



# MRC ★ In Touch

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May-  
American Stroke Month

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Sun Safety Week

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## Featured Article

### MRC Units and Key Partnerships with Emergency Response Groups

Establishing partnerships with key emergency response groups such as local fire departments and/or sheriffs' departments are imperative to sustaining a capable and effective MRC unit. The Weber-Morgan Medical Reserve Corps (WMMRC) of Utah developed a partnership with a local sheriff's department in 2007, leading the unit to collaborate with local fire departments in the area, as well.

The partnership with the sheriff's department includes the use of a former FEMA trailer spared after Hurricane Katrina. The sheriff's department has agreed to maintain and manage the logistics of setting up the trailer wherever and whenever it is deployed. The WMMRC in return, purchases supplies to stock the trailer, and also agreed to provide a Responder Support Team (RST) that is designed to support all first responders when needed, made up of WMMRC volunteers. If an RST is requested by a fire department; the fire department contacts the sheriff's department, who then contacts the MRC unit coordinator and requests an RST.

Konnie Parke, RN and MRC unit assistant coordinator of the WMMRC, says that the unique partnership between the sheriff's department and her unit has been successfully put to the test. During March 2009, a large storage unit fire spread within five feet of a large restaurant. Needing additional help, the incident commander requested the RST via the sheriff's department. The sheriff's department then worked with the WMMRC to provide the FEMA trailer and RST assistance to the fire department. Due to the effective partnership and collaboration between the three emergency response groups, the WMMRC was able to assist the fire department and provide trained volunteers and supplies to help the victims of the fire.

## Tips

- [Contact your state's office of volunteerism and identify networks](#)

devoted to statewide or regional health, medical and/or emergency management efforts.

- Create a chart showing all the potential individuals or groups with whom your MRC might partner with, and ask your volunteers to brainstorm with you.
- Talk with your local fire department and local law enforcement to determine how supportive they would be of a partnership.
- Develop a logical plan with specific goals and timelines.
- For more information about establishing partnerships, visit: <http://www.medicalreservecorps.gov/TASeries/Coordinating/ActionStepsChecklist>

## MRC/NACCHO Connections



### Chronic Disease Prevention

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), 70 percent of all deaths in the U.S. are caused by chronic diseases such as heart disease, cancer, and diabetes.

NACCHO is communicating with local health officials about key chronic disease prevention policies and practices, collaborating with other national organizations about chronic disease prevention issues, and presenting local public health agency issues and perspectives on chronic disease prevention at the national level.

MRC units can assist health departments and NACCHO with chronic disease prevention by hosting or participating in health fairs, and by providing health screenings and literature to communities. For example, the Sacramento Regional MRC unit participates in health fairs and provides for at-risk populations at health fairs in both parks and community centers. The MRC unit tests blood pressure and body fat and the participants are given their results, along with literature to help them become healthier and to improve their test results, if needed.

Visit the CDC Web site <http://www.cdc.gov/nccdphp/> for more information about chronic disease prevention.

## Announcements



### Notification of Capacity Building Awards

MRC units that were awarded a Capacity Building Award in Year 3 (2008-2009) have received notifications and contracts. Signed contracts are due to NACCHO on July 20, 2009 in order for NACCHO to process contracts and send checks by July 31st. If you did not receive a contract, or if your agency is experiencing a delay in processing it, please contact Justine Uhlenbrock at [juhlenbrock@naccho.org](mailto:juhlenbrock@naccho.org).

### Mark Your Calendars!

Start making plans now to attend the NACCHO Annual 2009 Conference, set for July 29–31, in Orlando, Florida, at the Rosen Shingle Creek Resort. Under the timely and action-oriented theme, The New Public Health – Working Across Sectors to Leverage Investment in Communities, NACCHO will be hosting the year’s largest gathering of local public health officials in the United States!

NACCHO’s Annual Conference is frequently cited as one of the most valuable opportunities in the field for local public health practitioners to come together and discuss the critical issues of the moment and to plan for the future. In 2009, NACCHO will offer exciting learning and networking opportunities geared toward the unique needs of local public health professionals.

Visit <http://www.naccho.org/events/nacchoannual2009/> for details.

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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