



## New York City Medical Reserve Corps



**June 2013**

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### **NYC MRC SYMPOSIUM: ESSENTIAL TOOLS FOR MRC RESPONDERS**



On Sunday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>, NYC MRC sponsored a high level symposium for NYC MRC members as a thank you for their service. The room was awash in color. MRC members chatted with each other as they enjoyed the delicious food. Tom Morgan, PhD,CHP; Lisa Dinhofer, MA, CT, CTBS; Maggie Moon,MD, MPH; & Steve Becker, PhD gave thought-provoking presentations, which created a lot of discussion among the MRC members. MRC volunteers who served during Sandy were recognized and those who served more than 36 hours received awards. The MRC Advisory Board was also recognized. Thanks to all of you who attended. Go to the last page to see photos of the event.

### **Meet our FDNY Partners**



Jay, Amanda, Kevin and Rick

**Amanda Schmidt** is a 21 year veteran of FDNY EMS. She is a NYS DOH Certified Instructor Coordinator and a Master Exercise Practitioner through the FEMA Institute. She has been assigned to the FDNY Center for Terrorism and Disaster Preparedness since 2012 where she works heavily on Mass Casualty Incident based exercises. Amanda has taken a moulage specialty training program to work with gel-effects based make up to enhance the realism of the exercises.

**Rick Marrone** is a 24 year veteran of FDNY EMS. Rick is assigned to FDNY EMS Bureau of training and is a Certified Instructor Coordinator Intern. Rick has been involved with Mass Casualty Exercises since the FDNY first started the Center for Terrorism and Disaster Preparedness unit after the September 11, 2001 attacks. Rick has taken many advanced courses which makes him extremely valuable to the Exercise Design Process.

**Kevin Mahoney** is a FDNY firefighter who started his tenure 13 years ago as an FDNY EMT in Brooklyn. Kevin is also a NYS DOH Certified Instructor Coordinator who is involved in FDNY training programs for Certified First Responders. Kevin's unique background in both fire and EMS service make him a valuable asset to the team

**Jason Vitulli** is the newest member to the Exercise Design Moulage Team. Jason started his career in Brooklyn New York as an EMT for FDNY. He is also a NYS DOH Certified Instructor Coordinator, and works with the FDNY Special Operations Command.

## NYC MRC Receives National Recognition

On June 5, 2013 the NYC Medical Reserve Corps received national recognition for their work at the National Seasonal Leadership and Training Conference in Leesburg, Virginia.

NYC MRC was the recipient of the Office of the Surgeon General, DCV MRC 2013 Community Resiliency Award for “promoting community resiliency through daily operations and involvement in local activities” as well as the Office of the Surgeon General, DCV MRC 2013 Outstanding Responder Award, given to Roz Gianutsos, PhD, an MRC NYC Mental Health Responder who volunteered for 158 hours during Hurricane Sandy.

**Congratulations to everyone in NYC MRC. These awards belong to all of you.**



Rosamond Gianutsos, PhD, NYC MRC, accepts the Outstanding Responder Award. Pictured with Deputy Surgeon General Rear Admiral Boris Lushniak And Captain Robert Tosatto, Director, DCV MRC



Betty Duggan, Director of NYC MRC, accepts the Community Resiliency Award on behalf of NYC Medical Reserve Corps. Presenting the award are Deputy Surgeon General Rear Admiral Boris Lushniak And Captain Robert Tosatto, Director, DCV MRC



### NYC MRC Notification Drill

The next NYC MRC Quarterly Notification Drill will be conducted the week of June 24 – June 28, 2013. Please be sure to respond to the message. You must answer the phone notification live – you may not call back after receiving a message on your voicemail. You may answer your email notification at any time. Phone calls will come from the 518 area code.

### ILI Surveillance

If you are a clinician (MD, DO, PA, NP, RN) in direct contact with patients on a regular basis, we need your help!

We are seeking people who work in:

- Hospital Clinics
- Community Health Care Centers
- Private Clinics
- Private Practice
- University Health Centers

**Now you can help with Influenza Surveillance in only a few minutes a week!**

As part of the Outpatient Influenza-like Illness Network (**ILINet**) an ILINet provider conducts surveillance for influenza-like illness in collaboration with the NY State Department of Health (NYSDOH) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Data reported by ILINet providers, in combination with other influenza surveillance data, provide a state and nationwide picture of influenza virus and ILI activity. NYS ILINet providers are part of a national network of more than 3,000 healthcare providers in 50 states reporting over 25 million patient visits each year.



## Why Volunteer?

Influenza viruses are constantly evolving and cause substantial morbidity and mortality every season. ILINet data is critical in monitoring the course of influenza virus activity on the local, state, and national level. Also, ILINet data, in combination with other influenza surveillance data, has been used to guide prevention and control activities, vaccine strain selection, and patient care. ILINet providers receive feedback on the data submitted, summaries of regional, statewide and national influenza data, and free subscriptions to CDC's ***Morbidity and Mortality Weekly*** and ***Emerging Infectious Diseases Journal***. The most important consideration is that the data provided are critical for protecting the public's health.

