Washoe County MRC

Issue 6

May 11, 2010

Seminar offered sound advice

Capt. Rob Tosatto, MRC Program Director (L) and Dr. Randall Todd, Public Health Preparedness Director (R)

Captain Rob Tosatto, MRC Program Director for the U.S. Public Health Service, gave the opening remarks at our annual meeting/training seminar on Wednesday, April 21.

Following an introduction by **Dr. Mary Anderson,** District Health Officer, Capt. Tosatto presented a moving PowerPoint on the origins of the MRC and how it's grown to 200,000+ members.

The meeting included remarks by **Dr. Randall Todd,** Public Health Preparedness (PHP) Director and **Jeff Whitesides**, PHP Program Manager.

In total, about 20 volunteers attended this training, along with members of the public and potential MRC members.

Training Session:

Ana-Marie Jones, Executive Director of CARD, Collaborating Agencies Responding to Disasters, was the featured keynote speaker.

Bringing a wealth of disaster preparedness information, Ms. Jones addressed meaningful topics , including the top 15 items for your "**GO Kit**," and practical information on why and how simple supplies are so valuable.

So, what are the top 15 items you should pack in your disaster preparedness "Go Kit"?

1. A whistle
2. Eye glasses, Rx meds
3. Food
4. Water
5. Duct tape
6. Flashlight
7. Large garbage bags
8. Portable radio and extra batteries
9. First Aid kit
10. Spare clothes/shoes
11. Identification papers
12. Pocket knife/scissors
13. Cash/coins
14. Toilet paper
15. Pen/paper

To locate helpful forms, such as "The Easy Dozen: Simple Tasks," or "One-Page Preparedness" click on: **www.sfcard.org/check lists.htm**

The CARD website offers a treasure trove of preparedness resources, including emergency plans, checklists, information forms and web links for home, office and religious congregations.

Ana-Marie Jones, Executive Director, CARD

Wrapping up her presentation, Ms. Jones mentioned a variety of publications addressing social, cultural, and other barriers that historically impede disaster preparedness. This provided valuable tips to our volunteers in attendance.

For more tips on preparedness or to view a list of publications on this topic please log on to: **http:cardcanhelp.org**

WMD Educational opportunities

Assembly Bill 250, adopted by the 2003 Nevada Legislature, requires at least four hours of continuing education credit on **weapons of mass destruction** (WMD) for all physicians, nurses, EMTs, dentists an dental hygienists.

If you have not already received this training please log on to the Nevada State Nursing Board for a list of approved instructors.

Instructors can be found online at:

http://www.nursingboard.state.nv.us/contedu/bioterrorism%20CEs.htm

County Commission Recognizes National Volunteer Week

Dozens of County volunteers were recognized by the County Commission on April 27, 2010

The Board of County Commissioners celebrated National Volunteers' week at their April 27th meeting, recognizing the efforts of all our volunteers.
The efforts of County volunteers support Parks & Open Space, District Attorney, Child Protective Services, Sheriff's Office, Medical Reserve Corps, Citizen's Emergency Response Team, and other County departments.

In a recent study, the Points of Light Institute announced that the 2009 estimate for the value of a volunteer hour reached $20.85, an increase from $20.25 an hour in 2008.

At the April 21 MRC training session and meeting the MCR volunteers received a logo'd fanny pack and clip-on bottle of hand sanitizer In recognition of National Volunteer Week.

The fanny pack isn't too big, has plenty of pockets and zippers and will be useful during PODs and MRC deployments.
Please feel free to drop by my office to pick up your complimentary fanny pack and hand sanitizer. If you'll contact me in advance I'll have it waiting for you at the front counter. My personal thanks goes out to all our MRC volunteers!

Training Schedule:

CPR, Disaster Exercises and Volunteer Orientations

CPR & First Aid classes:

Sign up for a CPR class today!

Upcoming classes:

The CPR class for May 25 is full. If you're not already registered for this class, please consider taking the June 22 class.

June 22

8:30 AM to 11:00 AM, has one more seat open. Please call 328-6111 if you wish to enroll.

CERT Training Opps:

Organizers for a Major Hospital Evacuation and Hazmat Exercise, which is scheduled May 18 and 19, are looking for volunteers ages 16 years and older.
The exercise scenario is a hazmat spill at Renown Medical Center. The "hazmat spill" will be contained to just one of Renown's locations.
This training event requires some 'victims' and some 'patients and visitors' to be decontaminated at Renown. Roles will be assigned at Assembly area. (Specifics will be given to those Volunteers who RSVP)
If you are interested in volunteering for this please reply to Lynda Sienko at lsienko@washoecounty.us

Volunteer Orientation:

MRC volunteer orientation will not be offered during the month of May.
We will resume scheduling the MRC orientation sessions in late summer.
Please feel free to contact Betsy Hambleton with questions at bhambleton@washoecounty.us or call 328-6111.