

Medical Reserve Corps Newsletter

MRC's Role in an EMERGENCY

If an emergency occurs in Douglas County in which the MRC is needed, Douglas County Emergency Management would notify Kellie (MRC Planner) or Kim (Disease Control Program Coordinator) and we would start the emergency call down procedure to inform volunteers and provide assignment details. If it is a public health emergency, the Health Department would;

- Establish its emergency operations center and notify Kellie that MRC is needed.
- If an emergency occurs outside of Douglas County and volunteers are needed:
 - Kansas Emergency Management would contact Douglas County Emergency Management.
 - Emergency Management would call MRC.
 - MRC would notify volunteers of what location we are deploying to, with information about the logistics of the event.

It is important for all MRC volunteers to know we cannot just deploy ourselves, we have to work within the jurisdictions of the Incident Command System (that's why we are asking you all to take ICS 700 & ICS 100). We encourage all MRC volunteers in Kansas to register with K-SERV (see attachment) so that they are already in the system and already credentialed. Volunteers can ALWAYS say no to a deployment. The MRC units in Kansas are working hard to let Kansas Emergency Management be more aware of the different MRC units in the state, and to think of us in the event of an emergency. It is very important to keep your emergency contact information up to date with Kellie, and to register on the new K-SERV site! If you have any questions do not hesitate to contact Kellie.

Core Competency # 3



Describe the chain of command (e.g. Emergency Management Systems, ICS, NIMS), the integration of the MRC and its application to a given incident.

Understanding the chain of command and how it would apply to an emergency situation is highly important as an emergency volunteer. In the case of a public health emergency or a disaster there is a structured system in which volunteers and Emergency Management respond. It is important that each person understand their roles and responsibilities. The National Incident Management System (NIMS) was developed so responders from different jurisdictions and disciplines can work together better to respond to natural disasters and emergencies, including acts of terrorism. NIMS benefits include a unified approach to incident management; standard command and management structures; and emphasis on preparedness, mutual aid and resource management. The Incident Command System (ICS) provides an organizational structure and is closely related to NIMS. The Douglas County MRC actually requires that our volunteers be trained in ICS 100 and ICS 700. Now is a great time to take the required courses. You can find them online at MRC TRAIN www.mrc.train.org or watch for upcoming trainings, we hope to offer both courses before the end of 2008.



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Kellie Worley

MRC Planner

200 Maine St

Lawrence, KS 66044

785.843.3060

mrc@ldchealth.org

Upcoming Events

- **Psychological First Aid Course, July 17 and 24 has been re-scheduled for August. More information to come. Contact Kellie if interested.**
- **Save the date! Volunteer Recognition Reception, October 30, 2008. More info to come.**

Avian Flu Update

The Armed Forces Medical Intelligence Center, a military unit that has tracked diseases threatening U.S. forces overseas for more than a half century, will now assess infections that could endanger civilians as well. It was officially renamed the National Center for Medical Intelligence this week and will begin to gather information on diseases and contaminants that could make their way into the United States through food, animals, travelers, immigrants and returning troops. It will continue to work in close partnership with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

Interesting Fact: Eighty-three children in the U.S. died of influenza during the past flu season. The CDC indicated that the season was a relatively rough one. That compares with sixty-eight children in the 2006-2007 season and thirty-five in 2005-2006.

Total Cases: 385 Total Deaths: 243 Mortality Rate: 63.1%



How is the structure of the MRC established?

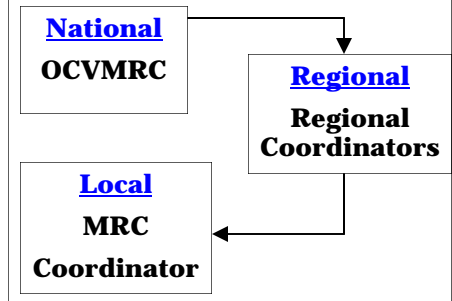
The direction of the MRC program exists at the national, state and local levels. Each level has key personnel responsible for overseeing activities at their respective level.

At the local level, each MRC unit is led by an MRC Unit Coordinator, who matches community needs for emergency medical response and public health initiatives with volunteer capabilities. Local coordinators are also responsible for building partnerships, ensuring the sustainability of the local units and managing the volunteer resources.

The Office of the Civilian Volunteer Medical Reserve Corps (OCVMRC) oversees activities of the 10 MRC Regional Coordinators, who collaborate with national, state and local-level emergency preparedness and response and medical and health-care personnel.

At the National level, the MRC program is run by the OCVMRC, which is headquartered in the Office of the U.S. Surgeon General. It functions as a clearinghouse for MRC units nationwide. The OCVMRC sponsors an annual leadership conference, hosts

a Web site and coordinates with local, state, regional and national organizations and agencies to help communities achieve their local visions for public health and emergency preparedness.



MRC Update

- **Stephen McGoldrick, Agata Kaminska and Joleen Bechtel** volunteered their time over Father's Day weekend to assist at the first ever Kansas Ironman Competition. They started their day very early and helped at various tents and stations. Thank you so much!

- **Agata Kaminska** is one of only six University of Kansas graduate students to have won a prestigious Fulbright U.S. Student Program awards and David L. Boren Graduate Fellowship for study and research abroad for the 2008-09 academic year. **Agata** is a master's student in bioengineering; she received a Fulbright award to study and conduct research in Poland. Congratulations and we wish you the best of luck, Agata!

