



MRC In Touch

Volunteers Building Strong, Healthy, and Prepared Communities

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www.medicalreservecorps.gov

Featured Article

The Sacramento MRC: Trained and Ready to Purify Water

Safe drinking water is often a valuable and lifesaving commodity when a disaster or emergency strikes in a community. For several years, Sacramento, CA, has been at risk for both droughts and floods, as well as wildfires and various diseases. Having identified water's vital role, the Sacramento Regional MRC (SMRC) worked with their housing organization, the Sacramento Office of Emergency Services (SacOES), to prepare their community for such events.

The SacOES was granted an Emergency Services Fresh Water Purification Unit (WPU) by Raley's Supermarket, with the capability to clean up to 20 gallons of fresh water per minute. With full access to the unit, and amidst the drought facing their neighboring communities, the SMRC set their 2015-2016 MRC Challenge Award goal to help members of their community gain access to clean water and first aid, while also receiving emotional care to minimize adverse health effects.

Over the course of six months, 29 SMRC volunteers trained to operate the WPU and a total of 42 volunteers participated in 14 different outreach events, educating 1,238 members of the community on emergency preparedness, water quality, and flu immunization. The SMRC participated in public events like the Sacramento County Sheriff Department's Unity in the Community event, which targeted all age groups and residents of Wilton, a small rural town that has been affected by floods in the past.

The SMRC continues to train their volunteers, particularly with the growing threats of a natural disaster. The most recent series of storms in the Sacramento County area has prompted the county to open their Emergency Operation Center. Lynn Pesely, SMRC unit coordinator, stated that "the water purification trailer was on standby in 2015 for the Valley Fire in Lake County, for the recent flooding in Sacramento County during the January storms, and now with [their] current weather and the Oroville Dam response it is only a matter of time before it will be requested to help a community in need of clean water". In early February, the SMRC hosted a training on new pieces of equipment, the new floto pump (which floats on a body of water and siphons water to be purified), and learned how to set up a port-a-tank, which can hold 2,000 gallons of siphoned water ready to be purified. They plan on holding another training in March where volunteers will operate the water purification system to create clean water.

MRC/NACCHO Connections

Tools to Help You Understand and Implement the Revised MRC Core Competencies

Since MRC volunteers and public health preparedness staff often serve side by side, it is important that the training standards used by the MRC align with the Disaster Medicine and Public Health (DMPH) Competencies. NACCHO, with funding support from the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR), collaborated with an advisory group of MRC professionals on a two-year project to align the MRC Core Competencies with DMPH standards. In an effort to ensure the inclusion of feedback from the MRC network and preparedness fields, informational sessions about the project were presented during the 2015 and 2016 Preparedness Summit conferences.

As an additional part of this project, several resources were created to support MRC Unit Leaders in understanding and implementing the revised Core Competencies. Now available on the NACCHO website and toolbox, these tools include the following:

- [Training plan \(FFS 7.1\)](#): offers multiple E-Learning courses for each competency, allowing MRC Unit leaders or volunteers to choose specific trainings based on their needs

- [Volunteer assessment tracking tool](#): allows MRC Unit leaders to assess volunteers based on completed trainings and observation
- [Self-assessment tool](#): allows MRC volunteers to complete a self-assessment of their performance
- [Fact sheet](#): informs community partners on new competencies in the context of their alignment with the DMPH competencies
- [QuickSeries reference guide](#): organizes competencies into easy-to-use tabs for both MRC Unit leaders and volunteers

To read the full article, click [here](#)

Deadline Extended: 2017 MRC Network Profile survey

NACCHO has extended the deadline for MRC unit leaders to complete the **2017 MRC Network Profile survey to March 7**. Don't miss out on this opportunity to share your unit's input and provide an updated picture of the MRC Network nationwide.

If you need the link to your MRC unit's Network Profile survey or have any questions, contact NACCHO's MRC Team at mrc@naccho.org or call Kabaye Diriba, at 202-888-0443.

To view and download the MRC Network Profile and infographics from previous years, please visit: <http://archived.naccho.org/topics/emergency/MRC/networkprofile.cfm>.

Announcements

Nominations for the MRC Program Recognition Awards are due Friday at 5:00pm ET!

The deadline to submit nominations for the 2017 MRC Recognition Awards is **Friday, February 17, 2017 at 5:00 pm ET!** A [2017 Nomination Form](#) is available online and more details can be found on the MRC website at <https://mrc.hhs.gov/pageViewFldr/2017MRC Awards>. Anyone within the MRC network may serve as a nominator and there are no limits to the number of nominations that you may submit.

Nomination Instructions

To submit a nomination for the 2017 MRC Recognition Awards, please follow the instructions below:

- Complete all fields in the [2017 MRC Recognition Awards Nomination Form](#).
- Send all nomination forms to MRCContakt@hhs.gov by the closing date and time of **Friday, February 17 at 5:00 pm ET**.
- Include only **one nomination per email** with the **award category in the subject line** of the email and the nomination form attached (e.g., Community Resilience)
- Attach a photo of the person, event, initiative, or organization being nominated that can be used in the awards presentation. The picture can be of the person being nominated or the event in which they participated. You also have the option to include a logo for the MRC unit, housing organization, or partner. (Photos or logo files should be in a jpg or gif format.)

If you have any questions, please contact MRCContakt@hhs.gov.

Call for Abstracts: APHA 2017 Annual Meeting & Expo

The American Public Health Association will be accepting abstracts for the APHA 2017 Annual Meeting & Expo themed "Creating the Healthiest Nation: Climate Changes Health." **Abstracts are due between Feb. 20-24**. For more information about the conference and submitting an abstract, visit the conference website [here](#).

Using MRC-TRAIN to Support Factors For Success

Check off MRC Factors for Success **Factor 7.2: Identify Training Sources** by checking out MRC-TRAIN! MRC-TRAIN offers unit leaders the technical functionality and catalogue of training material to help identify applicable, affordable, and accessible sources of training for volunteers that can be used to implement the unit's training plan. The [Advanced Search tool](#) allows detailed queries using numerous filters, including credit offered, keyword, or competency. Search results will display information about a course as well as course reviews, including a star rating and any feedback.

Although MRC-TRAIN could not possibly include all training sources, the nature of the TRAIN Learning Network – a collaborative between 26 state health agencies and three federal agencies (the Medical Reserve Corps, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the Veterans Health Administration) – provides a robust collection of content unavailable elsewhere. There are over [3,000 total connected trainings](#) accessible through MRC-TRAIN.

Contact the MRC TRAIN Support Desk at mrcsupport@train.org for assistance accessing your unit's administrative login or with questions about MRC-TRAIN.

2016 Profile of Local Health Departments Released

NACCHO has just released the 2016 National Profile of Local Health Departments (Profile) report, presenting the newest data on local health department funding, workforce, programs, and partnerships. The report provides a comprehensive overview of local health departments, including their participation in emergency preparedness, policy, accreditation, and information technology.

The Profile is a critical resource for local health departments, policymakers, and researchers. Local health departments use Profile data to compare their agency or those within their states to others nationwide; data are essential for policymakers to understand how local health departments improve and protect health in local communities to inform public health policy at the local, state, and federal levels; and data are used in universities to educate future public health workforce members and by researchers to address questions about public health practice. Profile data also helps highlight challenges faced by all local health departments and differences among local health departments.

Browse the highlights of the findings and the full report at www.nacchoprofilestudy.org.

NACCHO

National Association of County & City Health Officials

The National Connection for Local Public Health

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.