

# THE PULSE

Official Newsletter of the Maryland Responds Medical Reserve Corps

APRIL 2016



**MARYLAND  
RESPONDS**  
MEDICAL RESERVE CORPS

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*The Pulse is brought to you by the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Office of Preparedness and Response, Maryland Responds Medical Reserve Corps State Program.*



## AMERICA'S PREPAREATHON! BE SMART. TAKE PART. PREPARE.

On Saturday, April 30, individuals and communities across the United States will take action to prepare for emergencies during National PrepareAthon! Day. By organizing an event or taking an action to prepare yourself and your loved ones for disasters, you will add to the national momentum of preparedness and contribute to the safety of your community. Any preparedness action, including the following 10 ways to participate, could have a big effect on your life or the lives of loved ones.

1. Contact your [local](#) emergency management agency to learn how to get local emergency alerts and warnings. Download the ['Maryland Prepares'](#) app.
2. Create and test emergency communications plans. Fill out and print emergency contact cards for everyone in your family using this [template](#).
3. Assemble or update emergency supplies. Download a checklist [here](#).
4. Learn about local hazards and conduct a drill to practice emergency response actions. Find free resources [here](#).
5. Participate in a preparedness discussion, training or class.
6. Collect and safeguard critical documents. Download the checklist [here](#).
7. Document property and obtain appropriate insurance for relevant hazards. Learn more about home insurance [here](#).
8. Plan with neighbors to help each other and share resources.
9. Hold a scenario-based continuity of operations tabletop exercise for your organization.
10. Plan with neighbors to help each other and share resources.



Visit <https://community.fema.gov> to learn more about America's PrepareAthon!

## MARYLAND RESPONDS RECEIVES NACCHO MRC CHALLENGE AWARD

The National Association of County & City Health Officials (NACCHO) has selected winners for the 2015-2016 MRC Awards. More than 200 units applied for the \$15,000 award. After a competitive two-tiered review process, Maryland Responds, along with 166 other MRC units, was selected to receive a Challenge Award. The Challenge Award aims to focus innovation in four areas that are aligned with national and local health initiatives.



During 2014 - 2015, with support from two concurrent NACCHO-MRC Challenge Awards, Maryland Responds embarked on a two year project to develop and implement a successful volunteer recruitment campaign. Since implementation of the recruitment campaign, Maryland Responds has recruited 597 new volunteers!

With support from the 2016 NACCHO MRC Award funding, we will focus on increasing and

enriching the opportunities available to Maryland Responders.

Two strategic priorities put forth by the ASPR's National Health Security Strategy are to: strengthen healthcare coalitions and regional planning alliances across all incident phases (Priority 4.1); and increase the number of trained workers and volunteers with appropriate qualifications and competencies (Priority 4.5).

In alignment with these national priorities, Maryland Responds will partner with local public health, healthcare and emergency management systems to develop and pilot a skill-based MRC response team. Stay tuned for more information and opportunities for involvement with this initiative!

To learn more about the Challenge Award winners, visit: <http://mrcnaccho.org/awarded-project-view>.

## RESPONDER SPOTLIGHT

Learn about what to expect when deployed by reading our Responder Spotlight articles. These articles showcases volunteer experiences while deployed with Maryland Responds. All Responder Spotlights are available on the Maryland Responds website [News and Events page](#).

### Share your Story!

Do you have a story to share? For instructions on how submit your story for a Responder Spotlight article, email us at:

[mdresponds.dhnh@maryland.gov](mailto:mdresponds.dhnh@maryland.gov).

**MARYLAND RESPONDS**

**RESPONDER SPOTLIGHT**

**Baltimore City Unrest**  
By Tony Gesualdo, Pharmacist

**ALERT**  
I first learned about the Baltimore unrest while watching the news, especially since it was on all major channels – not just local news, but national and beyond. On the television, you see the destruction taking place in neighborhoods, people's homes, and local businesses. You wonder how I can help, in any capacity. All they needed was a helping hand.

