



# Medical Reserve Corps

*Volunteers Building Strong, Healthy, and Prepared Communities*

## Medical Reserve Corps Quarterly Report: FY2019 Quarter 1 (October 1 – December 31, 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



**885** MRC units  
**186,634** volunteers



**2** new MRC units registered  
**6** MRC units de-registered



MRC units devoted more than **8,500** hours to emergency responses related to wildfires.



The MRC network participated in more than **350** influenza vaccination points of dispensing.



MRC members volunteered more than **900** hours in response to emergencies related to hurricanes.



MRC units across the country participated in more than **160** exercises focused on various emergency situations.



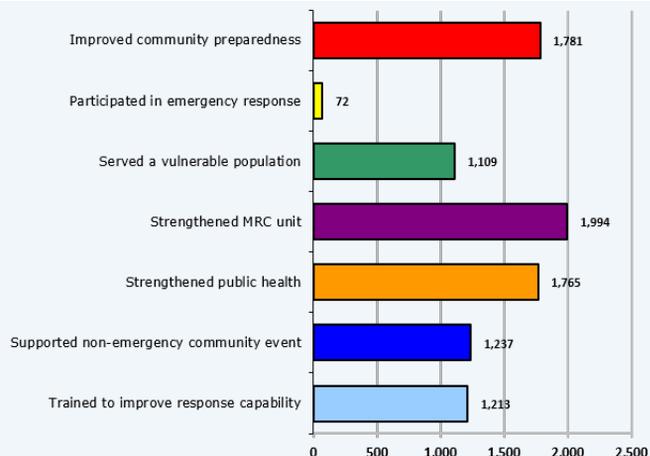
MRC volunteers devoted more than **750** hours to staffing cold weather shelters and responding to other emergencies relating to winter storms.

## MRC: At Work in our Communities

This quarter, 594 MRC units reported a total of 3,104 activities.

- 72 emergency-related
- 3,032 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

- ★ A number of MRC units responded to hurricanes, including the following:
  - ★ A nurse with the **MRC of Southern Arizona (AZ)** responded to an American Red Cross (ARC) request for support in a shelter established for evacuees from Hurricane Rosa flooding in Arizona.
  - ★ **Okaloosa - Walton MRC (FL)** members helped respond to Hurricane Michael by distributing aid, assisting in shelter operations, and gathering supplies to send to affected counties. The **Martin County MRC (FL)** also helped support shelter operations and assisted with demobilization. In addition, **Bay Area MRC (FL)** volunteers visited outlying communities affected by Hurricane Michael to evaluate any unaddressed health needs, assessing patients for possible injuries or illnesses and providing needed medications and treatments.
  - ★ The **Delaware Veterinary MRC (DE)** provided care for cats displaced from a Jacksonville, Florida, shelter following Hurricane Michael.
  - ★ As part of the continuing response to Hurricane Florence in October, volunteers with the **Lawrence County MRC (KY)**, the **Northeast CT MRC (CT)**, and the **South Central NH MRC (NH)** deployed to North Carolina to assist at an ARC shelter.
- ★ Several MRC units responded to the Camp Fire in Butte County, California:
  - ★ The **Contra Costa County MRC (CA)** deployed a team to provide medical care to evacuees in a general population ARC shelter. The shelter had a norovirus outbreak and several evacuees with chronic medical needs.
  - ★ Hundreds of members of the **California Veterinary MRC (CA)** deployed to provide care at nine animal shelters. The volunteers treated more than 400 animals that required extensive or ongoing care and monitored more than 2,700 animals.
  - ★ Members of the **UC Davis Veterinary Emergency Response Team MRC (CA)** participated in search and rescue for animals affected by the fire and provided fairground sheltering, wellness checks, vaccinations, and microchipping for the animals.
  - ★ The **Sacramento MRC (CA)**, the **Sonoma County MRC (CA)**, the **Berkeley MRC (CA)**, and the **San Francisco Fire Department Civilian Volunteer MRC (CA)** helped with shelter operations.

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

- ★ **Upper Valley MRC (NH)** volunteers responded to Winter Storm Bruno by monitoring the medical care of community members at an ARC warming shelter.
- ★ Members of the **McLean County Health Department MRC (IL)** assisted with a shelter set up in response to damage caused by a tornado. In addition, the **Montgomery County MRC (IL)** assisted with the setup of a multi-agency resource center for people affected by the tornado.
- ★ **Ottawa County MRC (MI)** volunteers delivered water to families who were unable to use their well water due to elevated levels of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS).
- ★ The **Mountain Regional MRC (NC)** provided technical support and medical assets to healthcare facilities impacted by a severe snowstorm.
- ★ **Orange County MRC (NY)** volunteers called 200 residents of Kiryas Joel, New York, that were potentially exposed to the measles to inquire about signs and symptoms and to provide them with educational information on exposure and prevention.
- ★ In response to a large fire at a West Philadelphia apartment complex that displaced approximately 70 people, members of the **Philadelphia MRC (PA)** assessed shelterees for medical follow-up care and helped them connect with healthcare providers and pharmacies to obtain emergency medication refills.
- ★ The **Delaware County MRC (PA)** contacted victims of flooding, checking on their unmet needs and explaining how voluntary organizations active in disaster could potentially assist with recovery efforts.
- ★ The **Sawyer County MRC (WI)** participated in several emergency search-and-rescue operations.
- ★ The **Snohomish County MRC (WA)** operated two cold weather shelters for multiple nights in November and December.
- ★ The **New Orleans MRC (LA)** operated a cold weather shelter for multiple nights.
- ★ The **Village of Palatine MRC (IL)** helped police officers and firefighters respond to downed power lines during a winter storm.

