



QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2012

PROVIDING MEDICAL CARE IN AN EMERGENCY SHELTER SETTING

JUNE 5, 2012

6:00PM to 9:00PM



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 methods to address the medical issues that arise while volunteering at an emergency shelter. This program will provide attendees with practical tools and strategies to enable them to effectively respond to the core health, medical, and psychosocial issues that typically present in 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 Medical Education /Nursing 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. American Nurses Credentialing Center nursing contact hours will be awarded by the Massachusetts Association of Public Health Nurses.

Registration:

Preregistration is required and space is limited. This program is available at no cost for MRC or MA Responds volunteers. Please mention or enter the promotional code MSARMRC2012 when registering. To register, please call (800) 843-6356 or visit www.massmed.org/emergency2012. A light dinner and registration check-in will be available beginning at 5:00PM.

For more information, please download the program brochure at www.massmed.org/emergency2012 or contact: Vanessa Kenealy at vkenealy@mms.org.

MA RESPONDS NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Three Additional MRC Units Join MA Responds

MA Responds continues to expand with the addition of three Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) units. The addition of East Longmeadow, Cape Cod and Plymouth brings the current total to 37 participating MRC units.

New Help Center Portal Available on MA Responds Site

As part of the recent update to MA Responds, a new information portal, the Help Center, was created for all unit and regional coordinators. One new feature includes Help Videos, short walkthroughs of important tasks modeled by an expert. PDF quick reference guides and information about new upgrades to the system are also available. Links to the Help Center can be found in the header and footer of every page of MA Responds.

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@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 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 [Lisa Crowner](#).

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. MA Responds also maintains an online discussion group for unit administrators at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/maresponds/>.

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES & UPCOMING EVENTS

Region 4A Conference

May 5, 2012

Massachusetts Firefighters Academy
Stowe, MA.

Keynote speaker Dr. James Geiling, Chief of the Medical Service and the Director of the Intensive Care Unit at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center in White River Junction, VT. Dr. Geiling was a principal figure in the Haiti deployment after the disastrous earthquake in 2010. He will be sharing his experiences in setting up mobile Medical Hospitals and in providing altered standards of care during a large scale disaster. Participants will take part in one of four morning courses. Participant options include: Shelter Simulation Table Top Exercise, MRC Leadership Training, Field Triage and Emotional Resilience Training (the first of a two-part session). All classes will be led by MRC coordinators and or trainers. Afternoon selections include: a Shelter Managers course, a Roundtable Discussion focused on Deployments and local MRC Incentives, Emotional Resilience Training (the follow up to the morning seminar) and a SMART training session. The first three courses will led by MRC coordinators and trainers, while the fourth course will be taught by Dr. David Schwarz, the president of the board of directors of SMART, the State of Massachusetts Animal Response Team.

This event is open to all Medical Reserve Corps members at all skill levels. To register for the conference visit <http://www.region4a-mrc.org/home>. Community members are also encouraged to [nominate choices](#) for Region 4A 2012 MRC Awards. An award presentation will take place at the close of the conference.

The Burlington Volunteer Reserve Corps

Basic First Aid and Individual and Family Preparedness Training Day

May 5, 2012

St. Malachy's Church
Burlington, MA.

The Burlington Volunteer Reserve Corps is offering a basic first aid and individual and family preparedness training day on Saturday, May 5th from 9:00 AM to 3:30PM. Speakers from the Department of Health and Human Services and FEMA Region 1 will discuss response actions to recent disaster responses in the Commonwealth with a focus on shelter operations and assistance for families and individuals. The event is open to all interested individuals. The cost for a First Aid Certificate is \$7.00 and \$10.00 for the manual. To register, contact Burlington Board of Health, 781-270-1957 or email cpiccolo@burlmass.org.

Statewide Hurricane Preparedness Conference

May 9, 2012

Devens Common Center

Devens, MA

This conference will provide participants an educational opportunity to learn about various hurricane preparedness topics. Guest speakers from the following agencies include: the National Hurricane Center from Miami, Florida, the National Weather Service, FEMA and the Army Corps of Engineers. State and local emergency management and public safety officials involved with hurricane preparedness, response and recovery efforts should attend. There is no cost to attend this event. Please save the date. Registration information will be posted shortly at <http://www.mass.gov/eopss/agencies/mema/>.

2012 Integrated Medical, Public Health Preparedness and Response Training Summit

May 21-25, 2012

Nashville, TN

Topics of interest include Health Care Systems, Leadership, Public Health, Resource Management & Patient Movement and Response Integration/Operational Medicine. For more information, or to register, please visit: <http://teams.hhs.gov/conference/>.

The 17th Annual Adult Immunization Conference

May 22, 2012

DCU Center

Worcester, MA

Keynote Speaker, Anne Schuchat, MD, Assistant Surgeon General, US Public Health Service and Director, National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases. Please *Save the Date*. For more information about this event, please contact Sharon Reidbord at 781-419-2788 or sreidbord@masspro.org. To register, please visit: https://register.masspro.org/registration/index/event/event_id/1012.

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

HHS issues Updated North American Flu Pandemic Plan

The Department of Health and Human Services recently announced an updated plan for collaborating with Canada and Mexico on pandemic flu preparedness and response. Released this week during the North American Leaders Summit, the update to the initial 2007 plan builds on lessons learned from the 2009 H1N1 pandemic. According to HHS, the countries will collaborate on actions such as surveillance and early warning systems for disease outbreaks and epidemiological investigations of animal and pandemic flu viruses. The plan also calls for protecting critical infrastructure in a public health emergency and lays the ground work for mutual assistance during a response. "H1N1 provided a stern reminder that diseases don't respect national borders and can spread rapidly in our interconnected world so protecting health requires cooperation and collaboration among countries," said Nicole Lurie, M.D., HHS assistant secretary for

preparedness and response. For a copy of the document, please visit:
<http://www.phe.gov/Preparedness/international/Documents/napapi.pdf>

American College of Physicians Releases Free App for Adult Immunization

The American College of Physicians (ACP) has released an app related to adult immunization for iPhones and iPads. The app is free and is based on the official 2012 immunization schedule. To download this resource, go to ACP's immunization portal website at <http://immunization.acponline.org>.

Sesame Street Presents Preparedness for Kids

Sesame Workshop, along with its project partners has created *Let's Get Ready! Planning Together for Emergencies* with tips, activities, and other easy tools to help the whole family prepare for emergencies – together!

<http://www.sesamestreet.org/parents/topicsandactivities/toolkits/ready>.

Disability Prepared: Exchanging Best Practices in Disaster Planning for People with Disabilities

This website brings together some exemplary current best practice efforts addressing disaster-related needs of people with disabilities. These are new ideas or fresh approaches using proven methods that can be replicated at the state, county or grassroots level. <http://disabilityprepared.ku.edu/>.

Disaster Distress Helpline

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Disaster Distress Helpline is the nation's first hotline dedicated to providing disaster crisis counseling. The toll-free Helpline operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week. This free, confidential and multilingual crisis support service is available via telephone (1-800-985-5990) and SMS (Text 'TalkWithUs' to 66746) to U.S. residents who are experiencing psychological distress as a result of natural or man-made disasters. Visit: <http://distresshelpline.org/> for details.

REGION or UNIT NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Section for optional additional news from units or from OCV MRC if appropriate

Contact Us

MA RESPONDS

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