



News and Notes From the MRC

Spring 2008

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 information can be found at our web site at www.volunteermrc.org.

Successful Communications Drill

FC&C MRC held its first communications drill on April 16th, 2008. All volunteers that completed the orientation session were eligible to participate (contact Robin Franz at rlfranz@franklincountyohio.gov to complete an orientation). You MUST complete the orientation and register in our Central Ohio Health Alert Network (COHAN) contact system to be activated or participate in drills.

The results pointed us towards some future work and helped us to celebrate some success. 68% of our volunteers quickly responded. We need to increase this number. If you have received your COHAN email after completing the orientation and have not entered your contact information- including phone numbers in addition to an email address, we need you to enter your information now. This will greatly increase our success next time.

During the drill, volunteers were contacted by phone, email, text message, and other methods according to their preferences in the COHAN. Of those that responded, 86% were able to respond within 3 hours. This is a great response! It means we are ready to quickly respond to the needs of the community. Thanks for your participation.



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Disaster Response: Focus on Children

Disaster Response: Focus on Children is a day-long training program designed to prepare Ohio Medical Reserve Corps volunteers to respond to the needs of children in disasters.

"Children are not little adults. They have specific needs. Moreover, children are often the most seriously affected victims of major disasters and suffer devastating acute and long term physical damage." *The American Academy of Pediatrics*

Program Date and Site: Columbus, Saturday May 31, Quest Business Centers (Pulsar Place) **Duration:** 8:00am - 5:00pm (*Breakfast and lunch will be provided*)

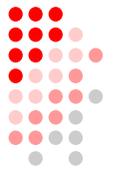
Presented by: The Rainbow Center Global Child Health (RCGCH), a division of the Rainbow Babies and Children's Hospital (RB&C) of University Hospitals Case (UHC) Medical Center, in Cleveland, Ohio. Sponsored by: Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, OH. Endorsed and funded by: Ohio Department of Health through ASPR grant # CFDA 93.889.

Learning Objectives: Identify the most important problems and priorities for children in various types of disaster situations and learn how to begin to address these issues within the current domestic disaster response network.

Educational Design: Didactic lectures with problem-based learning exercises, skills training and practice.

Registration Information: Participants can register online through the OMRC website: www.serveohio.org. This is a FREE course. Continuing Education Units (CEUs) are provided by Case Western Reserve University (CWRU) School of Medicine for doctors and nurses (AMA PRA Category 1 credits only) and by the CWRU Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences (MSASS) for psychologists, social workers and counselors. For additional information regarding course registration please e-mail: medcme@case.edu.

For information about the course contact Felicite Chatel-Katz, RCGCH Academic Coordinator; 216-844-8918; Felicite.Chatel-Katz@UHhospitals.org.



FC&C MRC Update on Identification Badges

Many of you have had your photos taken for your MRC identification badge and many of you are probably starting to wonder, "Hey, where's my badge?" The short answer is that it is on the way, and will be mailed to you in the next few months.

The long answer is that we are trying to be compliant with state and national guidelines and requirements, and those have changed. They will most likely be changing again, because national deployment will most likely require its own badge, but we intend to use the current model for as long as possible. Our draft badge and logo are at the national office right now awaiting approval, and we will begin badge creation as soon as we receive word. The creation process will take a number of weeks, though, because we have one machine and a backlog of about 200 badges to make. If you would like to volunteer to help make badges, just let the MRC Coordinator know at rlfranz@franklincountyohio.gov. Thanks for your patience.



130 FC&C MRC Volunteers Trained at January POD Drill

In the event of a disaster requiring the distribution of large amounts of medicine to the public, the health department will open one or more Points of Dispensing, or PODs. All MRC volunteers were invited to participate in the Level One Screening/Dispenser POD Drill on January 30-31 at Columbus Public Health. The drill trained over 130 nurses, pharmacists and physicians to dispense medication to the public and screen the public for potential issues. This drill was part of the health department's preparedness for a much larger POD drill in August of 2009. MRC volunteers will be hearing more about that large event in future newsletters.

The drill also included an overview of personal protective equipment and updates about the Columbus & Franklin County POD plans and MRC structure. Pictures were taken for ID badges.

