

MA RESPONDS

Ready • Set • Respond



QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

FALL 2012

MA RESPONDS NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS



National Preparedness Month in Massachusetts

Last month, the Medical Reserve Corps Units of Massachusetts (MRC) and MA Responds took an active role in National Preparedness Month. MRC units across the Commonwealth provided resources on family, individual, and pet preparedness planning. Emphasis was placed on the importance of having a plan, building a preparedness kit, and being informed when an event occurs.



The Cape Cod Citizen's Corps Council sponsored a *Family Preparedness Open House* on September 14, 2012. The free event featured important information on preparing for an emergency in a family friendly atmosphere which included activities for children, refreshments, and a raffle.



MA Responds launched a social media campaign with standardized messages that were sent out throughout the month of September. Each week one MA Responds Facebook post with link and one Tweet were sent. The campaign focused on the following themes:



- Week 1: Be Informed: How to recognize an emergency and what to do
- Week 2: Make a Plan: Preparedness plans for family, children, pets
- Week 3: Build a Preparedness Kit: How to and what to include in readiness kit
- Week 4: Get Involved: Various ways people can get involved or volunteer

New Groups Join MA Responds

MA Responds continues to expand with the recent addition of the Wachusett Area and the Bridgewater Area MRC. This brings the current total to 39 participating MRC units.

If your unit is not yet a member of MA Responds, please contact Regan Checchio at rcheccchio@regianavilla.com for more information. Please visit the [MRC state website](#) to download a copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). Once the MOU has been signed and returned to MDPH, your unit can join a group of units integrating into the system. A copy of the MA Responds Policy and Procedures manual is also available on the [MRC state website](#). For more information about MA Responds, please contact [Lindsay Tallon](#).

MA Responds Administrator Training - November 1, 2012

There will be a MA Responds administrator training on Thursday, November 1, 2012 from 9:30AM to 3:00PM at Massachusetts Medical Society headquarters in Waltham. Please respond to Liza Martin at lmartin@mms.org if you would like to attend this training.

Volunteer for Urban Shield

Massachusetts is gearing up for one of its biggest and most exciting emergency response exercises of the year. For 24 hours starting on Saturday, November 3, over 600 emergency responders from 50 different agencies will take part in a training exercise known as Urban Shield. In order to help make Urban Shield a

success, MRC volunteers are needed. Volunteers are specifically being recruited to assist at one of the following locations:

- Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center
- Boston Medical Center
- Brigham and Women's Hospital
- Cambridge Health Alliance
- Massachusetts General Hospital
- Tufts Medical Center
- University of Massachusetts Boston

Volunteers at these sites may be assigned a number of roles, such as critical patients and victims, and will be involved in a variety of hazardous materials exercises. Volunteer shifts will be from approximately 3pm to 9:00pm. Volunteers will most likely be assigned to the location closest to where you live, and more specific details from your assigned site, including where to check-in, transportation options, what you should bring with you will be given to you at a later date. No matter your volunteer site, food, snacks, and parking will be provided.

If you are interested in participating at Urban Shield, we ask that you please complete the following short survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/7SWG6QG>

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES & UPCOMING EVENTS

Disaster Behavioral Health Training Series

This year, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health's Emergency Preparedness Bureau, in collaboration with the Department of Mental Health, is supporting the Boston Medical Center -Center for Multi-Cultural Mental Health to provide three different courses and seven training sessions taking place at various locations throughout the Commonwealth. The training curriculum focuses on building psychological resilience for individuals responding to a disaster as well as how to provide Psychological First Aid to anyone impacted by a disaster. These trainings are relevant to a wide variety of professional and volunteer healthcare, mental health, public health, and public safety personnel. Continuing education credits will be available for several professional licenses. Training dates and online registration can be accessed through the training series' website at: <http://66.84.18.170/~cmmhcmtp/impartraining.php>.

Massachusetts Association of Health Boards Certificate Program

November 3, 2012 Marlboro Holiday Inn

November 10, 2012 Taunton Holiday Inn

Massachusetts Association of Health Boards (MAHB) certificate program is a voluntary educational program for local board of health members. The certification program is repeated on two Saturdays, in two locations. The program is designed to give members the skills necessary to adequately perform their duties and fulfill their responsibilities in their respective towns and cities. There are three tracks: Governance, Environmental Health and Community Health. Topics cover a wide range of current issues. There is also an orientation session for new board members. Please register on the MAHB members' page at www.mahb.org.

