



MRC In Touch

Volunteers Building Strong, Healthy, and Prepared Communities

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Feature Article

Rappahannock-Rapidan MRC Spices Up Winter Weather Preparedness with BINGO

The Rappahannock-Rapidan MRC has always given presentations to senior homes, but in preparation for the 2015-2016 winter, they wanted to reinvigorate their regular preparedness presentations. To make learning about preparedness more fun, MRC Coordinator Jordan Zarone and her volunteers created a winter preparedness BINGO game.

MRC volunteers hosted the game at three senior homes located in the area. The game was an immediate success, the residents were playfully competitive, making for a very interactive evening. The volunteers brought prizes for the winners, including flashlights, hand sanitizer, and warm weather accessories like mittens and socks.

In the future, the MRC is working on expanding the game for topics other than winter weather preparedness, and making it applicable to all ages. They want to continue to give presentations at the various senior homes in the area, and expand to play at schools in the county as well. They are partnering with the local HOSA chapter to expand the game for school-aged children and teenagers.

Overall, the BINGO games were a great way to make learning about winter weather preparedness more fun than your standard lecture. Jordan found the resources to make the game online at the CDC, FEMA, and her own local health department's websites. The BINGO games are also creating stronger partnerships between the MRC unit and local senior homes. They hope when they expand where the game is played, they'll also gain more contacts at local schools and community centers.

MRC/NACCHO Connections

MRC Sessions at the Preparedness Summit

The MRC always has a big presence at the Preparedness Summit. This year, your fellow MRC volunteers are presenting at three sessions during the conference. If you'll be at the Summit, make sure to check out these eight great learning sessions! The full schedule is available on the [Preparedness Summit website](#).

Tuesday, April 19, 1:30-3pm: Utilizing the Medical Reserve Corps to Support Special Events and Mass Gatherings: An Overview of the Multi-jurisdictional Deployment in Response to the Papal Visit

Tuesday, April 19, 1:30-3pm: Training Volunteers to Respond to a Major Radiological Event

Tuesday, April 19, 3:30-5pm: Developing Demographic Maps from Traditional and Non-Traditional Data Sources to Improve Language Response Capabilities of Mass Medication Dispensing, Medical Response Corps Volunteer Recruitment, and Community Outreach

Wednesday, April 20, 10:30am-12pm: The Role of Volunteers in Emergency Incident Rehabilitation

Wednesday, April 20, 3:30-5pm: Students from High School to Graduate School as a Volunteer Resource: Examples from New Mexico and Nebraska

Wednesday, April 20, 3:30-5pm: Increasing Collaboration and Capability Development Through Competency Based Medical Response Corps (MRC) Volunteer Training

Thursday, April 21, 8:30-10am: Strategic Planning and Training for Deploying Capable Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) Teams: Our Valley Fire Response

Friday, April 22, 8:30-10am: Maintaining Essential Functions When a Health Department Is Debilitated during a Public Health Emergency: Resource and Volunteer Management

Announcements

Did you know? Search MRC TRAIN by Competencies for Disaster Medicine and Public Health

[MRC TRAIN](#), part of the larger TRAIN learning network, offers thousands of training opportunities and over sixteen different search options. Training can be found by keywords, credit offered, offering organization, and more.

Critically, training can also be found by searching by [Competencies for Disaster Medicine and Public Health](#). You can modify this search to only return training that includes just one or select competencies by using the By Competencies and Capabilities search option on the left-hand side. Moreover, if you don't find what you're looking for, you can click Save Criteria at the bottom of the page (once logged in) and save the search for the future. Selecting the checkbox will even prompt MRC TRAIN to email you any new courses that meet your requirements (Note: you must opt in to receive emails from MRC TRAIN first).

Save this search today and get automated notifications of new training! Questions about MRC TRAIN can be sent to mrctsupport@train.org.

Contra Costa MRC Featured on Preparedness Brief Blog

Lisa Vajgrt-Smith, Medical Reserve Corps Coordinator, Contra Costa Medical Reserve Corps, previewed her session, "Strategic Planning and Training for Deploying Capable Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) teams: Our Valley Fire Response" on the [Preparedness Brief Blog](#). At this session, Lisa will be joined by Steve Huck, EMS Emergency Manager for Contra Costa County. If you're not headed to the Preparedness Summit, learn about how this MRC unit responded to a major emergency event.

ASPR TRACIE Releases New Zika Resource

As the Zika outbreak evolves, MRC units may find themselves having to participate in a response in their counties. The government has released several important resources for local health departments, including this [new document](#) from the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR).

The document provides Zika virus resources and an overview of public health and healthcare system considerations and implications that are applicable to professionals in those systems, emergency management stakeholders, and other audiences.



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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