

# Minnesota Responds



## Central Region

### Central Region Minnesota Responds MRC

Local Program Coordinator for Benton County:

Cynthia Heltunen  
Benton County Human Services  
531 Dewey Street, PO BOX 740 Foley, MN 56329  
(320) 968-5147

Cynthia.Heltunen@co.benton.mn.us

[http://www.co.benton.mn.us/Public\\_Health/MN\\_Responds.php](http://www.co.benton.mn.us/Public_Health/MN_Responds.php)

## VOLUNTEER NEWSLETTER 2010, ISSUE 4

### Local Volunteers in Action!

Lisa Beecher, a Volunteer from Wright County, was selected for the Summer 2010 MRC Introduction to Federal Deployment Training in Washington DC along with 29 MRC Volunteers from around the country.

Three Volunteers assisted with an exercise in Isanti County that included the Cambridge Medical Center, GracePoint Nursing Home, and the Isanti County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) in October.



1095 Volunteers were contacted during the Notification Exercise on October 7th.

Five Volunteers assisted Benton County with seasonal flu vaccination clinics to exercise vaccination 'strike teams' during October and November.

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### Volunteer Notification Exercise October 7, 2010



Top Row (from left): Jon Young (Wright), Jodi Budde (Chisago), Cloanne Wegman (Benton), Cynthia Heltunen (Benton), Fran Dosh (Morrison), Pauline Amundson (Pine), Sally Burg (Stearns), Heidi Brings (Todd), Marcia Engvall (Sherburne)  
Front Row (from left): Linda Bauck (MDH), Kathy Burski (Kanabec), Tony Buttacavoli (Isanti), Rachel Erickson (St. Cloud Hospital, CMHSPP), Carrie Roering (Todd)

The Central MN Responds Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) Unit is intended to supplement your community's existing public health and emergency medical capabilities. Volunteers are written into the plans for Mass Dispensing of prophylaxis in the event of an infectious disease outbreak, as well as to assist with alternative care whether due to mass trauma, relocation, or planned events. Volunteers also assist with educating the public during an emergency and in preparation for one.

The goal of the MN Responds Program is to have as many Volunteers as possible pre-credentialed and trained so there is seamless integration when

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**The Ready Responder Program has been created specifically for emergency response personnel and their agencies.**

Responders serve a critical role in emergency operations whether preserving lives, protecting property, or providing other essential services. When plans are in place to support the families of response personnel during emergencies, responders can turn their full attention to the life-saving missions that support the community. Ensure the safety and comfort of your family. Take care of them while you take care of your community.

### Preparing Makes Sense [ready.gov/responder](http://ready.gov/responder)

Work with your agency, co-workers, neighbors, relatives, and friends to improve your ability to care for your loved ones when you can't be with them. Before going out to secure the homeland, take a few minutes to ensure you have secured your family and your home. Make your personal and family readiness plans. As you know, when every second counts, being prepared makes all the difference.

#### *Oct 7 Exercise Continued from Page 1*

Volunteers are needed for activities, events, or an incident. It is important to practice using tools and skills learned through trainings before needed.

On Thursday, October 7, 2010 Central Region MN Responds Coordinators gathered in Isanti County to learn how to and practice using the [www.mnresponds.org](http://www.mnresponds.org) Mission Manager software.

Mission Manager is an online system that allows the Local Coordinator to input all the necessary information a volunteer would need to decide if a deployment is a good fit for his or her skills and capabilities. It allows the Coordinator to use a mass communication system to notify multiple volunteers at once. Built into the software is Schedule Manager which allows the Coordinator to create shifts for the deployment. The Volunteer can indicate shifts when s/he is available, and the Coordinator can then schedule the Volunteers for

those shifts.

The following objectives were set for the exercise:

- Objective 1: Input volunteer notification into Mission Manager within one hour.
- Objective 2: Obtain 80% volunteer response rate within a 2 hour time frame for the Unit as a whole.
- Objective 3: Each local coordinator will input a mission into the online system and create a schedule that includes at least three shifts.

A total of 1095 Central Region volunteers were contacted during the exercise.

The exercise was a success in that the Volunteers were contacted and the Coordinators learned how to use the system, but each objective had its own challenges.

Inputting the volunteer notification took less than an hour, as the system is relatively easy to use and understand. The Local Coordinators did create

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schedules, but shifts got duplicated and there was some confusion with the times. When reviewing the problems with the state, it was determined these were software issues that need to be resolved by the vendor.

