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[www.medicalreservecorps.gov](http://www.medicalreservecorps.gov)

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## Featured Articles

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### Wisconsin Disaster Medical Response Team MRC Assists with Successful Search and Rescue Mission

In August 2013, the Wisconsin Disaster Medical Response Team (WDMRT) – MRC assisted with a search and rescue mission in northeast Minnesota for a missing woman with Alzheimer’s disease. Since its inception in 2008, the WDMRT has been involved with search and rescue as part of their all-hazards mission and as the main activity of their housing organization, the K-9 Emergency Response Teams.

This particular search mission was part of a multi-agency response for an 84-year-old woman who got lost while going for a walk in a wooded area near a subdivision in northeast Minnesota. The woman was from Idaho and came to Minnesota to visit family. For this deployment, five MRC members participated, including two veterinarians, one medical volunteer, and two nonmedical volunteers to provide first aid. MRC volunteers in this unit generally have alternating roles on a search and rescue mission; they either conduct trail/grid searches or are K-9 handlers. To keep them from becoming fatigued in that role, they can switch and use their first aid, medical or veterinarian skills to provide support to the searchers.

Around 6:00PM on the second day of the search, one of the search and rescue team’s K-9s locked onto the missing woman’s scent about a quarter mile away and lead her handler to the missing woman. After a brief patient assessment, the woman was found in need of rehydration, but was otherwise healthy. During the nearly three days that she had been missing, the woman had endured heat, humidity and a thunderstorm. When she realized she was lost, she sat down and waited to be found in a sheltered area where branches helped protect her from a thunderstorm. The team then helped guide the rescue team and a medical helicopter to the woman’s location. She was then taken to a local hospital for observation.

## MRC/NACCHO Connections

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### Share Your Expertise at the 2014 Preparedness Summit

MRC unit leaders and volunteers respond to a variety of unique situations and have learned many valuable lessons that should be shared with a national audience. NACCHO, a lead partner in hosting the 2014 Preparedness Summit, is asking MRC units to share their tools or best practices in the fields of emergency management, public health, healthcare or disaster relief and submit an abstract for the 2014 Preparedness Summit.

The Preparedness Summit is the premier national conference in the field of public health preparedness and is organized by leading public health, healthcare, and emergency management organizations, including NACCHO and the DCVMRC. The four-day annual event provides one of the only opportunities to reach a cross-disciplinary national audience with approximately 1,800 attendees from all levels of government (local, state, and federal) and professionals working in emergency management, volunteer organizations, and healthcare coalitions. This year’s Summit will take place April 1-4, 2014 in Atlanta. The theme is “Stronger Together: Aligning Public Health and Healthcare Preparedness Capabilities to Protect Our Communities.”

Plan ahead for your 2014 Preparedness Summit registration; conference registration fees can be included in your Capacity Building Awards application. Applications for the Capacity Building Awards and the new Challenge Awards are now open through Oct. 31 at <http://mrcnaccho.org>. As you work on your unit’s applications for the awards, consider what trainings and opportunities you would like to participate in before submitting your application. The Preparedness Summit offers world-class training opportunities for attendees and allows presenters to reach a national audience with their ideas.

Whether you decide to present at the 2014 Preparedness Summit or attend the event, the Summit offers exciting learning opportunities that are valuable to all MRC units.

Review the [abstract instructions](#) and submit your abstract today. **Abstracts will close at 11:59PM PDT on Oct.**

11. Visit [www.preparednesssummit.org](http://www.preparednesssummit.org) for more information about the 2014 Preparedness Summit and to register.

## Announcements

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### NACCHO Launches New Preparedness Brief Blog

NACCHO is pleased to announce the launch of the new "[Preparedness Brief Blog.](#)" This new blog explores preparedness issues through the lens of local public health, and will share the latest news, articles, and upcoming opportunities in local public health preparedness. The Preparedness Brief Blog will replace NACCHO's bi-monthly Preparedness Brief newsletter. View the Preparedness Brief Blog now to learn about NACCHO's Preparedness Month activities, and to learn what [MRC units](#) did to mark Preparedness Month!

### Digital Media Campaign Increases Visibility of the MRC Network

Throughout the month of September, NACCHO conducted a digital media campaign in select markets across the U.S. to encourage residents to volunteer with the MRC. As of September 27, the campaign generated more than 29 million impressions-- which means that many more people are hearing about the MRC! Some unit leaders in the metropolitan areas of Detroit, Louisville, KY, Houston, San Francisco, and Portland, OR were asked to participate in radio interviews with their local radio stations to discuss National Preparedness Month and how to get involved with the MRC. Advertisements on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, and Google complemented the radio interviews and reinforced the message that anyone can get involved with the MRC. As NACCHO continues to analyze lessons learned from the campaign, we will share them with the MRC Network so that unit leaders who are interested in replicating their own digital outreach initiative can learn from this campaign. Thank you to all of the unit leaders who helped make this campaign a success!

### New Instructional Resource Available on MRC-TRAIN

A new instructional resource is now available on [MRC-TRAIN](#). The "Course Registration and Completion" flyer outlines how volunteers can find, register, and complete trainings, such as the Federal Emergency Management Agency's ICS courses. The flyer also outlines how certificates can be stored on MRC-TRAIN and attached to the courses. Disseminate this flyer to your volunteers so that they have access to step-by-step instructions on accessing trainings on MRC-TRAIN.



The mission of the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) is to be a leader, partner, catalyst, and voice for local public health departments.

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Please contact Alyson Jordan, NACCHO's MRC Communications Specialist, with any questions or suggestions for the newsletter at 202-783-5528 or at [ajordan@naccho.org](mailto:ajordan@naccho.org).