



The Pulse



Official Newsletter of the Maryland Responds Medical Reserve Corps

MARCH 2015

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Save the Date! Maryland Responds MRC 2015 Conference



Mark your calendars for June 19, 2015! The Maryland Responds MRC will hold a statewide conference and appreciation event at the Maritime Institute in Linthicum.

As a Maryland Responder, you understand that disaster can strike at a moment's notice and your knowledge, skills, and efforts can save lives. Whether you are a new member or a seasoned expert, join us to celebrate the story of Maryland Responds and hear from top experts from the fields of public health and emergency management as they share best practices.

The Maryland Responds MRC 2015 Conference offers a full day of speakers, presentations, activities, and hands-on exhibits that provide an opportunity for professional development, networking, and recognition. The schedule of events will last from 8:30a.m. to 4:00p.m.

If you are interested in helping out during the conference, contact: mdresponds.dhmh@maryland.gov.

As additional details are finalized, information will be sent to Maryland Responders and updated on our website: mdr.dhmh.maryland.gov.

Are You a Ready Responder?

As a registered member of Maryland Responds, you are part of a national community of Medical Reserve Corps volunteers. Maryland Responders receive emergency alerts, preparedness information, and access to many of our free trainings.

To deploy for emergency responses or participate in exercises, we must ensure your adequate preparation and credentialing. All Maryland Responders, regardless of professional background, must meet our minimum requirements to gain Ready Responder status.

If you have any questions or comments about your responder status, do not hesitate to let us know at the State Program. We would be happy to help.



To Reach Ready Responder Status:

- ✓ Complete 100% of your responder profile.
- ✓ Sign and submit your confidentiality and liability forms.
- ✓ Complete minimum training requirements.
- ✓ Get your Responder ID badge.

For detailed instructions, please refer to this checklist: [Bit.ly/MDRMRCDeploy](http://bit.ly/MDRMRCDeploy).

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



Maryland Responds Assists in Fatal Fire Investigation

Contributed by Warren Tewes, DDS, MS, Medical Examiners' Dental Identification Team Unit Administrator

On January 19, an Annapolis mansion was completely destroyed by fire, killing six family members (<http://www.cnn.com/2015/01/23/us/annapolis-fire/>).

MEDIT (Medical Examiners' Dental Identification Team), a component of the Maryland Responds MRC to the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME) in Baltimore provided subject matter expert assistance. Maryland Responder forensic odontologists leading victim identification were Drs. Patrick Murray, Ali Behnia, and Pete Nickolas, liaising with OCME chief forensic odontologist Dr. Warren Tewes.

Antemortem family dental X-ray and written records of the victims were collected from treating dentists by law enforcement investigators and delivered to the OCME. MEDIT members examined and collated the dental records into six, single documents which illustrated the best dental representation for each victim prior to the tragedy.

Over the next six days, victim remains were methodically recovered from the extinguished inferno to preserve evidence and travelled to the OCME per protocol. The postmortem dental examination and x-ray images produced six postmortem records. These new records were compared to the previously prepared antemortem records.



This video still shows a glimpse of the damage. (CNN)

The three legal methods of human identification are antemortem/postmortem fingerprint, DNA and dental comparisons. The goal of each method is to sort away and exclude all non-match victims, yielding a single remaining victim, which matches an antemortem record. Finger prints can be quickly degraded and DNA often requires long time analysis. With the rapid acquisition of antemortem dental records, the single positive identification is rendered in a timely fashion for the grieving family.

"Closure" is a term frequently used by the public and media in these circumstances, but it is rarely heard within the forensic community and by families. They are wounded forever by these tragedies and at best, will have only "resolution" for their loss. Consequently MEDIT, like other MRC specialty volunteers, sense privilege in their swift contribution to resolution, moving families forward to funerals and some healing thereafter.

Active Shooter Drills and Training — What Can You Do?

