In This Issue:

Tips
MRC/NACCHO Connections
Announcements

CALENDAR
11/08 - Lessons Learned from the Field of Mass Fatality Incident Response (MFR) - Eagan, MN

11/13-11/14 - Search & Rescue Leadership Symposium - Santa Fe, NM

11/15 - 11/19 - Search & Rescue Leadership Conference - Kissimmee, FL

11/19 - 11/22 - Search & Rescue Leadership Conference - Nashville, TN

UPDATES
Medical Reserve Corps
MRC at NACCHO

Featured Article
Deploying Outside of Your Local Jurisdiction

While the primary focus of MRC units is to function as a community-based, organized and visible local volunteer to support emergency response, the MRC's capacity to deploy outside of the MRC's local jurisdiction sometimes may not have the opportunity to deploy to outside areas as additional resources.

Like most MRC units, the Twin Cities MRC unit deployed outside of their jurisdiction several times during Hurricane Katrina, as well as to Mississippi and Alabama to support the recovery operations. Before deployment, the unit had conducted multiple training exercises with other MRC partners, the Red Cross, and the local fire and police services.

Kathy O'Neal, such as the Texas County (TX) MRC who responded to flooding throughout the state this past summer, also discovered the importance of building partnerships and agreements with adjacent resources. Terry Kouns, MRC Unit Coordinator, noted: "Our unit had not specifically trained for response to floods, and deploying outside of our region by an area where we did not have existing relationships with other agencies was extremely difficult. However, the response in the area was immediate and we met all help and damages. For future responses, we will almost fully deploy with not only medical but support personnel and adequate supplies."

Tips
- Training is invaluable. Take it seriously and do it as early and often as possible.
- Remember your plans for yourself and your family first. Knowing you loved one is safe while you are deployed is vital.
- Pre-established partnerships with various agencies makes deployment much easier.
- Know what resources are available to the location you are deploying to, as well as what you will need to bring with you.
- Be sure to establish clear communication between both your team members and your unit coordinator.
- Follow the Incident Command Structure (ICS) to maintain a clear chain of command.

MRC/NACCHO Connections

Strategic National Stockpile

NACCHO's Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) project is prioritizing planning for the strategic capability of these health departments, states and localities. NACCHO, in collaboration with the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) and the International Association of Medical Assistance Terrorists (IOMA), has established a Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) project that facilitates workshops for MRC planners and their planning partners.

In order to create an effective plan, a majority of SNS planners must incorporate volunteers into their plans. As a result, NACCHO has developed a Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) project that facilitates workshops for MRC planners and their planning partners.

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Announcements

Mass Dispensing Sites: A Primer for Volunteers

This webinar is designed to provide an overview of the general operations of mass dispensing sites and serve as an orientation for individuals who may be asked to work at these sites during an emergency. It is intended to complement "Just in time" training provided on site at the time of deployment.

Physical Activity Guidelines

The 2018 Physical Activity Guidelines for Americans were released by the Department of Health and Human Services earlier this month. Analyze materials and a location to sign up as a supporter and promote them.

Deployment Exercise

Approximately 20 MRC volunteers will get an opportunity to participate in the FAM (Medical) MRC Deployment Training being held in Dubuque, IA at the October 2nd training course of disaster response at Medical Reserve Corps. You will learn about disaster response, medical assessments, hands-on activities, and a full-scale mass casualty exercise.

Veterinary Workgroup Needs Members

The RVSC Veterinary Workgroup is looking for new members. For more information to volunteer, please contact Sidney Wood at sidneywoodv@gmail.com or (512) 577-5207.