On April 27, 2015, I received an alert from Maryland Responds:  
"The Governor has signed an Executive Order for proclamation of State of Emergency for Baltimore City. This is in response to the ongoing violent protests within the City. The Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene Office of Preparedness and Response will continue to monitor the situation."

The message asked us to monitor our communications should volunteer assistance be requested.

**ACTIVATION NOTIFICATION**  
I received a request from Maryland Responds for pharmacy volunteers. In it, they detailed the position description, where help was needed, and how to respond. I answered

the call. I was given a schedule of times and instructed where to report and who to report to.

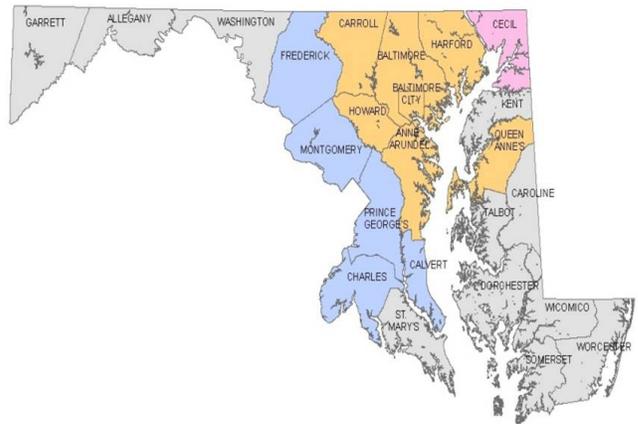
**DEPLOYMENT**  
The thing you didn't see on TV are the people who are suffering the most. Due to the civil unrest in Baltimore City, several pharmacies closed leaving residents without life-saving medications. The elderly and the sick were the ones being held captive in their homes and unable to do anything about it. Residents were asked to contact 311 if they needed help obtaining their medication. The Baltimore City Health Department would work one-on-one with those residents to help them obtain their medication. As a Maryland Responds pharmacy volunteer, I deployed to assist in the call center.  
I drove into Baltimore to the local health department. The health department staff

**MARYLAND RESPONDS MEDICAL RESERVE CORPS**  
Email: [mdmrc@dhnh.maryland.gov](mailto:mdmrc@dhnh.maryland.gov)  
Web: [mdmrc.dhnh.maryland.gov](http://mdmrc.dhnh.maryland.gov)  
Registry: [mdresponds.dhnh.maryland.gov](http://mdresponds.dhnh.maryland.gov)  
Facebook: [facebook.com/mdresponds](https://www.facebook.com/mdresponds)

**MARYLAND RESPONDS STATE PROGRAM**  
Email: [mdresponds.dhnh@maryland.gov](mailto:mdresponds.dhnh@maryland.gov)  
Web: [mdresponds.dhnh.maryland.gov](http://mdresponds.dhnh.maryland.gov)  
Registry: [mdresponds.dhnh.maryland.gov](http://mdresponds.dhnh.maryland.gov)  
Facebook: [facebook.com/mdresponds](https://www.facebook.com/mdresponds)

## MARYLAND RESPONDS LOCAL UNITS

In the field of emergency management, it is well known that a response is managed at the local level first. That is why the Maryland Responds MRC is organized into Local Units throughout the state. Maryland Responds Local Units are housed within the local health departments and are managed by health department staff who serve as Local Administrators. Your Local Unit membership is determined by your county of residence. This is because you are the subject matter expert on your community and are a huge asset to local health departments when responding to public health emergencies.



We encourage you to reach out to your Local Unit Administrators to learn more about local emergency preparedness and response activities. Visit the following link to view Local Unit Administrator contact information: <http://mdr.dhmh.maryland.gov/Pages/LocalUnitContacts.aspx>.

### CALVERT AND ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY MARYLAND RESPONDS UNITS WELCOME NEW ADMINISTRATORS!

Last month, the Calvert and Anne Arundel County Maryland Responds Units gained new Unit Administrators. Read on to learn more about them and join us in welcoming Travis Robers and Janelle Williams!

