National Preparedness Month
Thank you to everyone who participated in the National Preparedness Month campaign. During September, many MRC units and volunteers helped to raise awareness about preparedness through community events and social media messaging.

MA Responds Participates in Autumn Charge VI
The Autumn Charge VI Operational Drill was held on October 7-8, 2015. Sponsored by Intermedix, the software vendor for the MA Responds database, the exercise was designed to establish a learning environment for players to exercise emergency response plans, policies, and procedures as they pertain to MA Responds. Eleven local/regional administrators participated in the drill representing fourteen different MRCs across the state. State administrators also participated to practice managing volunteers for statewide emergencies.

National Influenza Vaccination Week is December 6-12, 2015
National Influenza Vaccination Week is a national observance that was established to highlight the importance of continuing influenza vaccination. For more information including activities and resources please visit: http://www.cdc.gov/flu/nivw.

2015 Massachusetts Emergency Preparedness Conference
Effective Leadership During Crisis
November 4, 2015
DCU Center
Worcester, MA
Please save the date and join us for this one-day conference entitled “Effective Leadership During Crisis”. This conference is intended for local, regional, state, federal, non-governmental and private sector emergency management and public safety partners to provide an opportunity to hear from leaders in the field - including some of your peers - about lessons learned and best practices for effective leadership in crisis situations. Conference sessions will include presentations, interactive panel discussions, and best practice showcases. Online Pre-Registration Is Required All registrations must be completed no later than 10/28/15. Interested participants must register using MEMA’s online Training Registration System: https://mematraining.chs.state.ma.us/TRS.
To ensure diverse participation, all registrants will be placed on a waitlist and will be notified of acceptance in advance of the conference registration deadline. Once approved, participants will receive a confirmation email via the MEMA Training Registration System. For registration assistance, accommodations (including dietary), or conference-related questions, please contact MEMA’s Training and Exercise Unit at trainingexercise@state.ma.us or 508-820-2208.

2016 Preparedness Summit
April 19-22, 2016
Dallas, Texas
The Preparedness Summit is the first and longest running national conference on public health preparedness. The 2016 summit, Planning Today for Rebuilding Tomorrow: Resiliency and Recovery in the 21st Century presents opportunities to connect with colleagues, share new research, and learn how to implement model practices that enhance capabilities to prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters and emergencies. Visit http://www.phprep.org/ for more information on registration and the summit agenda.

PREPAREDNESS NEWS AND RESOURCES

What You Should Know for the 2015-2016 Influenza Season
Prevention remains the key and the best protection continues to be receiving the flu vaccine early and on an annual basis. Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices for the 2015-16 Influenza Season can be accessed at www.cdc.gov/flu. The Massachusetts Department of Public Health also provides a host of information and resources about seasonal influenza prevention and caring for yourself or others with influenza. Please visit: www.mass.gov/dph/flu for more information.

Active Shooter Preparedness
The Massachusetts Medical Society has compiled resources to provide guidance to physicians, hospitals and employees to prepare and respond to an active shooter situation. Click here to access the webpage.

Ebola Preparedness in the U.S. - One Year Later
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has released a five minute video that captures the work the Department has done in the year since Ebola spread through three West African countries and into the United States. The video features HHS Secretary Sylvia M. Burwell, CDC Director Tom Frieden, NIAID Director Dr. Anthony Fauci, Dr. Kent Brantly, and the HHS Assistant Secretary of Preparedness and Response, Dr. Lurie.https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ctp-CIbkEjw

Ready, Pet, Go! Prepare for Disasters with Get Ready's 2016 Calendar
American Public Health Association’s Get Ready campaign has released its 2016 calendar featuring adorable animals and tips to keep you and your loved ones safe during disasters. Each month features a different animal sharing helpful safety advice, including protecting yourself from disease, where to take shelter during a storm and what to include in your emergency stockpile. http://www.getreadyforflu.org/animalscontestgallery.htm.

FEMA Mobile App
The FEMA app provides alerts from the National Weather Service, the ability to customize emergency safety information and a list of the items in your family’s emergency kit, as well as the places you will meet in case of an emergency, Information and driving directions to open shelters and disaster recovery centers and safety tips for over 20 types of hazards, including floods, hurricanes, tornadoes and earthquakes. The app is available for Apple, Android, and Blackberry mobile devices. Visit: http://www.fema.gov/mobile-app for more information. MEMA's free app is available as well for Massachusetts.

Saving the Whole Family: Disaster Prep and Your Pets
This video features the executive director of the National Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners who walks animal owners through the basics of making an emergency preparedness plan and disaster prep kit – everything from gathering
emergency contact numbers, to making a temporary litter box, to making sure to have proper identification in place for animals.

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