



News and Notes From the MRC

Summer 2007

Our First Newsletter!

We are joining the technological age here at the Franklin County & Columbus Medical Reserve Corps (FC&C MRC) and will be sending out a quarterly newsletter by email to keep you in the loop. If you would rather receive a paper copy, just respond to this email and let us know.

These quarterly newsletters will cover a variety of topics, including training opportunities, updates about disaster preparedness, volunteer opportunities, and highlights of MRC activities in Franklin County and across the country. This issue has THREE PAGES of great information about local opportunities. Please sign up for one of our trainings or volunteer activities and become an active member of the FC&C MRC community. If you have news you would like to share, please send an email with NEWSLETTER as the subject line to mrc@franklincountyohio.gov.

Franklin County & Columbus Medical Reserve Corps: who we are, what we do

The Franklin County and Columbus Medical Reserve Corps (FC&C MRC) is dedicated to establishing teams of local volunteer medical, public health and other professionals to contribute their skills and expertise during times of disaster, as well as throughout the year for community health promotion.

Our FC&C MRC is part of a nationwide initiative, and could include treatment of victims of a large-scale disaster or epidemic, distribution of drugs during a disease outbreak or chemical/biological attack, or another health emergency situation.

All volunteers are asked to complete our FC&C MRC Orientation course. This course will be available online and in-person this fall. All volunteers are also asked to

See *Who We Are* on page 2



Training Spotlight

NIMS, the National Incident Management System, governs how organizations respond to disasters. We have learned from previous response efforts what works best in disaster response, and the importance of clear lines of communication and responsibility.

If you are interested in serving in a Leadership Position with the FC&C MRC, please contact Robin Franz, the FC&C MRC Coordinator about several online training opportunities on the National Incident Management System offered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Ohio MRC is encouraging all MRC volunteers interested in serving as Leadership Level volunteers to take these online courses. For more information please contact Robin Franz at rlfranz@franklincountyohio.gov

Volunteer for a Full Scale Exercise on September 6th



First Responders, Emergency Management, Local Governments, Health Departments, Hospitals, and other Community Partners are teaming up this September 6, 2007, to conduct a full scale exercise that will test the community's response to multiple incidents within Franklin County. In order for the day to be a success, volunteers will act as mock victims to support the overall event. FC&C MRC volunteers are needed for this event! As

See *September 6th Exercise* on page 2



(Continued from page 1, September 6th Exercise)

essential players in the Franklin County health response to emergencies, we will be helping in the facilitation of the event.

We are looking for nurses and doctors to serve as health support, first aid, and consultation for event volunteers, and for mental health professionals to serve support roles as well. Mental health services for volunteers participating as victims are an important part of a healthy, successful exercise. Non-medical volunteers are also needed for various support roles and to help us test our response plans for infectious diseases and bioterrorism. As part of the facilitation team for the event, you will be participating in our Incident Command System and will receive a short training on the day of the event.

Event Details

September 6, 2007

Multiple shifts from 8am-7pm

Locations throughout Franklin County

To Show Your Support for this Event:

Send an email by July 31 to Robin Franz,

rlfranz@franklincountyohio.gov,

with the following information:

Name

Email Address

Best times to volunteer

(morning, mid-day,

afternoon, evening)

Volunteer interest *(health*

support, mental health,

non-medical)

What to Expect Next

As plans are confirmed, you will receive a confirmation notice via email or by phone of your volunteer assignment along with appropriate reporting instructions. Please note all event details and volunteer needs are subject to change.

providing an organized, rapid response of volunteers to help with the public health response to a disaster.

Please encourage your friends, colleagues and family to join us in this important effort. Ask them to sign up at www.serveohio.org/CitizenCorps/mrc/mrc.html. FC&C MRC volunteers make a difference in the health of our communities affected by disasters. Thank you!



(Continued from page 1, Who We Are)

chose from two levels of volunteerism. The Responder Level of volunteers will complete the orientation course and will become active only in the case of disaster. The Leadership Level will complete several trainings, prepare for specific leadership roles in the case of disaster, and assist with MRC activities throughout the year. Volunteers that show an interest and dedication to the organization may also be asked to serve on the Advisory Council. Details about the council will be shared in a future newsletter.

Signing up for the FC&C MRC before the disaster is an important part of community preparedness. In previous national disasters, such as September 11th, 2001, and Hurricane Katrina, the local public health infrastructure was overwhelmed and needed help. Volunteers arriving at the disaster site without training, known credentials or an organizational affiliation often hurt instead of helped recovery efforts despite their best intentions. Through hard lessons learned, we now know areas experiencing a disaster need pre-credentialed, screened and trained volunteers. The FC&C MRC meets these needs for Franklin County by



MORE Training Opportunities!

SMART Triage Classes Scheduled for August

The Central Ohio Trauma System and Norwich Township Fire are teaming up to offer two SMART Triage classes in August. These classes are open to all FC&C MRC volunteers and are free of charge. SMART Triage is a system used by EMS and Hospitals to initially triage patients during a mass casualty and/or disaster event. Nursing CEUs will be available.

The classes will be held at Norwich Township Fire, 4164 Avery Rd, in Hilliard. Continuing education credits are currently being explored for nurses.

Dates/times: August 14 from 1:30-4pm
August 22 from 9-11:30am

To register: Contact Barb Lyon at blyon@goodhealthcolumbus.org and provide your name, contact information and a preferred session. Registration will end August 10th.

Become a *Masters of Disaster* Teacher

The American Red Cross of Greater Columbus and Columbus Public Health have partnered together to bring the newly revamped disaster education curriculum, *Masters of Disaster* (MoD), to our community. The MoD curriculum will be delivered in the seven Columbus area Settlement Houses to youth involved in the after-school and summer camp programs. Additional audiences are being explored, so additional teachers will be needed.

An Implementer's Workshop is being held on Monday, August 20th in the evening. Exact time and location has yet to be determined. This workshop will include an overview of the components of the curriculum, its history and purpose, and techniques for teaching kids the importance of preparedness.

If you have an interest in being involved in this new and exciting program, please contact our FC&C MRC Coordinator, Robin Franz, by email at rfranz@franklincountyohio.gov. Please include 'Masters of Disaster' in the subject line of the email.

Are You Prepared for Pandemic Flu?



Pandemic Flu is a global outbreak of disease that occurs when a new influenza A virus appears or "emerges" in the human population, causes serious illness and then spreads easily from person to person worldwide. Past influenza pandemics have led to high levels of illness, death, social disruptions and economic loss. [Click here](#) to check out the new Central Ohio web site about Avian/Bird Flu and Pandemic Flu.