Travis Roberts is the Public Health Emergency Planner for the Calvert County Health Department. Travis' background includes 8 years as an electrical contractor, maintaining critical electrical infrastructures for commercial and government entities. Additionally, he also has 3 years experience as an emergency department nurse, providing urgent care to those who need it most.

When asked what his plans were for the Calvert County Unit, Mr. Roberts said, "I look forward to engaging our volunteers in our future public health clinics to establish stronger community ties and ultimately strengthen our public health response capabilities.

Janelle Williams is an Administrative Specialist at the Anne Arundel County (AACO) Department of Health, Office of Emergency Preparedness and Response. Ms. Williams has worked for many years with non-profits



as a Program Coordinator, specifically working on community outreach and grants. She recently joined AACO Health Department, Office of Emergency Preparedness and Response after working with the Maryland Department of Human Resources, Office of Emergency Operations as a Grant Administrator and had the opportunity to support a few State activations (Baltimore City Civil Unrest, Papal visit, and Hurricane Joaquin).

When asked what her goals were for the AACO Unit, Ms. Johnson said, "Our goal is to engage volunteers more with our upcoming exercises and community events. We are hoping to conduct a volunteer drill in the near future, and possibly in-person training."

# HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE FIELD

## MARYLAND RESPONDERS MAKE A DIFFERENCE FOR BROOK LANE HEALTH SERVICES DURING WINTER STORM JONAS

*Contributed by: Jamie Blackwood, Safety & Security Director, Brook Lane Health Services*

On January 21—23, 2016, Winter Storm Jonas was interfering with operations at Brook Lane Health Services, a hospital providing mental health care to people of all ages. Staffing the facility was very challenging and Brook Lane's Emergency Operations Center reached out to the Washington County Emergency Operations Center (WCEOC) for assistance with emergency transportation for essential staff to the rural hospital location.

The WCEOC, through assistance from the Washington County Health Department, reached out to Maryland



Responds in hope of securing some volunteer drivers.

Soon, I received a call that **Ricardo Vaca Gianella** was on his way to our facility from his home in Prince George's County. Ricardo devoted numerous hours of his time transporting hospital staff from home to work under extremely dangerous road conditions. Ricardo's personal sacrifice and willingness to help us in our hour of need, is a great reflection on himself, his family, and the Maryland Responds Program.

## WINTER STORM JONAS SHELTER DEPLOYMENT

*Contributed by: Stephanie Parsons, Maryland Responds MRC State Administrator*

Winter Storm Jonas brought blizzard conditions including snow, sleet and freezing rain to several jurisdictions in Maryland. This necessitated the standing up of multiple state shelters to provide housing and other needed services to residents affected by the storm. Maryland Responds received an activation request from the Department of Human Resources for medical and behavioral health volunteers to staff 2 emergency shelters in the Baltimore Metro area.

The medical volunteer position was requested to conduct assessments and provide first aid for shelter occupants. The behavioral health volunteer position was requested to conduct mental health assessments and provide psychological first aid for shelter occupants and responders.

Several Maryland Responders responded to our volunteer request. Of them, 3 deployed to staff the state shelters, 2 of which had to shelter in place



overnight! Join us in thanking Maryland Responders, **Joy Malanyaon, RN, Rebecca Bergeron, LCSW, and Tracy Roth, RN** for their gift of time, energy and service. To all who responded to our Winter Storm Jonas volunteer request, we are truly grateful for your dedication to the citizens of Maryland and to helping others in their time of need.

## READY RESPONDER STATUS CALL EXERCISE

Contributed by: Stephanie Parsons, Maryland Responds MRC State Administrator

On Sunday, March 20, seven members of the Maryland Responds [Advisory Council](#) Engagement Committee deployed to the Office of Preparedness and Response at State Center to conduct telephone calls to Maryland Responders who had not yet completed their [Road to Readiness](#) Steps. The purpose of this exercise was to strengthen the state's response capabilities by increasing the number of Maryland Responders eligible to provide volunteer assistance to the state and local health departments during a public health emergency.

Pre-written scripts were developed to guide volunteers through the additional steps needed to complete their Road to Readiness, enabling them to become deployment eligible, Ready Responders.

