



Medical Reserve Corps

Volunteers Building Strong, Healthy, and Prepared Communities

Medical Reserve Corps Quarterly Report: FY2018 Quarter 3 (April 1 – June 30, 2018)

The Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) is a national network of local volunteers with a mission to strengthen public health; reduce vulnerabilities; improve emergency preparedness, response, and recovery capabilities; and build community resilience. MRC volunteers include medical and public health professionals and other community members interested in improving the health and safety of their local jurisdictions.

MRC: This Quarter By the Numbers



910 MRC units
190,920 volunteers



0 new MRC units registered
8 MRC units de-registered



MRC units carried out
129 activities relating to “Stop the Bleed.”



In response to tornadoes in CT and NY, **18** MRC volunteers spent **183** hours staffing shelters, carrying out medical and non-medical tasks, including communicating with emergency operations centers.



MRC units participated in
20 hurricane preparedness activities, including a town hall, a hurricane preparedness fair, and training.



MRC units participated in approximately **27** activities related to the opioid crisis (for example, providing naloxone administration training, facilitating safe prescription drug disposal, and supporting community awareness campaigns).



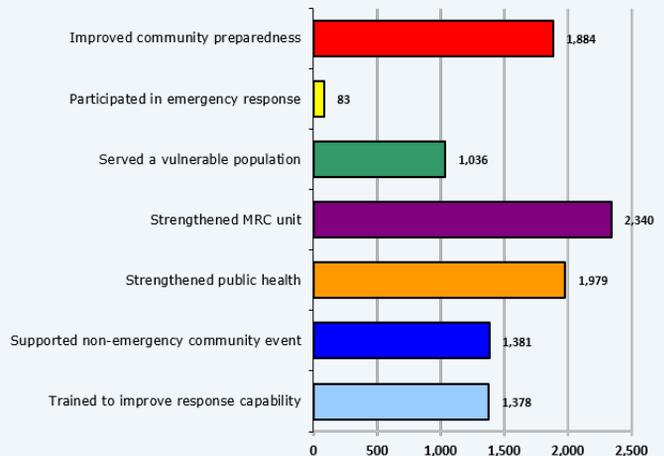
MRC units participated in
34 activities relating to mental health, including disaster mental health meetings, mental health first aid training, and mental health preparedness classes.

MRC: At Work in our Communities

This quarter, **492** MRC units reported a total of **3,632** activities.

- **83** emergency-related
- **3,549** non-emergency

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



Emergency and/or Response-Related Activities

- ★ The **Yavapai MRC (AZ)** contributed to sheltering efforts in response to the Viewpoint Fire on May 11, 2018. The fire broke out next to two large housing developments. MRC volunteers worked in the call center and the Emergency Operations Center and assisted with shelter services.
- ★ 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.
- ★ The **Big Island MRC (HI)** worked to respond to local public health needs over the course of two months (May-June) in response to the Kilauea volcanic eruption on the island. The MRC volunteers conducted mental health assessments for community members, partnered with the American Red Cross in shelter operations, and completed the administrative tasks of activating and demobilizing MRC volunteers. Volunteers were rostered and mobilized with the assistance of the Hawaii State Coordinator.
- ★ 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.
- ★ MRC of **Morgan County (IN)** helped staff a shelter after local residents were displaced due to flooding.
- ★ Members of the **Butler County MRC (KS)** responded with the community emergency response team (CERT) to assist with cleanup and checking in on volunteers following a tornado that struck Eureka, KS.
- ★ The **Louisville Metro MRC (KY)** provided hepatitis A vaccinations at 32 different underserved locations in response to the outbreak emergency. Volunteers provided 40 hours of hepatitis A vaccination support for patients in response to the Louisville Metro hepatitis A outbreak.
- ★ **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.
- ★ The **Clark County MRC (OH)** Crisis Response team was activated to assist school counselors with students affected by the sudden suicide death of a fellow student. The team deployed to the high school, where they provided support and resources for 36 students.
- ★ As part of the continuing Hurricane Maria response, the **MRC of Puerto Rico (PR)** is operating mobile clinics in different parts of the island. At one location, six nurses and one psychologist were able to help 450 people.
- ★ The **Midlands Public Health Reserve Corps (SC)** assisted with the evacuation of a local nursing home after the facility lost air conditioning.