For more information please contact:

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## NYC MRC in Action

### AIDS Walk 2013

Neither rain nor sleet nor snow should be the MRC motto for those intrepid few who came to participate in the AIDS Walk this year. Amid pouring rain, thousands turned out to help stamp out the scourge that is AIDS, among them MRC members Elizabeth Campos and her service dog Angel, Bill Fasbender, Roz Gianutsos, and Betty Duggan.



### Walking Through Times Square with a Head Wound NYC Medical Reserve Corps "FDNY Times Square High Rise Building Exercise"

By Isabelle Osterlund, MRC Member



Originally I had wanted to write about my experience walking through Times Square with moulage in place. However since I received no, zero, nada, zilch strange looks or reactions from anyone on the street (aside from my poor doorman who thought that I had just gotten mugged). I'll settle instead on explaining how I got to look this way.

On Tuesday, May 28<sup>th</sup>, the FDNY conducted a Fire in High Rise Building Exercise and asked MRC members to play victims. Apparently we've gotten a very good rep with the FDNY for

playing victims during past exercises since our expertise allows a more realistic scenario for the FDNY.

The evening's scenario was a boiler explosion during a cocktail party in the penthouse of a high rise building. For this scenario the moulage crew stepped up their game by adding an airbrush to their tricks of the trade. Amanda Schmidt, the Exercise Design Coordinator, used the airbrush to apply paint to the faces of the cyanotic, carbon monoxide and burn victims. Rick Marrone, EMS Instructor, applied amazing

handmade blisters over red makeup to mimic second and third degree burns. While Amanda and Rick worked hard to prep us for our roles we were entertained by two of FDNY's finest comedians Kevin



Mahoney and Jason Vituilli. I think all of us that night were smiling thanks to those two firefighters as we waited for the exercise to begin. EMS Captain Charles Fraser and Battalion Chief John Nykiel, were Command and Control, monitoring the exercises.

After our moulage was ready we all took our places in the stairwell right



outside of the 39<sup>th</sup> and 40<sup>th</sup> floor of the 11 Times Square Building. The exercise started and MRC members were heard yelling and moaning all around me as we all waited for the building staff and FDNY to respond.

My role was to be belligerent (which is a stretch) and combative/resistant to the rescuers as they tried to help me. I watched as my fellow MRC members acted out roles such as head wound with no memory of the accident, blown out ear drums, lacerations to the head, severe burns and carbon monoxide poisoning. One by one we were all assisted to a staging area in order to be triaged by the EMS on scene. One by one we were transported to the lobby where the exercise ended for us. After the exercise MRC and FDNY returned to the 39<sup>th</sup> floor where we were treated to a nice dinner.

**Would I recommend that you volunteer to play victim for these types of exercises in the future? ABSOLUTELY** – Saying “I had so much fun!” would be an understatement. This is the second such exercise that I have had the pleasure in participating. It’s always fun to meet my fellow MRC members and the exercises themselves are very interesting. So the next time you see an invitation to participate, go for it. You won’t be disappointed. I’ll see you there!

### **FDNY Exercise: Collision and Fire on a Subway in Staten Island**



On Friday, May 10<sup>th</sup>, 21 NYC MRC members participated in an exercise with FDNY in Staten Island. The scenario was a collision and fire on the Staten Island Rapid Transit, S.I.’s subway system. FDNY had smoke machines to simulate a fiery crash. EMS has crews with ambulances ready to respond. MRC members were moulaged, and assigned roles with injuries, then led to subway cars where they were draped across seats, lay on the floor, and otherwise acted as if they were injured. Some mannequins were also used, and



MRC members were intertwined with the mannequins. MRC member performances were rated “Oscar-Worthy”. The FDNY staff commented that MRC participation in these exercises add a level of realism that FDNY is otherwise unable to achieve. Thanks to all those who participated.

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## **Upcoming Exercises – We Need You!**

### **FDNY Exercise: Fire in Citi Field**

**Location: Citi Field baseball Stadium, Queens**

**Date: Thursday, June 27<sup>th</sup>**

**Time: 6:00pm – 10:30pm**

In preparation for the All-Star Game this summer at Citi Field in Queens, FDNY will be conducting a Full Scale Exercise (FSE) on June 27. We are looking for 50-55 MRC volunteers to make our exercise AWESOME!!! This will be a fire scenario similar to Yankee stadium.

MRC will receive Moulage (makeup to simulate injuries) and will receive injury simulation cards with acting instructions. FDNY also hopes to have an “acting coach” to prepare MRC members for the disaster. These events are great fun, but also give you an up close experience of what to expect when a disaster occurs.

Parking and refreshments will be provided.

