



MRC ★ In Touch

In This Issue:

Featured Article

Tips

MRC/NACCHO
Connections

Announcements

CALENDAR



November—Lung Cancer
Awareness Month

LINKS

MRC

2010 Integrated Medical,
Public Health, Preparedness,
and Response Training
Summit

2010 Public Health
Preparedness Summit

MRC at NACCHO

Featured Article

Fannin County MRC Unit Helps Search for Missing Person

When a woman who was suffering from Alzheimer's disease went missing in the city of Bonham, Texas, the Fannin County MRC unit was called to help with the search and rescue of the missing woman.

The MRC unit was contacted by the city of Bonham Police Department at the request of a police sergeant who was on duty at the time. Seventy MRC volunteers spent two days and 508 man-hours in the rain, searching for the missing woman in wooded areas, creeks, open fields, and storm water drainage ditches. Volunteers were divided into teams of 5-6 people and worked alongside the Bonham police and fire departments, the Texas Department of Public Safety, the Red Cross, Texas One Search Dogs, and others.

The MRC volunteers used the Incident Command System (ICS) throughout the search. A map was created with grids; volunteers then used the grids to search as thoroughly as possible for the missing person.

Fannin County MRC unit coordinator Darrell Brewer says, "Once a grid had been searched, we would report via Ham Radio to the Incident Commander (IC), and would either be assigned a new grid to search or be directed to return to the staging area for rehab."

To prepare for the search, volunteers brought along equipment such as boots, hats, gloves, ponchos, flashlights, and canopies that were located at the Incident Command Post.

One of the lessons learned by the unit was that fanny packs proved to be much easier to use rather than backpacks when bending, crawling, and walking during a search and rescue.

Brewer comments that every unit needs to be very familiar with ICS because it allowed the unit to search an area in a systematic, organized manner. In addition, the IC was able to monitor the progress and provide direction and guidance as needed.

For MRC units looking to become involved with search and rescue,

Brewer recommends for units to become better acquainted with the local city and county emergency management coordinators as well as the local fire and police “operations” person.

Whether the relationship is developed over time through the observation of training sessions, volunteering at public events, or regular coffee outings—it’s important to start somewhere.

To date, the missing woman has still not been found.

Tips

1. MRC unit leaders should ensure that all MRC volunteers are familiar with ICS.
2. MRC units should develop relationships with local city and county emergency management agencies.
3. MRC units should also develop relationships with community first responders by training with local fire and police departments at exercises and drills.
4. Volunteers can prepare for a search and rescue of a victim by participating in a mock exercise.
5. To ensure that your unit would be equipped for a search and rescue—stock flashlights, ponchos, fanny packs, etc.
6. Find out from your volunteers who would be interested in participating in a search and rescue.

MRC/NACCHO Connections

Alliance to Make U.S. Healthiest

Alliance to Make U.S. Healthiest strives to make the U.S. the healthiest nation in the world through a nationwide social movement of grassroots efforts and actions.

MRC units are encouraged to learn more information about this coalition by visiting <http://www.healthiestnation.org> for more information. In addition, MRC volunteers can learn how to create the healthiest nation by reading the *Starter Menu of Actions for Creating the Healthiest Nation* at <http://www.naccho.org/topics/AHN/resources/upload/AHN-Starter-Actions-01-28-09.pdf>.

This document is very resourceful and provides information on various personal behaviors, community initiatives, employer actions, and more. MRC units should also work with local health departments to see if and how healthier lifestyles can be promoted in their community.

If you have any tips and/or stories on how to become healthier or

improve the nation's health, please e-mail info@healthiestnation.org. Your contributions may appear on the Web site, in marketing materials, and in the monthly newsletter.

For more information about the Alliance or on becoming an Alliance member, please visit the official Alliance to Make U.S. Healthiest Web site at <http://www.healthiestnation.org>.

Announcements



NGA Webinar: H1N1: Assessing State Vaccination Efforts

The National Governors Association (NGA) Webinar is now available for download. It captured the current state of the H1N1 vaccination program from the federal, state, and local perspectives. The Webinar contains guidance from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services on the recent emergency declaration by President Obama, examples of preparedness from Massachusetts and South Carolina, and a discussion of lessons learned from a mass vaccination clinic in Fairfax County, Virginia.

<http://www.nga.org/portal/site/nga/menuitem.9123e83a1f6786440ddcbeeb501010a0>

Capacity Building Awards (CBA) Announcement

CBA applications are currently being reviewed. Award notifications will be sent via e-mail in January 2010. The award status can also be viewed by logging onto the NACCHO Web site when you receive your e-mail. If you have questions, please visit the NACCHO Web site at: <http://www.naccho.org/mrccba>, or contact Chicquita Hairston at chairston@naccho.org and (202) 507-4224.

2010 Integrated Medical, Public Health, Preparedness and Response Training Summit

The 2010 Integrated Medical, Public Health, Preparedness and Response Training Summit will be held May 12-16, 2010 in Nashville, TN. The Web site address for information regarding this training event is <http://www.integratedtrainingsummit.org>.

Poster submissions are currently being accepted for the training summit through Monday, March 1, 2010 5:00 P.M. EST. For additional information, please visit <http://teams.hhs.gov/conference>.

Attend the 2010 Public Health Preparedness Summit

The 2010 Public Health Preparedness Summit, "Partners in Preparedness: Engaging a Community for a Successful Public Health Response," will strengthen and enhance the capabilities of public health professionals and other participants to plan and prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters and other public health emergencies. For more information, visit: <http://www.phprep.org>.

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



Sign Up for This Newsletter

Click [here](#) to unsubscribe

1100 17th Street, NW, 2nd Floor, Washington, DC 20036