

## New Bureau of EMS, Trauma and Preparedness



The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) recently announced the creation of the Bureau of EMS, Trauma and Preparedness (BETP). The formation of this Bureau merged the office of EMS & Trauma and the Office of Public Health Preparedness (OPHP). Two new divisions have been established within the Bureau: The Division of EMS & Trauma (DET) and the Division of Emergency Preparedness and Response (DEPR). BETP will be led by Dr. Jacqueline Scott, D.V.M., Ph.D. the former

## 2015 SPRING MI-MORT EXERCISE



The Michigan Mortuary Response Team (MI-MORT) and the Disaster Portable Morgue Unit (DPMU) were established to provide the State of Michigan with a mass fatality resource that can be readily deployed to any location within the state in response to an incident in which the number of fatalities has exceeded local or regional resources. MI-MORT has been in existence since 2007 and is a volunteer based collaborative effort between the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS), Michigan Funeral Directors Association, Michigan Dental Association Forensic Dental Team, and the Disaster Assistance Recovery Team (DART).

MI-MORT is a specialized volunteer team consisting of various professions including:

forensic pathologists; forensic dentists; forensic anthropologists; funeral directors; radiologic technologists; and many others. This team works to support the local Medical Examiner and ultimately the Local, Regional and State response by providing technical assistance and personnel to recover, identify and process deceased victims in a dignified manner from a disaster resulting in mass fatalities.

[Read more...](#)





## HEALTHCARE COALITION NEWS

### REGION 2 NORTH HEALTHCARE COALITION

#### Region 2 North Promotes the Michigan Volunteer Registry

Region 2 North (R2N) is trying different venues to inform the public about Michigan's very valuable volunteer tool, the MI Volunteer Registry. A small tabletop display and handouts---including brochures, pens, key chains, and ID holders provided by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services---are used by the R2N staff at various sites. In the past year, information has been distributed at Botsford's EMS Expo, R2N Healthcare Coalition's Annual Conference, Beaumont Royal Oak Hospital's Emergency Preparedness Week, Macomb County's Super Prepared Day, and Rochester Community Schools' Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math Day.

The region also included a half page advertisement in the Great Lakes Field Service Council annual Eagle Scout recognition dinner, attended by 500 people including the Lieutenant Governor (Boy Scout motto is "Be Prepared"). Although it cannot be determined if increased communications via the Registry is the cause, the number of volunteers in the R2N area has increased from October 2014, to the end of May 2015, by 2.7% to 1,421 volunteers.

R2N will continue to promote the Registry and is now working on improving preparedness planning for use of volunteers in a healthcare environment. This can only be done in conjunction with all of our partners including healthcare facilities, jurisdictional authorities, and other volunteer organizations. The MI Volunteer Registry provides the system; now exists the need to focus on improving planning for engaging the tool to assist healthcare in times of a disaster when volunteers are needed.

*Rick Drummer,  
Region 2 North Coordinator*

### REGION 7 HEALTHCARE COALITION

#### Volunteer Reception Center Training in Region 7

In April of this year, the Region 7 Healthcare Coalition, in conjunction with Region 6 Medical Reserve Corps, hosted Volunteer Reception Center training at the regional office in Gaylord. With more than 25 people representing eight different Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT)---including the Michigan Volunteer Defense Force---volunteers learned how to set up a Volunteer Reception Center and effectively run it for a mass influx of volunteer assistance during disaster or even special events. This training emphasized the importance of learning how to manage volunteers, how to ensure first responders and



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others receive appropriate support during an emergency, and how to place skilled volunteers in the locations they can do the most good for the most people.

With continued dedication, the Otsego CERT team, and students from Gaylord High School, will be volunteering their time and energy to assemble 1,000 emergency kits that will be distributed to skilled nursing facilities and other long term care facilities across the region. We look forward to working with a wide variety of people from different backgrounds in the future and hopefully everyone involved knows that the simple “thank you” means so much more. Like volunteer Robert Orben says, “Here’s to all volunteers, those dedicated people who believe in all work and no pay.”

*Patricia Crenshaw,*

## REGION 1 HEALTHCARE COALITION

### Volunteer Management – Ever a Challenge

During 2014, the Region 1 Spontaneous Volunteer Management Plan Template was developed by the Region 1 Volunteers and the Michigan Volunteer Registry Advisory workgroup. This template provides guidance for safe, efficient, and scalable volunteer management. In conjunction with this volunteer management plan, Region 1 supported a Volunteer Reception Center (VRC) Train the Trainer course on May 21, 2015, at the Livingston County EMS establishment. This event was attended by some 40 participants from various disciplines. This course afforded staff the ability to operate a VRC. District 1 Regional Medical Response Coalition, in partnership with the Region 1 Homeland Security Planning Board, will be conducting a functional Volunteer Reception Center exercise on Tuesday, June 30, 2015, in

East Lansing, MI. This exercise will test the Region 1 Spontaneous Volunteer Management Plan Template. The plan describes the process for operation of a Volunteer Reception Center.

