



Volunteer Training Series Announced

Stark County, along with the 13 county Northeast Central Ohio (NECO) Region, is hosting a series of free trainings for MRC volunteers. These trainings are open to non-medical and medical volunteers and are recommended for all who would respond to a public health or other emergency. Some of these specific trainings are required for MRC volunteers who may respond to a functional needs shelter, similar to the one opened during the February ice storm at the Canton Civic Center.

Volunteers from surrounding counties may attend these trainings as part of a grant awarded by the Ohio Emergency Management Agency. However, spaces are limited! To reserve your space, contact MRC Coordinator Tim Gabrelcik. See the schedule of trainings on page 3.

Over half of our MRC volunteers have not had the 2 hour orientation training. Volunteers are required to have minimal training in order to respond to an emergency and to be covered by Ohio's liability statute.



Flu Season is Here!

Public health nurses in Stark County were busy this Fall with community immunizations and flu clinics. Volunteers assisted with registration at clinics in Navarre, Louisville and Lake Township. The Alliance City Health Department hosted its flu clinic in October at the Alliance Senior Center with over 300 vaccines given.

In an effort to vaccinate hospital staff and EMS personnel, hospitals in Stark County provided flu vaccine to employees. Additional vaccine was provided for EMS personnel throughout Stark County where MRC volunteers worked alongside public health nurses at various fire stations in December. MRC nursing volunteers assisted with three EMS clinic sites in December with over 145 vaccinations given.

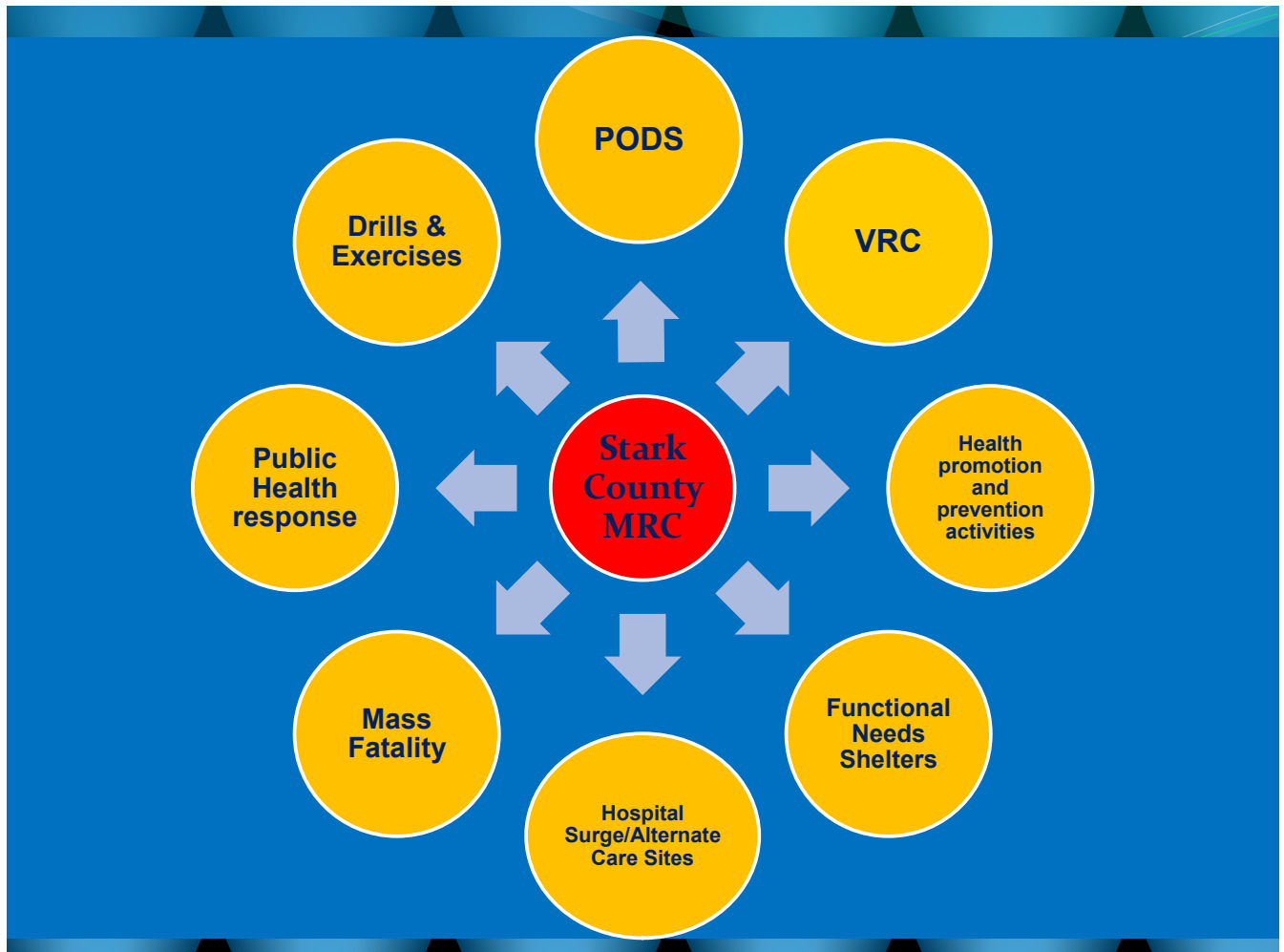
The help and skills offered by our volunteers not only accomplish public health efforts, but they also give volunteers and staff practice with working together.



Stark County MRC Teams

MRC volunteers may be needed in any type of disaster whether it is public health related or other disaster. Each emergency may have a different scenario. As a result, the Stark County MRC has “teams” that may respond for specific tasks. Trainings for these teams are offered throughout the year.