The exercise had a good response rate, but it was only half of what the Cities Readiness Initiative (CRI) grant requires us to attain. CRI counties must achieve an 80% response within two hours of volunteer activation. Within two hours, the exercise had a 37% response rate. By the time the missions were closed on 10/17, 42% of Volunteers had responded to the mission.

It is very important that Volunteers participate in exercises. It allows the Coordinators to practice activation, and it allows Volunteers to see how the system works and what kinds of information will be provided during an request.

**Why did I get so many Emails?**

You will receive the following emails during a Mission:

- 1) Notification of the Mission
- 2) When you have been **rostered** for the mission.
- 3) You will receive an email for each shift, even if you are schedule for multiple shifts.

**Some terms to know:**

**Mission:** A potential deployment situation.

**Activation:** The action by which the Local Coordinator notifies Volunteers of a Mission.

**Rostered:** Responder (Volunteer) is available and the Local Coordinator has added them to the roster, but they have not yet been deployed.

**Deployment:** The distribution of volunteers in response to an emergency.

**Scheduled:** Volunteer has been assigned a shift.

If you have any questions about the exercise or about how the system works, please contact your local coordinator.

**Training Schedule Update**

These are the trainings currently scheduled **January 2011 - March 2011**. You can attend any of the trainings, regardless of location! **Registration is required for all trainings** and some locations have size restrictions so call the individual listed for more details or to register.

**MN Responds MRC Orientations**

**01/20/2011** 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. Central Lakes College, E208 (Brainerd). Call (218) 824-1093 to register.

**Incident Command System, an Overview**

**01/20/2011** 4:30 - 5:30 p.m. Central Lakes College, E208 (Brainerd). Call (218) 824-1093 to register.

After a training, whether in person or online, remember to update your training profile on [www.mnresponds.org](http://www.mnresponds.org) and send a copy of the certificate to your Local Coordinator!

**Central MN Responds MRC Unit Volunteer Core Competency Training**

**Volunteers Registered as of 12/01/2010 : 1154**

Orientation	397	34%
Personal and Family Preparedness	119	10%
Psychological First Aid	170	15%
National Incident Management System (IS 700)	181	16%
Incident Command System (IS 100)	174	15%
ICS for Single Resources and Initial Action Incidents (IS 200)	131	11%

The goal for each of these core competency trainings is 100%. Check your online profile and make sure it reflects the trainings you have taken!

Online Orientation: University of Minnesota School of Public Health Online Training Site <http://www.sph.umn.edu/ce/trainings/online.asp>

FEMA's Independent Study Program (IS 700, IS 100, IS 200) <http://training.fema.gov/IS/>

## Region 5 MRC Conference

On October 27-29, Minnesota played host to 115 Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) Coordinators from Region 5, partners, and Federal Program Officers at the downtown Minneapolis Radisson. Region 5 is the national FEMA region of Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, and Wisconsin, and includes 237 MRC Units.

The Central MN Responds MRC Unit was very well represented. A Coordinator served on the planning team, and three Local Coordinators and one partner attended the conference.

The State Coordinator, Rob Carlson, and our Unit Coordinator, Tony Buttacavoli (Isanti County), along with a volunteer from the NE Region Unit, talked about our deployment to the Red River Valley Floods Spring 2009.



Rachel Erickson, Central Minnesota Healthcare System Preparedness Program, presented on the MRC/Hospital partnership including the Hospital Response Team (HRT).

Cynthia Heltunen (Benton County) presented on her Federal Deployment Training along with a MRC Coordinator from Illinois and one of the Federal Program Staff.

Those in attendance had the privilege of hearing the Director of the Office of Civilian Volunteers Medical Reserve Corps (OCVMRC) Captain Robert Tosatto speak about the successes of the MRCs on a National level and the goals for the future. The goals include promotion of Healthy People 2010, and integrating MRC Units in Public Health activities such as promotion and support.

This conference was a great opportunity to learn from MRC units throughout MN and the Region. It is held annually in the different Region 5 states.

<http://www.medicalreservecorps.gov/>



*At Region 5 Conference (from left): Tony Buttacavoli (Isanti), Rachel Erickson (CMHSPP), Rob Carlson (MDH), Melissa Watt-Henderson (Region 5 Coordinator), Capt. Rob Tosatto (OCVMRC), Cynthia Heltunen (Benton), Jon Young (Wright)*



<http://www.winterweather.state.mn.us/>

**Questions, Comments, and Suggestions**  
for future newsletters

Please email  
Tony.Buttacavoli@co.isanti.mn.us and write  
"MN Responds Newsletter" in the subject line