Albany County Medical Reserve Corps

Volunteer Newsletter



DANIEL P. McCOY
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

JAMES B. CRUCETTI, MD, MPH HEALTH COMMISSIONER



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

National Preparedness Month—Resolve to be Ready

This September will mark the 9th annual National Preparedness Month, sponsored by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). As MRC volunteers, you are trained and prepared to respond to emergencies, and encouraged to incorporate public health emergency preparedness principles into your every-day lives. National Preparedness Month is a chance to urge everyone in our community to strengthen their level of preparedness, including families, businesses, and schools.

Throughout 2013, FEMA has led a campaign called "Resolve 2B Ready," which emphasizes the importance of technology in emergency preparedness and response. Some examples of using technology to be prepared include: 1) Learning how to text and access the internet from your mobile phone, in case other methods of communicating are not available, and 2) Storing important financial documents on a secure flash (USB) drive so records are readily accessible anywhere. A family emergency plan template is also available for download from the FEMA website.

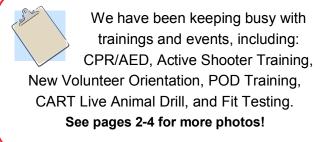
For more information, visit: http://www.ready.gov/resolve



Reminder!

Albany County has an Emergency Preparedness and Volunteer Recruitment website:

http://www.RegisteredandReady.com





Volunteers John & Ora Henkes wait to be fit tested.

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Point-of-Dispensing (POD) Training at The Crossings of Colonie



On June 27, 2013, Albany County MRC volunteers participated in a unique POD training. Local municipal leaders, emergency personnel, and POD Managers were also in attendance. The purpose of this training was to review POD operations and logistics, and provide a tactical example of a POD in a separate room. Participants learned about core POD stations, POD supplies, and the flexibility of a POD layout. Special thanks to MRC volunteer Barbara Zittel (*pictured at right*), who acted as our POD Manager for the day and reviewed Just-In-Time Training, along with tips and best practices. What was the scenario for our mock POD? A "zombie" pandemic!

Check out the link below for more information on why we used a zombie scenario for emergency planning:

Centers for Disease Control (CDC) Zombie Pandemic:

http://www.cdc.gov/phpr/zombies.htm













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MRC Volunteers Assist in Animal Emergency Sheltering Drill







On June 24, 2013, The Albany County Animal Response Team (CART) held a live animal sheltering drill in partnership with the Upper Hudson Mohawk Humane Society in Menands.

MRC volunteers were asked to help setup the shelter, including unloading supplies from a trailer, setting up animal cages, and preparing food and water for the animals. After the drill began, MRC volunteers also assisted at the registration station and animal isolation station, where sick animals would be held during an actual emergency.

 If you would like to learn more about animal emergency preparedness, FEMA provides a free online training:

IS-10.A: Animals in Disasters: Awareness and Preparedness

http://www.training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/courseOvervie w.aspx?code=is-10.a

Only 5 MRC Volunteers were requested for this event; we appreciate the enthusiasm of everyone who was interested in participating!

Active Shooter Training Provided for Volunteers and Staff

The Active Shooter Training, provided by the Albany County Sherriff's Office on May 30, 2013, was a success and thank you to all those who attended. We hope you found the information valuable.

If you were unable to attend, FEMA provides an free online training:

IS-907 Active Shooter: What You Can Do

Visit this website to complete the course:

http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/courseOverview.aspx?code=is-907

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Welcome to the 10 new MRC volunteers who attended Orientation & POD Training on June 6, 2013!

How do I get an MRC ID Badge?



Many volunteers have asked about receiving a photo MRC ID Badge. Our ID badging system recently malfunctioned, and a replacement has been ordered. All volunteers will be notified of opportunities to obtain an ID badge when offered. Thank you for your patience.

Training Calendar—Fall 2013



We will provide a Fall 2013 Training Calendar in the near future. Please watch your e-mail for any training announcements, events, or other relevant updates.

Enjoy the rest of your summer!

Update your ServNY Profile Reminder!

On June 14, 2013, all Albany County MRC members should have received an e-mail notification to review and update their <u>ServNY</u> profile. This notification drill was carried out to validate and ensure profile updates are made. This is crucial, as updated information allows us to rapidly contact volunteers in times of need!

If you haven't already, please log into ServNY by clicking on the link below: https://apps.nyhealth.gov/vms/appmanager/vms/public?prog=1

Questions or Comments?

Please contact:

Maureen Casale, MPH
Public Health Planner, MRC Coordinator
(518) 447-4610

maureen.casale@albanycounty.com

The Albany County MRC now has 100 "Likes" on Facebook!