In February 2015, Maryland Responders from the Baltimore City and Montgomery County Units helped prepare Community Clinic, Inc., in Silver Spring and Family Health Centers of Baltimore for an active shooter emergency by participating in a drill in which they acted out the role of bystander or shooter.

County Unit Administrators sent out the activation notifications to volunteers through the MDResponds Volunteer Registry. On the day of the drill, Responders received just in time training prior to the drill. They then received a card with instructions on their acting role—either as a simulated bystander or shooter. Thank you to Baltimore City and Montgomery County Maryland Responders for your time and help with these drills.

Would you know what to do in the event of an active shooter? The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) offers such a course, Active Shooter: What you can do: <http://training.fema.gov/is/courseoverview.aspx?code=IS-907>.

Students See Their Role in Disaster Preparedness

Contributed by G. Lawrence Hogue, BS Pharm, PD, and Barbara Logan, RN, CHEP, Somerset County Unit Administrator

Donning fresh white coats, 122 pharmacy, physician assistant, and kinesiology students at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore (UMES) gathered on February 3, 2015, for participation in a mass medication dispensing exercise. They welcomed Salisbury University nursing students as collaborative partners. Aside from being students, they all held something else in common—their potential to help during disasters.

The UMES point of dispensing (POD) exercise and demonstration is an annual event held as part of the pharmacy school curriculum introducing students to the public health roles of “emergency preparedness” and “emergency response” within a community.

The day began with a talk from Dorothy Sheu, state administrator of the Maryland Responds MRC, who described how volunteers of many backgrounds can help their families, friends, and communities. She described some common events where public health may rely on volunteers: during a Strategic National Stockpile exercise, at a health station in a state shelter, or within a POD site during an actual emergency.

Dr. Hogue, Assistant Dean of Professional Affairs at UMES School of Pharmacy, led the POD exercise. He utilized his “POD Squad,” a group of student pharmacists who have had previous experience with POD operations, to act as facilitators. The “POD Squad” role-



Student pharmacist Mfon Ekanem (left front) explains medication directions to student pharmacist Sally Daamash at the medication dispensing station.

played, demonstrating all of the POD stations and flow, including registration, screening, dispensing, consultation and special needs stations. The participants then jumped in and role-played at each station, switching stations six times to get a feel for each POD function.

Barbara Logan, Emergency Preparedness Coordinator for the Somerset Health Department, explains this exercise’s significance: “Providing mass medication dispensing in a county of 26,470 residents in a critical health emergency is challenging. This exercise is two-fold in that it provides an opportunity to recruit MD Responds volunteers and provides them with immediate training on one of our most critical components in emergency preparedness. I would feel confident calling

on trained MD Responds volunteers to assist rather than relying on pulling people in with no prior experience in the midst of an emergency.”

After the close of the day, 74% of survey respondents said that they would register with the Maryland Responds MRC. Recruiting local professional students can answer to immediate volunteer needs in Somerset County, but can also provide experience that they can share wherever they go after graduation. That is to say, through multi-agency partnering in a small county, almost 50 more leaders stepped up to protect their communities in the future.



The “POD Squad” — Student pharmacist facilitators & staff UMES PODs Drill 2-3-15. Left to Right: Kapil Patel, Soumil Sheth, Richard Yim, Melissa Buff, April Hartford, Jessica Marcelin, Tiffanie Taylor, Priyana Kumar, Kristen Kas, Hillary Schlerf, Blair Heckel, Salematou Traore, Ikjae Chin, Eric Assah, Dr. G. Lawrence Hogue, Program Coordinator, April Tepfer (Notre Dame University School of Pharmacy student)

Maryland Responds Makes Big Impacts With Health Department

Contributed by Giselle Bonilla, MPH, CHEP, Howard County Unit Administrator

On October 22, 2014, the Howard County Maryland Responds Unit celebrated the contributions of volunteers at an Update Conference and Award Ceremony. On this evening, Jessica Nusbaum, State Individual Assistance Officer, Maryland Emergency Management Agency (MEMA), enlightened participants with a stimulating presentation on "Preparedness: Making Yourself, Your Family, and Your Home Ready for an Emergency." In addition, we granted awards to our most engaged volunteers and raffled fully-equipped emergency preparedness kits. It was an honor to share time with our most engaged volunteers.

