

*Medical Reserve Corps Meeting Recap
September 19th, 2011*

Those present:

Ethel Reeves, Nicole Ramsey, Bob Reeves, Mary Clites, Andrea Deitemeyer, Barbara Wright, Kym Peterman, Denise Dion, Cecile Connelly, Kathy Helms, Gwen Johnston, Susan Froehlich, Frances Nicholas, Kristy Beachamp, Lynette Black, Curtis Peetz

Overview:

Lynette Black gave a very informative presentation on Citizen Corps and Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT). There was a lot of interest from attendees in CERT training; anyone interested should contact Lynette at lynette.black@oregonstate.edu. A number of people also expressed interest in triage and first aid training on the volunteer surveys—this would be a great way to do so! For further info, visit www.citizen corps.gov/cert/)

- Citizen Corps is an umbrella program created to help Americans volunteer in their community. MRC and CERT are two programs under this umbrella.
- CERT training prepares citizens to work with emergency responders in the event of a disaster. CERT helps to make families, neighborhoods and communities more resilient and better prepared for emergencies
- Training topics include disaster preparedness, hazard management, search and rescue, triage, emotional first aid, disaster psychology, incident command system (ICS), and much more!
- The training takes about 20 hours in total.

Curtis Peetz also gave a great presentation on the American Red Cross and how volunteers without medical licenses can get involved.

- The Oregon Trail chapter of ARC covers 16 counties in northern Oregon, including the mid-Columbia region.
- Kym Peterman is the new Regional Readiness Specialist; for more information on ARC or volunteering, contact her at petermank@oregonredcross.org or visit www.oregonredcross.org
- In Oregon, people are displaced from their homes on average once every 36 hours, most commonly due to house fires.
- ARC Disaster Action Teams (DAT) provide immediate assistance, whether the disaster is an isolated house fire or something more widespread. They provide crucial services such as finding families places to stay, negotiating the logistics of mass care shelters, providing food, and much more.
- Right now, there are only about 3 DAT members serving the Gorge!

Wasco County's new MRC mission & objectives were discussed, as well as some further steps to get this unit off the ground. There were great comments and suggestions from everyone. It is really exciting to see so much enthusiasm about MRC, everyone is ready to get going!!

- Frances Nicholas is the new Americorps VISTA who will be coordinating the MRC unit for the next year. The unit is currently housed out of North Central Public Health District in the Dalles, but the plan over the next two years is for MRC leadership to be taken over by enthusiastic volunteers- this will help build capacity in the community and make MRC an integral part of the Gorge's emergency response!
- Medical Reserve Corps is a national program made up of community-based units of volunteers. It was designed as a way to register and train health volunteers, so there is a prepared support system for emergency responders.
- Primary activities include things like staffing alternate care sites/shelters or mass prophylaxis clinics in a disaster, but MRC volunteers can also participate in community preparedness activities like flu shot clinics, health education fairs, etc...
- One of the great things about MRC is that the activities are really flexible and determined by community needs and the interests of volunteers.
- It was decided that the mission of the Wasco County MRC is *"to improve community resiliency by identifying and training professional and nonprofessional health volunteers to integrate seamlessly with emergency personnel in the event of a disaster and to fill gaps in community health services in non-disaster situations."*
- The objectives of Wasco MRC are:
 1. Ongoing volunteer recruitment and increasing community awareness of MRC
 2. In the next three months, register all interested volunteers with SERV-OR (only for medical professionals) and the Wasco MRC
 3. In the next six months, have registered members complete an MRC orientation and ICS/NIMS training
 4. In the next year, have interested volunteers participate in at least one training/drill and at least one volunteer activity
- MRC will be a part of Healthcare Preparedness Program (HPP) Region 6 emergency response plan. This includes partnerships with ARC, county Emergency Management, local hospitals, clinics, the public health department, and others.

SERV-OR is the State Emergency Registry of Volunteers in Oregon: www.serv-or.org

- Takes about 30 min to join, have license/credentials ready
- Status of professional license/certification is verified using a secure database
- All are encouraged to join their local MRC and the State Managed Volunteer Pool (SMVP)
- Unfortunately, Wasco MRC is not on here yet (stay tuned for that!)
- Only for medical professionals currently
- Volunteers without a medical license are still encouraged to join Wasco MRC, they play a critical role in patient intake, clinic logistics, interviewing, coordinating supplies, etc... They are also encouraged to volunteer with the Red Cross and CERT.

ICS 100/700 Training: <http://training.fema.gov/IS/NIMS.asp>

- *IS-100.b – (ICS 100) Introduction to Incident Command System and IS-700.a National Incident Management System (NIMS), an Introduction* are the 2 required MRC courses.
- They do provide CEU/CMEs
- Potential of hosting a class if there is interest, since these online trainings take several hours.
- FEMA Incident Command System (ICS) trainings: standardized, all-hazards approach to incident management.
- Basically a standardized communication and command structure so that emergency responders, hospitals, volunteers, etc... can all communicate and work together during a disaster response.

There was great discussion of the MRC future, and important things to keep in mind.

- Although based out of Wasco County, this MRC can serve the entire mid-Columbia region, and so interested volunteers living in other counties are encouraged to join!
- Local trainings with CME would be a good way to attract volunteers.
- Monthly meetings were decided to be important in the beginning, while the MRC is still being formulated.
- A newsletter is a great way to disseminate information to MRC members, but in person meetings are still important so everyone gets to know each other
- It is a great idea to contact other Oregon MRC units to get some insight into their organization and best practices.
- To increase community awareness, notices about upcoming meetings should be put in several different newspapers around the Gorge, as well as on gorgeradio.com
- The flyer should be emailed to more than 1 person at the hospital so that it will be circulated more widely.
- It was decided that Monday meetings from 6-7 at the Northern Wasco PUD generally work well for everyone, and will continue.

Training interests:

- Based on the volunteer survey, those present had interest in training in:
 - CERT, Disaster Mental Health, Advanced Trauma Life Support, Pediatric Advanced Life Support, Basic and Advanced Cardiac Life Support, Basic Disaster Life Support, ICS, Hospital Preparedness, CPR, First Aid, and Triage. More info to follow!

Thank you to everyone who attended, it was a really successful meeting! If you have not filled out a volunteer survey, please fill out the attached and return to me (francesn@co.wasco.or.us)

As always, if you have any suggestions, question, ideas, or anything you want to share do not hesitate to call (541-506-2602) or send me an email.

Next meeting will be held Monday, October 24th from 6-7 at Northern Wasco PUD (2345 River Road, the Dalles). More info to follow!