



MRC ★ In Touch

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MRC of Southern Nevada Travels 80 Miles to Manage Shelters

During the week of December 20, 2010, thousands of people in Mesquite, NV, endured five days and nights of torrential downpours with major flooding that destroyed homes and property adjacent to the Virgin River. Many people, along with their pets, were forced out of their homes. Fortunately, MRC of Southern Nevada volunteers were prepared to immediately respond to a request by the Clark County Office of Emergency Management to assist residents and pets at local shelters. Through unfavorable but safe conditions, volunteers traveled 80 miles in the pouring rain from Las Vegas to Mesquite for three days.

Shelter Management (December 21–22, 2010)

On December 21, the City of Las Vegas Mobile Animal Shelter was set up in Mesquite by animal control staff in the parking lot of a local high school where the American Red Cross (ARC) set up their shelter. MRC licensed veterinary technician volunteer (LVT), Susan Vondracek, organized and prepared the clinic to receive and provide food, water, and medical care to animals. Three cats and one dog were checked in and out of the shelter on December 21. All animals appeared in good health and only required a warm, dry environment and food and water.

On December 22, Karin Cartwood, LVT and Melissa Schalles, LVT, staffed the pet shelter in Mesquite; Linda Erwin, RN, at the request of the ARC, was available to provide first aid if needed.

A local hotel offered two free nights to both evacuees and their pets. In addition, the local Mormon community provided shelter to residents; therefore, the MRC and ARC volunteers did not see a large quantity of people or animals in the shelter. However, the response was an excellent exercise and exemplified the important need for volunteers prepared to respond.

However, unit coordinator, Paula Martel, says she “was so impressed (and a bit proud) by the speed in which the volunteers responded to a notification. The notification went out at 9 AM on

January 21 and Susan Vondracek, LVT, and I were on the road by 10 AM. Between 9 and 10 AM, I received calls from eight veterinary volunteers with their availability.”

December 23 Response

On December 23, an avalanche warning and power outage 140 miles away (from Mesquite) in Mt. Charleston, forced the opening of an ARC shelter and pet shelter for evacuees of this mountain community. Vondracek again prepared the pet shelter to accept animals and veterinarian, Dr. Jon Pennell was on-call overnight to respond. Nancy Wulff, LPN, provided first aid coverage on December 23.

Training

The MRC volunteers had prior experience working with emergency pet shelters before—the volunteers are written into the Clark County Emergency Operation plan to provide veterinary volunteers in case of an emergency. In addition, the MRC staffed a mobile pet shelter at the request of the American Red Cross following residential fires. In 2009, the MRC of Southern Nevada hosted an all-day veterinary response workshop, which included concepts of Incident Command System and how to set up a shelter. This training proved to be valuable during the recent response.

MRC/NACCHO Connections

Social Networking Site for MAPP Users

Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnerships (MAPP) is a community-driven strategic planning process for improving community health. Facilitated by public health leaders, this framework helps communities apply strategic thinking to prioritize public health issues and identify resources to address them. MAPP is not an agency-focused assessment process; rather, it is an interactive process that can improve the efficiency, effectiveness, and ultimately the performance of local public health systems.

There is now a social networking site to connect MAPP users. The MAPP Network is a resource for past, present, and future MAPP communities. The site can be used to develop partnerships, meet other MAPP users, receive advice, connect with others, and learn more about MAPP resources. The MAPP Network provides a place for users to share experiences, innovations, and lessons learned.

To learn more about this site, visit the link below.

<http://mappnetwork.naccho.org/>

Announcements

2011 Integrated Training Summit Abstracts for Poster Submissions

The 2011 Integrated Training Summit Planning Committee is now accepting poster presentation abstracts for consideration at the 2011 Integrated Training Summit which will be held in Grapevine, Texas during May 1–5, 2011. The deadline to submit abstracts for poster presentations is Tuesday, February 1, 2011. _

<http://teams.hhs.gov/conference>

Register Today for the 2011 Public Health Preparedness Summit

The 2011 Public Health Preparedness Summit will be held in Atlanta, during February 22–25, 2011. With more than 190 educational sessions, posters, and workshops and multiple networking opportunities, the Public Health Preparedness Summit is a professional development opportunity not to be missed.

Register today at <http://www.phprep.org/2011/register/>. For more information about the Summit, visit the link below.

<http://www.phprep.org>

OCVMRC and NACCHO Announces 2011 MRC Special Projects Awards for States

The Office of the Civilian Volunteer Medical Reserve Corps (OCVMRC) and the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) are pleased to announce the *2011 MRC Special Projects Awards for States* competitive application process. The purpose of this funding is to build and enhance the relationship between the State and local MRC units with the goal of increasing the capacity of MRC units through statewide initiatives. Twenty-five awards in the amount of \$15,000 are available.

Applications will be available online from January 18th 2011 to March 1st 2011 at 5 pm (EST). To access the application page, visit: <http://eweb.naccho.org/eweb>. For more information on the 2011 MRC Special Projects Awards for States process, please visit: <http://www.naccho.org/topics/emergency/MRC/index.cfm>.

If you have any other questions about applying for the *2011 MRC Special Projects Awards for States* application process, please contact Rebecca Gehring at (202)783-1418 or MRC Awards@naccho.org.

2011 Integrated Medical, Public Health, Preparedness and Response Training Summit Scholarship Opportunities Available

The Office of the Civilian Volunteer Medical Reserve Corps and the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) are pleased to offer scholarships to a limited number of eligible Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) leaders to attend the 2011 Integrated Medical, Public Health, Preparedness and Response Training Summit. These scholarships allow leaders to increase their skills and knowledge, and make connections between the MRC network and local, state, and federal public health professionals.

The conference scholarships provided by NACCHO include airfare, up to 4 nights of lodging (May 1–4), and full conference registration fees.

Conference scholarship applications must be received electronically by February 14, 2011 at 5 PM EST. Individuals will be notified of their award status by March 11, 2011. Please note, the awarded scholarship is non-transferable.

Selection Criteria: Due to the limited number of available scholarships only one application per MRC unit will be reviewed for consideration. Preference will be given to applications from MRC Units that have not received an Integrated Medical, Public Health, Preparedness and Response Training Summit scholarship in the past. NACCHO will also take into consideration how the applicant proposes to benefit from his/her participation in the Integrated Medical, Public Health, Preparedness and Response Training Summit as well as how their MRC unit will benefit from his/her participation. There are a limited number of travel scholarships available so even if an application meets the above criteria, it does not necessarily guarantee that the individual will be awarded a conference scholarship.

If you have any questions, please contact Laura Harrison at lharrison@naccho.org or <http://www.integratedtrainingsummit.org/>

OCVMRC Announces Spring 2011 Deployment Training

The Office of the Civilian Volunteer Medical Reserve Corps (OCVMRC) is pleased to announce the competitive application process for the 2011 Spring MRC Introduction to Federal Deployment Training. This is an exciting training opportunity for MRC volunteers and leaders who may be interested in future federal deployment activities to receive specialized training.

The 2011 Spring MRC Introduction to Federal Deployment Training will occur March 28–April 1, 2011 in Washington, DC. Expenses for

attendees will be covered by OCVMRC. For more information, please visit the link below.

<http://www.naccho.org/topics/emergency/MRC/resources/training.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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