



# MRC ★ In Touch

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## Featured Article

### MRC Unit Learns about Behavioral Health Interventions from Disaster Survivors

On June 4, 2011, 18 volunteers of the Eastern Nebraska/Western Iowa MRC (NE) listened to testimonies from disaster survivors and learned about successful behavioral health interventions that would be helpful during real-life response scenarios.

The guest speakers were survivors of two separate tragic events—one individual was working at a department store when a shooter opened fire, killing eight people, and injuring the speaker and others. The other two speakers survived the Hallam (NE) tornado (category EF-4), but lost their homes and witnessed the injuries of others, including the son of a speaker.

MRC volunteers listened to each story as the survivors provided insight into their ordeals and the demonstrated resiliency that people have during traumatic events. They discussed what helped them psychologically following the incident, such as faith, family, friends, and a caring community. The presenters explained what it's like to endure tragic experiences and how important it is for MRC volunteers to take Psychological First Aid and NIMS training.

Unit coordinator, Tom McMahon, says the knowledge received from the survivors "will hopefully give volunteers some insight into what people go through and what they can do to help, should they be involved in a disaster response."

McMahon contacted the disaster survivors after learning they had delivered speeches at other events and were known to have a powerful impact on audiences. McMahon says, "I would encourage other units to offer this type of program. Each speaker spoke for 30 minutes and then we had a 30 minute Q and A." Positive feedback was received from the MRC volunteers and one volunteer acknowledged that it was the best training ever received.

To learn more about Psychological First Aid, visit [http://pfa.naccho.org/pfa/pfa\\_start.html](http://pfa.naccho.org/pfa/pfa_start.html).

To view the PFA Field Operations Guide, visit [http://www.medicalreservecorps.gov/File/Promising\\_Practices\\_Toolkit/Guidance\\_Documents/Emergency\\_Preparedness\\_Response/MRC\\_PFA\\_04-02-08.pdf](http://www.medicalreservecorps.gov/File/Promising_Practices_Toolkit/Guidance_Documents/Emergency_Preparedness_Response/MRC_PFA_04-02-08.pdf).

## MRC/NACCHO Connections

### How to Stay Safe this Summer during Water-related Activities

During the summer, water and pool activities are a fun way to relax and cool off. However each year, drownings and other unintentional water-related injuries occur in pools, oceans, lakes, etc. To help communities learn about the health risks during water-related recreational and occupational activities, and keep families safe, below is a link to information about water-borne illnesses, pool safety, safe boating tips, and much more.

[http://www.naccho.org/topics/HPDP/injuryprevention/resources/index.cfm#Water\\_and\\_Pool\\_Safety](http://www.naccho.org/topics/HPDP/injuryprevention/resources/index.cfm#Water_and_Pool_Safety)

## Announcements

### 2010–2011 CBA Contract Deadline

The Capacity Building Award (CBA) contract must be submitted by July 22, 2011 to be processed by the July 29, 2011 deadline.

For any questions, please follow up with [MRCAdmin@naccho.org](mailto:MRCAdmin@naccho.org).

Watch the MRC two-way Listserv and the NACCHO website for future updates later in the summer for future CBA updates. Also, please remember to update your OCVMRC profile.

### Refugee Health from the Local Health Department Perspective

The National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) has prepared this issue brief to provide the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Division of Global Migration and Quarantine (DGMQ) and local health departments (LHDs) an overview of the status of refugee health programs at the LHD level. This issue brief contains information obtained from primary and secondary sources; an environmental scan of relevant programs and literature on the subject of refugee health; key informant interviews; and a facilitated discussion with local public health representatives who work directly with local refugee health programs.

<http://eweb.naccho.org/prd/?NA401PDF>

### Advanced Practice Center Products Support Medical Reserve Corps Initiatives

The National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) prepared this fact sheet to introduce Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) units to valuable training resources available through the Advanced Practice Centers (APC) Program. APCs exist to serve the public health community and provide resources ranging from training products to prepare for and respond to mass casualty incidents, to public education materials to reach vulnerable populations. A partnership among APCs, the MRC, and local health departments (LHDs) can create the tools necessary to leverage resources and assets with the goal of achieving efficient and effective responses, and recovery from a disaster or public health emergency.

<http://eweb.naccho.org/prd/?NA398PDF>

### Submit an Abstract to the 2012 Public Health Preparedness Summit

Contribute your knowledge to the leading forum for public health preparedness practitioners by submitting an abstract to the 2012 Public Health Preparedness Summit. The Summit will be held in Anaheim, California during February 21–24, 2012.

All abstract submissions must be submitted electronically through the Summit's online abstract submission system.

The abstract submission deadline is August 19, 2011, 11:59 PM, EDT.  
<http://www.phprep.org/2012/agenda/abstracts.cfm>

### **NACCHO Supports Medical Reserve Corps Efforts**

The National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) has prepared this fact sheet to help local public health professionals understand the shared cooperative agreement and unique relationship between the Office of the Civilian Volunteer Medical Reserve Corps (OCVMRC) and NACCHO and the benefits Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) units nationwide receive due to this dynamic partnership.  
<http://eweb.naccho.org/prd/?NA397PDE>

### **MRC Lessons Learned and Experience Sharing**

"MRC lessons learned and experience sharing" is a way for MRC units to share their practices, examples, and success stories. It is designed to highlight the challenges and successes of MRC units' involvement with emergency preparedness, response, and public health activities; therefore, MRC units and their leaders can learn from one another.  
<http://www.naccho.org/topics/emergency/MRC/resources/mrcshare.cfm>

To submit information for either MRC: In Touch or MRC: In Focus, please contact Megan Skupien at [mskupien@naccho.org](mailto:mskupien@naccho.org) or (202)783-1376.

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