



# GREATER LA CROSSE AREA MEDICAL RESERVE CORPS

## Orientation Module

Updated: January 2017

# MODULE OVERVIEW



- What is the Medical Reserve Corps?
- History
- La Crosse Area MRC
- ICS
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- Benefits
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# WHY JOIN MRC



Check out the following video to learn why you might want to be involved with your local MRC:

[Medical Reserve Corps Video](#)

# WHAT IS THE MEDICAL RESERVE CORPS?



- MRC is a partner program under the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Citizen Corps umbrella ([www.citizencorps.gov](http://www.citizencorps.gov)), and provides the framework for health professionals and others to volunteer to strengthen public health within their communities and the nation.
- MRC units are locally-based teams of volunteers trained to assist their communities during large-scale emergencies such as an influenza pandemic, a chemical spill, an act of terrorism, or an environmental emergency.

# WHY MEDICAL RESERVE CORPS?



September 11th, 2001 rocked our nation and made it clear that we needed to find a way to identify, organize and credential volunteers for the purpose of responding to emergencies and disasters.



# HISTORY



## 2002 State of the Union Address:

President Bush calls for all Americans to offer volunteer service in their communities:

- Senior Corps
- Peace Corps
- Citizen Corps
  - Medical Reserve Corps
  - Civil Emergency Response Team
  - Volunteers in Police Service
  - Fire Corps

# LA CROSSE AREA MRC



First grants to launch Medical Reserve Corps issued July, 2002

La Crosse Area MRC was approved as an MRC Unit on August 21,  
2009

**Unit Coordinator:** Brenda Lutz-Hanson, MPH

# LA CROSSE AREA MRC



## Purpose

The La Crosse Area MRC was formed to preregister and educate/train volunteers for emergency preparedness, response and recovery in an effort to build a more resilient community.

## Mission

The La Crosse Area MRC will contribute to a systematic, coordinated and effective voluntary response to incidents affecting area communities.



# LA CROSSE AREA MRC



**Goal 1:** La Crosse Area MRC will provide training & exercises to prepare volunteers on an ongoing basis to:

- Set up/staff a Volunteer Reception Center
- Support mass clinic dispensing
- Support staffing for community sheltering

**Goal 2:** La Crosse Area MRC will attract & provide volunteers (medical and non-medical) with additional skills needed to work effectively in emergency situations.

**Goal 3:** La Crosse Area MRC will enrich public health preparedness & community health education through community outreach & partnerships.



# LA CROSSE AREA MRC

The La Crosse Area MRC enhances the La Crosse area's emergency preparedness by organizing a group of volunteer medical and non-medical professionals that can rapidly mobilize to assist during a large-scale health emergency that are:

- pre-identified
- pre-credentialed
- pre-trained

# LA CROSSE AREA MRC



The La Crosse Area MRC is **not** a first-response agency: the first line of defense in a disaster is provided by existing first-response agencies.

The La Crosse MRC uses the Incident Command System for all incident response operations.

Employees and volunteers are expected to adhere to the chain of command and will be activated upon request by the jurisdictional authority



# LA CROSSE AREA MRC



American  
Red Cross



No disaster or emergency can be managed by only one agency.

Our partner agencies include:

- Alert La Crosse
- La Crosse County Emergency Response
- WI Emergency Management
- La Crosse Area VOAD
- Surrounding municipal and private emergency and first-response units



# BASIC CRITERIA FOR SERVICE IN THE MRC



- Completion of La Crosse Area MRC Application Form & Agreement
- Submit to a county background investigation
- Register online with WEAVR
- Attend new volunteer orientation module (*you are here*)
- Participate in at least 10 hours of activities (training, meetings, etc) with the MRC, annually.

# MRC MEMBER ROLES/RESPONSIBILITIES



1. MRC Member can describe the procedure and steps necessary for the MRC member to protect health, safety, and overall well-being of themselves, their families, the team, and the community.
2. MRC member can describe their personal and family preparedness plan in place.
3. Describe the chain of command (e.g., Emergency Management Systems, ICS, NIMS), the integration of the MRC, and its application to a given incident.
4. Describe the role of the local MRC unit in public health and/or emergency response and its application to a given incident.

# MRC MEMBER ROLES/RESPONSIBILITIES



5. Describe the MRC member's communication role(s) and processes with response partners, media, general public, and others.
6. Describe the impact of an event on the mental health of the MRC member, responders, and others.
7. Demonstrate the MRC member's ability to follow procedures for assignment, activation, reporting, and deactivation.
8. Identify limits to own skills, knowledge, and abilities as they pertain to MRC role(s).



# MEMBER BENEFITS

**MRC volunteers have the opportunity to:**

- Participate in many no-cost and low-cost preparedness-skill & specialized disaster and emergency trainings
- Gain experience in disaster management and public health emergencies
- Assist the community in times of need



# VOLUNTEER PREPARATION & TRAINING



## Training Tier I:

All active volunteers are required to complete Tier I trainings within **ONE** year of joining a Wisconsin MRC or prior to deployment.

## Training Tier II:

All active volunteers are *recommended* to complete Tier II trainings within the first three years of joining a WI MRC.

