

New York City

medical
reserve
corps



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Corps

NYC
Health

September 2013

42-09 28 St., Queens NY 11101

347-723-1696

healthmrc@health.nyc.gov

September is Emergency Preparedness Month

Please consider attending some of the excellent trainings that NYC MRC offers you

Please update your MRC record – if you have changes, email them to healthmrc@health.nyc.gov

If you don't already have one, build a Go Bag
Make a family plan and discuss it with your family

Thanks for all you do to keep NYC safe!

NYC MRC Notification Drill



We will conduct our quarterly NYC MRC Emergency Notification Drill the week of September 16th. We will be using a different notification system called Dialogics. The call

will come from the 212 area code. You can only respond live to the phone notification. If you receive it on your voice mail you cannot respond. The message will come by phone and by email. Once you respond, no more messages will be sent. Please make every effort to participate in this drill.

Hepatitis A Response

Once again, the NYC MRC was instrumental in helping the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to respond to a public health emergency in NYC.

On Thursday, August 22nd, DOHMH notified its HAN subscribers as well as members of the public of a possible exposure to Hepatitis A in patrons of the Westside Market on the upper west side. DOHMH recommended that all people who ate chopped, ready-to-eat, fresh fruit from this Westside Market between August 9 – August 22 receive hepatitis A vaccine as soon as possible. They planned on opening a “POD” to offer vaccinations for five days, and turned to MRC to help staff them.

65 NYC MRC members served as:

45 vaccinators

12 flow monitors

8 screeners

Providing 576.5 hours of service

Once again MRC stepped up to help fill the need, helping to provide staff so that those who were exposed could be treated.

Our apologies to those of you who got many phone calls or middle of the night calls. Due to an operator error, the system was incorrectly programmed. We deeply apologize to those of you who were assaulted by late night calls. We have taken steps to make sure that it doesn't happen again, and we are testing a new notification system in late September that will use a human voice, not a mechanical voice, so the message will be clearer.



BE A LEADER – Apply to be part of the POD Core Team



The NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH) is seeking leaders to become Point-of-Dispensing Core Team members (PCT) to help manage Points-of-Dispensing during public health emergencies. As you may know, PODs are temporary emergency sites set-up and opened to dispense life-saving medical countermeasures as rapidly as possible to prevent people from becoming ill or dying of a disease. Medical countermeasures include antibiotics and vaccine.

Candidates should be willing to make their POD assignment a priority in the event of a disaster or emergency. POD Core Team members will be pre-assigned to a POD site based on their residential address.

Ideal candidates will possess skills and demonstrated ability to:

1. Work and make decisions independently
2. Lead and manage staff while working under pressure
3. Coordinate and delegate responsibilities
4. Effectively communicate instructions to staff and the public

To apply to become a member of the POD Core Team, please follow this link to complete the application:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/PODTeamLeader>

Deadline is September 11, 2013



MRC SEPTEMBER TRAININGS

Collaborating with FDNY on Exercises

Date: Tuesday, September 4th

Location: 125 Worth St, 3rd floor Boardroom, Manhattan

Time: 5:30 registration and light dinner

6:00 – 8:00 pm

To register, go to: <https://nycmrccollaboratingwithfdnyonexercisestraining.eventbrite.com>

Have you ever participated in a FDNY exercise? Would you like to in the future?

Here is your chance to learn about the purpose of the FDNY drills, where they fit into emergency management and your role. Amanda Schmidt, from the FDNY Center for Terrorism and Disaster Preparedness, and the coordinator for MRC and FDNY drills, will answer all of your questions, share anecdotes and share her excitement in working with MRC.

Disaster Triage

Date: Tuesday, September 10th

Location: The Churchill School, 301 East 29 St. at 2nd Avenue, Manhattan

Time: 5:30 registration and light dinner

6:00 – 8:00 pm training

To register, go to: <https://nycmrccollaboratingwithfdnyonexercisestraining.eventbrite.com> Dr. Dario Gonzalez, Associate Medical Director, Division 2 Medical Director/OMA, USAR Medical Team Manager/Task Force Leader NYTF-1 NYFD, will share the latest protocols used by FDNY and other first responders in NYC.

