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December 20, 2017

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## Featured Article

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### Mass Fatality Incident Support & Traumatic Grief Counseling Regional Response Team

The LeFlore Regional Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) of Oklahoma used their NACCHO 2016 MRC Challenge Award to develop regional response teams to support mass fatality incidents and traumatic grief counseling. The teams were designed to be able to respond to mass fatality incidents within the region or potentially across the state. Through the MRC Challenge Award, they were able to develop Field Response Teams and purchase operational resources to establish Family Assistance Centers.

A major component of the project was the development of a training plan and recruitment of MRC volunteers and community partners to establish trained response teams. The MRC collaborated with the Rural Domestic Preparedness Consortium (RDPC), the Oklahoma Medical Examiner's Office, several emergency management organizations, the Sheriff's office, and county ministerial alliances. The MRC unit wanted each of their partners to play a role in constructing the teams, in addition to facilitating partnerships with governmental agencies for coordinated preparedness and response planning during mass fatality incidents.

The LeFlore Regional MRC implemented several AWR-232 Mass Fatalities Planning and Response for Rural Communities trainings, which focused on awareness of mass fatality planning and preparations. They targeted first responders, private sector funeral directors, and faith-based partners for their trainings. Additionally, the MRC unit also taught G-386 mass fatality incident management courses focused on pre-planning measure for field operational elements and family assistance centers.

The new mass fatality program created a family assistance center resource with trained, qualified volunteers and staff to retrieve anti-mortem data from family members, as well as support affected family members during identification and notification processes following mass fatality incidents. The LeFlore MRC estimates 60 MRC volunteers participated in this project with a combined total of 300 hours of service. In addition, 20 community members donated 50 hours of service.

For other MRC units considering the development of a new response resource for their region, the LeFlore MRC advises reaching out to non-traditional private sector partners in addition to governmental agencies to expand your network of subject matter experts and resources. Non-governmental partners may not have routine interactions with first responders or the medical or public health community, so that is a factor to consider as you develop and build these partnerships. They also recommend reaching out to faith community leaders, as they frequently have disaster response roles and training in place and are open to expanding their response capabilities to help their communities.

## MRC/NACCHO Connection

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### Newly Released: The 2017 Network Profile of the MRC

NACCHO has released the 2017 [Network Profile of the Medical Reserve Corps](#) report, a comprehensive look at the way MRC units connect and partner to serve the needs of their communities. With more than 769 units participating, and a response rate of 82%, research revealed the network continues to contribute to the nation's health and safety through commitment to local public health, emergency preparedness, and response efforts. The full report and companion pieces are available at: [2017 MRC Network Profile](#).

## Announcements

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### Webinar: Announcement: Findings from the 2017 Network Profile of the Medical Reserve Corps, Thursday, January 11, 2018 at 1:00pm EST

Did you know that 179 MRC units reported responding to an emergency in the past year? Please join NACCHO on **Thursday, January 11, 2018, at 1:00pm EST** to explore key findings from the [2017 Network Profile of the Medical Reserve Corps](#) report. The webinar will highlight the networks contribution to the nation's health and safety and how MRC units can use the tools developed.

To access the webinar room, please go to the following link at the time of the event, select "Enter as Guest", and use your name to enter the room: [https://naccho.adobeconnect.com/\\_a1053915029/r2jhrabmsx5/](https://naccho.adobeconnect.com/_a1053915029/r2jhrabmsx5/)

If you have any questions, please email NACCHO's MRC Team at [mrc@naccho.org](mailto:mrc@naccho.org).

### Mission Ready Packages - Resources Available for MRC Units

Developing Mission Ready Packages (MRP) is way that MRC units can build unit capability, prepare for emergencies in their community, and also potentially identify and develop resources to support their neighbor states. MRC Volunteers can support a variety of response missions and the MRP tool provides a mechanism for providing mutual aid through the EMAC system.

To learn more about MRPs download the [Mission Ready Packages Resource Guide for MRC Unit Leaders](#) or watch the eLearning [MRC Mission Ready Packages Introduction and Overview](#). The resource guide provides background information on the evolution of MRPs, examples of emergency response activities that MRC units support, developing MRPs to fit local response needs, and examples of MRPs for MRC units. The MRP Resource Guide is available for download and can also be found in NACCHO's Toolbox in the MRC Toolkit.

### MRC Toolkit - Looking for New Resources and Tools to Share

[NACCHO's Toolbox](#) is a free, online collection of local public health tools produced by members of the public health community. Users can find resources in topic specific toolkits, including the MRC Toolkit.

The NACCHO MRC Team is in the process of refreshing the MRC Toolkit and encourages MRC Units to share their promising practices and resources. Resources and tools will be vetted by the MRC Advisory Group for submission into the MRC Toolkit, with credit/authorship remaining with the submitter. This is a great opportunity to share your successes and help improve the greater MRC network. Please email us at [mrc@naccho.org](mailto:mrc@naccho.org) if you are interested in submitting a resource to the NACCHO MRC Toolkit.



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).