prevention of heart attacks and strokes across the nation.



**Pictured: (Left)** Naugatuck Valley MRC (CT) led an "Introduction to Family Assistance Center" training for participants from other Connecticut MRC units and CERT teams; **(Center and Right)** Volunteers from New Mexico and Texas served more than 3,000 hours providing care to participants of the 2018 Bataan Memorial Death March in White Sands, NM

Website: <https://mrc.hhs.gov> | Phone: 202.692.4724 | E-mail: [MRCcontact@hhs.gov](mailto:MRCcontact@hhs.gov)