Emergency and/or Response-Related Activities (*continued*)

- ★ Ten MRC members of the **Weber-Morgan County MRC (UT)** supported an annual local “community clean-up” event in April by staffing three first aid stations located along the route throughout Ogden City as requested by the city Emergency Manager. The event had a record 115,000 attendees. HOSA partners, including students, participated in this event and received training from MRC members in staffing a first aid station and demobilizing after an event.

Non-Emergency / Steady State Activities

- ★ **City of Cupertino MRC (CA)**, along with CERT volunteers, participated in shelter training, which covered planning, opening, and operating a shelter if/when needed.
- ★ The **Ventura County MRC (CA)** was activated on June 29, 2018, to assist the Ventura County Public Health Department with tuberculosis specimen collection.
- ★ In May, 10 members of the **Pueblo County MRC (CO)** supported the 2018 Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program Full-Scale Exercise. The Pueblo County MRC provided safety and accountability for 250 high school student actors who acted as victims and sheltering families.
- ★ **Delaware County MRC (DE)** volunteers participated in a full-scale exercise focused on dispensing medical countermeasures from the Strategic National Stockpile.
- ★ Clinicians with the **Florida Keys MRC (FL)** participated in training on special needs shelter management in anticipation of potentially staffing such shelters at the Florida International University during a hurricane evacuation.
- ★ The **MRC of North Idaho (ID)** participated in a two-day training event that involved the set-up of a 20-bed medical needs shelter and a full-scale exercise. Exercise objectives included intake, assessment, shift change, assisting with functional needs, and transport of patients to a receiving facility.
- ★ The **New Orleans MRC (LA)** provided training to new members on hurricane season procedures, the role of the New Orleans MRC during an evacuation, how to respond effectively if there is extreme heat, how to operate a shelter, and how to address special needs in shelters.
- ★ At the 2018 Boston Marathon, **Boston MRC (MA)** volunteers assisted with family reunification and injured runner tracking along the course and at the finish line. **Newton MRC (MA)** volunteers also helped staff a warming shelter opened along the marathon route for runners, spectators, and volunteers. Weather on marathon day included heavy rain, high winds, and cold temperatures.
- ★ **Grafton MRC (MA)** volunteers participated in training focusing on how repeated exposure to trauma affects first responders and what MRC volunteers can do to help themselves and others.
- ★ The **Montcalm-Ionia MRC (MI)** and the **Newaygo County MRC (MI)** each offered an Autism Awareness Training to their volunteers. For Newaygo County, the volunteers had requested the training because they have deployed to search for, and attempt to locate, individuals who have walked away from their residence or school, including individuals who are diagnosed on the autism spectrum.
- ★ Members of the **Central Mississippi MRC (MS)** trained members of the State Guard in biosafety and infectious disease; the *First Hands* training program; mass casualty management; and Sort, Assess, Life-Saving Interventions, Treatment and/or Transport (SALT) triage. They also aided the U.S. Air Force in providing medical support during the Wings Over Columbus airshow at Columbus Air Force Base.
- ★ The **Onslow County MRC (NC)** held a “Stop the Bleed” training for 27 community members.
- ★ Nine volunteers with the **Eastern Nebraska/Western Iowa MRC (NE)** participated in “Operation Bruin Safety,” an active shooter exercise at Bellevue University in the Omaha area.
- ★ Eight **West Central Nebraska MRC (NE)** members provided medical assistance at the Nebraskaland Days festival in North Platte, which attracts thousands of people to the area for two nights of concerts.

