



QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2013

VOLUNTEERS' QUICK RESPONSE SAVES LIVES



Valiant volunteers who raced to the rescue after bombs exploded at Monday's Boston Marathon included Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) members from Boston, Brookline, Greater Westfield, North East/Haverhill, North Shore-Cape Ann, Region 4A, Region 4B, Upper Merrimack Valley, and Wachusett among others. The volunteers were among the many who were quick to provide medical services, move victims out of harms way, and work in shelters that were set up to evacuate runners off of the course. Mental health volunteers from the Mass Support Network in MA Responds are continuing their service in providing counseling to those affected by the event. The efficiency of the response reflected careful planning, extensive training, heroic execution and elements of good fortune. The significance can not easily be measured, but the importance and value of MRC volunteers is clear. During the marathon, MRC volunteers were ready to respond and once again proved that they are there to make their communities healthier, safer and more resilient.



ASSESSING MEDICATION, MENTAL HEALTH & CULTURAL NEEDS DURING SHELTERING

JUNE 11, 2013

6:00-9:00PM

This year's educational program was developed by the MMS Committees on Preparedness in collaboration with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health and the Medical Reserve Corps Units of Massachusetts to provide health care volunteers and emergency planners with the knowledge and tools to address medication management, and the diversity of issues that arise while volunteering at an emergency shelter. Physicians, nurses, behavioral health specialists, and other volunteer health professionals, including Medical Reserve Corps and other volunteers in the MA Responds system, should attend.

Continuing Education Credit

The Massachusetts Medical Society designates this live activity for a maximum of 3.0 *AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™*. This activity meets the criteria of the Massachusetts Board of Registration in Medicine for risk management study. Nursing contact hours will be awarded by the Massachusetts Association of Public Health Nurses. The Burlington region EMS office has approved the program for 3.0 hours EMS credit-basic.

Registration

Preregistration is required and space is limited. Participants may register for the live event or the webinar. This program is available at no cost for MRC and MA Responds volunteers. Please mention or enter **the promotional code MRC2013** when registering. A light dinner and registration will be available beginning at 5:15 PM. To register, please call (800) 843-6356 or visit www.massmed.org/MRC2013. For more information, contact: [Vanessa Kenealy](#).

MA RESPONDS NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

NACCHO Conference Participants Highlight Collaboration

Lindsay Tallon, MDPH, Regan Checchio, RVA, Susan Webb, MMS, and Johnna Coggin, MMS attended and presented at the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) conference in Atlanta, March 12 -14. *Effective Collaborations Between Public Health and Professional Associations for Emergency*

Preparedness was presented as a poster session. This session highlighted the successful partnership between DPH and MMS and its Committee on Preparedness working to develop and enhance a preparedness network which promotes partnered involvement from government agencies, MRC communities, and Massachusetts citizens. Secondly, *Strengthening Readiness and Response through Collaborative Preparedness Education* was presented as an interactive session. This session demonstrated the collaboration between MDPH, MRCs, MMS and its Committee on Preparedness in successfully developing the annual MA Responds preparedness educational program for volunteers which enhances volunteer readiness and retention. The session attendance was remarkable with an estimated 100 participants and was very well received as demonstrated by the lively conversation and exchange of ideas from all. Recordings from the summit can be accessed at: <http://www.phprep.org/library/>.

National Volunteer Month

April is National Volunteer month and National Volunteer Week is April 21-27, 2013. This is a time to celebrate people doing extraordinary things through service. Established in 1974, National Volunteer Week focuses national attention on the impact and power of volunteerism and service as an integral aspect of our civic leadership. The week draws the support and endorsement of the president and Congress, governors, mayors and municipal leaders, as well as corporate and community groups across the country. To learn more about volunteer recognition and events, please visit: www.pointsoflight.org.

Join MA Responds

If your unit is not yet a member of MA Responds, the next launch will be this summer. If you are interested in participating, please contact Regan Checchio, Regina Villa Associates at rcheccchio@reginavilla.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 DPH, 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 can be found online at www.maresponds.org, on Facebook at www.facebook.com/maresponds, and on twitter at www.twitter.com/maresponds.

