



June 2017

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

## Featured Article

### Vermont Medical Reserve Corps Units Conduct Statewide Summer Go-Kits Distribution

When people think of Vermont, they typically envision snowy ski slopes and a place to escape the heat in the summer. The reality is that the summer climate and outdoor activities can present many of the same warm weather risks that southern states experience. Lyme disease is on the rise in Vermont, with 807 confirmed cases in 2015. Other vector borne diseases such as West Nile virus and eastern equine encephalitis (EEE) also pose threats to both the residents and tourists. In addition, because the summer weather in Vermont may be cool, practicing sun safety can be overlooked, leading to skin damage, premature aging, and potentially skin cancer. Heat exhaustion can also be a life threatening risk when the symptoms are not known and proper treatment is not provided.

The Northwest Vermont Medical Reserve Corps decided to take the lead on a statewide educational campaign on warm weather risks after a local State Trooper lost their life to a heat related injury in 2015. They applied for and received an MRC Challenge Award in 2016 for their statewide Summer Go-Kit Distribution project that focused on protecting Vermonters against warm weather risks. The project was a collaboration between the Vermont Department of Health and five Vermont Medical Reserve Corps units, including the Northwest Vermont MRC, Chittenden County MRC, Rutland-Addison County MRC, the MRC of Southwestern Vermont, and the Southeastern Vermont MRC.

The project goals included each MRC unit conducting a minimum of two educational presentations in their community and at least two Go-Kit distribution events. Collectively, the goal was to distribute 1,500 Summer Go-Kits on a 1/per household model and 1,000 warm weather preparedness materials. The Summer Go-Kits included a summer safety fact sheet, sunscreen, insect repellent, and a tick removal kit with tweezers, alcohol wipes, and band-aids. The five MRC units met their goals and conducted 12 presentations and participated in distribution of Summer Go-Kits at 18 different activities or events.

The MRC units focused their efforts around areas with concentrated outdoor activities, such as camp grounds, parks, and day camps. This multi-pronged approach included outreach and education to both staff supporting outdoor programs and the general public. Outreach efforts included PowerPoint presentations for day camp counselors, public television programming, a poster campaign, all in addition to the distribution of the Summer Go-Kits. Distribution of the kits included on-site walkabouts at campgrounds, door to door, and large public events such as National Night Out. The project could not have happened without the participation of the volunteers. Fifty volunteers from all of the MRC units supported this project with 150 volunteer hours and reaching approximately 1500 households across the state.

The Vermont MRC units hope to sustain this project by demonstrating the effectiveness of the campaign and building it into their state funding allocation as a defined deliverable. The project also includes a survey, which will be sent to all participants at the end of November. The survey will include questions about the effectiveness of the education outreach, whether participants altered their behavior to take steps to protect themselves, whether they had fewer sunburns and bug bites, if they felt this was beneficial to their community, as well as an option to include any personal stories about how this activity made a difference in their life over the course of the summer.

## MRC/NACCHO Connections

### Support Funding MRC in FY2018

President Trump has released his FY2018 budget request, and the outlook for public health programs is bleak. The President has proposed a cut of \$1.2 billion to CDC and major cuts to other public health programs such as a \$109

million cut to the public health emergency preparedness program.

The Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response received a \$200 million increase to \$1.6 billion in the budget; however, Medical Reserve Corps funding stayed the same at \$6 million. NACCHO supports funding the MRC program at \$11 million in order for volunteers to adequately support their communities needs in case of disaster. We encourage you to call your Members of Congress and ask them to fully fund this vital program.

We encourage you to **call** your Members' staff who works on "health issues" in the home district office as the most effective form of communication. NACCHO has also created an [Advocacy Toolkit](#) for you to use when advocating to your Members of Congress.

Please visit <http://www.naccho.org/advocacy/take-action> and click on the campaign "Support Funding MRC in FY2018" to take action.