JOIN OUR NEW VOLUNTEER TEAMS

Animal Response Team

Any volunteer having a background, interest, or licensure in animal care is welcome to join the Franklin County & Columbus MRC Animal Response Team (ART). This team seeks to protect the health and respond to the needs of animals involved in a disaster. This may involve pet rescues during flooding situations, containment of animal diseases, distribution of medicine to animals, and a number of other responses. An ART 101 course is currently in development. Send an email to rlfranz@franklincountyohio.gov to join.

Behavioral Health Team

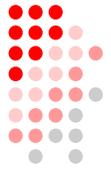
We currently have 79 mental health volunteers, and have just recruited a number of school counselors as auxiliary help. Some of our first agenda items include creating task and protocol sheets for responding volunteers. Send an email to rlfranz@franklincountyohio.gov to join.

National Volunteer Week- Our Chance To Say Thank You

In honor of National Volunteer Week, the FC&C MRC office would like to say thank you to our many wonderful volunteers! It is your dedication and support that makes us able to respond to and lessen the effects of disasters in Franklin County.

National Volunteer Week is about inspiring, recognizing and encouraging people to seek ways to engage in their community. It's about showing the nation that we meet our challenges not as isolated individuals but as members of a true community with all of us working together. National Volunteer Week was created in 1974 when President Richard Nixon signed an executive order to establish the week as an annual celebration of volunteering. National Volunteer Week is our moment in time to not only recognize and celebrate our volunteers, but to enable a nation to share ideas, practices, and stories, wherever they happen, and shaping a movement to re-imagine the notion of citizenship for the 21st century.





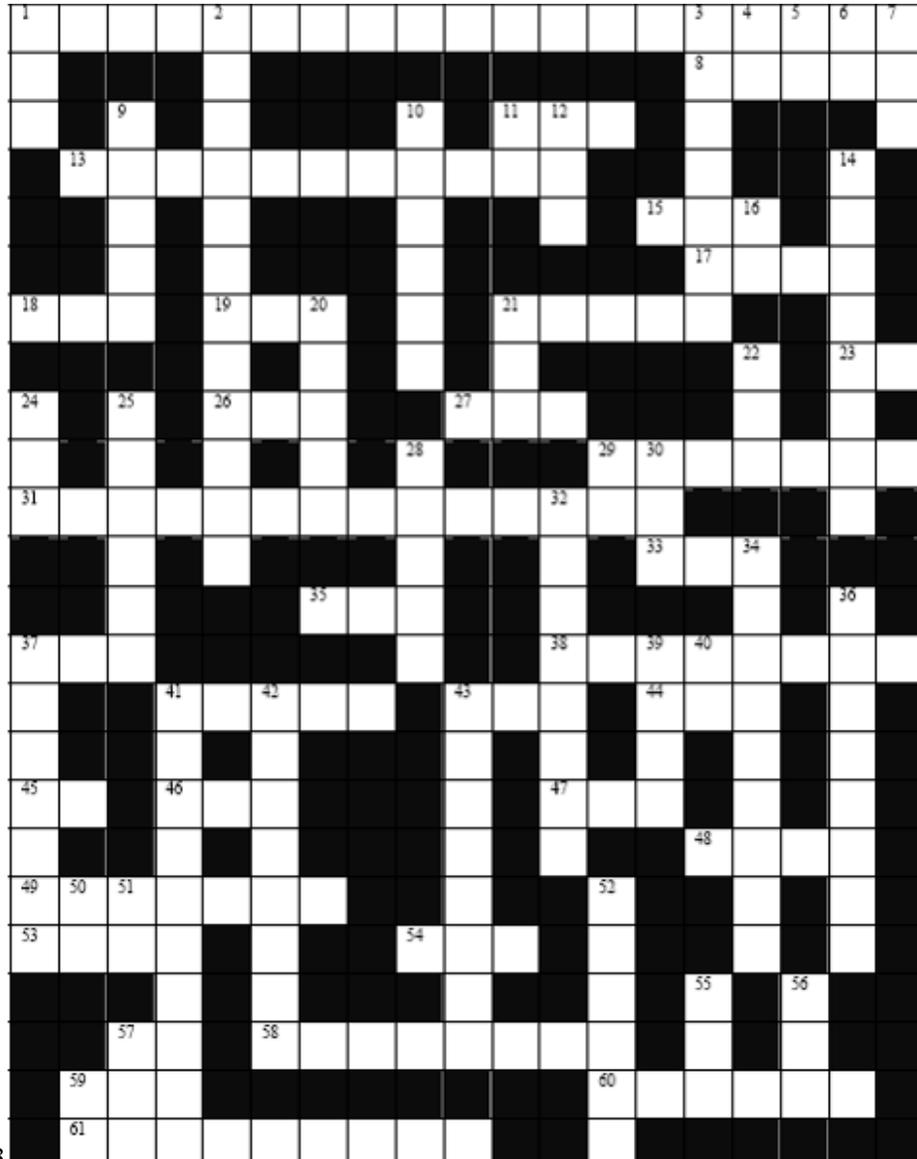
MRC CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Answers to the MRC crossword puzzle will be posted in next quarter's newsletter. Many thanks to Nancy Burns for all her hard work! Clues 40-59 Down are continued on the next page.