The Howard County Health Department (HCHD) has much to be thankful for when it comes to Maryland Responders. We appreciate Maryland Responders for the time and work you donate to the Cancer Control Program: in assisting with tobacco cessation classes, performing patient intakes, reviewing charts, filing documents, and entering patients' information into our health database.

Also, thank you for your participation in our Mass Dispensing Exercise on Friday, October 17, 2014, at the 50+ Expo Community Health Fair. With the assistance of MRC nurses, the HCHD effectively delivered 954 flu shots and 21 pneumococcal vaccinations.

Award for the most engaged volunteer of the year presented by HCHD and Unit Administrator Giselle Bonilla (L) to Maureen Chapnick (R).



Further, please accept our gratitude for your participation in the HCHD's 2014-2015 Influenza Immunization Campaign. This campaign included the School Located Influenza Vaccination (SLIV) and Community Flu Clinics within Howard County. With your assistance as an active member of the Howard County Medical Reserve Corps, the HCHD successfully provided flu vaccines to approximately 15,000 citizens during this influenza season.

Without your support, Maryland Responders, we would have never been able to accomplish any of the above. The service you provide is greatly appreciated!

Recent Health Department Drill a Success

Contributed by Brenda Caldwell, Public Information Officer, Allegany County Unit Administrator

On January 30, 2015, the Allegany County Health Department (ACHD) conducted a two-hour clinic drill. Unlike the ACHD's seasonal flu clinics, which follow a medical model and rely on trained health professionals to triage clients and administer medications, ACHD practiced a Cities Readiness Initiative (CRI), *nonmedical* model. The goal of CRI is to get medications out quickly to the public, using nonmedical personnel to dispense medications.

In an emergency, medications from the Strategic National Stockpile would be released by the state to affected local jurisdictions, who would distribute medications to their Points of Dispensing (PODs). Clients at the PODs fill out a short and simple intake form listing any known allergies to the medications being distributed. There is no complicated triage or medical evaluation, and the information provided on the form tells the

dispensing teams which medication to package for each household member.

Based on the results of the drill, one POD alone would be capable of distributing medications to *at least* 5,520 households and 13,584 people over a 24 hour operational period. If repeated across three other pre-identified POD locations, the health department has the ability to take care of the entire county population within 24-48 hours in an emergency.

ACHD would like to thank all of those who volunteered their time to participate in the drill. Among the volunteers for the drill were members of Frostburg State University's Alpha Phi Omega co-ed national service fraternity and several area volunteers with the Allegany County Maryland Responds Unit.

Volunteer With the Vision and Hearing Program



Contributed by Giselle Bonilla, MPH, CHEP, Howard County Unit Administrator

The Howard County Health Department 2014-2015 School Vision & Hearing program will be running until April 2015. We still need administrative support during school vision and hearing screenings. If you are interested in this volunteer opportunity, please contact Giselle Bonilla at gbonilla@howardcountymd.gov.

Maryland Responds Orientation — In Class

Planning for the 2015 Orientation for the Maryland Responds MRC is underway. Different from previous years, we have enlisted county Unit Administrators to teach classes. Classes throughout the state will cover updated curriculum on the Maryland Responds network, deployment eligibility, and deployment protocols. Stay tuned for more information!



Upcoming Trainings - State Program

Think Inside the Box — Personal Preparedness

Audience: General public

March 18, 2015 — Berlin, <http://1.usa.gov/1Ea4sly>

March 30, 2015 — Frederick, see link above.

