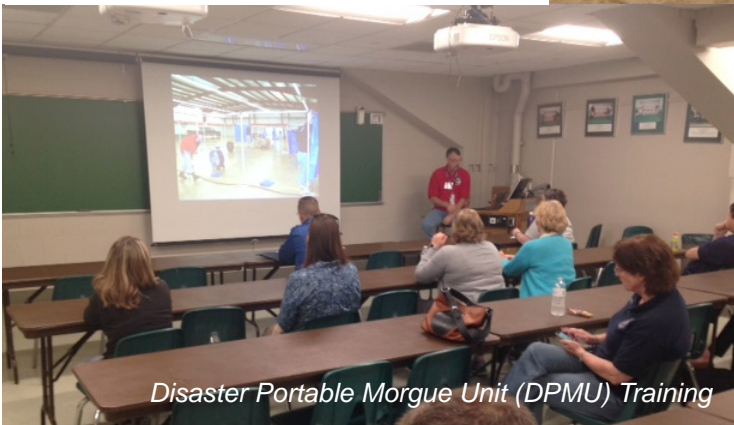


MICHIGAN MORTUARY RESPONSE TEAM (MI-MORT)



Disaster Assistance Recovery Team (DART) Training



Disaster Portable Morgue Unit (DPMU) Training



Remains Management Training

Michigan Mortuary Response Team Symposium

The Michigan Mortuary Response Team (MI-MORT) conducted a symposium on Tuesday, June 6, 2017, at the Michigan State University Pavilion, East Lansing, Michigan. This event provided an opportunity for MI-MORT members, future members of MI-MORT, and others (public health emergency preparedness coordinators, hospital preparedness professionals, law enforcement, emergency managers, medical examiners, medical examiner investigators) to learn about Michigan's Fatality Management Planning and its available resources.

The symposium also allowed participants the ability to partake in an interactive experience designed to provide informative details and to connect "pieces of the puzzle" to develop and strengthen fatality management planning necessary to serve the citizens of Michigan. The "puzzle pieces" comprised a rotation of mortuary science sections including: Victim Identification Center and Morgue Identification Center, Disaster Assistance Recovery Team, Disaster Portable Morgue Unit, Remains Management, and Morgue Operations (DNA, Dental, and Anthropology).



Morgue Operations Training

The MI-MORT Symposium was attended by over 125 individuals. The Planning Team included representatives from the Michigan Dental Association, the Disaster Assistance Recovery Team, the Michigan Funeral Directors Association, Michigan State University Forensic Sciences, and the Bureau of EMS, Trauma, and Preparedness.

HEALTHCARE COALITION NEWS



REGION 2N HEALTHCARE COALITION

Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services Conditions of Participation Involving the Use of Volunteers

The recent Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS) Conditions of Participation for 17 provider and supplier types include making sure there is a plan for the use of volunteers in an emergency: *“Facilities have policies and procedures in place to address the use of volunteers in an emergency or other emergency staffing strategies, including the process and role for integration of state or federally designated healthcare professionals to address surge needs during an emergency.”*

Background: The Missouri Tornado lesson

When a hospital was hit by a tornado in Joplin, Missouri, hospital staff learned that *“during a disaster, people and volunteers will come on their own to help at the hospital. Despite efforts to plan, pre-register, and limit the people who self-present, they will continue to show up and may be difficult to manage or turn away. It is important to include a plan to divert or accept, credential, and use*

volunteers who arrive on scene without basic lodging and food accommodations. The plan should include situations without a coordinating agency to verify individuals' names, credentials, and competencies." Their lessons learned included:

- *Include processes in the Emergency Operation Plan to manage both pre-registered and credentialed volunteers and those volunteers who self-deploy and present without a plan or basic supplies for lodging and meals*
- *Verify the identity of volunteers to prevent imposters and other opportunists*

Source: Missouri Hospital Association Preparedness and Partnership report on [Lessons Learned from the Missouri Disasters of 2011](#), published in 2012.

Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Transportation Observations

There have been numerous mass casualty incidents where the victims were transported to area hospitals by unorganized volunteers who were just close by, had transportation, and believed the victims could not wait for an organized EMS response. Sometimes the transportation is done by a law enforcement vehicle. Where hospitals have a plan for EMS transport reception, do they also plan for alternate vehicles just showing up? Do they have a plan to handle volunteer drivers?



Region 2 North: Use of Volunteers in Exercises

Region 2 North, working with the Macomb County Medical Control Authority Mass Casualty Planning Team, recently participated in four tabletop exercises involving four different mass casualty incidents: a plane crash into a store; a school bus crash; an active assailant in a school; and a vehicle out of control at an event crashing into the crowd. In all four cases, volunteers who were nearby could have become involved in moving patients to hospitals without an organized EMS response.

