

Minnesota Responds



Central Region

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MNResponds MRC
Volunteer Newsletter
Benton County

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VOLUNTEER NEWSLETTER 3 - Fall 2007



Get prepared.

Perhaps you've seen this logo on billboards and wondered what it really means. What should we get prepared for? codeReady is a statewide initiative designed to help Minnesota residents get organized regarding personal and family preparedness in the event of a major emergency. Each year thousands of Minnesotans are affected by disaster. Tornadoes, floods, fires, and other emergencies have had a lasting impact on lives and property. The state wants to remind everyone that good emergency planning involves getting informed, getting the family prepared and then helping the community get prepared.

As a volunteer for MNResponds, it is important for you to plan and be prepared in your own home first before you can be comfortable leaving to help with health-related disasters. Go to www.codeready.org and work through the tools and kits. You can create a family emergency plan and build a custom kit of emergency supplies. You will learn more about individual, family, and community preparedness and you will be able to link to a wide variety of other helpful web sites. None of the information you give about yourself is saved on the website or in a database. The information is only used for your benefit to make your plan personal.

Become codeReady – get informed, get prepared, and get connected.

SPREAD THE WORD

MNResponds MRC needs your help in asking more people to sign up to volunteer. We are encouraging dentists, psychiatrists, veterinarians, pharmacists, and medical technicians to sign up. Others can join such as epidemiologists, health educators, bio-statisticians, environmental health professionals, social workers, counselors, interpreters, chaplains, and support staff.

When people sign up, they can choose to volunteer in just their own county or be deployed to other areas. Each county has an administrator for the program who monitors the enrollment.

As the August 1st 35W events proved, people like and are willing to volunteer. The two main benefits of MN Responds are **it provides the counties with a database of potential volunteers and credentials them prior to an event.**

Help us spread the word. MNResponds is the best that “Minnesota Nice” has to offer.



We'd like your picture.

We'll be asking to take your picture at your first training so we can have it ready for a badge when the time comes.

SMILE!

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NOW FOR THE FUN STUFF

Most people ask, “What’s fun about training?” We’re here to tell you that Volunteer Orientation Training will fill your head with fun-filled bubbles of information.

Seriously though, we’ll make every effort to inform you, prepare you and give you CEU’s. What better deal than that?



In addition to all the things you will learn, you will receive a volunteer bag at the orientation and something to put in it at each additional training/event you attend. Preparedness starts with a plan, a kit, and your bag of essential equipment for response to a health emergency.



Your bag will have the **MNResponds MRC** logo on it. Keep it stocked and ready to go!

Each County will be holding orientation training so you will have a lot of options as far as dates and locations. We’ll try to keep you updated of them all, but please plan on attending one of ours here in Benton County so you can meet me, the administrator and other volunteers you may be working with in an emergency!

Orientation to MN Responds - MRC

All Sessions 6:30 - 8:30

Foley : County Board Room - 531 Dewey Street
Monday October 1

Sauk Rapids : Middle School - 901 1st Street S
Tuesday October 9

Rice : Municipal Building - 205 Main Street E
Thursday October 18

Registration is required. Please call Cynthia 968-5147 to register and for more information.

JUST IN TIME TRAINING

This is the serious stuff - it has to happen just before staff and volunteers begin working. When a volunteer arrives at the designated location for a health emergency, they will be checked-in using the data from MNResponds and a badge will be issued. People will then be assigned jobs and told where to meet for their training.

The “Just In Time Training” will most likely be conducted by an immediate supervisor who will hand out a job action sheet and tell you exactly what tasks you will be performing, how long you will be on duty, rest breaks, etc. No one will be asked to perform a duty that is outside the realm of their training.

Even though you will be paying rapt attention to the training, you may forget a detail or two during an actual event. A supervisor will be assigned to help each group of volunteers with on-going questions and issues.

To find out more about the National Incident Command System **all** emergencies use, go to www.fema.gov and click on training, IS 100.

WHY MORE TRAINING?

Most professionals in the health field have had **hours** of training on lots of different topics over their career. It’s the nature of the beast as they say. Most of us would also agree that when we take our training into a new field, we have to learn how we fit into that new field and gain an understanding of the new goals and objectives.

As an MNResponds MRC volunteer, you are entering a new field – Public Health Emergency Preparedness. The Orientation training will introduce this to you and orient your education and background to what Public Health needs in Disaster Preparedness.

We’re looking forward to meeting you.