RAPID Psychological First Aid

Audience: General public

April 2, 2015 — D.C., <http://1.usa.gov/1FOwMag>

May 7, 2015 — TBD (Eastern Shore), details to come.

Basic Disaster Life Support

Audience: Health care backgrounds

April 29, 2015 — Princess Anne, <http://1.usa.gov/1zAxBPn>

May 8, 2015 — Rockville, <http://1.usa.gov/1GcuqVWl>

Training announcements and links to register are posted to our training calendar:

<http://bit.ly/MDRcalendar>.

We also send training announcements to you by email, so make sure your email address and other contact information is up-to-date in your Responder Profile:

<http://bit.ly/MDR-Profile>.

Are you trained in CPR? How about AED? You Can be!

Contributed by Giselle Bonilla, MPH, CHEP, Howard County Unit Administrator

The Howard County Department of Fire and Rescue Services (DFRS) provides CPR Pro classes for health care professionals, Health Department staff and volunteers. The classes are held twice a year at the Public Safety Training Center located at 2200 Scott Wheeler Dr. Marriottsville, MD 21104. The next class is scheduled for July 2015. The exact date and time will be released at a later date. Advance registration is required. To register, please contact Giselle Bonilla at gbonilla@howardcountymd.gov.

Additionally, the Maryland Responds MRC State Program is in the midst of scheduling CPR and AED trainings across the state. Stay tuned for more information.

Unit Administrator Recommendation: Take Psych First Aid

Contributed by Lisa Swank, BSN, RN, Emergency Preparedness Coordinator, Harford County Unit Administrator

In any type of disaster response you will most likely come into contact with people who have been impacted. This is why we recommend you attend a RAPID Psychological First Aid class.

The skills learned in this training can be applied to anyone who has experienced an extremely distressing event. RAPID stands for 1) Reflective listening, 2) Assessment of needs, 3) Prioritization, 4) Intervention, 5) Disposition.

Listen to the victim's recollection of the event, repeat key words or the last few words spoken to show you are trying to understand the victim and prompting him or her to continue. Attend to any medical, physiological, and safety needs first. Look for psychological red flags, such as changes in sleeping habits, weight, en-

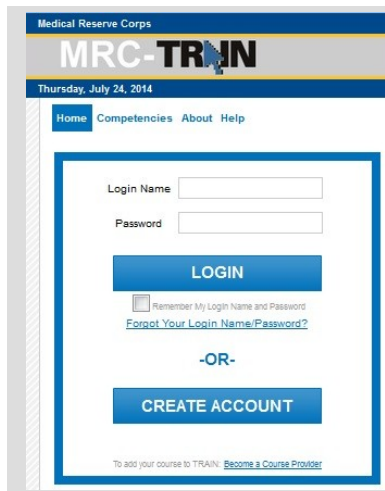
ergy, mood, ability to concentrate, and failure to attend to personal hygiene. Always alert a professional if intended or implied harm to self or others is voiced. These statements should always be taken seriously.

Before deciding whether or not to volunteer in a disaster response please conduct a personal assessment of your current situation to decide your comfort level with the type of disaster, your current health, family and work circumstances.

Psychological First Aid courses are offered around the state (see p. 5). Check with the Maryland Responds State Program for upcoming trainings near you: <http://bit.ly/MDRcalendar>.

MRC-TRAIN: Online Database of Emergency Preparedness Courses

Contributed by Giselle Bonilla, MPH, CHEP, Howard County Unit Administrator



MRC-TRAIN is a resource for Medical Reserve Corps volunteers. The photo is a screenshot of the gateway to online emergency preparedness courses.

MRC-TRAIN is a learning management system that is a centralized, searchable database of courses, Web-based trainings, on-site trainings and conferences. This interconnected network allows users to access local, state, national or international trainings.

Users can register online for many courses, create a personal learning record, have access to continuing

education credits and have access to hundreds of public health and emergency preparedness courses from nationally-recognized course providers.