Region 2 North will be adding elements on the use of responding volunteers into our hospital and community tabletop and full-scale exercises moving forward. This is being piloted to exercise operational plans on how to accommodate Spontaneous Uninvited Volunteers (SUV) and also to include the use of credentialed volunteers that might arrive via an organized approach using the Michigan Volunteer Registry.

*Rick Drummer
Region 2 North Coordinator*



REGION 1 HEALTHCARE COALITION

Report of Recent Volunteer Education and Training

- The Shiawassee County Health Department collaborated with District 1 Regional Medical Response Coalition (D1RMRC) staff to present a poster at the National Healthcare Coalition Conference in Washington D.C. in December of 2016. This poster highlighted Region 1 volunteer management collaboration.
- The D1RMRC 15th Annual WMD/CBRNE Symposium “Lessons from the Past to Build for the Future” was held February 7, 2017, with numerous volunteers in attendance. Sessions included such topics as: hospital and emergency management response to a mass shooting; sustained power outage at a long term care facility; hospital medical surge planning and continuity of operations in response to flooding; and response to a healthcare system cyber-attack.
- On March 1, 2017, Livingston County Health Department and the Region 1 Healthcare Coalition supported a Family Reunification Workshop. This was attended by 17 members of the Livingston County Health Department Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) with approximately 100 attendees overall. This workshop provided material on reunifying a school community in the aftermath of a crisis.
- Region 1 Mobile Medical Field Team Members participated in the Michigan Transportable Emergency Surge Assistance (MI-TESA) Workshop and Tabletop Exercise on March 21, 2017.
- On April 24, 2017, D1RMRC hosted the CHEMDOT 2017 Full Scale Exercise and Training. This exercise focused on education and training for pre-hospital providers; Mobile Medical CBRNE Support Unit (MMCSU) PPE training; and MCI (Mass Casualty Incident) patient triage and tracking, inventory assessment, and communications equipment. The training also included nerve agent review, cyanide poisoning review, a presentation by a MSP (Michigan State Police) Bomb Squad providing an overview of bomb recognition, response capability, and treatment. Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) validated functionality of the communications equipment for all six units. 15 of the overall total of 45 participants were CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) and RACES individuals.
- A Livingston County Health Department MRC member provided a presentation on human trafficking at the Regional Healthcare Coalition Meeting held on May 2, 2017.



Family Reunification Workshop

*Matthew Price
Region 1 Coordinator*



REGION 7 HEALTHCARE COALITION

Building Stronger Partnerships Across Regions

“No man is an island.” We hear this phrase all the time, especially when it comes to responding to large or small events. But do people really understand the meaning of the quotation and learn how to not be an island? Partnerships have always been the foundation of great responses and education the building blocks of that foundation.

Each year, Region 7 Citizens Corps Council (CCC) has been planning and meeting for the annual spring training. This year’s training attained a new level of successful partnership between the CCC and the Region 7 Homeland Security Planning Board. Together, they were able to bring in instructors from Texas A & M University for a Wide Area Search course held at Camp Grayling, April 28-30, 2017; further proving that strong partnerships create great results.



Wide Area Search course at Camp Grayling

More than 90 students from around the entire state represented CERT, Michigan Volunteer Defense Force, emergency management, Michigan State Police, local law enforcement, fire, and EMS in this multi-day training that involved in class lectures and in the field application. Topics covered included the Incident Command System as well as victim and building marking in order to be able to manage and perform a wide area search. Students stepped out of their normal roles and assumed command to lead their teams through a series of scenarios that would reinforce the subject matter taught in class.

Volunteer organizations are pivotal in serving the community. Having a strong partnership with other organizations is critical in accomplishing anything in rural Northern Michigan. Without them, we lose



Wide Area Search course at Camp Grayling

a force multiplier that is able to assist in traffic control, security for events, damage assessment, disaster relief, and other events. Being able to back up and supplement our public service workers is a huge advantage! Not only do volunteers dedicate their time, but also their own money to support the communities they live in. Without our volunteers and their caring support, we don't have a community that is prepared to take action. Any chance one gets to thank a volunteer please do so.

Who knows what kind of partnership will bloom from a simple acknowledgement.

