

# Medical Reserve Corps Newsletter

## Douglas County MRC Volunteer Participates in Terror & Disaster Training

During the week of October 6-10 a series of classes were offered in Salina on the general subject of "Responding to Terrorist Incidents & Major Disasters: Preparedness & Response Training." These classes were given by an instructional team from Rescue Training Associates (RTA) from Pompano Beach, Fla. and sponsored by KU Medical Center. I spent the week participating in a Command class covering disaster planning and the incident command system and an Emergency Operations Center class. Other classes involved Disaster Medicine Specialist training and Disasters and Mass Casualty Incidents. The instructors did an excellent job and shared their (impressive!) personal experience with 9/11, Katrina, the Oklahoma City bombing, Oklahoma City tornado, Florida Everglades plane crash and various hurricane and flooding situations, showing pictures and offering information that the general public doesn't usually see. It was a privilege to be able to attend this training. I learned a lot and came away stimulated to do more to assist others and to be personally prepared when a disaster situation arises.

- Byron Edmondson, Douglas County MRC Volunteer

## Core Competency # 5

***"Describe the MRC Member's communication role(s) and process with response partners, media, general public and others."***

It is important for an MRC Volunteer to understand the role of a Public Information Officer (PIO) as well as to understand their individual role and responsibilities in communicating with response partners, media, general public and others. It is also important to understand legislative requirements related to the sharing of public information (HIPAA, personal information, etc.) This will enable the volunteer to perform their roles and responsibilities in the position they are assigned as well as to respect privacy and confidentiality, promote consistent and approved messaging and embrace high ethical standards. The recommended training for Core Competency # 5 is IS 100: Introduction to the Incident Command System, a training that is required of all MRC Volunteers.



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### Upcoming Events

- **6:00- 7:30 pm, January 12th, Volunteer Meet and Greet followed by MRC Volunteer Meeting. Held at the Health Department. Attendance is highly important!**
- **Animals in Disasters training 6:00 pm, February 9th at the Health Department. Taught by Midge Grinstead of the Douglas County Animal Response Team (DCART). More details to come.**
- **Save the Date! Mass Dispensing Exercise the morning of March 27th, 2009. Help needed. More info to come.**
- **We would like all MRC Volunteers to register with K-SERV as it will eventually be our main database for managing our MRC Volunteers. See pamphlet for details.**

## Together Prepared is off to a great start!

Together Prepared is a working group that formed a little more than a year ago with members from nine local non-profit, social service and governmental agencies. The group has been working to ensure that vulnerable populations are not overlooked during an emergency. Results of a survey distributed to community-based organizations in Douglas County found that the majority of agencies felt unprepared to serve their consumers in an emergency. At a Nov. 6, 2008 forum, 29 representatives gathered to discuss needs and concerns in regard to planning for vulnerable populations. All of the attendees reported that the forum was helpful and wished to continue with preparedness efforts. As a result, Together Prepared scheduled a second forum from 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. on February 11, 2009 at the Community Health Facility 2nd floor meeting room AB. The topic of discussion will be Community Collaboration and Sharing Resources. Together Prepared has also recently applied for funding from four different foundations. If funding is received, Together Prepared can expand it's efforts to include providing emergency supply kits to 10 percent of the Douglas County population living in poverty and offer education and training to community members.

- Laura Poskochil, Ameri-Corps VISTA

## MRC Volunteers Recognized at Annual Volunteer Reception

In October, the Douglas County Medical Reserve Corps along with Douglas County CERT held a volunteer reception to honor and recognize Douglas County Volunteers. The reception was hosted by the Lawrence–Douglas County Health Department and was catered by Hy-Vee. The meal included a pasta bar, salad and desert. Volunteers in attendance were awarded a certificate of appreciation and given a fanny pack filled with emergency supplies and helpful items. Guest

speakers included Jane Blocher, Director of the Red Cross, and Matt May, Emergency Services Technology Manager at Mid-America Regional Council. This was a great opportunity to say “thanks” and to get to know one another. Thanks to all in attendance. We hope to see volunteers at all levels of involvement at next year’s recognition.



MRC Volunteer, Byron Edmondson (left) visits with Health Department Director, Dan Partridge (right) and Director of Nursing, Barbara Schnitker. In the background, MRC Volunteers Shalley Gasper (left), and Rhetta Noever (right) visit.

## MRC Update

**Margie Hinrichsen, Sarah Hinrichsen, Debbie McQueeney, Jane Robinson, Cathy Rooney, Mary Tye** attended the IS 100 Training on October 20th hosted by Douglas County CERT. Thank you for completing this required training!

Welcome new members **Elliot Gish, Michael Nobo, Jack (Will) Shteamer, Gwen Whitebread, Rachel Parrett, Andrea Stean** who all attended the Nov. 18 new MRC Volunteer Orientation. We are excited to have you in our unit!



Cathy Rooney (Above) and Willard Epling (below) receive certificates of appreciation.



(Below) Paula Lladky receives her certificate.



(Below) Scott Risley receives his certificate.



Rhetta Noever chats with Health Department Nurse, Kim Ens.

