



Albany County Medical Reserve Corps Volunteer Newsletter

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The Albany County Medical Reserve Corps Volunteer Newsletter is designed to keep our volunteers informed about Albany County's emergency preparedness efforts, volunteer training opportunities, and pertinent emergency preparedness news.

ServNY Updates

As part of our Public Health Emergency Preparedness grant requirements, the Albany County Medical Reserve Corps must validate and update all volunteer information that was migrated from our in-house database system to the ServNY Volunteer Management System. Currently, there are 571 volunteers registered with the Albany County Medical Reserve Corps. Our database, however, indicates that 226 volunteers have incomplete records. We anticipate this validation to be a lengthy process. To assist us with this requirement, please take a few moments to review and update your volunteer record at [ServNY Volunteer Management System](#). Please check for accuracy and completeness. We ask that you complete those required fields that have not been populated.

Beginning in January 2011, weekly status reports will be issued identifying those volunteers who still have incomplete records. Staff, including an intern from Russell Sage College, will begin contacting those volunteers identified as having incomplete records and will work with them to update their profiles. The Albany County Department of Health hopes to have all records updated by July 1, 2010.



If you do not have an account, please call Sue Riedy, Albany County Medical Reserve Corps Coordinator, at 518-447-4590, for assistance.



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For More Information:

Contact Sue Riedy
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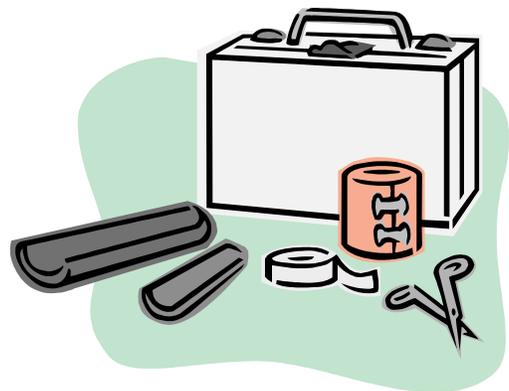


Make a New Year's Resolution to be Prepared!

Did you know that only 17% of Albany County residents are actually "prepared" for an emergency? Resolve to get yourself and your family prepared in 2011!

1. Make a family preparedness plan. Consider where you and your loved ones will meet should you be apart when an emergency occurs. Do you have an out-of-town contact where family members can check in? Do you have a plan for your pet in case you have to evacuate?
2. Make a Go-Kit. Store at least 1 gallon of water per person per day. What items are necessary or comforting to your family members? Remember, supplies should last for at least three (3) days!
3. Be informed. Do you know appropriate safety rules for natural events that may occur in our region? Do you know your community's warning signals to evacuate or Shelter-in-Place?
4. Get involved. Have you completed MRC core-competency trainings such as ICS 100 and 700, Psychological First Aid, Weapons of Mass Destruction? Consider taking a CPR class at the [American Red Cross of Northeastern New York](#).

The Albany County Citizen Corps has "Preparing for Emergencies" handbooks available that will help you and your family create a preparedness plan for an emergency. Please contact Sue Riedy at 518-447-4590 or susan.riedy@albanycounty.com to request copies.



The Albany County Medical Reserve Corps has an Intern

Please welcome, Ms. Jamie Marcella, a senior at Russell Sage College, who will be serving as an intern to the MRC program beginning January 2011. Jamie will be exposed to all aspects of program management and will assist Sue Riedy with verifying and updating ServNY volunteer records as well as coordinating volunteer trainings and developing elements of a volunteer recruitment campaign. Jamie is majoring in Interdisciplinary Studies with a concentration in Health and Business. Please be sure to introduce yourself to her at the next training you attend.



Snow Can Lead to Carbon Monoxide Buildup

The New York State Office of Fire Prevention and Control (OFPC) issued a Safety Alert advising homeowners and businesses throughout New York State that heavy snowfall and drifting snow may create a new hazard: carbon monoxide poisoning. Carbon monoxide is a colorless, odorless, dangerous gas, commonly known as CO.

State Fire Administrator Floyd A. Madison said that with the recent onslaught of lake-effect snows in western, central and northern portions of New York State, local fire agencies have reported an increase in calls about carbon monoxide detectors going off in homes. Madison said that the reason for these calls is that high snow drifts may be blocking furnace vents and air intakes in some homes, particularly those that have newer high-efficiency furnaces.

“New, high efficiency furnaces vent out the side of a house rather than up through the roof,” Madison said. “This type of venting and air intake must be kept free and clear of snow. If it plugs up, the carbon monoxide would go back into the home. This is why the New York State Office of Fire Prevention and Control is issuing this warning.”

The State Fire Administrator said that some areas of New York State have received more than three feet of snow in the last week. Many newer high efficiency furnaces have an automatic device that shuts off the furnace when the vents are blocked, but not all of them. First responders say it is important to keep a three-foot area clear around the vent and intake tubes.

The New York State Office of Fire Prevention and Control advises all New Yorkers affected by the recent heavy snows to inspect the area around their furnace and hot water heater vents to ensure that snow and ice are not blocking the efficient and safe operation of these fuel burning devices. Homeowners should keep a three-foot area around the vents clear of snow, shrubs, or other potential obstructions.

Additional information on carbon monoxide may be found at:

<http://www.dos.state.ny.us/fire/COtoolkit.htm>

FEMA Issues New Guidance to Support Persons with Disabilities in General Population Shelters

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) released new guidelines to ensure that individuals with disabilities have full access to general population shelters. The guidance document identifies methods for State emergency managers and shelter planners to understand the requirements related to sheltering children and adults with access and functional needs.



Planning for Functional Needs Support addresses the needs of children and adults in areas such as:

- Communication assistance and services
- Assistance with activities of daily living
- Access to medications to maintain health, mental health and function
- Available sleeping accommodations
- Access to orientation and way-finding for people who are blind
- Assistance for individuals with cognitive and intellectual disabilities
- Availability of food and beverages for individuals with dietary restrictions
- Providing food and supplies for service animals
- Access to transportation for individuals who may require wheel-chair accessible vehicles, individualized assistance and the transportation of equipment required in a shelter because of a disability
- Assistance locating, securing and moving to post-disaster alternative housing
- Assistance with daily living activities such as: eating, taking medication, dressing and undressing, walking, bathing, toileting and communication.

To review Guidance on Planning for Integration of Functional Needs Support Services in General Population Shelters, please visit:

http://www.fema.gov/pdf/about/odc/fnss_guidance.pdf

Training Opportunities

The 2011 Winter training schedule is being finalized. Volunteers will be sent a schedule via email or postal mail in January. The Albany County Medical Reserve Corps would like your input on future trainings. Please complete the on-line survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/N7HWD28>

or complete the printed survey below by January 31, 2011 and send it to Sue Riedy, Albany County Medical Reserve Corps, 175 Green Street, Albany, NY 12202.

Training Survey

1. I have completed the following Medical Reserve Corps core competency trainings:
 - New Volunteer Orientation
 - ICS 100 and 700
 - Psychological First Aid
 - Point of Dispensing Training
 - Weapons of Mass Destruction
2. If you have not completed the core competency trainings, please select the following reasons that apply:
 - They are not offered enough
 - They are not offered during the time of day I am available
 - I have not made it a priority
3. I prefer:
 - Face to face trainings
 - On-line trainings
4. I prefer trainings to be offered:
 - Mornings
 - Afternoons
 - Evenings
 - Weekends
5. Please list other trainings that you would like to see offered by the Albany County Medical Reserve Corps:
