Medical Reserve Corps

Volunteers Building Strong, Healthy, and Prepared Communities

Medical Reserve Corps Monthly Report: May 2018

Monthly at a Glance

910 MRC units
190,968 volunteers

For more than a month, Big Island MRC volunteers in Hawaii have supported response to the Kilauea volcano eruption by providing medical support at shelters, health observations at PODs, and conducting fit testing for N95 masks.

MRC: Building Strong, Healthy, and Prepared Communities

- During recent wildfires, Yavapai County MRC (AZ) volunteers served 72 hours assisting local emergency management at the emergency call center, the emergency operations center, and with shelter services.
- After a severe storm and tornado touched down in the local community, Naugatuck Valley MRC (CT) nurse volunteers supported a temporary shelter set up for residents.
- Eighteen Wayne County MRC, Hamilton County MRC, and Franklin Williamson MRC (IL) volunteers assisted with bottled water point of dispensing sites after the local community suffered a water shortage and boil order that left residents without drinkable water for five days.
- Dutchess County MRC (NY) volunteers helped staff a Red Cross shelter in Fishkill, NY, after severe storm-related damage left many homes in the area uninhabitable.
- Midlands Public Health Reserve Corps (SC) assisted with the evacuation of a local nursing home after the facility lost air conditioning.
- Dallas County MRC (TX) volunteers attended the following trainings: Introduction to Radiological/Nuclear WMD Operations for Emergency Medical Services/Healthcare; Population Monitoring at Community Reception Centers; Fundamentals of Preparedness; and Shelter Fundamentals.
As part of the program’s monthly Well Check Webinar series, MRC staff hosted a webinar on May 1, entitled “Protecting Your Volunteers (e.g., Risk Management, Liability, Volunteer Safety).” During the webinar, MRC partner and unit leader guest presenters shared resources and tools, best practices, and lessons learned with the greater MRC network. A recording is archived on the MRC website.

MRC program staff and regional liaisons hosted an MRC New Leader Orientation on May 10. The quarterly orientation, which is intended for unit leaders who are new to their positions, provided program overview information, as well as resources, tools, and technical assistance available. The goal of the orientation is to help unit leaders build strong and sustainable MRC programs.

On May 17, MRC program staff facilitated a webinar for MRC State Coordinators to share ideas and discuss best practices regarding integration of the MRC and the role of the State Coordinator during state-level responses.

MRC leadership participated in the U.S. Agency for International Development, Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance’s International Humanitarian Coordination Field Simulation training.

MRC program staff and the Region 1 (CT, ME, MA, NH, RI, VT) MRC Liaison attended and presented at the National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters (VOAD) 2018 Conference in Providence, RI, from May 8-10. Presentations included:

- Maximizing Volunteer Training: Opportunities for Workforce / Volunteer Collaboration (co-presented with TRAIN, Public Health Foundation)
- The use of Volunteers in Incident Rehabilitation (co-presented with local fire department leadership)

Region 9 MRC Liaison (AZ, CA, HI, NV, Guam, American Samoa, CNMI, FSMI, RMI, Palau) attended the California MRC Training Workshop in Sacramento, CA, from May 30-31.

Region 10 MRC Liaison (AK, ID, OR, WA) attended the Tribal Emergency Preparedness Meeting in Suquamish, WA.

Pictured: (Left) Naugatuck Valley MRC (CT) nurse volunteers assisted at the emergency shelter set up after a severe storm and tornado impacted the community; (Right) Central Nebraska MRC (NE) hosted “Save-A-Life” training at a local Cub Scout Camp for several camp hosts, leaders, and parents

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