If you want to secure a better idea of the value of a volunteer, visit this website:

<https://www.independentsector.org/resource/the-value-of-volunteer-time>

*Patricia Crenshaw
Region 7 Coordinator*



REGION 8 HEALTHCARE COALITION

Teamwork and Collaboration: A Win-Win in the North Country

Between the pines and rugged country of beautiful Upper Michigan can be found the Burt Township Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) team in Grand Marais and the Schoolcraft County MRC team in Manistique. Nowhere is the need for volunteers and community support more prevalent than in these two vast wooded regions. With tourism, hiking, camping, and sightseeing a huge draw in these areas, both very active MRC teams play a critical role in any kind of disaster incident---from a Mass Casualty Incident (MCI) to an injured hiker. But with that commitment comes the need for team members to receive the latest up to date information, training, and education to meet the needs of such responses.

The Region 8 Healthcare Coalition (HCC) stands as a strong partner in helping to see that the needs of these teams are met when opportunities present. The HCC Board has consistently provided funding support when requested for MRC members to attend exercises in both the region and the state; along with attending conferences which focus on everything from special pathogen response to pediatric stabilization in an MCI. This past year has been no exception. Nancy Weston-Hughes, who oversees the Burt Township MRC, sees this as a great example of teamwork for the good of the community. "The Region 8 Healthcare Coalition Board has been such a vital part of our ongoing training and education," Nancy commented. "It would be very hard---if not impossible---to fund some of these events. This kind of teamwork is not only a benefit to our MRC members, but the region as well," Nancy added. "It's a win-win for everyone."

Through this collaboration and support, these MRCs have had the opportunity to attend several events in the last year. One of those involved a MCI exercise in Sault Ste. Marie that included both American and Canadian partners and a multitude of emergency responders, hospital personnel, and government agencies. Regional funding also provided the opportunity for both Burt Township and Schoolcraft County MRC teams to attend the 2017 Rural and Ready Symposium held in Sault Ste. Marie in April. The symposium included breakout sessions that demonstrated great educational value for both teams and great information to bring back to all of the members of both MRC teams. Cathy Flores, Schoolcraft County MRC Coordinator, feels the relationship between the regional partners and her MRC team is solid, stating: "This is another example of people taking care of people; which is a common theme up here in Michigan's beautiful Upper Peninsula."

*Jonathan Stone
Region 8 Coordinator*

SPECIAL PATHOGEN RESPONSE NETWORK (SPRN)

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services Bureau of EMS, Trauma and Preparedness hosted a one day conference on Monday, June 5, 2017, at the Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center on the Michigan State University campus in East Lansing, Michigan.

Ebola and other special pathogens can cause complex challenges related to the handling and disposition of remains; in addition to the difficult emotions that face families and caregivers in these circumstances. The conference provided an overview of current special pathogen threats, information on how best to deal with remains of those succumbing to such diseases, and guidance for supporting families and staff confronted with the difficulties of loss related to special pathogens.

Addressed items of concern for participants included:

- Guidance on infection control/prevention for transport and mortuary staff in dealing with human remains of those succumbing to Ebola or other special pathogens
- Necessary notification and transport steps involved in the final disposition of human remains of a person affected by Ebola or other special pathogens
- Family support measures for those with a loved one who has succumbed to Ebola or other special pathogens

Visit the Special Pathogen Response Network (SPRN) website at www.michigan.gov/sprn.

