

Minnesota Responds



Central Region

Central Region Minnesota Responds MRC

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Severe Weather Update Floods 2011

In April 2009, Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) Units from around the state responded to flooding that occurred in the Red River Valley. Spring 2011 flooding promises to again stress local resources, providing deployment opportunities for the MN Responds MRC Volunteers.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) indicates the areas of **greatest** flood concern for Minnesota is the Red River Valley in both Fargo/Moorhead and Grand Forks, and the Mississippi River starting in St. Paul.

Several Central Minnesota counties are preparing for moderate or major flooding including Benton (Little Rock Lake), Stearns (Sauk River), Wright (Crow River), and Chisago (St. Croix River) as well as all the counties along the Mississippi River. Check your county website for county-specific flood information.

Opportunities for deployment include first aid at sandbagging sites, medical stations in shelters, home visits with a resource team, behavioral health outreach and alternative care with the evacuation of long term care facilities. This care could occur in other nursing homes or shelters. Be prepared to receive communication this spring for possible flood deployments in the Central Region.

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Prepare for Possible Deployment

Update your www.mnresponds.org profile.

- Ensure contact information is included, both phone and email. Deployments that are not time sensitive or non-emergency may only be sent via email.
- Also ensure your medical license has been verified. You will not be able to respond as a nurse (etc) if your license has not been credentialed.

Attend Orientation so you understand your roles and responsibilities as a volunteer (either online or in person).

Complete The Off-Site Care Facility – An Alternative Care Site: A Primer for Volunteers
<http://www.sph.umn.edu/ce/umncphp/>

Complete your Personal and Family Plan so you are ready to go. Ensure your family is taken care of and you have the supplies they need to function without you for the length of your chosen deployment.



Operation Thunder

Mass Dispensing Full Scale Exercise



In the event of an biological emergency requiring oral medication or vaccination of residents, the establishment of Mass Dispensing Sites (MDS) to administer such prophylaxis to the public would be utilized. These MDS's would require a large and trained workforce. Local and state government would rely on volunteers such as MN Responds MRC members to help fill such a demand.

Central Region Public Health will be conducting a simulated aerosolized anthrax release response exercise - **OPERATION THUNDER** - Tuesday, June 28, 2011 in the afternoon at Zimmerman High School. This MDS exercise is a collaboration between Benton, Chisago, Isanti, Sherburne, Stearns, and Wright County's Public Health; and the Central MN Responds MRC Unit.

The exercise is designed to test and train on several components of public health emergency response. The following will be included in this exercise:

- MDS Site Set-up
- Dispense "medication" to the public using a volunteer workforce
- Train with tactical communication tools
- Just-In-Time Training for MDS Staff
- MDS Operations Using Incident Command

As a Central MN Responds MRC Volunteer, how can I participate?

- Be a simulated affected resident "patient" and walk thru the MDS and pick up "medicine"
- Be a workforce member in the MDS and assist with the dispensing process.

Are there any incentive for my participation?

- All Central MN Responds MRC volunteers who work in the MDS will receive a Unit T-Shirt, lunch, and certificate of participation.
- All volunteers who walk thru the MDS will receive an incentive to be determined.

This is an excellent opportunity for you to gain knowledge and experience into how, as a community, we will respond to a health emergency whether it's Anthrax, novel influenza, etc. Your participation is a tremendous value to Public Health as we continuously strive to improve our emergency plans.



OPTION 1: We need volunteers to come through the site and play the role of residents who need medication. You will go through security and registration, fill out a form, and walk through the clinic to receive your mock medication. This role should take about 30 minutes to complete. You will receive a thank you gift and a certificate of participation. If you are interested, please pre-register by contacting Sally Burg 320-656-6276 or Sally.Burg@co.stearns.mn.us.

OPTION 2: Volunteers are needed to fill positions as the MDS workforce. In this role you will be assigned a position in the MDS and be given Just-In-Time Training (JITT) which consists of an orientation, site logistics, and clinic flow plan review. You will be placed in a position right for your skills and have a direct supervisor to assist you. This role would require you to arrive on site early and participate in the entire exercise including the hotwash and debriefing. If you participate in Option 2, you will receive a Central MN Responds MRC Unit T-shirt, lunch, and certificate of participation. If you are interested in participating at the Option 2 level you must pre-register by contacting Tony Buttacavoli, Isanti County Public Health, phone number 763-689-8284 or tony.buttacavoli@co.isanti.mn.us.

