



News and Notes From the MRC

Franklin County and Columbus, Ohio

Fall 2007

The Franklin County & Columbus Medical Reserve Corps (FC&C MRC) is dedicated to establishing teams of professional and medical volunteers to contribute their skills and expertise during disasters, as well as throughout the year for community health promotion. More info can be found at our web site at www.franklincountyohio.gov/health/mrc.htm.

Becoming an MRC Leadership Volunteer

Many Franklin County & Columbus Medical Reserve Corps (FC&C MRC) volunteers have contacted our offices interested in becoming Leadership Level volunteers. That's great! We are glad to have you.

Leadership Level participation allows volunteers with an interest in taking on more responsibility in a disaster to help us keep Franklin County healthy through any type of disaster. It requires no regular or weekly time commitment, only four hours of volunteer time per year, in addition to a series of trainings. This important and valuable role in your community requires each volunteer to complete the following:

- The FC&C MRC Orientation, either in-person or online
- The online National Incident Management System trainings 100 and 700
- Participation in an exercise or drill

See *Leadership Volunteer* on page 3



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Franklin County Disaster Exercise a Success



MRC volunteer Marjorie Kukor (right) talks to a mock victim in the Volunteer Staging Area at Crew Stadium as part of the Full-Scale Exercise on September 6th, 2007

First Responders, Emergency Management, Local Governments, Health Departments, Hospitals and other Community Partners teamed up on September 6, 2007, to conduct a full-scale exercise to test the community's response to multiple explosive device incidents within Franklin County. Sponsored by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and the State of Ohio Homeland Security Grant Exercise Program, this was the largest exercise of this type ever conducted in our county.

A full-scale exercise means that actors play out parts of the event while actual police, fire and specialty response teams (such as the bomb squad and tactical units) respond as if it were a true incident. The "injured" volunteers are then transported to area hospitals for treatment, along with the support of our MRC mental health teams, to allow the hospitals to test their response plans as well.

As essential players in the Franklin County health response to emergencies, the MRC helped facilitate the event. More than 20 volunteers participated as health support, first aid nurses, and mental health service providers for volunteers participating as mock victims.

Many of those participating also helped us test our training materials for infectious disease and bioterrorism response.

Thank you so much to all of you that participated! It was an important event for Franklin County. As we plan for emergencies in our county, it is important to test our readiness with exercises and drills. These exercises allow first responders and other disaster responders to practice communicating together, communicating with the public and quickly responding to terrorism and mass casualty events.

Plans in Franklin County are written with an all-hazards approach. This means that even though we tested our response to explosions on September 6th, the lessons learned from the event will help us improve our response to all types of potential hazards, from natural disasters like floods and disease outbreaks, to intentional disasters like terrorism. Thanks again for your support of this important event!



FC&C MRC Orientation Session

Completing an MRC 101 orientation session is an important aspect of volunteer involvement. Soon the orientation will be online, but if you just can't wait for the online course to be up and running you can participate in an in-person session. Meet other local MRC volunteers, learn about activation procedures, and get ready to volunteer for the MRC!

Wednesday, October 24th 6-8pm
Franklin County Board of Health, East Conference Room
280 E. Broad Street, Columbus, OH 43215
Please RSVP to rlfranz@franklincountyohio.gov by October 22



Volunteer for a Board of Health Flu Clinic

MRC Nurses and non-medical volunteers are needed for the Franklin County Board of Health influenza clinics. Help prevent the spread of the flu virus in Franklin County! Flu shots are an important part of our preparedness for flu season, in addition to being a great place for us to test our plans for responding to Pandemic Flu.

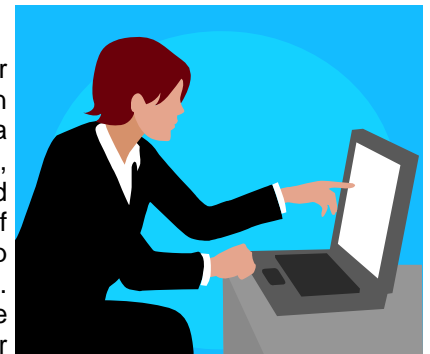
In general, anyone who wants to reduce their chances of getting the flu can get vaccinated. Both medical and non-medical professionals are needed to give shots, register the public and help coordinate the event. We would love your help!

Tuesday November 20th from 1-4pm
Southwest Community Center
Grove City, OH 43123
Please RSVP to rlfranz@franklincountyohio.gov by November 15th

Become a Member of our VOLUNTEER TEAMS

TECHIE TEAM

Do you have audio visual or computer talents? If you do, then the MRC needs your help with the Mobile Joint Information Center. This mobile unit enables the Franklin County Board of Health or other agency Public Information Officers to use in a response effort anywhere within the Central Ohio Region. The trailer has TVs, satellite dishes, computers, generators and other communications equipment and we are looking for a few good volunteers with the interest and skill to be a part of our Techie Team. Participation would require at least four hours of training/set up practice, as well as the ability to serve on the team during one deployment per year. Non-emergency deployments include exercises or large events such as the state fair. This team may also serve other technological needs at a medication center during a disaster.



LANGUAGE TEAM

Are you fluent in another language in addition to English? Are you willing to volunteer to help with language capabilities during a disaster, as well as throughout the year to support community preparedness? We would love to have you serve on a language team! We are focusing on Spanish, American Sign Language and Somali at this point, but please let us know about any language capability you may have. Thanks!

POD TEAM

Are you interested in helping us respond to large-scale events that require the distribution of medicines? We have great trainings and exercises available for those willing to take on a leadership role in these POD (Points of Distribution, as in the 'distribution' of medications) settings during a disaster. Thanks!

Please send an email to rlfranz@franklincountyohio.gov if you would like to join any of these teams.



*More photos from the September 6th
Franklin County Full-Scale Exercise*



(Continued from page 1, Leadership Volunteer)

- Safety: Non-Medical folks need the MRC on-line HIPAA and blood borne pathogens training modules
- Psychological First Aid or other Mental Health in Disasters Course
- Volunteer time of at least four hours per year
- Additional training of your choice, once per year, as a 'refresher'

If you have already completed any of these trainings in another setting, proof of course completion can be presented to the FC&C MRC Coordinator. Each Leadership Team volunteer must also choose to serve on at least one of our response teams. We have currently launched five response teams, and will continually be adding more as volunteers become interested in different areas. As of today, volunteers may sign up for either the Techie, Somali Language, Spanish Language, American Sign Language or POD Team.

Ready to get started? Great! The first step is to let the FC&C MRC Coordinator know you are working towards becoming a leadership level volunteer, as many of you have already done. The next step is to attend an MRC orientation, like the one being held on October 24th (see page 2). Once those two steps are complete, you can start working on your online courses. These are very straightforward courses, and after completing the orientation session, volunteers should be prepared for them. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) suggests that all disaster responders take two online courses in the Incident Command System, ICS 100, Introduction to Incident Command System; and 700, National Incident Management System. Ask the FC&C MRC Coordinator for directions about how to complete these courses. Once the course is complete, please email or mail a copy of your certificate to the FC&C MRC Coordinator, Robin Franz, at rlfranz@franklincountyohio.gov.