**You must be a member of MRC to participate.**

**To register for this event, go to:** <http://nycmrcfdnycitifielddfullscaleexercise.eventbrite.com>



## SUNY Downstate Hospital Emergency Exercise

**Location: SUNY Downstate Hospital, Lenox Rd, Brooklyn, NY (across from Kings County Hospital)**

**Date: Wednesday, July 10, 2013**

**Time: 7:00am – 12noon**

### **Needed:**

2-3 pharmacists

17 clinical (RN, NP, PA, physicians)

30 MRC to play patients

**For the first time, MRC members will be used in clinical positions in an exercise.** This full scale exercise will include patient tracking, setting up a POD, patient infection control, Doff and Don, decon, registration and triage.



The 2-3 pharmacists and the 17 clinical staff will be placed in critical clinical roles. The other 30 MRC members will be used as patients. Whether you are playing a clinical or patient role, each role is essential for the success of the exercise.

Roles will be assigned on a first come, first served basis.

**To register for this event, please send an email to:** [healthmrc@health.nyc.gov](mailto:healthmrc@health.nyc.gov)

Please indicate your profession, email address and phone number.

## Conference



### **Pediatric Disaster Mental Health Intervention (PDMHI) and Community Preparedness Networking Forum**

**WHEN: Wednesday, June 26 – 8:00AM-3:00PM**

|                       |                                            |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| <b>8:00AM-8:30AM</b>  | <b>Registration, Breakfast and Welcome</b> |
| <b>8:30AM-12:30PM</b> | <b>PDMHI Training</b>                      |
| <b>12:30PM-1:00PM</b> | <b>Lunch</b>                               |
| <b>1:00PM-3:00PM</b>  | <b>Community Networking Forum</b>          |

**WHERE: Dyker Heights Country Club  
86<sup>th</sup> Street and 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Brooklyn, New York 11228**

**REGISTER ONLINE BY JUNE 19:** <http://www.ny2aap.org/cgi-script/CSMailto/forms/sandy2.htm>

The Maimonides Infants and Children's Hospital of Brooklyn (MICH) in partnership with the American Academy of Pediatrics and the Center for Pediatric Emergency Medicine at MICH invite you to attend a training session in Pediatric Disaster Mental Health followed by a community networking forum to enable you to better respond to the needs of your patients affected by Hurricane Sandy and future disasters.

*This event is open to community pediatricians, Nurse Practitioners and Physician Assistants.  
For more information please see the attached flyer.*

# MRC TRAININGS

## All Hazards Training for Mental Health Professionals

**Date: Sunday, June 30<sup>th</sup>**, OEM, 165 Cadman Plaza East, Brooklyn, NY 11201

**Friday, July 12<sup>th</sup>**, DOHMH, 412-09 28 St, Long Island City, NY 11101

**Time: 9:00am – 5:00pm**

**Location:** OEM, 165 Cadman Plaza East, Brooklyn, NY

**To register, go to:** <http://nycmedicalreservecorpsallhazardstrainingformental.eventbrite.com/>

What is the REST Team? The MRC REST (Resiliency and Emotional Support Team) is comprised of a core group of qualified, trained mental health MRC professionals who, when activated, can be rapidly mobilized to provide on-site disaster mental health services. The REST team provides disaster mental health services such as information and referral, Psychological First Aid (PFA) and crisis counseling. These services might be provided on site within DOHMH and/or at City-designated response sites.

Who qualifies to be a MRC REST Responder? MRC orientation is a pre-requisite for this course. This training is for Mental Health professionals only. You must have:

- A NYS license or certificate (i.e.- SW, Psychologist or therapist)
- Master's degree and at least two years Experience or 1 year experience with those experiencing trauma or Disaster
- Bachelor's degree and 2 years providing mental health services

\*\*\*\*You only need to take this full day course once

This training is being offered through the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, office of Mental Health Disaster Preparedness and Response



## Using Social Media for Emergency Preparedness and Response

**Date: Tuesday, June 25<sup>th</sup>**

**Time: 6:00pm – 8:00pm** (5:30pm – registration and food)

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

**To register, go to:**

<http://mrcusingsocialmediaforemergencypreparedness.eventbrite.com/#>

The exponential growth of social media users combined with the smart phone use has fundamentally changed how the public and government gathers and communicates information, particularly during an emergency. Social media tools allow emergency managers to disseminate information to wider audiences, interact with the public, monitor social media networks to get better situational awareness and improve information sharing during an emergency. This training will introduce useful resources, show how social media is being used for preparedness and response, and show some of the powerful tools anybody can use to stay informed. **There will also be hands on exercises, so bring your smart phones and laptops!**

## MRC Orientation

**Tuesday, June 18**

**Thursday, June 27**

**Time: 6:00pm – 8:00pm** (5:30pm – registration and food)

**Location:** 125 Worth St, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor Board Room, Manhattan

**To register, go to:** <http://nycmedicalreservecorpsorientationmarch2013.eventbrite.com/#>

This training is an introduction to MRC. It is a great over view for both new members and longtime members, and is the prerequisite for our most popular trainings. Orientation covers how MRC fits into the bigger emergency response picture, what MRC members will do, what protections are offered, and what you can do to be prepared.

# MRC Symposium: Essential Tools for Responders June 2, 2013

