



# MRC ★ In Touch

## In This Issue:

Featured Article

MRC/NACCHO  
Connections

Announcements



April—National Donate Life  
Month

## LINKS

MRC

2011 Integrated Medical,  
Public Health, Preparedness,  
and Response Training  
Summit

MRC at NACCHO

## Featured Article

### Ledge Light Health District Participates in Training at Nuclear Power Plant

The Ledge Light Health District MRC (CT) unit participated in a nuclear training with the American Red Cross after the recent tragic nuclear incident in Japan, which has prompted emergency planners nationwide to revisit their nuclear emergency planning at power plants.

On March 30, 2011 from 6:30 PM to 9 PM, 14 MRC volunteers out of the more than 60 participants attended the training at the Millstone Nuclear Power Station Training Center. Other participants included members of the local Community Emergency Response Team and Red Cross.

David A. Smith, Manager, Millstone Nuclear Emergency Preparedness Dominion Nuclear Connecticut provided an update about the status of Fukushima in Japan. He shared that Dominion and other nuclear plants in the U.S. are reviewing their own security procedures and processes based on what has been learned from the incident in Japan.

The emergency services staff, led by Dan Casey provided an overview of the layout and operations of the power plant, a summary of radiation, and the emergency plans and the emergency planning zone where many people live and work. Roles of volunteers were reviewed such as assisting at reception centers for the evacuees in host communities and evacuee shelters. The Medical Reserve Corps would assist Public Health in dispensing potassium iodide (KI) tablets. KI tablets would be distributed after a radiological or nuclear event due to the risk that radioactive iodine may be released into the air, which would contaminate the food supply and affect the lungs if breathed in, which can lead to long-term damage of the thyroid gland.

Since all participants live in the emergency planning zone, the importance of emergency plans in Millstone and nearby towns was stressed. Many participants also acknowledged they would need to revisit their own family evacuation emergency plans, especially for school children who would be transported to a pre-determined location.

With the grim situation of Japan still at the forefront in both the news and in the minds of emergency planners, most volunteers expressed they would like to have more training on decontamination, managing reception centers, and KI distribution.

Unit coordinator, Kris Magnussen, RN-BC, MSN, says, "Unfortunately it has taken the disaster in Japan to stimulate interest in emergency planning. We realize that we need to have more training for our volunteers on what to do to be prepared for a radiological or nuclear event."

## MRC/NACCHO Connections

## Radiological and Nuclear Tools and Resources Available

In response to the recent tragic events in Japan, NACCHO has organized useful environmental and preparedness-related tools and resources for public health professionals. The information is available at the below link.

<http://www.naccho.org/topics/radiation/preparedness.cfm>

## Announcements

### Deadline Reminders for the Capacity Building Award Contract

*Capacity Building Award Contract Changes Deadline:* April 29, 2011

*Capacity Building Award Contract Submission Deadline:* July 29, 2011

If you have any questions, please contact Rebecca Gehring, Program Associate at NACCHO, at [rgehring@naccho.org](mailto:rgehring@naccho.org).

### Register Today for the 2011 Integrated Training Summit

The 2011 Integrated Medical, Public Health, Preparedness and Response Training Summit will take place May 1–5, 2011 in Grapevine, TX.

#### How to Register

There is not a direct link to register. The application and registration are combined into one. Visit <http://www.integratedtrainingsummit.org>. Click the tab on the top that says "Registration." At the top of the page click on the "Register Now" link. Choose your registration type in the "Contact Type" drop down menu (either MRC Unit Leader scholarship or MRC State Coordinator scholarship).

If you have any other questions, contact Laura Harrison at [lharrison@naccho.org](mailto:lharrison@naccho.org).

### Psychological First Aid in Radiation Disasters

The below link includes information about psychological first aid in radiation disasters, examples of psychosocial reactions, video scenarios, and a test.

[http://www.orau.gov/RSB/RMH/introduction\\_introduction\\_01.html](http://www.orau.gov/RSB/RMH/introduction_introduction_01.html)

### 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](mailto:mskupien@naccho.org) or (202)783-1376.



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