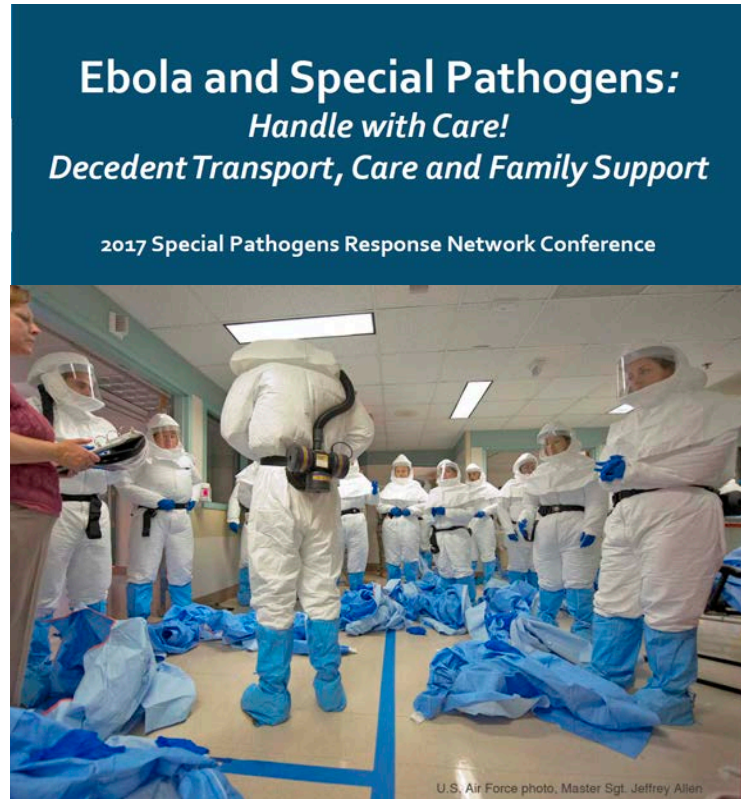


Photo credit: U.S. Air Force



Attendees at the Ebola and Special Pathogens Conference

MEDICAL RESERVE CORPS

Monroe County MRC Volunteers Address Radiological Preparedness

Nuclear power plants have safety and security procedures that are continually monitored; however, an accident could release dangerous levels of radiation. With three operating nuclear power plants, the state of Michigan followed in the footsteps of several other U.S. states in 2009 and made Potassium Iodide (KI) available at no cost to its residents who live and/or work within a ten mile radius of a nuclear power plant, often known as an Emergency Planning Zone (EPZ). This non-prescription drug prevents the uptake of radioactive iodine, reducing the risk of developing thyroid cancer during a nuclear power plant accident.

While a wide variety of distribution plans exist across the country, Michigan provides their residents KI vouchers, redeemable for KI tablets at local pharmacies. Monroe County, with approximately 97,825 permanent residents living within the 10 mile EPZ, is associated with Fermi Nuclear Power Plant, one of the three nuclear power plants in Michigan. Despite the no-cost access of KI, only 15% of the population in Monroe and neighboring Wayne County have utilized this resource since 2009, according to the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services. In 2015 and 2016, a total of 130 homes and 3 businesses picked up KI.

Such a low uptake emphasized the need for improved communication with Monroe County residents during KI distribution campaigns to ensure that individuals understand its use and have sufficient information to make an informed decision. Ultimately, the situation presented an opportunity to engage the MRC in community preparedness activities.

The Monroe County MRC designed their 2016-2017 MRC Challenge Award grant to tackle this need head-on and develop the first face-to-face KI Community Awareness and Educational Program using MRC volunteers to address radiological preparedness. Their initiative is designed to raise levels of community awareness, education, response, and resilience in the case of radiation exposure for those persons living, working, or going to school within the 10 mile EPZ of the Fermi Nuclear Power Plant in Monroe.



MRC volunteer Chris Chickeral during Monroe County's Earth Day

From April 2016 through April 2017, 20 trained MRC volunteers contributed 101 hours to reach an estimated 2,000 community members with their program. The Monroe County MRC engaged 12 pre-identified community agencies and businesses to advance their project goal, and to ensure they were sending a unified message. Their partners included representatives from Monroe County Emergency Management Division, Detroit Edison (DTE), Kroger Pharmacy, Meijer Pharmacy, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, and Local Media.

To date, the Monroe County MRC has attended four major community events dispensing KI to a total of 354 families, and expanded their campaign to include emergency preparedness awareness. During the largest community event in Monroe County, the Celebrate Children Festival held April 29, 2017, MRC volunteers along with two Kroger Pharmacists dispensed 130 boxes containing KI to 101 families in a four-hour period. “The key is having pharmacists at large, emergency preparedness targeted community events to dispense the KI directly. It saves people a trip to the pharmacy. In Michigan, KI will not be dispensed at PODs during a declared General Emergency at the power plant,” stated Carolyn Gardetto, Monroe County MRC Planner. The partnership developed with their local pharmacists has expanded their outreach efforts.

Their extensive planning efforts, success with engaging local partners, and dedicated group of local MRC volunteers played a vital role in the overall success of their project. This comprehensive approach to the distribution of KI contributes to improving Monroe County’s community preparedness and response and recovery capabilities.

ADDITIONAL NEWS

Emergency Law Inventory

The [Emergency Law Inventory \(ELI\)](#) is a tool developed by the University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health and its partners at the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Allegheny County Health Department (Pittsburgh, PA), and Mahoning, Trumbull, and Columbiana counties (OH). ELI-V helps individuals navigate through over 1,500 legal summaries impacting volunteer participation in preparing for or responding to disasters. ELI gives users clear, concise summaries of those laws impacting participation in emergency activities. The laws are searchable by profession and jurisdiction so users can identify the provisions that impact them specifically.

Mass Fatality Training at Western Michigan University Homer Stryker School of Medicine

Western Michigan University Homer Stryker School of Medicine in Kalamazoo gathered experts in mass fatality management on May 6, 2017, to help the best prepare for the worst. Close to one hundred medical examiners from local, state and federal agencies came together in Kalamazoo with one goal: to be better prepared for mass fatality incidents. View the [full article at wwmt.com](#).