All Central MN Responds MRC volunteers are invited to participate in this exercise.

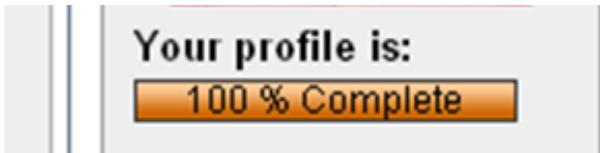
This anthrax scenario is fake and only being used to test planning and response measures.



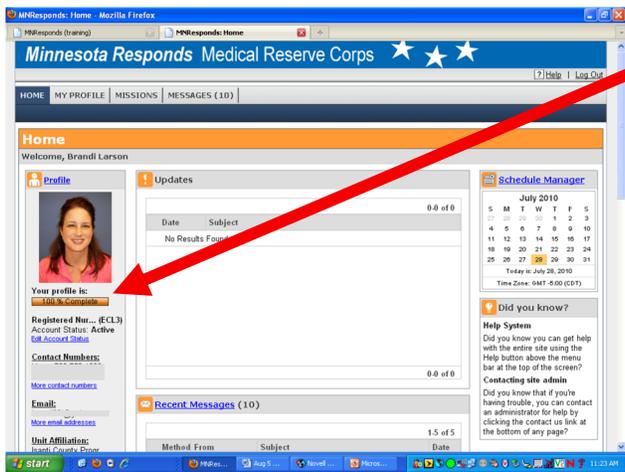
Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Understanding your www.mnresponds.org Profile The Status Bar

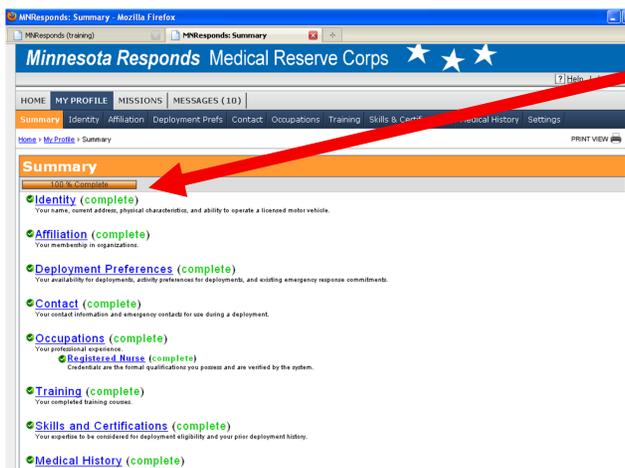
The Central MN Responds MRC Unit uses an internet based system to manage, credential, and communicate with Volunteers. The system has been updated several times and one of the new features is a Status Bar. This bar tells you, and the Local Coordinators, if your profile is complete.



The status bar can be found in two locations. The first is on the 'HOME' page of your profile on the left hand side (Picture 1) of the screen. The other can be found when you click on the tab that says 'MY PROFILE' (Picture 2).