At the end of the day, a total of 268 calls were conducted resulting in 50 liability and confidentiality [forms completed](#); 36 ID badge [photos submitted](#); 68 uniform [sizes recorded](#); and **64 new Ready Responders!!!** Additionally, they helped several Maryland Responders update their contact information in their responder profile and answered questions about the program and upcoming events.

The Advisory Council members did such an amazing job! They completed a huge amount of work in a small amount of time and helped us increase the pool of volunteers eligible to deploy across the state in a public health emergency.

Please join us in thanking Responders **John Clizbe, Joan Segura, Mary Helen McSweeney, Sara Luell, Joy Malanyaon, Crystal Riley, and Crystal Green** for a job very well done!

### **What's your Responder Status?**

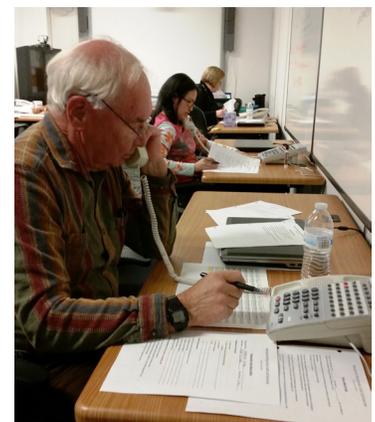
Visit <http://bit.ly/mdrReadiness> to see where you are on your Road to Readiness. Ready Responders are fully eligible to deploy AND get a cool Ready Responder kit, which includes your ID badge, backpack, uniform and more!



Engagement Committee Chief, John Clizbe, giving instructions at the beginning of the day. From left to right: Crystal Green, Joy Malanyaon, Mary Helen McSweeney, and John Clizbe.



From left to right: Crystal Green, Joan Segura, Sara Luell and Mary Helen McSweeney.



From left to right: John Clizbe, Joy Malanyaon, Mary Helen McSweeney.

# HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE FIELD

## PHARMACY EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS TASK FORCE POD EXERCISES

*Contributed by: Amanda Driesse, Maryland Responds MRC Administrator*

The Maryland Board of Pharmacy Emergency Preparedness Task Force (EPT) conducted Point of Dispensing (POD) exercises at the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy Shady Grove and Baltimore City campuses on March 23 and March 30.

The purpose of these exercises was to train 3rd year pharmacy students on POD operations and to provide them with practical experience of emergency response activities. As future pharmacists, the students may encounter these situations during their careers if they are called upon to respond to a public health emergency.

Don Taylor of the EPT began each exercise by providing just-in-time training to the students. Maryland Responds staff also gave a presentation on the Maryland Responds MRC and the benefits of volunteering with the program. During the exercises, students acted as screeners, special needs advisors, medication dispensers and as heads of household going through the POD.

Maryland Responds staff were present to answer questions about volunteering and to register new Maryland Responders. A total of 68 new members were registered at these events. Welcome new Responders!

Thank you to the EPT, the UMD School of Pharmacy and all of the students who participated in making these events a great success!



*From left to right: Maryland Responder Chelsea Loy and Maryland Responds Administrators Amanda Driesse and Stephanie Parsons.*



*UMDSOP students and instructors demonstrate a simulated response to bioterrorism.*

Don't know much about PODs? Check out OP&R's "What to Expect at a Point of Dispensing (POD)" fact sheet [here](#).

## THANK YOU HOWARD COUNTY MARYLAND RESPONDERS!

*Contributed by: Giselle Bonilla, Howard County Unit Administrator*

Once again, we want to express our appreciation to MRC volunteers for the time and work they donate to the Cancer Control, Vision & Hearing, and Tuberculosis (TB) Programs. We appreciate the countless hours they put in assisting with vision & hearing screenings, TB Direct Observed Therapy, patient intakes, chart reviews, and entering patient data into our health database.



Their contribution supports the Howard County Health Department mission of strengthening public health.

