

MA RESPONDS

Ready • Set • Respond



QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2012



YALE NEW HAVEN VOICES COURSE OFFERED IN MASSACHUSETTS

Ineffective or insufficient communication is often cited as an area for improvement during exercises and is also a leading cause of preventable medical errors that occur throughout normal healthcare operations. During a large-scale disaster requiring a medical response, the stressful environment, austere surroundings, and the need to form teams with members who are likely meeting for the first time all contribute to a further breakdown in communication that can threaten patient safety. Recognizing this, the Yale New Haven Center for Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Response, funded through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, has adapted the TeamSTEPPS® program to address the communication needs of episodic disaster response teams. The Volunteer Opportunities to Improve Communications during Emergency Situations (VOICES) Program will be offered on **Thursday, February 16, 2012 or Friday, March 23, 2012** at Massachusetts Medical Society headquarters in Waltham.

The course:

8-hour workshop, 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m

A combination of lecture, video vignettes and classroom activities designed to reinforce the concepts and principles presented and provide the audience with real-life scenarios from which to learn

Target audience:

Volunteers who are part of a medical disaster response team (e.g., physicians, nurses, technicians, emergency medical services, disaster response support and the Medical Reserve Corps)

Cost:

This course is available at no cost. Lunch will be on your own; cafeteria on site.

Registration:

To register, please call (800) 843-6356 and specify which VOICES date you would like to attend. For more information, please contact: Vanessa Kenealy at vkenealy@mms.org.

MA RESPONDS NEWS

New Groups Join MA Responds

MA Responds continues to expand with the addition of five Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) units which will integrate into the system later this month. The addition of Agawam, Holyoke, Greater Westfield, Brockton, and West Springfield brings the current total to 34 participating MRC units. The Massachusetts Department of Mental Health Behavioral Health Disaster Responders also joined MA Responds last fall.

If you are a unit interested in joining MA Responds, 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 Administrator Meeting- January 31, 2012

There will be a MA Responds administrator meeting on Tuesday January 31, 2012 from 10 am -12 pm at Massachusetts Medical Society headquarters in Waltham. The meeting is being held to review new additions to the system, conduct a mini-training on special features, discuss and distribute marketing materials, including backpacks and sanitizer sprays, and answers any questions about the system that administrators may have. Please RSVP to Johnna Coggin jcoggin@mms.org if you would like to attend this important meeting.

SAVE THE DATE : JUNE 5, 2012 6:00 TO 9:00 PM

Annual Educational Program to Focus on Health and Medical Care in Emergency Shelters

During a major emergency, large numbers of individuals may be unable to stay at home and require shelter within the community. While shelters are not expected to administer healthcare services in the traditional sense, health care issues will arise. Volunteer health professionals who respond to a shelter facility must be able to triage, prevent disease, and provide on-site first aid as needed. It is also essential for shelters to provide mental health support for stress related and behavioral health issues affecting shelter residents. This program will provide attendees with practical tools and strategies that will enable them to effectively respond to the core health, medical, and psychosocial issues that typically present in an emergency shelter. The program will be held at Massachusetts Medical Society headquarters in Waltham.

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES & UPCOMING EVENTS

The 2012 Public Health Preparedness Summit

February 21- 24, 2012

Anaheim, CA

The 2012 summit will focus on how to move forward in an environment of limited resources. Public health professionals and our partners from across the nation will present new research, new tools, and new practices to build and sustain a progressive public health preparedness infrastructure at the local, state, tribal, and territorial levels. For more information, or to register, please visit: www.phprep.org.

2012 Integrated Medical, Public Health Preparedness and Response Training Summit

May 21-25, 2012

Nashville, TN

Poster submissions are currently being accepted for the 2012 summit. Topics of interest include Health Care Systems, Leadership, Public Health, Resource Management & Patient Movement and Response Integration/Operational Medicine. Session abstracts were due on October 16, 2011, and poster abstracts can be submitted until March 16, 2012. 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.

FEMA Course to Help Strengthen Public-Private Partnerships in Emergency Management

On-line Training Module

The target audience for this training includes emergency management and community planners, senior-level personnel from response agencies, representatives from private-sector organizations, and federal, state, local, tribal and territorial government agencies that may participate in collaborative continuity planning efforts. This new training will provide learners with an overview of the importance of public-private partnerships to emergency preparedness, response, and planning; highlight best practices on identifying roles and establishing and sustaining public-private partnerships; and introduce and review standards-based business continuity planning like the Private Sector-Preparedness program. IS-660 - Introduction to Public-Private Partnerships can be accessed at

<http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/is660.asp>.

Dealing with Stress in Disasters: Building Psychological Resilience

On-line Training Module

Individuals affected by disasters and emergencies often experience confusion, fear, hopelessness, sleeplessness, anxiety, grief, shock, guilt, and shame. Local public health workers and emergency responders shoulder the responsibility for ensuring the health and safety of affected people; helping them to cope with these devastating situations; and re-establishing normal function. However, this responsibility can take a heavy toll on public health workers and emergency responders as well. The goal of this module is to train public health workers and emergency responders to identify and cope with stressful situations and to develop psychological resilience. The module can be accessed through The Local Public Health Institute of Massachusetts at <http://www.masslocalinstitute.org/?p=1546>. A CD is also available if you do not have high speed internet access.

To request a copy of this training on CD, please contact Jennifer Tsoi at

jtsoi@bu.edu.

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

Spanish-language version of the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Basic Training Course

The Citizens Corps at FEMA is pleased to announce that a Spanish-language version of the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Basic Training

Course materials is now available for use. Designed to extend CERT's reach into our nation's Spanish-speaking population, these CERT publications will allow easier and more effective delivery of the basic training course. Providing the same content as the English version, the Spanish-language Basic Training Course materials cover nine units.

http://www.citizencorps.gov/cert/training_mat.shtm#guia.

A Whole Community Approach to Emergency Management: Principles, Themes, and Pathways for Action

From FEMA, this report presents a foundation for increasing individual preparedness and engaging with members of the community as collaborative resources to enhance the resiliency and security of our Nation through a Whole Community approach. The document is intended to promote greater understanding of the approach and to provide a strategic framework to guide all members of the emergency management community as they determine how to integrate Whole Community into their daily practices.

<http://www.fema.gov/library/viewRecord.do?id=4941>

Rx4Prep.org helps local health departments and pharmacists work together for emergency preparedness

This virtual toolkit was created by the Montgomery County, Maryland Advanced Practice Center for Public Health Preparedness and Response. The objectives of this toolkit are to engage local health departments (LHDs) and pharmacies and pharmacists to work together on all hazards emergency preparedness and response, define important resources to increase awareness and understanding of public health and pharmacy organizations and provide current tools, resources and materials that identify strategies to connect LHDs and community pharmacists and other local pharmacy leaders. The toolkit can be accessed at www.rx4prep.org.

Focus on Community Resilience E-Newsletter

Sign up for this RAND newsletter which shares research findings, resources, and tools with people who are working to help communities prepare for natural and manmade emergencies. This newsletter will stimulate an exchange of ideas among community leaders and a forum to share lessons about resilience-building strategies and activities. To subscribe to this electronic newsletter, please visit:

<http://www.rand.org/news/emails/community-resilience.html>

REGION or UNIT NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Contact Us

MA RESPONDS

www.maresponds.org

Massachusetts Department of Public Health

Emergency Preparedness Bureau

250 Washington St., First Floor

Boston, MA, 02108

E-mail

maresponds@state.ma.us

617-624-5193

This e-mail newsletter was produced by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health in collaboration with the Massachusetts Medical Society. External links to websites and e-mail addresses are provided to give readers an opportunity to access additional information. MDPH and MMS are not responsible for content in these external sources.