



MRC ★ In Touch

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VA MRC Unit Spreads the Message of "National Preparedness Month" to Community

September is "National Preparedness Month" in the U.S. and MRC units nationwide are ensuring their communities are prepared for the unexpected. Jon R. Donnelly and the Chesterfield Health District (VA) MRC have been working with the Chesterfield County Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) and others in the community to spread the month-long campaign, "Are You Ready?" to citizens of Chesterfield County and the surrounding area.

The goal of this emergency preparedness campaign is to increase awareness among citizens regarding the need for emergency preparedness, and also the importance of personal and family planning.

To engage members of the community, the Chesterfield MRC unit and local CERT volunteers will facilitate free classes that focus on emergency planning for seniors and their caregivers; how to help people with special needs; how to prepare and provide for families and pets during emergencies; and more.

The local health department and the MRC will work together to promote the campaign to the community through various mediums. These include creating an MRC Web page for the Chesterfield Health District; participating in a flu vaccination exercise; displaying information at the health department; and sending a series of preparedness e-mails to the MRC, Neighborhood Watch, CERT volunteers, and other community groups.

Donnelly says, "The national 'Are You Ready?' program is an excellent vehicle to spread the word about emergency preparedness. We modified it to meet our local Virginia situation and then invited a wide range of partners in order to reach a wide range of citizens. We were particularly gratified by the enthusiastic response and support of our local governments—especially our public library systems—and members of the faith-based communities."

The Chesterfield MRC unit plans to make the "Are You Ready?"

campaign an annual event and in 2010, the unit will add a Hispanic component to reach more citizens in the community.

Tips

1. Contact your local health department, Citizen Corps, or CERT to see how your MRC unit can get involved with the "Are You Ready?" campaign.
2. Distribute emergency preparedness information to your community through various mediums.
3. Contact community groups, such as Neighborhood Watch and faith based organizations, to discuss the importance of preparedness.
4. Select locations for classes that will work for a variety of people and consider having food as an incentive for the audience.
5. For more information, visit the "Are You Ready?" Web site at: <http://www.ready.gov>.

MRC/NACCHO Connections

Healthy Women, Healthy Children, Healthy Families

Through a cooperative agreement, NACCHO and the Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB) of the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), work together to assist local health departments in improving the health of women, children, and families.

The goal of the project is to assist local health officials by providing programs to families that ensure and assess women's and children's health through various objectives, which can be found at: <http://www.naccho.org/topics/HPDP/mch/Index.cfm>.

To ensure families in your community are healthy, distribute literature about how to maintain a healthy lifestyle both during and after pregnancy. More information about this can be found on the CDC's Web site at: <http://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/bd/>.

Announcements

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. This training summit is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and brings together HHS partners including the U.S. Public Health Service (PHS), National Disaster Medical System (NDMS), Medical Reserve Corps (MRC), and the Emergency System for Advance Registration of Volunteer Health Professionals (ESAR-VHP). The Integrated Training Summit is co-sponsored by the Chesapeake Health Education Program. The website address for information regarding this training event is <http://www.integratedtrainingsummit.org>.

Abstracts and poster submissions are now being accepted for the training summit event. Abstract submissions will be accepted until Thursday, October 15, 2009 5:00 pm EST. Poster submissions will continue to be accepted until Monday, March 1, 2010 5:00 pm 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>.

Career Opportunities in Public Health Preparedness at NACCHO

NACCHO is looking to hire qualified professionals for four positions in the public health preparedness department including two Senior Analyst I positions (Public Health Preparedness); one Senior Analyst II (Public Health Preparedness); and one Senior Analyst II (Strategic National Stockpile).

To discover more information about these career opportunities, visit: <http://www.naccho.org/careers/headquarters/index.cfm>.

"Innovative Solutions in Public Health Preparedness" Webinar

Please join the City of Milwaukee Health Department (WI), the San Francisco Department of Public Health (CA), and the Ware County Board of Health (GA) as they present their lessons learned and speak about how their tools can enhance your preparedness planning efforts in the one-hour "Innovative Solutions in Public Health Preparedness" Webinar on Tuesday, September 29th at 12 pm EDT.

For more information, visit: <http://www.naccho.org/topics/emergency/current.cfm>.

2008 National Profile of Local Health Departments

Did you know that 39 percent of local health departments (LHDs) utilize MRC units as part their emergency preparedness efforts? NACCHO has just released the "2008 National Profile of Local Health Departments," which includes a description of MRCs and emergency preparedness efforts. LHDs and researchers can access this report to prepare proposals and policy recommendations, write reports, draw comparisons between LHDs, and illustrate diverse approaches to local public health.

For more information, visit: <http://www.naccho.org/2008profile002>.

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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