## Non-Emergency / Steady State Activities

- ★ The **Loudoun MRC (VA)** vaccinated 250 individuals during a flu vaccination point of dispensing.
- ★ The **George Washington University Medical Faculty Associates MRC (DC)** supported the DC Fire Department and Emergency Management Services in providing care for those who were paying their respects to President George H.W. Bush while he laid in state in the U.S. Capitol.
- ★ During a full-scale hospital surge exercise, the **Shelby County Health Department MRC (TN)** assisted with patient tracking and served as hospital liaisons at 19 different facilities. The exercise scenario, which involved a hypothetical airplane crash due to an adverse weather event, tested the emergency departments' ability to handle a 20-30% surge in patients.
- ★ The **ALCO MRC (CA)** participated in a state-wide tabletop exercise that simulated the response to an emerging infectious disease. The exercise tested medical surge capacity and how it would benefit pediatric and vulnerable populations, responder health and safety, and information sharing.
- ★ The **NYC MRC (NY)** participated in a Mount Sinai St Luke's full-scale exercise in which 26 MRC volunteers learned how to respond to a mass-casualty event.
- ★ Members of the **Worcester Regional MRC (MA)** participated in disaster mental health training to prepare for potential stresses they could face during deployments and emergencies.

## Non-Emergency / Steady State Activities

- ★ The **MRC of Southern Nevada (NV)** participated in a point-of-dispensing exercise at the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Southern Nevada Healthcare System in North Las Vegas. The VA-organized exercise tested the VA's ability to quickly credential, train, and supervise the MRC volunteers in the event of a surge in patients due to a flu pandemic. Once approved, the MRC members provided seasonal flu vaccination shots to the VA hospital employees and visiting veterans.
- ★ The **Nehalem Bay MRC (OR)** worked with community emergency response teams and other shelter volunteers to exercise setting up and running an emergency shelter in Wheeler, Oregon. MRC members role-played providing medical care for shelter clients and identified supplies and organization issues in the course of the drill.
- ★ The **Uncas Health District MRC (CT)** joined other volunteer organizations and government agencies in the Millstone Nuclear Power Plant Host Community Reception Center full-scale exercise. The exercise tested the participants' ability to work together to set up a host community reception center to dispense potassium iodide to the affected community in the event of nuclear radiation exposure. The Federal Emergency Management Agency evaluated the exercise.
- ★ The **Southeast Nebraska MRC (NE)** took part in training on how to respond to a bombing incident; the training also covered preparedness for such an incident.
- ★ Volunteers with the **Yavapai County MRC (AZ)** attended a critical incident stress management course that teaches volunteers how to effectively help children following a traumatic event.
- ★ The **Greater Prince William MRC (VA)** attended a pediatric disaster response course. The course prepares students to effectively plan for and respond to a disaster incident involving children.
- ★ Volunteers with **Anne Arundel County MD Responds (MD)** participated in a full-scale point-of-dispensing exercise to test the emergency response to an anthrax incident within the county. The volunteers filled roles as greeters, medical questionnaire screeners, medication distributors, and members of the public seeking medication.
- ★ The **Southwest Virginia MRC (VA)** assisted local law enforcement partners with a drug take-back day.
- ★ The **Snohomish County MRC (WA)** provided training to its members on staffing cold weather shelters.
- ★ **Somerset County MRC (NJ)** members attended Stop the Bleed training.
- ★ The **Greater Manchester MRC (NH)** participated in a mass casualty exercise to test the response of the police, the fire department, emergency medical services, and local hospitals to a mass shooting at a local 10,000-seat arena.

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### Resources for the MRC Network

Check out the [MRC Network Fiscal Year 2018 highlights](#).

We love receiving photos from the MRC network – please keep them coming! As a reminder, we've included a few helpful tips below for taking and sharing pictures:

- Action shots are great. Try to take photos of MRC volunteers at work. If you are able to capture the MRC logo or the words "Medical Reserve Corps" in the photo, that is even better!
- Move in close. If your subject is smaller than a car, take a step or two closer or zoom in before taking the picture.
- If possible, ask volunteers to tuck away or remove ID badges so they are not visible in the photo.
- Be sure to have the permission of those being photographed.
- When sharing photos, please send us the original-sized picture or the largest size possible. High resolution photos are ideal for printing and publishing.