

# Minnesota Responds



**Central Region**

## **Central Region Minnesota Responds MRC**

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## **VOLUNTEER NEWSLETTER 2008, ISSUE 2**

The destruction caused by the recent storm in May near Hugo, MN, has raised our awareness to the potential for a disaster to hit any time, at any place, affecting anyone. With Minnesota Responds Medical Reserve Corps, you are able to be deployed during a similar emergency. Thank you for your willingness to help at the local, county or even state and nation-wide level.



It is important that Minnesota Responds MRC volunteers are ready to weather the storm at their own houses before helping the community in a health-related emergency. Information in this newsletter is intended for you to feel more comfortable with your personal emergency preparedness and comfortable as a volunteer in a community emergency. The trainings offered through Minnesota Responds MRC are tailored to help you gain the skills you need to help the community to the best of your ability. Watch for emails from your local administrator for upcoming trainings.

**Thank you for being a volunteer!**

### **Have you attended the Minnesota Responds Medical Reserve Corps Orientation?**

Out of 865 total registered volunteers from the Central Region, **206** have attended the Orientation training. That's about 24% of our volunteers! Our goal is have 80% of our volunteers attend orientation. You need to complete Orientation in order to be deployed during an emergency. Please help us reach our goal, and register for an Orientation training today!

### Keep us updated

Remember to update your profile when you attend classes, move, get a new phone number or email address, get married or other changes. We need the most current contact information for you.

Did you register so long ago, you don't remember what information you put in? **Log on today!** If you need assistance contact your local administrator to retrieve or reset your username and/or password.

[www.mnresponds.org](http://www.mnresponds.org)

## Helping You Help Others

Minnesota Legislature signed a bill into law on April 18, 2008, which further protects volunteers in a health emergency. This bill protects volunteers in two ways:

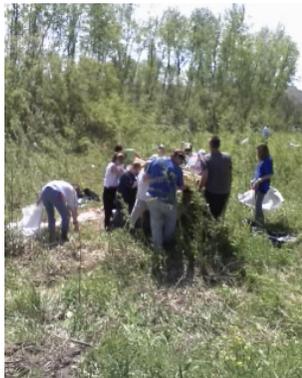
1. Within the state, MRC volunteers deployed by the Commissioner will have the same liability protections as a state employee.
2. When deployed outside of Minnesota, MRC volunteers will be eligible for the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) liability protections. This 50-state compact makes volunteer liability the responsibility of the requesting state.

The bill also provides worker's compensation benefits, including medical treatment if injured for MRC volunteers working in Minnesota or another state. Depending on the income loss limits of the workers' compensation law, the proposal includes the choice of income replacement benefits based upon current employment or upon the designated volunteer role.

This bill should make it easier and more comfortable for volunteers to help during a disaster, eliminating uncertain and/or inadequate liability and worker's compensation coverage for volunteers.

This law provides coverage for health volunteers if the Commissioner of Health requests that volunteers serve outside of their home jurisdiction. If the Commissioner of Health requests the volunteers to be deployed within Minnesota, in another state, or even in Canada, that volunteer will be covered under the State worker's compensation and liability agreements. However, if a local jurisdiction activates its Minnesota Responds MRC volunteers, then the volunteers will be covered for liability and worker's compensation under the local jurisdiction, not the State.

This information was provided by MDH Fact Sheet *Minnesota Responds Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) Volunteer Protections*. For more information, contact Rob Carlson at [Rob.carlson@state.mn.us](mailto:Rob.carlson@state.mn.us).



### Looking for some extra TRAINING?

MRC-TRAIN offers **free** trainings for MRC volunteers! This is a great resource to brush up on important information that you might need during deployment. All you have to do

is create a user account on

[www.mrc.train.org](http://www.mrc.train.org). It's free to create an account and there are no user fees. The courses offered are great for professionals looking for continuing education credit and beneficial for non-medical volunteers, too.

MRC-TRAIN is available all day, every day, so you can learn when it's convenient for you!

### Have you taken FEMA IS-700 yet?

FEMA IS-700 is the introduction to the National Incident Management System (NIMS).

By the end of the course you will:

- Understand the benefits of NIMS
- Learn how to communicate effectively during an emergency
- Understand the use and management of resources during an emergency

This course is a great benefit to those in leadership positions and responders alike! Go to <http://training.fema.gov/emiweb/is/is700.asp> to take the online self-study course at any time convenient to you!