



Central District Health Department

Medical Reserve Corps

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Medical Reserve Corps Orientation Held In January



A Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) Orientation provided at Central District Health Department (CDHD) on January 23rd was attended by MRC members wanting to understand their role as volunteers in supporting CDHD in a public health emergency.

The 2-hour session discussed public health's role in disasters, the mission of Central District Health, MRC program goals and activation procedures and pandemic flu.

Upcoming Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training was announced for April 20-21, 2007 and a Domestic Bioterrorism Course has been scheduled for May 29-31, 2007. (see flyer inside).

The next MRC quarterly meeting will be held April 17th from 7-8 p.m. at the Central District Health Department, 707 N Armstrong Place, Boise. Topics will include an overview of Central District Health's Emergency Response Plan, Epidemiology and its role in public health and an in-depth look at personal preparation. Contact Cathy Deckys at cdeckys@cdhd.idaho.gov or call 327-8512 to sign up.

The next MRC Orientation is scheduled for Thursday, May 17th from 12-1 p.m. at the Central District Health Department Boise office, in the Syringa room. Contact Cathy Deckys at cdeckys@cdhd.idaho.gov or call 327-8512 to sign up.

MRC Volunteers Needed For May 21st Exercise!

Central District Health Department (CDHD) needs 120 volunteers to participate in a multiple casualty incident and role play victims of a local airplane crash. This exercise will assist CDHD, community response agencies and hospitals who respond to large scale disaster events.



Contact Cathy Deckys at cdeckys@cdhd.idaho.gov or call 327-8512 to sign up.



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NATIONAL NEWS: Medical Reserve Corps Reaches 500 Unit Milestone

The Medical Reserve Corps (MRC), a national network of locally based medical, public health, and other volunteers who help to strengthen the public health system of their communities, has reached a milestone. With the recent registration and approval of the Summit County, Utah, Medical Reserve Corps in Park City, the MRC now has 500 units. There are units in all 50 States, Washington, D.C., Guam, Palau, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

“Local communities are benefiting from stronger public health systems and better emergency preparedness because of the work of the volunteers who serve the Medical Reserve Corps,” said Secretary of Health and Human Services Mike Leavitt. “The establishment of the 500th MRC unit is a landmark accomplishment and I am proud that the residents of Utah, my home state, are contributing to this achievement.”

The Medical Reserve Corps program, housed in the Office of the U.S. Surgeon General in the Department of Health and Human Services, began as a demonstration project with 42 community-based units in July 2002. Since then, in addition to 500 MRC units, the Corps has almost 100,000 volunteers to provide medical and public health support.

Last December, while developing the White House’s Pandemic Implementation Plan, the MRC program was charged by the Homeland Security Council to grow by 20 percent—to 420 community-based teams—by the end of 2006. That measure was surpassed in mid-April. The MRC has now increased its numbers by an additional 80 units (43 percent growth so far this year).

“Medical Reserve Corps volunteers prepare for and respond to emergencies, but they also can support local public health initiatives, which is exactly where we need skills and energy,” said Acting U.S. Surgeon General RADM Kenneth Moritsugu. Our communities need to be better prepared for a variety of situations. Now, with 500 MRC units, more towns, cities, and counties across the nation are better prepared to meet their challenges.”

The MRC is a partner program with Citizen Corps, which is dedicated to hometown security. Citizen Corps, along with the national service programs such as AmeriCorps, Senior Corps, Learn and Serve, and the Peace Corps, works with the USA Freedom Corps, an office of the White House charged with building a culture of service, citizenship, and responsibility in America.

Reference: www.medicalreservecorps.gov/

March 21, 2007

Public Information Exercise

10 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Central District Health Department

April 17, 2007

Medical Reserve Corps Quarterly Meeting

7-8 p.m. at Central District Health Department, Syringa room.

April 20-21

CERT Training

8 a.m.-5:00 p.m. at Central District Health Department, Syringa room.

May 17

Medical Reserve Corps Orientation

12-1 p.m. at Central District Health Department, Syringa room.

May 29-31

Domestic Bioterrorism Course

**Save
The
Dates**

Contact Cathy Deckys at
cdeckys@cdhd.idaho.gov
or 327-8512 for sign up.

Are You Ready for a Flood or a Flash Flood?

Here's what you can do to prepare for such emergencies

Know What to Expect

- Know your area's flood risk—if unsure, call your local Red Cross chapter (800-853-2570), emergency management office, or planning and zoning department.
- If it has been raining hard for several hours, or steadily raining for several days, be alert to the possibility of a flood.
- Listen to local radio or TV stations for flood information.

Reduce Potential Flood Damage By . . .

- Raising your furnace, water heater, and electric panel if they are in areas of your home that may be flooded.
- Consult with a professional for further information if this and other damage reduction measures can be taken.