Non-Emergency / Steady State Activities *(continued)*

- ★ Twenty-five **Bergen County MRC (NJ)** volunteers attended a “Bleeding Control for the Tactical Provider” training to enhance their ability to deal with patients in an emergency situation.
- ★ **Hudson Regional Health Commission MRC (NJ)** volunteers participated in an Urban Area Security Initiative active shooter full-scale exercise.
- ★ **MRC of Southern Nevada (NV)** nurse volunteers provided first aid support at a community event that offered services to the local homeless and at-risk population.
- ★ Volunteers from the **Nassau County MRC (NY)** assisted the Nassau County Department of Health (DOH) with the provision of medical support at the Long Island Marathon, treating 57 runners.
- ★ **Westchester County MRC (NY)** team members participated in a full-scale exercise at the Westchester County Airport by assisting with the medical triage, treatment, and transportation sectors established by first responders.
- ★ Twenty-eight **Franklin County & Columbus MRC (OH)** volunteers participated in “Operation Worrisome Weather Full-Scale Exercise” to test their ability to surge the local hospital emergency departments.
- ★ **Preble County MRC (OH)** volunteers attended a National Organization for Victim Assistance (NOVA) Community Crisis Response Team training focused on how to respond to a mental health crisis in the county.
- ★ On June 23, 2018, at the Asian American festival in Tulsa, **Tulsa County MRC (OK)** volunteers provided emergency preparedness information and materials in various languages to community members and recruited members to the MRC, including volunteers that were fluent in foreign languages.
- ★ The **Rhode Island MRC (RI)** and the Rhode Island Disaster Medical Assistance Team (RIDMAT) provided medical coverage at the Rhode Island Air Show. The MRC and RIDMAT deployed all of their assets, including a full field hospital, four flight line aid stations, four mobile medical units, two bike patrols, and maritime support.
- ★ The **Madison County MRC (TN)** assisted the **Shelby County Health Department MRC (TN)** in establishing a mobile field hospital and medical communications for the MLK50 event in Memphis, TN, commemorating the 50th anniversary of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. More than 10,000 visitors attended the event.
- ★ Twenty-five members of the **Salt Lake County MRC (UT)** in June participated in “A New Tool for Your First Aid Kit: Doing Your Part to Combat the Opioid Epidemic,” a training event on the use of Naloxone to reverse opioid overdoses. Attendees were provided a Naloxone kit to add to their first aid kit.
- ★ Members of the **Central Vermont MRC (VT)**, along with the **Chittenden County MRC (VT)**, the **MRC of Southwestern VT (VT)**, the **MRC of Northwestern VT (VT)**, the **MRC of Rutland and Addison County (VT)**, and the **Lamoille Valley MRC (VT)**, practiced set-up and demobilization of a 20-bed portable hospital.
- ★ **Greenbrier Valley MRC (WV)** volunteers, along with HOSA students, dedicated the entire month of May to addressing the opioid crisis in WV. Team members created a lesson plan with the local health department, the West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine, Rainelle Medical Center's mental health counselor, and West Virginia State Senator Stephen Baldwin. The training will be conducted with students in grades 7-12.



Tulsa County MRC (OK)



MRC units in Vermont practiced setting up this 20-bed portable hospital.

Strengthening the MRC Network and Enhancing Connectivity with Partners

During the quarter, the MRC Program fostered partnerships and hosted, participated, presented, and/or exhibited at a number of events to enhance connectivity, raise awareness, and strengthen the sustainability of the MRC Network. Examples include the following:

- ★ The MRC Program announced the release of its *2017 Hurricane Season Reports*, which detail MRC network activity during Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria. In total, approximately 100 MRC units contributed more than 100,000 volunteer service hours preparing for and responding to the storms. The full reports are posted on the [MRC website](#).
- ★ The MRC Program hosted the 2018 MRC Recognition Awards on April 3, as part of a special MRC Well Check Webinar and Twitter presentation. This annual awards program honors MRC units, volunteers, leaders, housing organizations, and partners who go above and beyond every day to further the MRC mission. Recipients were named in 12 award categories; a short description of each category and awardee is available on the [MRC website](#).
- ★ MRC leadership and the Region 10 MRC Liaison (AK, ID, OR, WA) presented at the Oregon Preparedness Meeting in Sunriver, OR, from April 2-5.
- ★ Members of the MRC Program Office as well as the Region 2 (NJ, NY, PR, VI) and Region 6 (AR, LA, NM, OK, TX) MRC Liaisons attended and presented on behalf of the MRC Program at the Preparedness Summit in Atlanta, GA, from April 17-20. Program Office presentations, which featured MRC state coordinator and unit leader guest presenters, included the following:
 - ★ *Blindfolded and Pedaling Backwards Through Wind, Rain, and Rising Waters: Medical Reserve Corps Activations During the Catastrophic 2017 Hurricane Season*
 - ★ *A Valuable Resource Right in Your Backyard: How Health Care Coalitions Are Collaborating with Local Volunteers to Enhance Emergency Response and Build Community Resilience*
- ★ 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 Leadership, along with other staff from the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response, attended and presented at the HOSA-Future Health Professionals International Leadership Conference in Dallas, TX, from June 27-30, 2018.
- ★ 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 the following:
 - ★ *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)*
- ★ 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.

Strengthening the MRC Network and Enhancing Connectivity with Partners

During the quarter, MRC Regional Liaisons offered technical assistance, fostered partnerships, and attended various regional / state / local MRC and coalition meetings to engage state leaders, unit coordinators, volunteers, and network stakeholders & partners. Examples include the following:

- ★ Region 1 (CT, ME, MA, NH, RI, VT) – Supported the Emergency Operations Center for the Boston Marathon on April 16
- ★ Region 2 (NJ, NY, PR, VI) – Provided subject matter expertise to the development of a June 2018 “Personal Care Assistant” training for New Jersey MRC leaders and volunteers, held in concert with the American Red Cross
- ★ Region 3 (DC, DE, MD, PA, VA, WV) – Attended Pennsylvania Statewide Advisory Committee for Preparedness to network with MRC unit leaders and state leadership
- ★ Region 4 (AL, FL, GA, KY, MS, NC, SC, TN) – Attended State of KY MRC Unit Sustainability meeting with State Partners
- ★ Region 5 (IL, IN, MI, MN, OH, WI) – Participated in the American Red Cross’s Preparedness Summit Planning Committee
- ★ Region 6 (AR, LA, NM, OK, TX) – Hosted a regional MRC Coordinators conference including over 60 Region 6 MRC unit leaders in San Antonio from June 19-22, 2018
- ★ Region 7 (IA, KS, MO, NE) – Participated in the Missouri Citizen Corps Council Committee web conference/meeting, which related to disaster recovery
- ★ Region 8 (CO, MT, ND, SD, UT, WY) – Coordinated a meeting with the Colorado State MRC lead and the Corporation for National and Community Service manager to discuss and plan for AmeriCorps VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America) member support of the Colorado MRC units
- ★ Region 9 (AZ, CA, HI, NV, Guam, American Samoa, CNMI, FSMI, RMI, and Palau) – Attended the California Medical Reserve Corps face-to-face training on May 30-31, 2018, which focused on responding to California wildfires in highly populated areas and Points of Dispensing Processing times
- ★ Region 10 (AK, ID, OR, and WA) – Attended a Western Washington training event held in collaboration with the Red Cross



The Alabama Emergency Management Agency gave the Program of the Year award to the Autauga/Prattville MRC for its new medical surge/mass casualty vehicle.

Website: <https://mrc.hhs.gov> | **E-mail:** MRCcontact@hhs.gov

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/MedicalReserveCorps> | **Twitter:** @MRC_ASPR