- VRC - Volunteer Reception Center staff may be needed when a disaster requires a massive volunteer response in addition to the MRC. Several locations have been identified throughout the county.
- ACS - Alternative Care Site teams will be needed to work with hospitals or other healthcare facilities to operate a site in the case of a patient surge.
- FNS - Functional Needs Shelters will be set up by the American Red Cross. However, medical volunteers will be needed to assist when in operation. The Red Cross requires volunteers to have specific training to staff this operation.
- PODS - public health may utilize a Point of Dispensing Site during a large scale disease outbreak to administer medicine or vaccines.





Alternative Care Site Team

Plans continue to move forward for Stark County’s alternative care site planning. The committee has been purchasing equipment through grant funds. A new trailer with a generator, lighting, heating and air conditioning has also been purchased. Currently, buildings throughout Stark County are being evaluated for the possibility of being used as a stationary site. The 32 foot trailer holds supplies for a 25 patient temporary site and includes beds, medical supplies and other materials.

A training is being planned for May to train the ACS Team on deployment and operations. MRC members are encouraged to join this team.

ACS planning is being developed to address an emergency that causes patient surge, a situation when hospitals become too overwhelmed with patients.



Upcoming Trainings

Trainings are open to all members of the MRC. Trainings are free but space is limited!

These trainings will take place at the Stark County Health Department, 3951 Convenience Circle NW, Canton, Ohio 44718

MRC Introduction/Orientation

1/24/12 3:00 – 5:00 p.m.

2/2/12 4:00 – 6:00 p.m.

*Starter response kit will be provided.

ICS (Incident Command System)

Introduction

2/1/12 4:30 -6:30 p.m.

2/14/12 4:00 – 6:00 p.m.

*FEMA certificate given.

First Aid

Wednesday, February 15th 5:30 – 9 p.m.

CERT (Community Emergency Response Team)

*4 classes: must attend all 4. Each class runs 6:00 -10:00 p.m.

Tuesday, March 6th/Thursday, March 8th

Tuesday, March 16th/Thursday, March 15th

Animal CERT—Must attend both classes

Tuesday, April 4th 5:30 –8:30p.m.

Thursday, April 5th 5:30 –9:30 p.m.

Volunteer Reception Center (VRC) Team Training

TBA—Late April in Alliance

Alternative Care Site Team Training

TBA- Early May

check the OhioResponds calendar for Red Cross trainings.

These trainings are made possible with funding from the Ohio Emergency Management Agency and the Department of Homeland Security .

Ring in the New Year...prepared!

As we gear up for another year, we make a list of things to make ourselves healthier. But we often break those pesky New Year's Resolutions!

Here are a few easy resolutions you can accomplish to make your year healthier and safer.

1. Make a Kit

Gather up those basic supplies around the house for your own emergency kit. Be sure to

include canned or dried food items, flashlights, battery powered radio, batteries, toiletries, water, first aid items & cash. Place these in a plastic bin and you are off to a good start!

2. Make a Plan

Review with your family members what to do in case of a fire, a tornado or other emergency. Review your list of emergency family contacts. Make sure you have copies of home and car insurance and other

important information locked away.

3. Be Informed

Find out about local hazards. Know where to go for information in an emergency. Contact the MRC coordinator to host community and group presentations on preparedness activities. Visit www.ready.gov

Now you have 3 easy resolutions to check off the list!

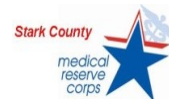
Here's Something To Think About...

A community can recover from a disaster quicker if citizens take steps ahead of time to prepare for hazards.

Stark County Volunteer Totals = 675

Mental Health 30	Physicians 39
Physician assistant 3	Dentists 12
Nurse Practitioners 13	Nurses 378
Pharmacists 5	Veterinarians 16
Non-medical 82	Other Medical 83

Free presentations are available to civic groups, professional organizations and other community groups. Contact the MRC coordinator to schedule!



MRC Contact Information

Timothy Gabrelcik, MPA, CHES
 ~ Stark County MRC Coordinator ~
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MRC Mission

To establish local teams of healthcare professionals and community members who can assist our community during emergencies, such as influenza pandemic, natural disasters or acts of terrorism.



Follow the Stark County Health Dept. on Facebook!



2011 Year End Review

2011 started out with a severe weather response in February that brought an ice storm and widespread power outage. As a result, a Red Cross functional needs shelter was opened to house residents. The MRC was activated to provide nursing staff at the shelter, alongside public health nurses.

- 61 hours were given in response to the February ice storm response.
- 15 volunteers responded to the three day event.

Trainings were offered to volunteers to keep them engaged and updated. Those included MRC orientations, an alternative care site training in conjunction with the Stark County Emergency Healthcare Planning Committee and CDC webinars.

- 57 volunteer hours were dedicated to education and training
- 28 volunteers attended trainings

In May, a full scale exercise took place in Canal Fulton simulating a chemical spill with mass casualties. Police, fire, EMS, HAZMAT, hospitals and other departments throughout Stark County participated to test decontamination, victim transport and communication. MRC volunteers were requested to participate as victims in this exercise, allowing them to experience an emergency from the patient perspective.

- 5 MRC volunteers participated
- Over 40 hours were given

Various immunization clinics were conducted by health departments throughout 2011, primarily in the Fall months. MRC nurses were requested for back to school immunization clinics, general flu clinics and EMS flu clinics.

- 10 nurses volunteered, some more than one time.
- 23 volunteer hours were given

2011 Totals

Over 193 volunteer hours were donated by 53 volunteers for 15 events.

THANK YOU!