*Matthew Price*

*Region 1 Coordinator*



## REGION 8 HEALTHCARE COALITION

### Burt Township Medical Reserve Corps: A Shining Star in Rural Alger County

A presentation by Nancy Weston of the Burt Township Medical Reserve Corp (MRC) was conducted at the May 13th Region 8 Healthcare Coalition (HCC) board meeting. Nancy presented a brief history of the MRC; as well as the many activities it has been involved in over the past year. This very active, rural volunteer team participated in the statewide Michigan Transportable Emergency Surge Assistance (MI-TESA) exercise held last year in Big Rapids, MI, and engaged in additional training to serve as the Region 8 Mobile Medical Field Team (MMFT) for that exercise. With logistical support from the Region 8 HCC, these volunteers assumed multiple roles in the mobile field hospital during the multi-day MI-TESA event. Working with staff from agencies all across Michigan provided a great

opportunity for them. These volunteers are also cross-trained in Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) skills. Nancy shared lessons learned from this unique training opportunity.



*Bob Weston, Burt Township MRC, heads to his assignment as part of the MI-TESA exercise.*

The Burt Township MRC regularly trains with their local public safety personnel (police, fire, and EMS) and received additional training from the American Red Cross in setting up emergency shelters. Burt Township MRC is one of only two MRCs in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. The group teamed with the Upper Peninsula's other MRC group---the Schoolcraft County MRC---this past year to conduct a Wilderness Response Exercise in Grand Marais. Nancy shared a video presentation that highlighted the weekend of training and exercising by the participants, including staff from the National Park Service. This dedicated group of volunteers comprise a valuable resource for the local community and the entire region; having mobilized many times over the years. They are looking to continue this year with more exercising to include other coalition partners.

*Gary Gustafson,  
Region 8 Assistant Coordinator*

## MEDICAL RESERVE CORNER

### Survey on Michigan's Medical Reserve Corps Program

In February 2015, Regional Healthcare Coalition Coordinators (HCC), Local Health Department (LHD) Emergency Preparedness Coordinators (EPC), and Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) Coordinators were asked to complete a short Survey Monkey questionnaire distributed by the Division of Emergency of Preparedness and Response to assess program collaboration and emergency preparedness efforts of the MRC. Survey findings were consistent with anecdotal data and correlated well among all three participant groups.

[Read more...](#)

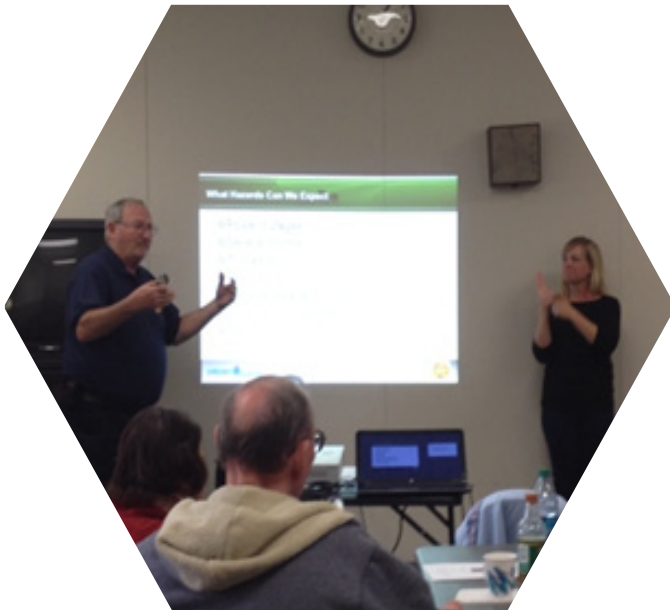


## OTHER NEWS

### Citizen Tutak

The Michigan Citizen Corps programs help communities coordinate volunteers to prepare for and respond to local emergencies. It trains and engages volunteers to make communities safer, stronger, and better prepared to respond to emergencies and disasters of all kinds, including threats of terrorism, natural disasters, crime, public health issues, etc. Citizen Corps consists of five programs: Community Emergency Response Team (CERT); Fire Corps; National Neighborhood Watch Program; Volunteers in Police (VIPS); and Medical Reserve Corps (MRC). Volunteers in the Citizen Corps programs encompass a wide variety of skills and talents to be shared with those in need.

Featured below is Tim Tutak, Farmington Hills Community Emergency Response Team/Farmington Emergency Preparedness Commission--- currently serving as Vice Chair--- sharing a preparedness presentation to a class of deaf students. Tim came to learn of two deaf citizens who were interested in participating in a preparedness class. Tim was referred to the Deaf and Hearing Impaired Services Organization for assistance in locating an interpreter for the class. This organization requested that Tim share this preparedness presentation to three groups of deaf senior citizens.



“I focused on using cellphones for Wireless Emergency Alerts and Nixle text messages to receive warnings” Tim said. He also imparted information concerning 72 hour Shelter in Place and assembly for preparedness kits as well as answering numerous questions about emergency preparedness. “I found the experience very rewarding and informative” Tim stated. Regarding further questions/ information, you may reach Tim at [tim.tutak@live.com](mailto:tim.tutak@live.com).

*Jane Yount  
State Citizen Corps and Community  
Emergency Response Team Coordinator*

## Volunteer Reception and Donation Management Center Exercise Overview

On April 28, 2015, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) along with the Michigan State Police Emergency Management Homeland Security Division (MSP-EMHSD), Kent County Emergency Management, The Salvation Army, Heart of West Michigan United Way, Kent County Medical Reserve Corps, Kent County CERT, and The Rapid planned and held a Volunteer Reception Center (VRC) / Donation Management Center (DMC) exercise. The exercise focused on the mission areas of mitigation, response and recovery.

*Richard Thelen, Manager  
Emergency Management and Security  
Emergency Management Coordinator  
Michigan Department of Health and  
Human Services*

[Read more...](#)

## MORE MI-MORT SPRING 2015 EXERCISE