Floods Can Take Several Hours to Days to Develop

- A flood WATCH means a flood is possible in your area.
- A flood WARNING means flooding is already occurring or will occur soon in your area.

Flash Floods Can Take Only a Few Minutes to a Few Hours to Develop

- A flash flood WATCH means flash flooding is possible in your area.
- A flash flood WARNING means a flash flood is occurring or will occur very soon.

Prepare a Family Disaster Plan

- Check to see if you have insurance that covers flooding. If not, find out how to get flood insurance.
- Keep insurance policies, documents, and other valuables in a safe-deposit box.

Assemble a Disaster Supplies Kit Containing . . .

- First aid kit and essential medications.
- Canned food and can opener.
- At least three gallons of water per person.
- Protective clothing, rainwear, and bedding or sleeping bags.
- Battery-powered radio, flashlight, and extra batteries.
- Special items for infants, elderly, or disabled family members.

When a Flood WATCH Is Issued . . .

- Move your furniture and valuables to higher floors of your home.
- Fill your car's gas tank, in case an evacuation notice is issued.

When a Flood WARNING Is Issued . . .

- Listen to local radio and TV stations for information and advice. If told to evacuate, do so as soon as possible.

When a Flash Flood WATCH Is Issued . . .

- Be alert to signs of flash flooding and be ready to evacuate on a moment's notice.

When a Flash Flood WARNING Is Issued . . .

- Or if you think it has already started, evacuate immediately. You may have only seconds to escape. Act quickly!
- Move to higher ground away from rivers, streams, creeks, and storm drains. Do not drive around barricades . . . they are there for your safety.
- If your car stalls in rapidly rising waters, abandon it immediately and climb to higher ground.

Written instructions for how to turn off electricity, gas and water if authorities advise you to do so. (Remember, you'll need a professional to turn them back on.)

Identify where you could go if told to evacuate. Choose several places . . . a friend's home in another town, a motel, or a shelter.



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April is National Volunteer Appreciation Month!



Thank you for your interest in the Medical Reserve Corps program!



Thanks for your participation in our yearly exercises!

Central District Health Department appreciates your attendance at the Medical Reserve Corps Orientations and Quarterly meetings!



Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Training



- **April 20-21, 2007**
- **8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.**
- **Central District Health Department**
- **Syringa Room**

What CERT training will teach you to :

- 1) Describe the hazards most likely to affect our community
- 2) Describe the function and role of CERT in immediate response
- 3) Take personal preparedness steps
- 4) Identify and reduce hazards at home and the workplace
- 5) Work as a team to apply basic emergency response skills
- 6) Apply basic life saving medical care
- 7) Conduct triage under simulated disaster conditions
- 8) Perform head-to-toe medical assessments
- 9) Select and set up a treatment area
- 10) Use medical treatments for various wounds
- 11) Identify potential search and rescue situations
- 12) Describe common and safe techniques for searching a structure, debris removal and victim extrication
- 13) Describe ways to protect rescuers during search and rescue procedures

To register:

Contact Joca Veloz at Central District Health Department: 327-8597
or jveloz@cdhd.idaho.gov



Training Opportunity

Emergency Response to Domestic Biological Incidents Operations Level

Central District Health Department will be providing a 3-day course on **Emergency Response to Domestic Biological Incidents – Operations Level**. The class is taught through Louisiana State University, National Center for Biomedical Research and Training, and is available to medical and health care providers at no charge. The class will be in Boise, Idaho on May 29, 30, & 31, 2007.

Course Description: This course will assist emergency responders and local government officials in developing a plan of action in dealing with potential bioterrorist attacks in their community. The course provides information about the nature of biological attacks, their potential for destruction, and how to deal with such attacks.

Course Objectives: The objective of the course is to provide a balanced view of the risks and threats associated with a biological incident and to highlight some of the techniques currently being used to counter the problem.

- Understand the common misconceptions and realities about bioterrorism and how to communicate with the public on these issues.
- Understand the differences among bacteria, viruses, and toxins.
- Understand the difference between infection and contagion.
- Know the most likely bioterrorism agents and how to respond to them.
- Understand which diseases are likely to be fatal and which are likely to be debilitating, and how to reduce the negative effects.

Prerequisites:

Any Basic Awareness Course. A free Basic awareness course is available at:

http://www.hsi.coursehost.com/engine/Academic/Tools/CoursePublicize.asp?pk=12465&LID=1&ky=d_BPDiQVRgHzDiPRUmf_DgHzKSfOMRTz

Target Audience:

Law Enforcement, Emergency Medical Services, Emergency Management, Government Administration, Fire Service, Hazardous Materials, Health Care, Public Health

To register:

Please contact Joca Veloz, MPH, Central District Health Department at jveloz@cdhd.idaho.gov or call 327-8597.