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES & UPCOMING EVENTS

The 18th Annual Adult Immunization Conference

May 21, 2013

DCU Center

Worcester, MA

Keynote Speaker: Carolyn Bridges, MD, Associate Director of Adult Immunizations, Immunization Services Division, National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Registration is now open. Visit the [conference registration website](#) to register, and to find out more information about the conference.

Building a Safer Tomorrow

May 28 – 29, 2013

DCU Center

Worcester, MA

The 2013 Statewide Emergency Management Conference, presented by MEMA will bring together more than 500 attendees from a variety of disciplines across the Commonwealth to explore a wide spectrum of emergency management topics. The conference will provide an unparalleled opportunity to train and network with local, state and federal partners and practitioners from a variety of fields including emergency management, public safety, public health, communications, volunteer organizations, and business and industry, and will provide a foundation for collaboratively building a safer tomorrow for the Commonwealth. Through interactive

presentations, panel discussions and demonstrations, experts in these fields will showcase and share model practices, discuss planning and response tools and technologies, and share lessons learned from recent events. Most importantly, together we will learn how to better prepare together for the challenges ahead. Registration is by invitation. Visit www.mass.gov/mema for more information.

NACCHO Annual 2013

July 10-12, 2013

Omni Dallas Hotel

Dallas, TX

NACCHO Annual 2013 will provide an interactive setting for local health officials and their public health partners from around the country to examine strategies, share ideas, and plan actions for sustaining or reinventing their organizations. Attendees will discover how to address preventing the leading causes of death, examine the effective use of data across all operational aspects of a public health agency, and discover how to maximize organizational performance, influence policy, and maintain fiscal sustainability. Please visit www.nacchoannual.org, for more information on the meeting and registration.

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

Why Boston’s Hospitals Were Ready

A *New Yorker* magazine article from Dr. Atul Gawande on Boston’s hospitals readiness for the Marathon attacks is available at: <http://www.newyorker.com/online/blogs/newsdesk/2013/04/why-bostons-hospitals-were-ready.html>. Atul Gawande is a surgeon, a writer, and a public-health researcher. He practices general and endocrine surgery at Brigham and Women’s Hospital. He is also a professor of surgery at Harvard Medical School and a professor in the Department of Health Policy and Management at the Harvard School of Public Health.

Human Infections with Novel Influenza A (H7N9) Viruses

As of April 19, 2013, there have been a total of 91 laboratory confirmed human cases with influenza A(H7N9) virus including seventeen fatalities in China reported from four Provinces: Anhui 3 (1), Henan 3 (0), Jiangsu 22 (3) and Zhejiang 30 (2) and two Municipalities: Beijing 1 (0) and Shanghai 32 (11). Currently, 67 patients are hospitalized and seven have been discharged. No person-to-person transmission or epidemiologic link between any of the cases has been identified. These cases are a reminder that novel A influenza viruses can infect and cause severe respiratory illness in humans. At this time, no cases of human infection with avian influenza A (H7N9) viruses have been detected in the United States. More information is available at on the [World Health Organization](http://www.who.int) website.

People Locator’s “ReUnite” App

ReUnite is a post-disaster family reunification app that enables users to report and search for missing or found person information on U.S. National Library of Medicine’s People Locator web site: <https://pl.nlm.nih.gov>. It is available as an Android and iPhone App. To download, select the appropriate link for your device below.

Install Android App:

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.pl.reunite&feature=md>

Install iPhone App:

<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/reunite/id368052994?mt=8>.

Unprecedented Destruction: Ocean County Public Health Continues to Respond to Hurricane Sandy

Hurricane Sandy devastated much of the East Coast last fall, with sea communities in New York and New Jersey such as Ocean County, NJ bearing a disproportionate share of the damage. This posting on the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation "New Public Health" blog describes the preparedness efforts and the response activities of the Ocean County Health Department through an interview with Dan Regenye, Public Health Coordinator.

http://www.rwjf.org/en/blogs/new-public-health/2013/03/_unprecedented_destr.html

Active Shooter Preparedness Website

The US Department of Homeland Security developed a website with tools to enhance preparedness through a whole community approach in response to active shooter events.

<http://www.dhs.gov/active-shooter-preparedness>

Autism Awareness Month

It is important that MRC Volunteers along with all medical professionals and first responders have a clear understanding of this condition which can be a fundamental barrier to communication and treatment of patients. More information about autism can be found at www.autismspeaks.org.

Contact Us MA RESPONDS

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