Medical Reserve Corps
Volunteers Building Strong, Healthy, and Prepared Communities

Medical Reserve Corps Monthly Report: January 2020

Monthly at a Glance

839 MRC units
175,283 volunteers

MRC units devoted more than 1,000 hours to training on topics as varied as burn care, caring for horses during an emergency, disaster mental health, and medical protocols.

596 MRC activities reported

- Improved community preparedness: 295
- Participated in emergency response: 15
- Served a vulnerable population: 578
- Strengthened MRC unit: 404
- Strengthened public health: 285
- Supported non-emergency community event: 199
- Trained to improve response capability: 167

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

- In response to the COVID-19 outbreak, the Snohomish County Medical Reserve Corps (WA) staffed an emergency call center and answered 55 calls about COVID-19.
- After an earthquake struck Southwest Puerto Rico, the Medical Reserve Corps of Puerto Rico (PR) conducted medical assessments and community needs assessments of impacted populations.
- In response to a fire at the Drake Hotel in Minneapolis, the Minnesota Behavioral Health Medical Reserve Corps (MN) worked in collaboration with an American Red Cross team to provide behavioral health support to hotel residents. The MRC unit also collected triage data to assist the City of Minneapolis and Hennepin County, Minnesota, in requesting funding for long-term recovery services.
- The Denton County Medical Reserve Corps (TX) assisted with a salmonella outbreak investigation.
- Four Northeast TN Regional Medical Reserve Corps (TN) members deployed as part of the unit’s Disaster Mental Health Strike Team to assist with a call involving the death of a minor.
- Several MRC units were on standby for or responded to winter weather emergencies, including the Northeast Missouri Medical Reserve Corps (MO), the Snohomish County Medical Reserve Corps (WA), and the Multnomah County Medical Reserve Corps (OR).
- The Cape Cod Medical Reserve Corps (MA) participated in emergency shelter training.
Strengthening the MRC Network and Enhancing Connectivity with Partners

As part of the program’s monthly Well Check Webinar series, MRC staff hosted a webinar on January 7 that focused on MRC unit Technical Assistance Assessments. A recording is archived on the MRC website.

Regional Liaisons participated in Regional Advisory Committee calls and other regional and national calls related to the response to COVID-19.

The Region 2 (NJ, NY, PR, and VI) MRC Liaison held a conference call with stakeholders from the U.S. Virgin Islands Department of Health to discuss the redevelopment of the MRC program in the territory.

The Region 3 (DC, DE, MD, PA, VA, and WV) MRC Liaison took part in a preliminary discussion with Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR) Region 3 staff and federal partners concerning National Disaster Medical System air patient evacuation and repatriation operations.

The Region 4 (AL, FL, GA, KY, MS, NC, SC, TN) MRC Liaison held coordination meetings with the Arkansas MRC State Coordinator to discuss state plans to develop new units under a healthcare coalition.

The Region 6 (AR, LA, NM, OK, and TX) MRC Liaison attended the Department of Health and Human Services Region 6 Opioid Town Hall Meeting on January 21, 2020, to share information regarding naloxone training offered at the 2019 TALON (Texas, Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, and New Mexico) MRC Conference, to discuss MRC engagement with the crisis throughout the region, and to obtain information about programs/resources available in the region.

The Region 8 (CO, MT, ND, SD, UT, and WY) MRC Liaison participated in an ASPR Region 8 visit with the special pathogens emergency manager at Children’s Hospital Colorado, Anschutz Medical Campus, Aurora, Colorado.

Pictured: (left) During First Night in Raleigh, North Carolina, a Capital MRC volunteer walks with an Emergency Medical Services member, the two of them forming a roving medical team, available to assist anyone in need of minor medical care and to alert EMS officials of any major medical emergencies; (right) a member of the Medical Reserve Corps of Puerto Rico conducts a medical assessment in response to an earthquake in Puerto Rico.

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