## DISASTER VICTIM VOLUNTEERS NEEDED ON MAY 13

Contributed by: *Stephanie Parsons, Maryland Responds MRC State Administrator*

The Maryland Regional National Life Support (NDLS) Coalition in partnership with Maryland Responds will be conducting a disaster exercise with emergency medical personnel on May 13, 2016 at the Maryland Fire and Rescue Institute (MFRI) in College Park, Maryland.

Maryland Responds is requesting volunteers to act as disaster victims during the exercise. Disaster victim volunteers will be given instruction such as a script and injuries to act out, which will assist medical personnel in

demonstrating competency in mass casualty triage in disaster scenarios.

Confirmed volunteers should report to MFRI by 7:30 am for moulage (application of mock injuries). Lunch will be provided at noon. The exercise will conclude at approximately 3:30 pm.

Please follow the steps listed in the email notification to indicate your availability for participation in this exercise.

## ADVANCED DISASTER LIFE SUPPORT COURSE

Registration is now open for the Advanced Disaster Life Support (ADLS) course offered on May 12 - May 13 in College Park, Maryland. This is a two-day course that will provide participants the opportunity to demonstrate competencies in mass casualty management. The primary audience for this course includes physicians, nurses, physician assistants, emergency medical technicians, paramedics, pharmacists, allied health professionals, and students in health professional schools.

**Successful completion of the Basic Disaster Life Support (BDLS) course is a prerequisite for this course.**

See the [ADLS course flier](#) for instructions on how to register. For questions, please email Chris Hyzer at [chyzer@miemss.org](mailto:chyzer@miemss.org) or call 410-706-0881.



## CONNECT WITH MARYLAND RESPONDS

Follow the Maryland Responds social media pages and re-tweet or share our posts.

- Facebook URL: [www.facebook.com/MDResponds](http://www.facebook.com/MDResponds)
- LinkedIn URL: <http://bit.ly/MDRlinkedin>
- Twitter URL: <https://twitter.com/MarylandOPR>
- Twitter handle: @MarylandOPR

# RESPONDER RESOURCES

## PREP FOR SEVERE STORMS AND FLOODING

*Contributed by: Amanda Driesse, Maryland Responds MRC Administrator*

Severe thunder and lightning storms commonly occur in Maryland in late spring, throughout the summer and early fall. These storms can lead to the most common natural disaster in the United States...flooding.

Floods can develop slowly over time or within minutes and can occur no matter where you live. Prepare yourself ahead of time by knowing what to do before, during and after a flood.

### Remember these basic flood safety tips for before and during a flood:

- Flood Watch = "Be Aware." Conditions are right for flooding to occur in your area.
- Flood Warning = "Take Action!" Flooding is either happening or will happen shortly.
- Avoid walking or driving through flood waters.
- Just 6 inches of moving water can knock you down, and 2 feet of water can sweep your vehicle away.
- If there is a chance of flash flooding, move immediately to higher ground. Flash floods are the #1 cause of weather-related deaths in the US.
- If floodwaters rise around your car but the water is not moving, abandon the car and move to higher ground. Do not leave the car and enter moving water.
- Avoid camping or parking along streams, rivers, and creeks during heavy rainfall. These areas can flood quickly and with little warning.