Public Health Preparedness Summit 2013

March 12-15, 2013

Atlanta Marriott Marquis

Atlanta, GA

The 2013 Summit, *Strengthening Public Health and Healthcare Preparedness through Innovation, Integration, and Implementation*, will offer a strategic overview on the current state of public health preparedness and highlight research,

technical, and practice-based perspectives on strengthening community preparedness while also building and sustaining healthcare coalitions. In-depth discussions will encourage collaboration among all levels of government, along with the private and non-profit sectors, to develop cross-cutting solutions to some of the most difficult public health preparedness challenges. Conference sessions will explore areas including mass prophylaxis and catastrophic preparedness, community resilience, biosurveillance, volunteer management, administrative preparedness, public health law, and crisis standards of care. For more information or to register, please visit: <http://www.phprep.org/>.

Emergency Preparedness in Massachusetts – New Online Training

This new online course covers the fundamental elements of preparation and response that apply to all emergencies. Topics include: the four phases of the emergency management cycle, the National Response Framework (NRF) and National Incident Management System (NIMS), the Emergency Support Functions (ESF) that public health agencies have a role in, and the responsibilities and capabilities of local boards of health (LBOH) in emergency preparedness and response. Visit: <http://www.masslocalinstitute.org/?p=2432> for additional information or to access the course.

MA Responds Orientation Course

On-Line Training Module

This course provides an overview on how to prepare for and respond to a public health emergency or other event. It is intended to complement additional training volunteers will receive through face to face meetings with their local MRC unit or other volunteer group, other courses recommended by volunteer coordinators and “just-in-time” training provided on-site. Modules include: Public Health Preparedness, Incident Command System, Crisis and Emergency Risk Communication, Personal Preparedness, Activation, Safety and Security, Individuals Requiring Additional Assistance and Behavioral Health. The course can be accessed at www.massmed.org/cme/maresponds or by logging onto your MA Responds account. Click on administration/training and then scroll down to “MA Responds orientation course.”

PREPAREDNESS NEWS AND RESOURCES

Information on Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) and West Nile Virus (WNV)

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health has a webpage dedicated to EEE and WNV. Information on mosquito activity, prevention and control as well as fact sheets and educational resources for the public and health care professionals is available. To access these resources, please visit: www.mass.gov/dph/wnv

Show Me: A Communication Tool for Emergency Shelters

The Emergency Preparedness Bureau has created a simple, hands-on tool to reduce communication barriers and better assist individuals with access and functional needs, and professional shelter staff and volunteers, make their needs and concerns understood within a community shelter setting during an emergency. Each local public health department should receive one copy of the booklet along with a dry erase marker. A [pdf file of the booklet](#) has been published to the MDPH website.

Flu Educational Resources

Free brochures, pamphlets and posters are available to support community flu vaccination efforts. Many of these materials are available in multiple languages. Please go to the Massachusetts Health Promotion Clearing House to order these

free materials. <http://www.maclearringhouse.com/category/FLU.html>. In addition, free handwashing materials, including posters, flyers, and sample newsletter articles are available at <http://www.mass.gov/eohhs/provider/guidelines-resources/clinical-treatment/diseases-conditions/communicable-diseases/handwashing.html>.

Psychological First Aid APP

The National Center for PTSD, the National Child Traumatic Stress Network, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, and the DOD's National Center for Telehealth and Technology have launched a new application called *PFA Mobile*. Following disasters or emergencies, the *PFA Mobile* app can assist trained responders who provide Psychological First Aid (PFA) to adults, families, and children.

The app allows responders to:

- Read summaries of the 8 core PFA actions.
- Match PFA interventions to specific stress reactions of survivors.
- Get mentor tips for applying PFA in the field.
- Self-assess to determine their own readiness to conduct PFA.
- Assess and track survivors' needs to simplify data collection and referrals.

NOTE: PFA Mobile is not meant to be a replacement for PFA training. This app is a supplement to other resources trained individuals utilize before, during, and after a disaster response. For more details, or to download the app, please go to:

http://www.ptsd.va.gov/professional/pages/pfa_mobile_app.asp.

MyMedList: New APP Now Available

MyMedList (MML), a new App from the National Library of Medicine, allows users to electronically manage their medication list(s). Medication lists can be e-mailed or printed, can serve as a reminder for taking medications, or be shown as reference information in doctor's offices, hospitals or shelters. The medications are also linked to the DailyMed mobile site. Past events like Hurricane Katrina have demonstrated that having access to this information during and after a disaster can be crucial. The app is available at <http://dailymed.nlm.nih.gov/dailymed/mobile/index.cfm>.

Get Ready Fact Sheets for People Living with Disabilities

These fact sheets focus on helping people living with disabilities think about and prepare for disasters. There is a general fact sheet with preparedness tips for people with disabilities, as well as fact sheets for people with hearing, mobility, vision and cognitive disabilities. These fact sheets are available in English and in Spanish on the APHA disabilities page. You can add your own logo with their easy-to-use instructions. <http://www.getreadyforflu.org/disabilities.htm>.



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