



Tristate Medical Reserve Corps

Volunteers Building Strong, Healthy and Prepared Communities

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 2

FALL 2017

In this Edition of the TMRC Quarterly Newsletter:

- 2017 National Preparedness Month
- Coalition News: Surge Test
- TMRC Makes it to NPR
- Public Health Preparedness News
- MRC Core Competencies
- The Great Central U.S. ShakeOut
- MRC Activities at the 166th Brown County Fair
- Adams County MRC News
- MRC Coordinator Spotlight
- Airport Full Scale Exercise

2017 National Preparedness Month

48% of people do not have an emergency kit for their home.

In light of the recent massive flooding we have seen in Texas and Florida due to hurricanes, it is ever more important to realize the necessity of being prepared.

Throughout September, many agencies involved in emergency planning and response, including Medical Reserve Corps, will support emergency preparedness efforts and encourage Americans to take action.

Many emergencies happen without warning. Take steps ahead of time to keep you and your loved ones safe and healthy. [BUILD A KIT](#) with necessary supplies.

Coalition News: Surge Test

This grant year, that began July 1, the Southwest Ohio region will be required to conduct a hospital evacuation drill simulating the total evacuation of 20% of regional bed capacity which equates to almost 900 beds.

Regional coordination, securing bed assignments and transportation are the



MAKE A PLAN

describing the steps you will take in different types of emergencies and how your family will stay in contact.

And STAY INFORMED to make sure you get the information you need when you need it.

Keep your kit updated and stocked. It is also recommended to practice your plan by reviewing the plan with your family.

primary goals of the exercise.

The exercise is conducted over 90 minutes starting with activation of the Hospital Command Center in the hospitals that are chosen for evacuation.

Hospitals will not know until the day of the exercise that they will be asked to simulate an evacuation of their entire facility.

Conducting emergency drills at home are another way to practice preparedness.

Be a preparedness role model by spreading the word to family and friends the importance of being prepared for emergencies.

Volunteer, attend preparedness training, or share a photo of your kit or a selfie on your social media news feed to help spread the message.

Always follow instructions from local officials regarding protective actions you can take during an emergency like sheltering in place, evacuation, or where to go and what to do before an emergency.

For more information on this topic visit CDCs [Emergency Preparedness and You](#) website.

This will be a great way to compare region to region and state to state as all identified Coalition regions across the country will have to conduct the exercise. More to come!





TMRC Makes it to NPR

On July 6th, Robin Thomas, Regional Director for TMRC and Jessica McElroy, MRC Coordinator for Northern Kentucky Health Department were interviewed on NPR's local program, *Cincinnati Edition* about the Medical Reserve Corps program.

Robin and Jessica discussed the history, and overall mission and purpose of MRC with

Cincinnati Edition host Mark Heyne.

The major roles and responsibilities of MRC volunteers in disaster response were also discussed.

Cincinnati Edition covers topics from regional government to business, education, health, technology, and the arts.

If you would like to listen to the 25 minute program please visit the

WVXU website for an audio recording of the segment.



“Healthcare and public health systems that are prepared to respond successfully to emergencies and recover quickly from all hazards are also able to deliver services more effectively and efficiently every day.”

Dr. Nicole Lurie, HHS Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response

Public Health Preparedness News

July 1 marked the beginning of our new five-year emergency preparedness grant cycle. The purpose of the 2017-2022 grant agreement is to strengthen and enhance the capabilities of the public health and healthcare systems to respond to evolving threats and other emergencies.

Grant recipients must

increase or maintain their levels of effectiveness across six key preparedness domains:

1. Community Resilience
2. Incident Management
3. Information Management
4. Countermeasures and Mitigation

5. Surge Management
6. Biosurveillance

These essential funds will allow local jurisdictions to continue to build and sustain core public health and healthcare preparedness capabilities. For more information about the [PHEP](#) and [HPP](#) programs visit their respective websites.

MRC Core Competencies

MRC Core Competencies are minimum competencies that all MRC volunteers should be able to demonstrate. Competency 6.0 requires the volunteer to be knowledgeable regarding their role as a surge capacity asset during emergencies.

The MRC itself is a surge

capacity asset in the public health field.

Within the MRC, surge capacity is interpreted as the proper number of MRC volunteers and activated resources with each emergency incident or event response. The number of volunteers and amount of resources are determined by the MRC

Unit, and if the size of the incident or event expands, then the MRC unit needs to be ready to activate or deploy more MRC volunteers for the response.