“Commodity Distribution Point” Training

Dates: Thursday, September 12

Wednesday, September 18 (you need only attend once)

Location: Office of Emergency Management, 165 Cadman Plaza East, Brooklyn, NY

Time: 5:30 registration and dinner

6:00 – 8:00 pm training

To register, go to: <https://nycmrccommoditydistributionpointtraining.eventbrite.com>

The Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) is working with the Office of Emergency Management (OEM) to recruit a group of volunteers to staff Commodity Distribution Points (CDP) in times of emergency. As seen with Super Storm Sandy, it is imperative to have a group of volunteers to deploy in times of need. Volunteers would help support the distribution of essential items like food, water, and blankets to the community. **Volunteer Roles:**

Psychological First Aid – assist local residents and CDP Staff by providing support to reduce potential distress and anxiety.

Distribution – work in the Commodity Distribution Area passing out food, water, and other commodities to local residents.

Flow Monitor – support the safe and efficient movement of the public through the site and disseminate accurate operational and distribution information to local residents.

Commodity Organization - assist with the organization of commodities in the Commodity Storage Area and Commodity Distribution Area.

Other tasks at CDP sites, as needed, at time of event.

Once volunteers complete a CDP training through OEM, they will be tagged in the database as available to assist in CDPs.

MRC Orientation

Date: Tuesday, September 17th

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

Time: 6:00pm - 8:00pm

5:30 – registration and light dinner

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

This training is an introduction to MRC. It is a great overview 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.

Psychological First Aid

Date: September 24th

Location: the Churchill School, 301 East 29 St, at 2nd Avenue, Manhattan

Time: 5:30 registration and light dinner

6:00 – 8:00pm training

To register, go to: <https://nycmrccommoditydistributionpointtraining.eventbrite.com>

No one who sees or volunteers in a disaster is untouched by it. Most psychological reactions to disasters are normal reactions to disasters are normal reactions to abnormal situations. Please join MRC Advisory Board member Ralph Nofi, Ph.D. as we learn about psychological reactions, positive coping skills and what you can do to help others as they react to disasters.



MRC In Action

Active Shooter training held at two sites – On August 6th in Staten Island and on August 8th in Manhattan, Tom Mauro, Director of Training and Exercises at the NYC Dept. of Health’s Office of Emergency Preparedness and Response gave a very important presentation on “Active Shooters: What Can You Do?”

Both presentations were very well attended, attesting to the perception that Active Shooter events have become more common. Here is what one attendee said:

“He (Tom) was very personable, and shared his experiences to reassure us. He really knew this topic. He encouraged audience participation, both ideas but also laughter, to help people relax and stay focused on the seriousness of the course. I could not imagine a better spokesperson to help us learn how to stay alive if we were ever to encounter this type of horror.”

Responding to Pediatric Disasters

On August 20th, MRC members had the privilege of hearing Dr. Michael Frogel, M.D, FAAP, PDMHI Medical Director, Maimonides Infants and Children’s Hospital, and one of the foremost experts on Pediatric Disasters, speak on this topic. Dr. Frogel gave a harrowing overview terrorist acts that have targeted children , and other disasters where children have been victims. He made the point that how we respond matters, and that children have different responses than adults because:



- They are unable to recognize danger
- Cannot physically escape from the site
- Cannot provide reliable information and that
- Stress reaction is age dependent and difficult to diagnose and treat.

Pediatric plan and response to disasters must be tailored to the special needs of children. Using Scenarios, Dr. Foltin was able to engage the audience in discussions of possible disasters and how we can prepare to help children whose homes and communities were affected.

Articles of Interest

“Why big Intense Wildfires Are the New Normal”

The Rim Fire is one of more than 30 wildfires currently ablaze across the West.

Read about this on the National Geographic website at:

<http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2013/08/130827-wildfires-yosemite-fire-firefighters-vegetation-hotshots-california-drought/>

“Food Poison Tweets Get City Follow-up”

Since April 2013, the Chicago Department of Public Health has been using an automated application that searches Twitter for posts that include the words “food poisoning” by people who identify themselves as Chicagoans. Volunteers then contact those people and suggest they file a report. These reports initiated by Twitter searches have led to multiple restaurant inspections, some of which uncovered violations. To read more, go to the Chicago Tribune website at: http://articles.chicagotribune.com/2013-08-13/health/ct-met-twitter-food-poisoning-20130809_1_food-poisoning-smart-chicago-collaborative-health-department :

CDC’s Ali Khan “By Every Measure Our Nation is Dramatically Better Prepared for Public Health Threats”

During a recent Congressional briefing, Ali Khan, MD, MPH, Director, Office of Public Health Preparedness and Response at the CDC stated, “By every measure our nation is dramatically better prepared for public health threats than they were.”

To read more, go to the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation website at:

http://www.rwjf.org/en/blogs/new-public-health/2013/08/cdc_s_ali_khan_by.html