Volunteers can learn from their desks with Web-based learning, webcasts, and satellite broadcasts. The MRC-TRAIN site is a free resource for all MRC volunteers.

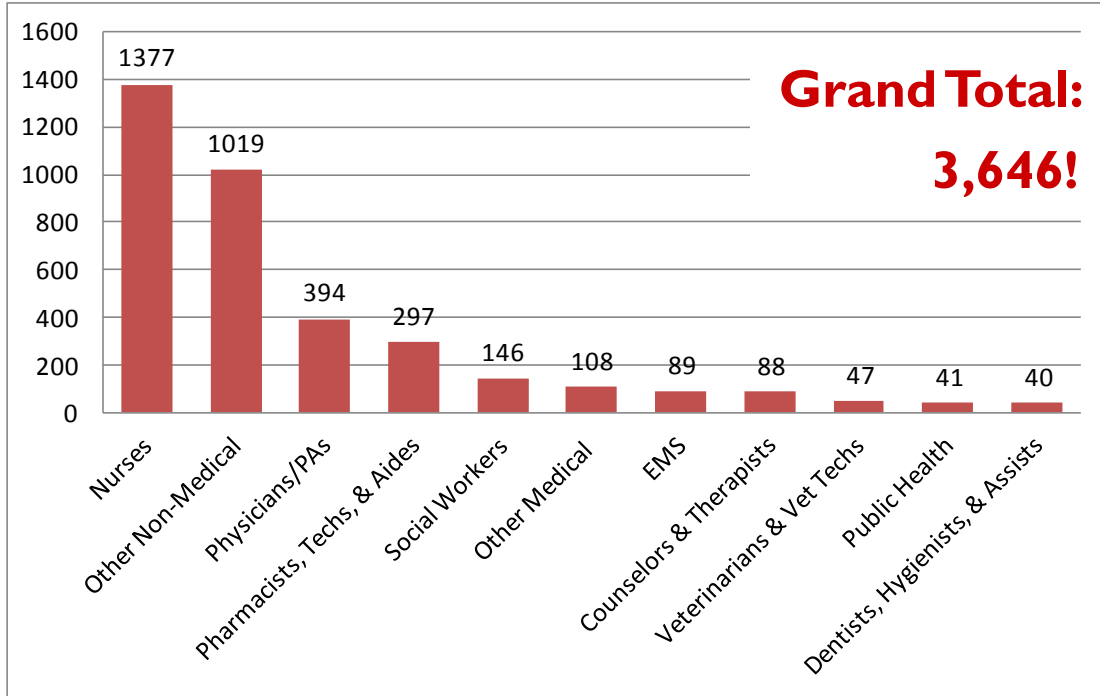
Maryland Responders can use MRC-TRAIN to:

- Search or browse the nationwide database for on-site or distance learning courses.
- Sign up for e-mails about new courses.
- Create a personal learning record of competency-based training.
- Provide and view feedback about courses listed on the site.
- Register online for many courses.
- Earn CEUs (often at no cost).

To use MRC-Train: go to www.mrc.train.org and click "Create Account" underneath "Login."

YOU COUNT! Membership Totals as of 3-2-15

Maryland Responders by Professional Group



Maryland Responders by County Unit

County	Percent of Total Membership	County	Percent of Total Membership
Allegany	2%	Harford	4%
Anne Arundel	8%	Howard	7%
Baltimore	15%	Kent	2%
Baltimore City	8%	Montgomery	17%
Calvert	1%	Prince George's	10%
Caroline	1%	Queen Anne's	2%
Carroll	3%	Saint Mary's	1%
Cecil	1%	Somerset	2%
Charles	1%	Talbot	3%
Dorchester	1%	Washington	2%
Frederick	5%	Wicomico	3%
Garrett	1%	Worcester	1%

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Feedback

What can we do better?
 Do you have any suggestions?
 E-mail us at:
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