Look for in-person and on-line training in topics like mass casualty incident response and surge capacity assets.



Competency #6.0:
Demonstrate knowledge of surge capacity assets consistent with one's role in organizational, agency and/or community response plans.

The Great Central U.S. Shakeout

Millions of people worldwide will practice how to **Drop, Cover, and Hold On** at 10:19AM on October 19th during Great ShakeOut Earthquake Drills across the nation! Participating is a great way for your family or organization to be prepared to survive and recover quickly from big earthquakes -wherever you live, work, or

travel. The Great Central U.S. ShakeOut is an annual opportunity to practice how to be safer during big earthquakes. The ShakeOut has also been organized to encourage you, your community, your school, or your organization to review and update emergency preparedness plans and supplies, and to secure your

space in order to prevent damage and injuries. Ohio and Kentucky are on the periphery of the New Madrid Seismic Zone. Learn more about the Tristate Region's earthquake risk at www.shakeout.org/centralus.

For more information or to register for the ShakeOut visit



MRC ACTIVITIES AT THE 166th BROWN COUNTY FAIR

The Brown County Fair, known throughout Ohio as the "The Little State Fair", starts September 25th and runs through September 30th in Georgetown.

The Brown County MRC Unit will be sponsoring a booth to share preparedness information and to hopefully recruit new members to our Unit.

We will be sharing the space with our emergency preparedness and response partners, Brown County Emergency Management and the American Red Cross.



The Weather Bureau will be also be providing demonstrations and providing information about Flash Floods and Tornados at a variety of times during the afternoon and evening hours.

Please stop by our booth to learn more about emergency preparedness and the MRC!

Visit the [Brown County Fair Website](#) for more Fair information.

-Margery Paeltz, Brown County MRC Coordinator



Adams County MRC News

Sponsored by the Adams County Health Department, the Adams County MRC Unit was formed in 2010. The unit has experienced many challenges in recruiting volunteers and maintaining the viability of the unit. This July a recruitment campaign was launched to increase membership and participation within the community. The Adams

County MRC, through there recent recruitment efforts held their first MRC Volunteer Orientation on September 11th.



The orientation covered the roles and responsibilities of the MRC volunteer as well as the role of public health in an emergency. Twelve members of the community attended the orientation. The next Adams County MRC volunteer meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 6th and will meet bi-monthly. Congratulations to Adams County MRC for a great start!

-Linda Steele, Adams County MRC Coordinator



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MRC COORDINATOR SPOTLIGHT: Margery Paeltz

Margery Paeltz is the Emergency Response and MRC Coordinator for Brown County Health Department. Since 2011, Margery has been responsible for emergency planning for public health and serves as the Unit Leader for the Brown County MRC Unit. Margery's lifelong experiences have included numerous leadership roles throughout the state of Ohio and Brown County, including Brown County Commissioner, 4-H Advisor, Eastern Area United Way, In School Program Educator, and serves on a variety of volunteer organizations boards. Margery enjoys serving her community and using her talents to help the residents of Brown County be better prepared for emergencies.



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Airport Full Scale Exercise

If you recall from a recent newsletter, the CVG Airport full scale exercise took place on 9/7/17 at 9PM. Under the cover of darkness the airport simulated an airplane crash. Fire Services, EMS, and many volunteers worked together to train and test our community's response to a devastating crash at the region's main airport.

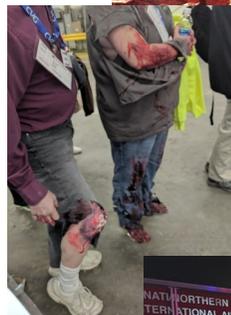
I got to see firsthand, as a volunteer victim, all that is required of responders in an event like this.

There were 118 volunteer victims for the exercise. 72 were transported to local hospitals, 26 played distraught family members

at the Family Assistance Center, and 20 college students played "dead". Many of these volunteers underwent moulage to simulate injuries that might be sustained in a crash. Many of these volunteer victims were MRC volunteers.

The American Red Cross' Medical Assistance Team made up of physicians, nurses, paramedics, and others supported the medical response in the exercise, staffing the triage area. 7 fire engines and 32 ambulances from both sides of the river responded to transport crash "victims" to the four St. Elizabeth facilities in Northern Kentucky. In all 111 responders/ staff participated in the exercise to help make it a success.

-Jessica McElroy, Northern Kentucky Health Department MRC Coordinator



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