- *\*Descriptions of Tier I and II trainings are listed in your Volunteer Handbook*



# WHAT MRC VOLUNTEERS DO:

## During an emergency, MRC volunteers will:

- Set up and staff the Volunteer Reception Center
- Support mass clinic dispensing of care
- Support staffing for community sheltering
- Support special populations assistance
- Support pet relocation and veterinary dispensing of care
- Participate in “strike-team” providing antibiotics/vaccines to homebound individuals in emergency situations
- Assist with any type of volunteer surge capacity organization

# WHAT MRC VOLUNTEERS DO:



**When there isn't an emergency to respond to, MRC volunteers:**

- Plan and administer public health preparedness education
- Support partners' community events
- Promote public health preparedness
- Plan, support and participate in community health education
- Advocate for emergency preparedness
- Participate in ongoing trainings and education

# FAMILY PREPAREDNESS PLANS



**All MRC volunteers are expected to have a Family  
Emergency Plan**

**Includes information about:**

- Where you and your family will meet during an incident
- Who will be your contact person outside of the disaster area
- What you will do in case of an emergency
- Important phone numbers and other information

# FAMILY PREPARDNESS PLANS



## Family Plan Elements

- Decide where your household will reunite after a disaster. Identify two places: one right outside your home and another outside your neighborhood such as a library, church, or community center.
- Identify all possible exit routes from your home and neighborhood.
- Designate an out-of-state friend or relative that household members can call if separated during a disaster. **MEMORIZE** and **WRITE THIS # DOWN**. You may not have access to your cell or the internet in the case of a disaster.

# FAMILY PREPAREDNESS PLANS



- Account for everyone's needs, especially seniors, people with disabilities and non-English speakers.
- Ensure that household members have a copy of your household disaster plan and emergency contact information to keep in wallets and backpacks. *(see templates on next slide)*
- Practice your plan with all household members
- Plan ahead for your pets. Keep a phone list of pet friendly hotels/motels and animal shelters that are along your evacuation route.
- Plan how each one of you will let your family know you're safe

# FAMILY PREPAREDNESS PLANS



## Make a Family Plan

Family Plan templates are available within the following websites and in your Orientation packet:

- US Department of Homeland Security: <http://ready.gov> & [http://www.ready.gov/sites/default/files/documents/files/Family\\_Emergency\\_Plan.pdf](http://www.ready.gov/sites/default/files/documents/files/Family_Emergency_Plan.pdf)
- American Red Cross: <http://www.redcross.org/prepare/location/home-family/plan>

# FAMILY PREPAREDNESS PLANS



## If you have young children

Information for parents on preparing children for emergencies is available from:

- <http://learning.mchb.hrsa.gov/archivedWebcastDetail.asp?id=293>
- <http://www.ready.gov/kids>
- <http://www.kidsgetaplan.com/>
- <http://www.sesamestreet.org/parents/topicsandactivities/toolkits/ready>





# FAMILY PLANS: GO BAGS

**Go Bags and Home Kits contain important supplies you may need in an emergency.**

-Most supplies for the Go Bags and Home Kits can be purchased at drug stores, discount stores and home improvement stores.

-Complete Go Bags and other supplies are available for sale from the American Red Cross Store: <http://www.redcrossstore.org/>

-OR make your own!!

# FAMILY PLANS: GO BAGS ACTIVITY



## What will you put in your Go Bag?

Work in your group to make a list of all the items you think are important to keep in your Go Bag.

*Choose one person to keep notes and to report back to the entire group.*



# FAMILY PLANS: GO BAGS

## Things that are often forgotten:

- 7-day supply of prescription drugs
- Prescription glasses
- MORE water
- Duct tape
- Extra batteries
- First aid kit
- Permanent marker
- Sanitation and personal hygiene items,
- Whistle
- Mirror...

[Suggestions for a Go Bag from Ready.gov](#)

[Suggestions for a Go Bag from the  
American Red Cross](#)

# IMPORTANT WEBSITES FOR MRC VOLUNTEERS



## WEAVR WI: Wisconsin Emergency Assistance Volunteer Registry Access Procedures

It is easy to register on the WEAVR system at <https://weavrwi.org/> and clicking on the *Register Now* Tab.

If you need more help in register you can find instructions on how to complete your profile are at the website below: <https://weavrwi.org/docs/esarvhp/admin/index.php>. Click on the blue profile folder tab on the left hand side of the screen

Use WEAVR to register and to keep your contact information and completed training up-to-date:

## TRAIN

Use WI TRAIN to sign up for and keep track of your upcoming trainings and events: <https://wi.train.org/>

# UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES



We need help getting some activities in place and would love your help!

Contact [bhanson@lacrossecounty.org](mailto:bhanson@lacrossecounty.org) with your ideas.

# HELP US BUILD OUR MRC UNIT



Share MRC program and promotional materials with friends, family, colleagues and your professional society! [www.greaterlacrossemrc.org](http://www.greaterlacrossemrc.org)

For brochures or materials, contact Brenda at  
[bhanson@lacrossecounty.org](mailto:bhanson@lacrossecounty.org)

Invite the La Crosse Area MRC to make a presentation at your professional society, business or volunteer organization!

# LA CROSSE AREA MRC CONTACT



**La Crosse Area MRC Unit Coordinator:  
Brenda Lutz-Hanson**

**[bhanson@lacrossecounty.org](mailto:bhanson@lacrossecounty.org)**

**[www.greaterlacrossemrc.org](http://www.greaterlacrossemrc.org)**

medical  
reserve  
corps



Thank you!!!





# ORIENTATION POST-TEST

What is the mission of the Greater La Crosse Area Medical Reserve Corps?

Please circle the answer to make the statement TRUE. The La Crosse Area MRC **is/is not** a first responder agency.

Please fill in the blank. Volunteers must completed \_\_\_\_\_ hours of participation annually to keep their membership current.

MRC Unit Members self-deploy when they become aware of an incident occurring in their area? Please circle your answer?  
**True      False**

Member expectations include that volunteers will develop their own Family Plans: **True    False**

MRC Members must register with and utilize \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ for their training information to be updated and to be notified of upcoming trainings.

To access the Greater La Crosse MRC webpage directly, one would utilize the following web address: \_\_\_\_\_