



MRC ★ In Touch

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May—Lupus Awareness
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Featured Article

SBCMRC Volunteers Provide Medical Services during the 2011 Floatopia Event

Since 2004, students of the University of California, Santa Barbara engage in the annual event, "Floatopia." This popular event draws thousands of college students; it is estimated that approximately more than 14,000 students participate. Students use rafts (either bought in the store or home-made) and float in the ocean and party all day long, consuming large quantities of alcohol. Consequently, during the past two years, the sheriff's department and other agencies have actually closed the beaches to dissuade the event.

However, the party now takes place on the streets of Isla Vista (CA), creating numerous public health hazards and an environmental mess. The streets become littered with cigarettes, beer cans, broken glass, and other debris that eventually gets washed into the ocean when it rains, wreaking havoc on the beaches and impacting the livelihood of fish and birds, and vegetation. Many habitats of plants and animals are destroyed during Floatopia, and the beaches require cleanup that may last for weeks. With security and emergency personnel, it is estimated that the 2011 Floatopia, cost taxpayer's approximately \$20,000.

The large event presents a multitude of risks to partygoers including injuries from falling off the cliffs, lacerations from broken glass, and alcohol poisoning. To help provide medical services to the students, 12 Santa Barbara County Medical Reserve Corps (SBCMRC) volunteers hosted a first aid station during Floatopia on April 9, 2011. Volunteers staffed the station during shifts from 11 AM to 5 PM, and 5 PM to 11 PM.

Approximately 26 patients came to the first aid station (usually brought in by friends) with injuries including cut feet, nausea, abrasions from falling, etc. MRC volunteers conducted line control and treated the minor wounds. Cases that were more severe warranted a 911 call and a visit to the EMS tent. Volunteers who assisted these patients took a large burden off the sheriff and emergency rooms at local hospitals.

The MRC unit was contacted by the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's office to organize a first aid station during Floatopia. Although this was the first time the MRC unit supported medical services during this particular event, the MRC unit also collaborates with the sheriff's office during the annual Isla Vista Halloween event, which also draws large crowds and poses a variety of public health, environmental, and safety risks. The MRC has provided medical services during the Halloween event since 2010. The help of the unit takes pressure off of EMS.

Unit coordinator, Richard Hovsepian, says his unit will absolutely support medical services during Floatopia again in the future and noted that the unit did not experience any challenges, "and with assistance of the sheriff's department, we had no logistical issues (e.g., parking)." Both Floatopia and the Isla Vista Halloween event provide a great exercise to test the tools and readiness of MRC volunteers.

MRC/NACCHO Connections

NACCHO's Public Health Preparedness Team Hosts Vulnerable Populations & Risk Communication PREP-inar

Join Rachel Abbey from the Montgomery County (MD) Advanced Practice Center, and Carina Elsenboss from the Seattle & King County (WA) Advanced Practice Center, for a lively webinar discussion about vulnerable populations and risk communication. The PREP-inar will be held on May 26, from 1–2 PM EDT.

This NACCHO Preparedness Prep-inar is free to local health jurisdictions and other interested parties. The webinar will accommodate the first 200 visitors that enter the website at the time of the webinar. Prior registration is required, so please follow the link below to register—space is limited. There will be an opportunity for questions.

In addition to airing live, this webinar will be recorded and viewable at your convenience on the NACCHO website within 48 hours after the live webcast.

Register using the below link.

<https://cc.readytalk.com/cc/schedule/display.do?udc=a18ebyjet1df>

Announcements

The OCVMRC is on Twitter

The Office of the Civilian Volunteer Medical Reserve Corps (OCVMRC) can now be found on Twitter at http://www.twitter.com/MRC_OSG. Follow the OCVMRC on Twitter to get important information on hot topics, upcoming events, MRC stories, and resources. It is free and extremely easy to set up a twitter account. To get started, simply visit <http://www.twitter.com> and follow the on-screen instructions. http://www.twitter.com/MRC_OSG

U.S. Port Preparedness at the Local Health Department Level

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention operates 20 quarantine stations throughout the U.S. These quarantine stations are part of a comprehensive Quarantine System that serves to limit the introduction of infectious diseases into the United States and to prevent their spread. Local health departments collaborate with the quarantine stations and support these activities; however, many issues remain unresolved with respect to planning for and responding to health-related situations at U.S. ports of entry at the local health department level. NACCHO researched and wrote an issue brief to better understand the challenges faced by LHDs when planning for preparedness activities and also to identify strengths in the current system in order to further improve planning and response activities. http://Eweb.naccho.org/eweb/DynamicPage.aspx?WebCode=proddetailadd&ivd_prc_prd_key=4cc37b44-0e8d-4c94-aad0-1057ca1d3d81

FDA Website Lists Recalls, Safety Alerts, and More

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration launched a website that lists recalls, market withdrawals, and safety alerts for food, drugs, animal health, biologics, and medical devices. Press releases of recalled products within the past 60 days are available to view.

<http://www.fda.gov/Safety/Recalls>

Deadline Reminders for the Capacity Building Award Contract

Capacity Building Award Contract Submission Deadline: July 29, 2011

If you have any questions, please contact Rebecca Gehring, Program Associate at NACCHO, at rgehring@naccho.org.

Radiological and Nuclear Tools and Resources Available

In response to the recent tragic events in Japan, NACCHO has organized useful environmental and preparedness-related tools and resources for public health professionals. The information is available at the below link.

<http://www.naccho.org/topics/radiation/preparedness.cfm>

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 or (202)783-1376.



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