



Washoe County MRC

CBRNE CLASSES

Workshop # 1 Biological Agents January 19

11 AM—1:15 PM, County Commission Chambers

Types of biological agents as WMDs:

- Use of biological agents in warfare and as agents of terror in the U.S.
- Types of biological agents and routes of exposure
- How to identify and care for individuals who have been exposed to these agents
- Triage of exposed victims and mass casualty considerations
- Appropriate PPE, decon and safety precautions
- Public Health's role in biological incidents
- Mass fatality considerations for biological agents

Workshop #2 Explosives and Incendiary Devices January 20

11 AM—1:15 PM, County Commission Chambers

Safely responding to acts of terrorism involving explosive devices:

- Use of explosives devices in terrorist acts
- Types of common devices and principles of forensic identification
- Safety considerations and crisis management for first responders
- Threat assessment for vulnerable facilities and personnel
- Triage and treatment of individuals injured by explosive devices
- Mass casualty and mass fatality issues.

Seating is limited and it's filling up! Sign up by calling Betsy Hambleton at 328-6111 or email bhambleton@washoecounty.us



Volunteering with the MRC makes a difference!

The MRC program was developed in 2002 as a means of identifying, screening, training and organizing volunteers, enabling them to support our local public health preparedness and response efforts.

The role of the MRC is to augment the public health and emergency response infrastructure. Sponsored by the Office of the U.S. Surgeon General, the MRC program not only supports local public health efforts, it also serves an essential role in connecting locally underserved

populations with medical services in order to improve public health.

MRC volunteers throughout the country have been actively involved in supporting previous Surgeon Generals' priorities, such as increasing health literacy, improving public health preparedness, eliminating health disparities and promoting disease prevention.

Currently, MRC units nationwide are active in promoting Surgeon General Dr. Regina Benjamin's *Vision for a Healthy and Fit Nation* and First Lady Michelle Obama's *Let's Move!* campaign to combat childhood obesity.

Approximately 50,000 MRC volunteers supported the 2009/2010 H1N1 Influenza response. Likewise, our local MRC was actively involved in promoting public health in our own community.

Over the course of six weeks during last year's H1N1 pandemic, the Washoe County MRC members volunteered 148 medical hours and 312 non-medical

hours. The in-kind value of our services totaled \$8,809!

In addition to providing vaccinations during last year's H1N1 pandemic and the October 2010 Point of Distribution (POD), on January 25, 2011 a number of our MRC nurses are volunteering to provide free vaccinations to our local homeless population at "*Project Homeless Connect*" day. This event is sponsored by the City of Reno in cooperation with a number of local outreach organizations.

This coming year we will be stepping up recruitment and retention efforts and we will be launching a multi-media recruitment ad campaign this month. I welcome your comments and suggestions on improving volunteer recruitment, retention and recognition programs, please feel free to send me your comments.

As we welcome in the new year I want to take this opportunity to thank each of you for your support and look forward to working with you in 2011!

Media blitz to help boost volunteer base

In 2008 and 2009 the MRC received two Capacity Building Awards from the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO). This funding was provided to MRC units nationwide to support our collective recruitment, retention, training and recognition objectives.

During the past few years this funding has been used to purchase vaccinations for members, shirts, hats, Go-bags, and other equipment. As we begin the new year we are allocating a portion of this funding to bolster MRC recruitment efforts throughout the southern portion of Washoe County.

Washoe County Medical Reserve Corps



Visit us on-line at

www.servNV.org

775-328-6111



Volunteers building strong, healthy and prepared communities!

In the coming weeks and months you may notice TV ads on the KRVN morning and evening news (NBC), public service announcements, print advertising and a very large bus ad (pictured above) promoting MRC membership.

As part of this recruitment effort, I hope you will spread the word about

the MRC to your friends, family members, neighbors and co-workers who might enjoy volunteering with the Medical Reserve Corps. Please feel free to provide prospective members with my phone or email contact information.

As always, thank you for your continued interest in the MRC.

An ounce of prevention...



As part of the MRC's preparedness plan we want to be sure that our volunteers are protected against disease before being deployed in the field. One of the best ways to achieve this level of protection is to make sure that, as an active volunteer, you are current on your vaccinations.

If you've received a tetanus vaccination during the past 10 years, you're up-to-date. However, if it's been 10 years or longer, then you're probably due for a tetanus vaccination.

As an active MRC member you're eligible for a free tetanus vaccination. Please contact me to receive an MRC vaccination voucher. Once you've received your voucher, call the County's Health Clinic "appointment hotline" at 328-2402 to schedule a vaccination appointment.

The hotline is only activated to receive calls on Tuesdays, Thursdays or Fridays from 8 AM - noon and 1 PM - 4:30 PM.

Please feel free to contact Betsy Hambleton at 328-6111 if you have any questions.

What's on your "Wish List"?



Continuing education

Please let me know if there are there any classes that you would like to see the MRC offer its members during the coming year. These classes might include topics dealing with mass casualty response, community preparedness, disaster table-top exercises, web-based disaster drills, or similar topics.

Volunteer Recognition

Last April in recognition of Volunteer Appreciation Week, the MRC provided a seminar on community preparedness for disabled and 'at-risk' populations.

This year we would like to provide our MRC members with an even more meaningful recognition event. I'm open to suggestions — you've probably received more "volunteer appreciation" mugs, key fobs, pins, and tote bags than you can count; I don't want to clutter your life with more 'stuff,' ... unless you'd like more 'stuff.'

So please let me know if there's anything in particular that you think would really make this year's Volunteer Appreciation Week a special event! Please feel free to email your suggestions to me at bhambleton@washoecounty.us. Thanks!