## Improving the Health of Communities by Investing in Tomorrow's Workforce Today

In a new *NACCHO Voice* column, NACCHO President and Chief Public Health officer for the Cambridge Public Health Department (MA) Claude-Alix Jacob, MPH, discusses the importance of public health workforce development and shares what NACCHO and LHDs are doing to prepare the next generation of local public health leaders. [Learn more »](#)

## Register for the Adaptive Leadership Core Concepts Course

NACCHO will hold a training in the core concepts of Adaptive Leadership at NACCHO Annual 2017 on July 11–12 in Pittsburgh. This one-and-a-half day training will introduce public health professionals to Adaptive Leadership concepts and applications. Register by June 16. [Learn more and register »](#)

## Announcements

---

### Prep Partners Webinar: Access & Functional Needs "The Whole Community - We succeed or fail together"

**Wednesday, June 28, 2017 2:30 PM - 3:30 PM (EDT)**

[Register here](#)

Webinar Objectives:

1. To empower participants to better understand how they can help ensure the needs of individuals with disabilities and people with access and functional needs are met before, during and after disasters.
2. To enhance participants understanding regarding how whole community planning leads to better preparedness, response, recovery and resilience.
3. To help participants learn how OAFN can be utilized as a tool to leverage their respective access and functional needs-related response and recovery integration efforts.
4. Learn how local government, state agencies, and individuals with disabilities or access/functional needs can work together to enhance emergency preparedness for the whole community in a way that improves planning, response, and recovery.

## The National Center for Disaster Medicine and Public Health (NCDMPH) and The Uniformed Services University School of Medicine Offering Two Symposiums

### Crisis Leadership in Disasters Symposium to be held September 6, 2017 in Bethesda, MD

The Symposium will provide an opportunity to explore crisis leadership training needs in the health professions, particularly health emergency and disaster response. During the half-day event, leading experts in crisis leadership will provide examples of how crisis leadership manifests in other professions. We will hear from Lieutenant General Ken Keen, who oversaw disaster response operations following the 2010 Haiti earthquake, and Dr. Leonard Marcus, founding Director of the Program for Health Care Negotiation and Conflict Resolution at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. Through these presentations and dialogue during a panel discussion with Q&A, attendees will explore how those lessons may be translated to the health professions.

[Click here to register for the Symposium!](#)

## Disaster Health Education Symposium: Advancing the State of the Art to be held September 7, 2017 in Bethesda, MD

This symposium will provide a forum with a specific focus on education and training in disaster medicine and public health. This symposium will: 1) Highlight promising approaches, science and practice for education and training in disaster medicine and public health, 2) Present a unique forum for collaboration and networking among disaster medicine and public health professionals, and 3) Explore the implications of the latest practice and research for disaster medicine and public health learning and performance and identify key areas for future research. The symposium will also include an oral and poster abstract competition. Please visit the [abstract submission website](#) or follow #DHES2017 on Twitter for more details. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Victoria Klimczak at [\(240\) 833-4438](tel:(240)833-4438) or [victoria.klimczak.ctr@usuhs.edu](mailto:victoria.klimczak.ctr@usuhs.edu).

[Click Here to Register](#)

## Newly Released: Guide to Equitable, Community-Driven Climate Preparedness Planning

The Urban Sustainability Directors Network (USDN) Innovation Fund recently released a climate adaptation guide with a focus on addressing health inequity related to climate risk. Titled "A Guide to Equitable, Community-Driven Climate Preparedness Planning," this resource is designed to support local governments in designing and implementing a more inclusive, equitable planning process for risk mitigation related to climate change. [Click here to download the full guide.](#) Additional tools and resources on climate change preparedness from USDN can be accessed at [this link](#).

## Share Photos of Your MRC Unit in Action!

NACCHO is currently developing the 2017 Network Profile of the MRC! This updated report will once again feature units from across the nation providing public health, preparedness, and response activities to their local communities. We would love to feature pictures of your unit in action. If you have pictures of your unit's activities from the past few years, send them to [mrc@naccho.org](mailto:mrc@naccho.org). Take a look at the 2013 and 2015 profile for the types of pictures we featured. View the [2013 Network Profile of the MRC](#) or the [2015 Network Profile of the MRC](#).

Before you send your photos to NACCHO, please ensure all volunteers featured in the photos have signed a photo release form or given permission to you to share them with us. If you have any question, please let us know.



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.

1201 Eye Street, NW, 4th Floor Washington, DC 20005  
P 202-783-5550 F 202-783-1583

© National Association of County and City Health Officials

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).