CLUES: ACROSS

- 1. National network of local volunteer units that improves the health and safety of communities nationwide
- 8. Influenza A viruses found chiefly in birds
- 11. Document describing an agreement between two organizations (abbr.)
- 13. A measure taken to protect or prevent against exposure to disease
- 15. Guidelines to specify how a response organization should operate (abbr.)
- 17. System used nationwide to coordinate emergency preparedness and incident management among various federal, state, and local agencies (abbr.)
- 18. A furry friend that also benefits from emergency planning
- 19. Healthcare provider trained to provide pre-hospital emergency medical care; often in an ambulance (abbr.)
- 21. Legislation that codified the MRC Program (abbr.)
- 23. Allied health professionals that specialize in providing respiratory therapy (abbr.)
- 26. Auxiliary healthcare provider certified to assist individuals with basic healthcare needs, activities of daily living, and provide bedside care (abbr.)
- 27. Operating component of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, based in Atlanta, whose mission is to promote health and quality of life by preventing and controlling disease, injury, and disability (abbr.)
- 29. It is crucial to _____ with our affiliates for coordinated response

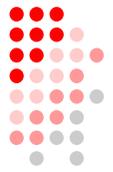
- 31. Office of the Civilian Volunteer Medical Reserve Corps is based in Office of the U.S. _____
- 33. Unaffiliated volunteers who appear unexpectedly and show up spontaneously (abbr.)
- 35. As a community service, some MRC units support First _____ stations at local events
- 37. Clinics set up quickly for prophylaxis: Emergency Dispensing Sites (also referred to as PODs) (abbr.)
- 38. Type of volunteer that is the focus of the MRC; not in the military
- 41. Shh! Late at night in a shelter, clients are asked to remain _____ so everyone can rest
- 43. In preparing for a response, we prefer to _____ on the side of caution
- 44. Shorter name for influenza
- 45. Healthcare professional registered to implement the practice of nursing (abbr.)
- 46. During triage, medical personnel look first to assess the victim's Airway, Breathing, and Circulation, or _____
- 47. Agreeing to take someone's place by serving as a _____
- 48. Members of response organizations work together as a _____
- 49. To prepare for a range of deployments, most MRC units train for all- _____ response
- 53. Families and individuals are encouraged to develop a disaster _____
- 54. According to the Incident Command System, the Public Information Officer or _____, is assigned to speak with the media
- 57. Postal code for Hawaii
- 58. Type of preparedness exercise that stimulates discussion of various issues regarding a hypothetical situation or scenario; Often conducted while sitting in a conference room
- 59. Any _____ or woman who wants to serve their community is encouraged to consider joining or supporting their local MRC
- 60. The MRC promotes _____ and safety within local communities
- 61. MRC units prepare to supplement a response in case of an _____



