



New York City Medical Reserve Corps



June 2012

42-09 28 St., Queens NY 11101

347-723-1696

healthmrc@health.nyc.gov

Emergency Notification Drill

Thanks to all of you who responded to the Emergency Notification Drill. These tests of the notification system allow us to measure our response rates and to ascertain that we will be ready to respond in the event of a disaster or emergency.

NYC MRC participates in AIDS Walk 2012



Once again, NYC MRC supported the fight against AIDS by participating in the NY AIDS Walk 2012. Eleven MRC team members and a therapy dog enjoyed a beautiful day in Manhattan where they joined thousands of others in a celebration of life. Thanks to all of those who walked.

MRC participates in Pediatric Decontamination Drill at Long Island Jewish Medical Center

It was a beautiful Thursday morning on May 31st as a group of 30 MRC volunteers gathered at Long Island Jewish Hospital for a decontamination exercise. We were given a short overview of the scenario, told what roles we were going to play and how the actual exercise was going to be



Why I Volunteer



Odile playing a patient in Yankee Stadium

Name: Odile Nelson, LPN
MRC Member since 2006

Profession: Licensed Practical Nurse

What MRC/CCC activities have you participated in lately?

Points of Dispensing
Yankee Stadium Evacuation
Exercise
Volunteer Recognition
Celebration

Why do you volunteer?

I went to nursing school because I wanted to help people. After 9/11 when the MRC was created, there was a need in NYC for medical professionals so I decided to become part of MRC, so NYC can have their own team of professionals ready to help in an emergency.



enacted. After this presentation, the volunteers were given cards describing our roles. Many of us acted as pediatric patients, who were brought to LIJ for various injuries secondary to an explosion. We had varying levels of injuries, from scratches to sucking wounds to subdural hematomas, and were moulaged for injuries we were assigned. Here's how the drill was conducted: First we were decontaminated. Those who led me through the decontamination showers were gentle and patient. As a 12 year old who was only covered in dust, their gentleness and patience definitely garnered my trust and made it so, I went in without much of a fuss. I was then checked for radioactivity and led to triage. At the triage station, the nurses appeared somewhat frazzled. After taking my name and giving me an identification bracelet, I was asked to wait while the next patient was triaged. As I waited, another volunteer, one with a massive headache (secondary to the subdural hematoma) was triaged after me. Because I had no injuries I was sent back to the center room to be reunited with my parents while my fellow participant was whisked off to imaging.

Taking part in this drill, you realize that these exercises are integral to preparing us for events such as an explosion. Practicing what is needed during disasters and prepping for it with the proper tools, having the staff understand what needs to be prepared and what needs to be done when patients arrive in this mock emergency is vital to how they will respond in cases of real emergencies. At the end of this exercise everyone, both staff and volunteers, sat down and gave feedback. Knowing what was done right and what can be improved will continue to strengthen the response of LIJ and prepare them for a

real event. For an MRC volunteer, participating in drills, even as patients, is invaluable, since it allows us to see what plans are needed in order to fully respond to emergencies; and how those plans may or may not work as anticipated. *Mindy Chang, DVM, MRC member*



Sixth Annual Disaster Volunteer Conference

On May 1, 2012 the Sixth Annual Disaster Volunteer Conference: "Volunteers Creating Change" was held at Pace University. Over 350 volunteers attended this event, including a large number of NYC



Medical Reserve Corps members. The Keynote Speaker was Jeff Parness, Founder and Executive Director of New York Says Thank You Foundation. The foundation is a nationwide disaster relief organization which send volunteers from NYC each year on the 9/11 Anniversary to help rebuild communities around the US affected by disaster. His story was one of compassion and generosity. The discussion panel included Herman Schaffer, OEM, as moderator, and Gary Bagley from NY Cares, Sara Farmer, a Digital Humanitarian, and Pam Kellner, RN, MPH, an expert on Infection Control and a new MRC member. Thanks to all who attended.

MRC Training Opportunities

Sunday, June 10th – CPR/AED - These small group hands on classes provide professional level trainings. You need attend only one of these dates. Certification cards will be provided to those who pass this training. These trainings have very limited enrollment and are for MRC members only. Prerequisite: You must have attended an MRC Orientation plus at least one other training or exercise or deployment in the last year. **There are still a few seats available for this training.**

Time: 12:00PM – 6:00PM (snacks will be provided)

Location: The Churchill School, 301 East 29 St, Manhattan.

NEW!: Tuesday, June 12th - Assisting Older Persons in Times of Emergency – Linda Whittaker, Assistant Commissioner, NYC Department for the Aging, will conduct this training. In a disaster or emergency, do you know how to assist the older persons in your family? In your community? In shelters or PODs? Learn from an expert.

Time: Food and registration at 5:30, Training 6:00 – 8:00

Location: Churchill School, 301 East 29 St, Auditorium, Manhattan, NY

Tuesday, July 24 – MRC Orientation – This is an introduction to the Medical Reserve Corps and includes information on how MRC fits into the emergency response plan, creating a family plan and a go bag, the ICS structure, and how MRC works. This training is a pre-requisite for many other trainings. Training is open to all members.

Location: 125 Worth St, 3rd Floor Boardroom, lower Manhattan, NYC

Registration and food: 5:30, training 6:00 PM– 8:00 PM

Thursday, July 31 – Bomb and Blast Injuries and Triage – Dr. Dario Gonzalez, FDNY, will share his wisdom about bomb and blast events, injuries and the triage that is used. Dr. Gonzalez will discuss the implications of bomb and blast events in NYC.

Location: TBA

Registration and food: 5:30, training: 6:00 – 8:00

To register for MRC trainings, please send an email to: healthmrc@health.nyc.gov
Please include your name, license type, email and phone number. Please include the title of the training and date in the subject line

Articles of Interest

Get a Lifeline. Make a Plan. Stay Safe in a Disaster. Two new free personal preparedness applications go live on Facebook today. The apps, bReddi and Project: Lifeline, were winners of a nationwide contest sponsored by the Assistant Secretary of Preparedness and Response (ASPR). The apps help people support each other during an emergency and become better prepared by identifying lifelines. To learn more, go to: <http://www.phe.gov/lifeline/Pages/default.aspx>

2012 Hurricane Season “Be a Force of Nature” Campaign and Toolkit

The 2012 hurricane season began on Friday, June 1. The *Be a Force of Nature* Campaign educates and motivates the public to prepare, be aware of risks, take action, and be an example when it comes to the threat of hurricanes. Please visit: www.ready.gov/hurricanes to access FEMA’s online toolkit.

Alaska Sightings of Tsunami Debris Increasing, So What Now?

Over the past few weeks, unusual quantities of debris have been reportedly washing up on the shores of the Gulf of Alaska region. The debris has been attributed to the March, 2011 tsunami in Japan. Because Alaska’s coastline is largely unpopulated and difficult to access, clean-up may be particularly challenging. To read the article, go to: <http://www.alaskadispatch.com/article/alaska-sightings-tsunami-debris-increasing-so-what-now>