

Minnesota Responds



Central Region

Central Region Minnesota Responds MRC

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for Benton County:

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ARE YOU READY for a snow storm?



Another Minnesota winter is just around the corner, bringing with it the threat of serious snowstorms and dangerous conditions for you and your family. Make sure that you are ready for this year's winter weather.

Plan. Create a plan (both for your car and for your home) for actions in a winter emergency.

Prepare. Have a winter kit prepared for emergency situations.

- Have a full tank of gas and carry kitty litter or chains for your tires in case extra traction is needed.
- Have extra clothing with in your car—boots, hats, gloves, sweaters, and blankets.
- Carry extra water and non-perishable foods with you.

Practice. Walk through the actions that you might do in various winter emergency situations.

Stay Informed. Pay attention to the weather in your area. If a big trip is planned, be sure your car is well maintained before leaving.

Resources. For ideas and tips to help you be better prepared for winter weather, check the following:

- ✓ codeReady at www.codeready.org
- ✓ Ready.gov at www.fema.gov

Food for Thought

Did you know . . .

“Volunteers are the only human beings on the face of the earth who reflect this nation’s compassion, unselfish caring, patience, and just plain love for one another.”

~Erma Bombeck, writer

“The miracle is this – the more we share, the more we have.”

~ Leonard Nimoy, actor

“No matter how big and powerful governments, and the many services it provides, it can never take the place of volunteers.”

~Ronald Reagan, 40th president

And, to all of our volunteers,

THANK YOU

for sharing your time and talents with
Minnesota Responds MRC!

Benton County (Public Health) website now
contains MN Responds information
www.co.benton.mn.us/PubHealth/index.htm

Archived newsletters, training information,
links, and more!



Reminder:

Your picture may be taken during orientation / training sessions so that it is ready when needed for credentialing purposes.

Minnesota Responds MRC Volunteers

MN Responds MRC Volunteers come from a variety of backgrounds and enter this program with varying credentials, capabilities, and experiences. This diversity is a strength, but also makes it important to have a standardized core set of knowledge, skills, and abilities.



The Central Region Minnesota Responds MRC program is working on a framework that will provide all volunteers basic information and training in key areas. Over the next year, training will be geared toward a common set of knowledge, skills, and abilities for all volunteers. Trainings will include basic information that volunteers will need during a response to a disaster situation. It will also help provide 'uniformity' that may allow for better coordination across county boundaries, if volunteers are needed in other locations.

The University of Minnesota School of Public Health 'Center for Public Health Preparedness' has developed an on-line training course for volunteers that will work in mass dispensing PODs (Point of Dispensing).

This training is designed to provide an overview of the general operations of mass dispensing sites and serves as an orientation for individuals who may be asked to work in those sites during an emergency. It is intended to complement "just in time" training provided on site at the time of deployment.

To access the course, go to the following page and register as a new user:

<https://cpheo1.sph.umn.edu/massdisp/index.asp>

Don't Forget

When you attend trainings, update your profile online and submit copies of certificates to your local administrator for verification!

We will be having an orientation session in January in St. Cloud. We are still determining the best day of the week and the time. If you are interested in attending, please contact Cynthia (968-5147) to voice your preferences!

Why Attend Orientation/Training?

Orientation/Training is an important first step to help Minnesota Responds MRC volunteers learn more about local public health and the role of volunteers in a disaster situation. It will also help volunteers develop core competencies needed for emergency response.

Competencies are a range of knowledge, skills, and attitudes that may be needed in the response to a disaster situation. They are typically general descriptions of the abilities that a person may need to perform a role in the organization.

According to national MRC Core Competencies, MRC Volunteers should be able to:

- Describe procedures and steps necessary to protect health, safety, and overall well-being of self and others.
- Develop personal and family preparedness plans.
- Describe the chain of command in an emergency response.
- Describe their role in public health and/or emergency response.
- Describe their communication role and process with response partners, media, and general public.
- Describe the impact of an event on the mental health of self and others.
- Demonstrate ability to follow procedures for assignment, activation, reporting, and deactivation.
- Identify limits to own skills, knowledge, and abilities pertaining to volunteer roles.

The Central Region is currently offering basic orientation/training on Minnesota Responds MRC and local public health. Check to see if any of the orientation/training sessions listed will work for you. Then, sign up today.

Scheduled Training sessions are as follows:

*December 11, 2007 – 5:30pm to 7:30pm
Crow Wing County Public Health, Brainerd.
Register with Michelle @ 218-824-1092.

*January 28, 2008 – 4:00pm to 6:00pm
Sherburne County Public Health, Elk River.
Register with Marcia @ 763-241-2750.