### Know what to do after a flood has occurred in your area:

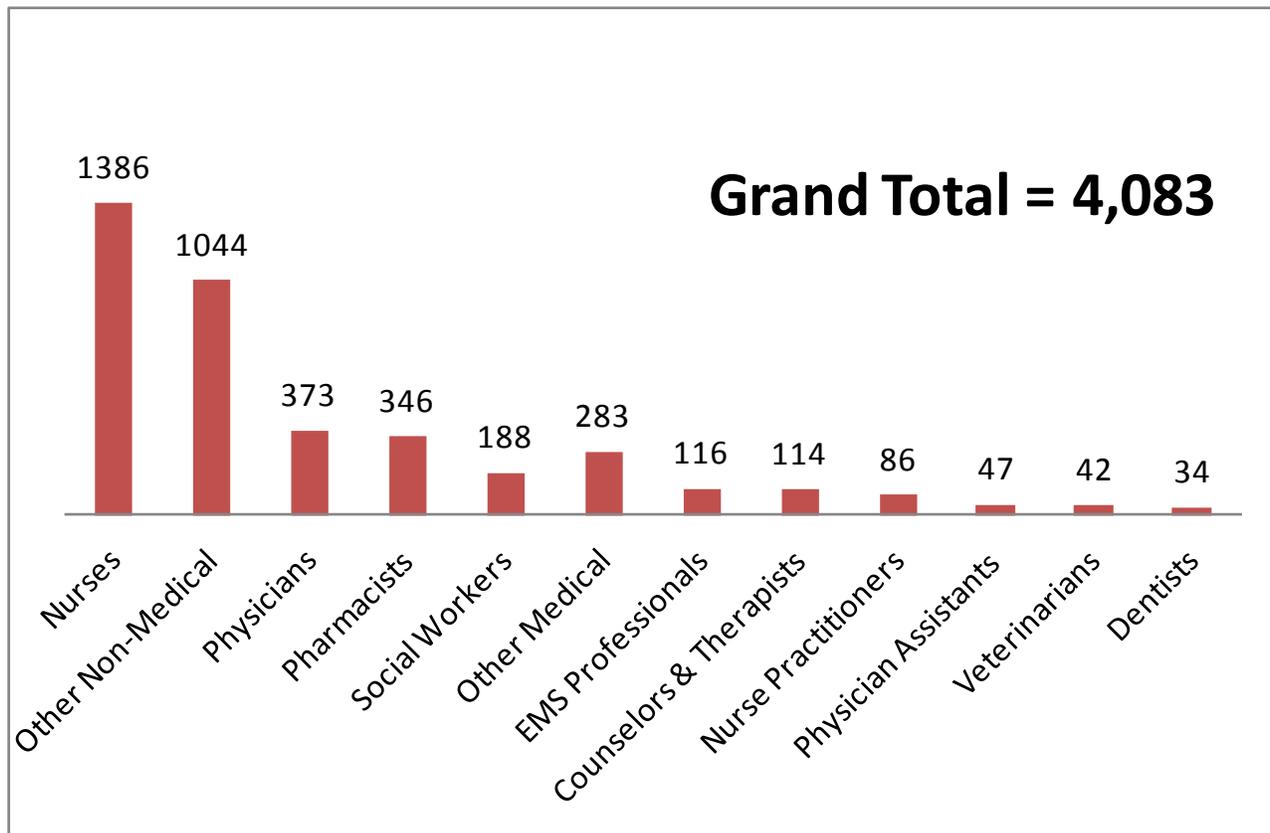
- Return home only when authorities say it is safe.
- Be aware of areas where floodwaters have receded and watch out for debris. Floodwaters often erode roads and walkways.
- Do not attempt to drive through areas that are still flooded.
- Avoid standing water as it may be electrically charged from underground or downed power lines.
- Photograph damage to your property for insurance purposes.
- Throw away food that has come into contact with floodwaters, including canned goods.



Visit the Office of Preparedness and Response [Be Prepared page](#) for more information on how to prepare for storms and flooding.

## MARYLAND RESPONDERS BY OCCUPATIONAL GROUP

Membership totals as of April 11, 2016



## MARYLAND RESPONDERS BY LOCAL UNIT

Membership totals as of April 11, 2016

County	Percent of Total Membership
Allegany	2.0%
Anne Arundel	8.2%
Baltimore City	9.6%
Baltimore County	15.3%
Calvert	1.5%
Caroline	0.5%
Carroll	3.3%
Cecil	1.3%
Charles	1.5%
Dorchester	0.8%
Frederick	4.4%
Garrett	0.6%

County	Percent of Total Membership
Harford	4.0%
Howard	7.5%
Kent	1.6%
Montgomery	16.1%
Prince George's	9.1%
Queen Anne's	1.6%
Saint Mary's	2.2%
Somerset	1.0%
Talbot	2.4%
Washington	2.2%
Wicomico	2.5%
Worcester	0.9%