CLUES: DOWN

- 1. A mass disaster in which there may be casualties or people may be at risk (abbr.)
- 2. MRC units are encouraged to train their members by helping them meet the MRC core _____
- 3. The U.S. Surgeon General appointed in 2002, when the MRC program was launched as a demonstration project, was VADM Richard _____
- 4. Abbreviation for Organum Visus, the organ of sight
- 5. Postal code for Rhode Island
- 6. Advance practice clinician licensed to practice medicine with the supervision of a licensed physician
- 7. Large quantities of medicine and medical supplies to protect the American public if there is a public health emergency (abbr.)
- 9. Application or award for funding to develop an initiative or program
- 10. The Office of the Civilian Volunteer Medical Reserve Corps has a cooperative agreement with this organization (abbr.)
- 11. Postal code for Michigan
- 12. The Office of the Civilian Volunteer Medical Reserve Corps is housed in the _____ (abbr.)
- 14. Technical Assistance guides created to help developing and established MRC units
- 16. Private or Principal Investigator (abbr.)
- 20. MRC- _____ is an optional learning resource available to members (abbr.)
- 21. Dispensing site where medications may be available and distributed to the public for prophylaxis (abbr.)
- 22. It is wise to gather supplies in preparation for the first few days of a disaster into a 72-hour _____
- 24. A standardized, on-scene, all-hazard incident management concept in the United States (abbr.)
- 25. Most prevalent discipline (type of health professional) represented in the MRC
- 28. It's important to plan for those with Special _____ in case of disaster
- 29. Postal code for Pennsylvania
- 30. Paramedics are among the medical professionals who provide Advanced Life Support, or _____
- 32. Disaster response organization founded by Clara Barton: American _____
- 34. Members of the MRC agree to _____ their skills in the event of disaster or in ongoing service to their community
- 36. The rampant and even worldwide spread of a disease or epidemic is known as a _____
- 37. The Emergency System for Advanced Registration of Volunteer Health Professionals, or _____, is a state-based registry of healthcare personnel who volunteer to aid in an emergency (outside of their local jurisdiction)
- 39. Short for Ventricular Fibrillation; a cardiac condition involving spasm of the ventricle(s)

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- 40. Postal code for Illinois
- 41. Method for keeping ill people from infecting others include isolation & _____
- 42. According to ICS and NIMS, the person in charge at a disaster is the _____ Commander
- 43. Conducting a tabletop or full-scale _____ periodically is imperative for testing response plans
- 50. Postal Code for Alabama
- 51. Abbreviation for Zinc Acetate (an antiseptic)
- 52. Familiar, shorter term for prophylaxis
- 55. A method for responding to an individual's reactions after a disaster; intended to offer basic initial behavioral healthcare after a crisis (abbr.)
- 56. Brief training that is provided onsite is known as Just-in-Time, or _____, training
- 57. Emergency communications can greatly benefit from the involvement of _____ radio operators
- 59. Ordinary people like you and _____ can provide essential services to our community through our local MRC unit



Other Resources and Trainings

- **Respirator Training** for Leadership Level volunteers on May 14th: This is a free training for leadership level volunteers that will allow us to train our volunteers to help others properly use their respirator during a response. We want a handful of our leadership level folks to step up to help us with this training in the case of a disaster. The training will take place during the work day, specific times to be announced. Please contact rlfranz@franklincoutyohio.gov if you are interested.
- The HELP (Homeland Emergency Learning and Preparedness) Center at Wright State University has been contracted by the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) to deliver **Basic and Advanced Disaster Life Support (BDLS/ADLS)** courses in each of the Homeland Security Regions in the State of Ohio. The BDLS course scheduled in your region will be on:

Saturday, May 10, 2008
R.R. Hodges Chapel
Mount Vernon Nazarene University
800 Martinsburg Road
Mount Vernon, OH 43050

The course is FREE. It is endorsed and funded by the ODH through ASPR grant #CSP905008 in support of the Ohio Community Service Council (OCSC). BDLS is an accepted course for credentialing with the Ohio Medical Reserve Corp and Ohio Citizens Corp. All participants must be registered on the OhioTRAIN web site by following the link at http://www.serveohio.org/OhioCitizenCorps_MRC.aspx?Head=true. If you have any questions please contact Dan Kirkpatrick, R.N. at daniel.kirkpatrick@wright.edu, or 937-775-1320.
- Psychological First Aid training is now online. Visit our www.volunteermrc.org web site for more details about how to view this Video On Demand. On the home page you can click on "Training Page." This is a required training for all Leadership Level volunteers.
- **Online Orientation:** This online FC&C MRC orientation fulfills the training requirement for MRC membership, and can be completed at your leisure. This online course is for those volunteers with computer access (with speakers) and a need for a more flexible orientation time. All volunteers taking the online course will need to come in to the FC&C MRC office at their convenience to allow county officials to check wallet license cards, driver's licenses and have a photo taken for an ID badge. If you are interested please send an email to mrc@franklincountyohio.gov with the words "online orientation" in the subject line. Orientation is REQUIRED of all volunteers with the MRC. If you want to be called during a disaster, you must complete this training.