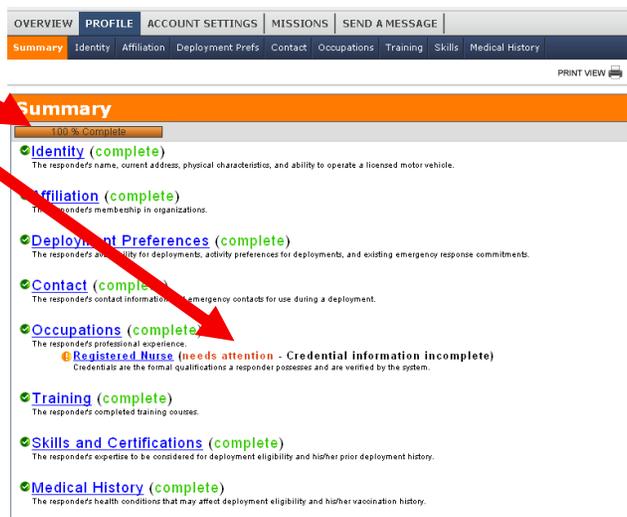


Picture 1: HOME page of Profile



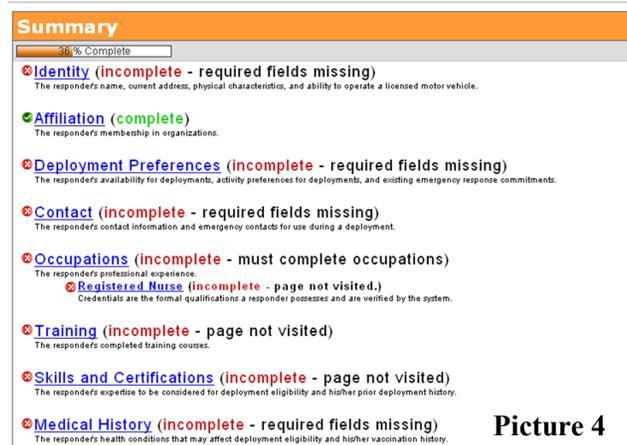
Picture 2: MY PROFILE Tab

The Status Bar reflects data inputted into the system, not the accuracy or completeness of the data. For example, if you type '0' for a zip code, it recognizes that information has been entered, but not that it's incomplete/inaccurate. The other error Coordinators see is with licensing. A Volunteer will enter their medical license, but will input it incorrectly or incompletely. The status bar will reflect 100% complete but when clicking on the 'MY PROFILE' tab, it is seen information is incomplete (Picture 3). Information that needs attention will be in red text.



Picture 3: 100% Complete Status Bar, Occupation needs Attention

Some Volunteer's profiles are incomplete in several areas (Picture 4). These Volunteers may receive a phone call from the Local Coordinator or their profiles may be inactivated.



Picture 4

Training Schedule Update

These are the trainings currently scheduled **April - June 2011**. You can attend any one of these 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

04/05/2011 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. Central Lakes College (Brainerd).
To register: (218) 824-1098, margie.young@co.crow-wing.mn.us

Psychological First Aid

04/21/2011 4:00 - 8:00 p.m. Kanabec County Public Service Building (Mora). To register by 4/18/2011 Kathy 320-679-6438 or Kathryn.burski@co.kanabec.mn.us

05/19/2011 4:00 - 8:00 p.m. Central Lakes College (Brainerd).
To register: (218) 824-1098, margie.young@co.crow-wing.mn.us

EXERCISE Operation Thunder

06/28/2011 12:00 - 4:00 p.m. Zimmerman. Questions, contact Tony Buttacavoli 763-689-8284

After a training, whether in person or online, update your training profile on www.mnresponds.org and send a copy of the certificate to your county MN Responds MRC coordinator!

Upcoming Training/ Educational Opportunities SAVE THE DATE

Integrated Training Summit

“Integration Across Borders:
Moving Forward Together”

May 3-5, 2011

Grapevine, TX

<http://>

www.integratedtrainingsummit.org/

3rd Annual Partnering in Response Conference

(Northeast Region)

“Regional Response to Radiological
Emergencies”

May 11-12, 2011

Grand Rapids, MN

[www.medinfosystems.org/
conference.html](http://www.medinfosystems.org/conference.html)

Disaster Behavioral Health Conference

Footprint of Disasters, Pathways to
Resilience

June 3, 2011

Brooklyn Center, MN

More information to come

Are You Ready? (Central and West Central Regions)

“An Emergency Preparedness Con-
ference for Healthcare System
Partners”

August 18, 2011

Alexandria, MN

<http://www.togpartners.com/epc/>

Medical Reserve Corps Core Competencies

We encourage all active members of a Medical Reserve Corps unit, at a minimum, be able to:

1. Describe the procedure and steps necessary for the MRC member to protect health, safety, and overall well-being of themselves, their families, the team, and the community.
2. Document that the MRC member has a personal and family preparedness plan in place.
3. Describe the chain of command (e.g., Emergency Management Systems, ICS, NIMS), the integration of the MRC, and its application to a given incident.
4. Describe the role of the local MRC unit in public health and/or emergency response and its application to a given incident.
5. Describe the MRC member’s communication role(s) and processes with response partners, media, general public, and others.
6. Describe the impact of an event on the mental health of the MRC member, responders, and others.
7. Demonstrate the MRC member’s ability to follow procedures for assignment, activation, reporting, and deactivation.
8. Identify limits to own skills, knowledge, and abilities as they pertain to MRC role(s).

Now accepting
Questions Comments, and
Suggestions for future newsletters!

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