



# MRC ★ In Touch

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March—National  
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## Featured Articles

### Miami-Dade MRC Develops Partnership with the University of Miami

The Miami-Dade (FL) MRC is currently the largest unit in Florida. In order to build on its already large volunteer base, the unit reached out to the University of Miami to plan an event in which new student and faculty volunteers from the university would acquire all the MRC basic training requirements in a single day.

The training consisted of FEMA IS-100, IS-700, and the Florida MRC Core Competencies, with the goal of having all participants leave the training qualified to be Tier 1 Miami-Dade MRC volunteers. That goal was successfully met and once the background screenings are completed, they will all soon have their badges, adding another 102 credentialed MRC volunteers who are committed to keeping their community healthy and resilient.

Most of the participants who attended the training were from either the University of Miami medical, nursing, or public health schools. Several librarians, the university emergency planner for the medical campus, as well as faculty members also took part.

#### Partnership with the University of Miami

A memorandum of understanding between the University of Miami and the Miami-Dade County Health Department was signed in October 2011. The Miami-Dade MRC unit's partnership with the University of Miami explains that the two entities will work together to respond to public health needs. A closed Point of Dispensing (POD) will be staffed by the Miami-Dade County MRC University of Miami Response Team (MRC UM-RT), a specialized group under the Miami-Dade MRC unit, consisting of university students and staff who respond and participate in public health activities on the campus. The Miami-Dade Health Department will lead trainings and exercises for the MRC UM-RT. In the future, the MRC UM-RT will also collaborate at health fairs and mobile clinics to provide medical aid to the underserved.

#### Challenges and Looking Forward

Michelle Simanek, MPH, Miami-Dade MRC unit coordinator said that the greatest challenge of the all-day training was trying to accommodate everyone's schedules in order to provide a well-

structured learning environment for the participants. She anticipates active participation with the MRC UM-RT because of enthusiasm from health profession students about volunteering in their community. She added, "Most of them are not immersed in a career yet so they have time to volunteer, and they are excited about volunteering because they want to have experience under their belt."

Simanek added, "Our hope is that they will remain MRC members throughout their academic careers and onward into their professional careers, ultimately strengthening the Miami-Dade MRC unit as a whole...aside from the students, the universities themselves have many resources that can be shared with the MRC, such as simulation labs and research centers."

The training was planned by Simanek along with University of Miami faculty, and members of the Florida Department of Health. For more information on this partnership, please contact Michelle Simanek at [Michelle\\_Simanek@doh.state.fl.us](mailto:Michelle_Simanek@doh.state.fl.us).

## MRC/NACCHO Connections

### New Opportunity Training Videos

While you are attending the Integrated Training Summit, we hope you will stop by the MRC–NACCHO booth to view the new opportunity training videos. These videos are currently in the draft phase and are part of a demonstration project. We are actively seeking feedback from MRC representatives and would appreciate your input.

The videos feature the following four topics:

- Basic Proposal Writing;
- Budget Writing Basics;
- Doctrine, Organization, Training, Materials, Leadership, Personnel and Facilities: A Management, Capabilities Building and Validation Construct; and
- Grants, Contracts and Cooperative Agreements: The Peer Review Process and Your Role in It.

Please bring your business card if you are interested in receiving copies of the video so we can contact you directly once the videos are finalized.

## Announcements

## Critical Tornado Recovery and Response Resources

In response to the recent tornado devastation, NACCHO has activated the tornado-specific dark site to share critical resources on tornado recovery and response. A dark site is a pre-developed Web site that is activated and used to share vital resources following a crisis or emergency.

For more information, visit

<http://www.naccho.org/topics/emergency/darksite/tornado.cfm>.

## Attend the 2012 Integrated Training Summit

The 2012 Integrated Medical, Public Health, Preparedness and Response Training Summit is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). It will be held during May 21–25, 2012 in Nashville, Tennessee. For more information, visit <http://www.integratedtrainingsummit.org>.

## The Six Most Memorable SNS Lessons You Will Ever Learn in 45 Minutes

Enjoy a fast-paced sharing session where you will be intrigued by the content of the presentations and the format. Six Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) planning professionals will engage the audience through an Ignite session format of rapid delivery of important SNS promising practices and lessons learned. To watch the Ignite session, visit

<http://www.naccho.org/topics/emergency/SNS/ignite.cfm>.

## The FBI Citizen's Academy: A Partnership That Strengthens Community Preparedness

This article is written by Paul A. Biedrzycki, MPH, MBA, City of Milwaukee Health Department, WI. This article describes Mr. Biedrzycki's experience at the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Citizen's Academy and its importance for local public health officials. The purpose of the Academy is to create relationships between the FBI and community at-large before an actual emergency event occurs.

To read the article, visit

[http://www.naccho.org/topics/emergency/upload/Paul-B\\_FBI\\_citizenacademy.pdf](http://www.naccho.org/topics/emergency/upload/Paul-B_FBI_citizenacademy.pdf).

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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