



# MRC In Touch

Volunteers Building Strong, Healthy, and Prepared Communities

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

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## Featured Article

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### Greater Prince William County MRC Training Shows that Active Bystanders Can Make a Difference

In partnership with the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the Greater Prince William County MRC in Manassas, VA was selected to participate in a pilot project called "Becoming an Active Bystander." On July 12, the Greater Prince William County MRC held a 4-hour training exercise to teach non-medical volunteers and community members how to provide basic initial care to survivors in the immediate aftermath of an incident, either manmade or natural. Participants also learned how to manage bleeding, blocked airways, burns, hypothermia, drowning, and how to communicate with emergency responders when they arrive at the scene. Representatives from FEMA, NACCHO and the DCVMRC were also present to observe this training to see practices that could be replicated nationally.

"The goal of this training is to strengthen the role and ability of persons to save lives when at the scene of an unexpected emergency," emphasized Daniel Ferrell, MRC Training Coordinator and exercise lead. "This is critical when you take into consideration that it takes anywhere from 5-20 minutes for emergency responders to arrive at a scene. Active bystanders do save lives!"

Following this training, which was also conducted at six other locations in Virginia, Florida, and Tennessee, feedback will be provided to CDC and FEMA representatives to help improve the content and focus for these types of trainings in the future.

During the training exercise, participants received a manual that included resources and guidelines for preparing and preventing emergencies. Some key resources identified and highlighted for future active bystander work during this exercise were:

- [Ready.gov](http://Ready.gov)
- [CDC.gov](http://CDC.gov)
- [FEMA.gov](http://FEMA.gov)
- [Mass Casualty Event and Response](#)
- [Disaster Preparedness Apps](#)

## MRC/NACCHO Connections

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### Time is Running Out: NACCHO MRC Awards Close Tomorrow!

The 2014-2015 NACCHO MRC Awards application will close **TOMORROW, Nov. 7 at 11:59PM EST**. Time is running out on this opportunity to apply for additional funding for your MRC unit.

Visit the [learning resources](#) page of the website for information to help you complete your application. Review the [Request for Applications](#) for important details and tips for a successful application. If you plan to complete a [Challenge Award](#) application, view last year's Challenge Award winners' [blog](#) and [video](#) updates for inspiration.

NACCHO's MRC staff are standing by to answer any last minute questions about the NACCHO MRC awards application process. Technical assistance will not be available after 5:00PM EST tomorrow, so please contact NACCHO as soon as possible if you encounter any issues. If you have any additional questions about the NACCHO MRC Awards process or encounter technical issues with the website, please contact [mrc@naccho.org](mailto:mrc@naccho.org).

## Announcements

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### Download the MRC Connect Mobile Application

The mobile version of MRC Connect, the first social media application for the MRC, is now available for download in the Apple iTunes store and Google Play market. To download the application, search for "MRC Connect" or click on the following links: Apple (<http://bit.ly/MRCConnectApple>) or Google (<http://bit.ly/MRCConnectGoogle>).

The MRC Connect mobile application is optimized for use on iPads and iPhones, as well as Android smartphones and tablets. By downloading the MRC Connect mobile application, you can stay updated on MRC news, easily access best practices from other unit leaders, and save key details about your activities without being near a computer.

Don't have a smartphone or tablet? You can access all of the features of MRC Connect by using the web version at <http://mrconnect.org>. If you need help getting started using MRC Connect, view [video tutorials](#).

### In Remembrance of Bob Cohen

The MRC network mourns the loss of Robert (Bob) Cohen, unit leader for the Maine Township Regional MRC in Park Ridge, IL. Bob also served as Maine Township's emergency management director since 2002 and the previous chairperson of the MRC Association of Illinois.

Many throughout the MRC network shared their memories of working with Bob, including his eagerness to share knowledge and resources via the listserv, his strong leadership and mentorship skills, and his friendship. Bob will be greatly missed.

NACCHO's MRC workgroup had been exploring the formation of a mentorship program for new and struggling unit leaders prior to Bob's passing. As the workgroup moves forward in developing the program, they plan to model the goals and objectives of the program to honor Bob's legacy of leadership and service to the MRC network. Stay tuned for more details about this program.

For more information, view his [obituary](#) and a [newspaper article](#).

### NACCHO Stories from the Field

In addition to the newsletters *MRC In Touch* and *MRC In Focus*, NACCHO shares stories about the important work of MRC units through its storytelling website, [Stories from the Field](#). This site fosters a community of practice to encourage peer-to-peer learning among local public health professionals and is also visible to those outside of the local public health field to learn about the impacts that local health departments and their partners have in their communities. Visit the site for valuable [storytelling tips](#) and to [submit](#) your MRC unit's own story. Read [stories about MRC units](#), including two new stories: "[K-9 Emergency Response Team Saves a Life](#)" and "[Partnering with the Local Library for Preparedness Education](#)."

### Get More Exposure for Your MRC Unit

Several MRC unit leaders, volunteers, and partners have recently written opinion editorials (op-eds) for their local newspapers touting the benefits that the MRC provides to their communities. Writing an op-ed or letter to the editor about the MRC is a great way to raise awareness about the impact of the MRC in your community, highlight opportunities for volunteers, and more. NACCHO offers resources to help you [write an op-ed](#) and other tools to raise awareness about the MRC through [media outreach](#).

View these recent op-eds about the MRC for inspiration: "[Preparedness goes on, all year long](#)" by John Cutler, Southeast Nebraska Healthcare Coalition MRC Coordinator and "[Why we need a Medical Reserve Corps](#)" by Ela Pandya with the Pandya Family Foundation and MRC partner. Has someone you know written an op-ed or letter to the editor about the MRC in your community? Email the link to [mrnewsletter@naccho.org](mailto:mrnewsletter@naccho.org) and you could be featured in an upcoming newsletter.

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# NACCHO

National Association of County & City Health Officials

*The National Connection for Local Public Health*

[www.naccho.org](http://www.naccho.org)



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