

# Minnesota Responds



## Central MN Responds MRC

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## Central Region

### VOLUNTEER NEWSLETTER 2013, ISSUE 1

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#### NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK

April 21-27, 2013

**Celebrate Service**

National Volunteer Week  
April 21 - 27, 2013

#### Central MN Responds MRC Volunteer Activities

**03/04:** 18 Volunteers attended a refresher, and 6 Volunteers attended Orientation training in Morrison County.

**03/19-20:** 14 Volunteers assisted with Operation Super Bug at Camp Ripley. See page 2 for more details. Two Volunteers stayed and served in the EOC on Day 2 of the exercise, 03/21.



#### Central MN Responds MRC

*Serving Benton, Cass,  
Chisago, Crow Wing,  
Isanti, Kanabec, Mille Lacs,  
Morrison, Pine, Sherburne,  
Stearns, Wadena, Wright,  
and Todd*

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National Volunteer Week is a time to celebrate people doing extraordinary things through service. Established in 1974, National Volunteer Week focuses national attention on the impact and power of volunteerism and service as an integral aspect of our civic leadership. The week draws the support and endorsement of the president and Congress, governors, mayors and municipal leaders, as well as corporate and community groups across the country.

Minnesota Responds MRC Coordinators would like to say "Thank You" to all of you – as volunteers who respond to drills, attend trainings, assist in local events, and participate in exercises of emergency plans. Again, THANK YOU!

#### Operation Loon Call, part 2



Save the Date! – **May 15, 2013**

Local public health agencies across Minnesota will be conducting a call down drill of **all** volunteers registered through MN Responds Medical Reserve Corps on May 15, 2013.

**Please respond to this drill** as directed (via email or phone, no assembly). Your county coordinator will report the results to the Minnesota Department of Health as a grant requirement. Your help in this drill will be greatly appreciated!

In 2012, 65% of the 1,200 Central MN Responds MRC Volunteers (all 14 counties) responded to the request.

**Do you have a smart phone or tablet?** Have you downloaded the PFA and Responder Self Care Apps from the University of Minnesota?  
<http://www.sph.umn.edu/ce/perl/mobile/>



**April 8, 2013 6:00-8:00pm** Volunteer Training Session at Sherburne County Government Center, Elk River, Minnesota.

Title: **Beyond Registration – Marketing Yourself as a Volunteer**

Description: You've signed up to be an emergency response volunteer ... Now what? Facilitator will provide ideas and tools to help you prepare and market yourself as a volunteer, as well as share personal volunteer experiences.

Objectives:

- ◆ Identify ways you can prepare yourself for emergencies/disasters.
- ◆ Understand the need for trained and credentialed volunteers.
- ◆ Examine ways to get involved locally, nationally.
- ◆ Identify tools and resources available to volunteers.
- ◆ Identify benefits of being a volunteer.

Please contact Marcia Engvall at 763-765-4103 or [marcia.engvall@co.sherburne.mn.us](mailto:marcia.engvall@co.sherburne.mn.us) to register. Registration deadline – April 5<sup>th</sup>. Note: training 6:00-8:00pm. Facilitator will provide pizza and beverage from 5:30-6:00pm for those interested.



### THANK YOU OSB Volunteers!!!

Operation Super Bug (OSB) - Closed Point of Dispensing, a full-scale exercise, took place on March 20, 2013, at Camp Ripley. Using a scenario of an intentional anthrax release requiring mass dispensing of medications to the community and healthcare organizations (OSB participants), fourteen Central MN Responds MRC volunteers from nine counties worked together to set-up and operate a Closed Point of Dispensing (POD).

OSB-Closed POD started 03/19 at 7pm with Volunteers arriving to get supplies and materials unloaded. Volunteers received Just-in-Time Training, were put into an Incident Command Structure, received Job Action Sheets and completed site set-up in one hour! The team returned early the next morning for final prep and to be ready for dispensing operations.

Approximately 130 participants came through as 'clients' to receive simulated medications. The clients were triaged for symptoms and completed forms prior to entering the POD. Clients then were screened and queued to the appropriate dispensing line (Express, Level 1 or 2, or Special Services). Once in the proper dispensing line they received their simulated



Doxycycline or Ciprofloxacin, provided medication instructions, and took their initial dose before exiting the POD. The MRC Volunteers were able to move clients through in approximately 12 minutes, start to finish!

Closed POD operations took place in four segments throughout the day. Volunteers made changes to clinic flow for each segment to increase efficiency and client experience. Some volunteers even switched up their roles for cross training and experience. They did awesome!

- We have **great volunteers** who took time prior to the exercise to complete ICS-100, NIMS-700, Mass Dispensing Sites, and Closed POD training. They dedicated two full days to participate in OSB-Closed POD and other training opportunities that were available.
- Central MN Responds MRC Volunteers are a valuable resource for local public health and healthcare. Staffing for the Closed POD activities was nearly 100% volunteers!
- Central MN Responds MRC volunteers are trained, skilled, and educated in emergency preparedness and have a high level of dedication to their communities and the unit!

OSB- Closed POD was a huge success—not only were exercise objectives met, but it was great to see the camaraderie of our team!

~T. Buttacavoli



**THANK YOU!** to OSB volunteers: Deb Kreger, Jackie Oelfke, Judith Saewart, Julia Helgeson, Larry Bachmeier, Peggy Olding, Micah Snead, Nancy Rinkel, Sandra Driscoll, Sharon Heley, Shelly Mitchell, Stacy Frabel, Susan Whirley, and Tom Chaklos!