



The RESPONDER

Okaloosa-Walton
Medical Reserve Corps

FOURTH QUARTER NEWSLETTER • APRIL - JUNE 2019

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The Everbridge System is used to notify our members of emergency activations or when there may important information that needs to get out to our membership. We perform a quarterly drill in order to test our capability to reach our membership.

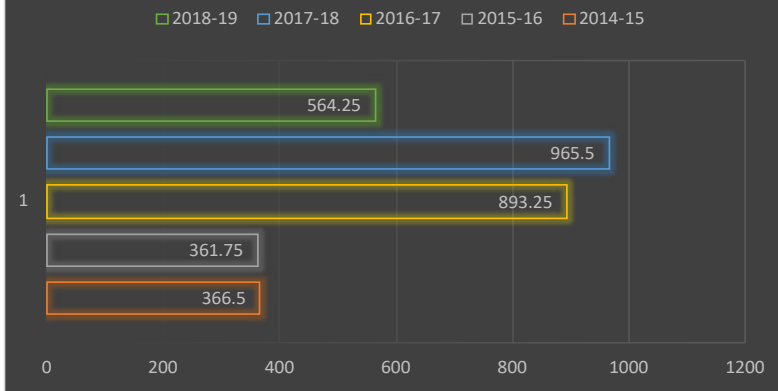
If you are not receiving a call down from Everbridge and you are listed as a deployable volunteer, we need to update your information. We have members who are not registered. It is important to stay current with your contact info so in case there is an alert or activation to respond, you are receiving the call, email or text. There is also an App for Everbridge!

COMPLETING THE 2018 - 2019 OWMRC YEAR

The end of June brought us to the end of another OWMRC year of service and volunteerism. It has also brought us some wonderful national recognition for our Lean On Me Project. More about that later in this newsletter, but it is great to have your peers and National Organizations see value in our work and our ideas. It has also been a year of unprecedented disaster response. While not sent to the area where Hurricane Michael did his worst, our members provided very important support to our mission here in Okaloosa and Walton Counties.

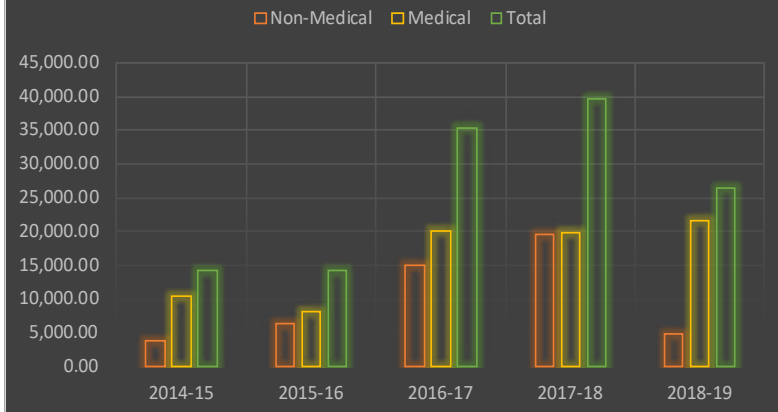
Let's take a good look at our numbers for this past year and compare them with previous years.

TOTAL HOURS FOR EACH FISCAL YEAR



**FIVE YEAR
TOTAL
3151.25
HOURS**

TOTAL VALUE OF HOURS



**FIVE YEAR
TOTAL
\$129,920.73
IN VALUE**

Background Screening Update

Without a current background check, you cannot be deployed or participate in any activation or event.

Our budget for background screenings has been spent and until we receive the go-ahead to begin spending in our next fiscal year, we will be on hold for new screenings. Since we no longer use our Central Office HR Hub, and since the state no longer supports individual MRC units, we are working to save as much of our budget as we can for background screenings. New Members are required to complete Level 2 screening. For those current members, there is a requirement that you be rescreened every 5 years. The initial and re-screening requires your fingerprints to be taken at a location here in Fort Walton Beach and must be scheduled at least one week in advance. We require that you submit the Live Scan Information Sheet, a good color copy of your Driver's License or ID and a color copy of your Social Security Card. Because it generates a cost, you need to be available for the appointment date and time you request. We lose money if the appointment isn't kept. Please make sure you can keep that appointment.

Again, if you are unable to continue your service to our MRC, we do understand, just let us know that you cannot or no longer want to be a part of the OWMRC. Send us an email and we will close your folder.

Please Welcome Our New Members

The Okaloosa-Walton Medical Reserve Corps welcomes the following new members that have joined since the first quarter:

- Jasmine Kathlene Selph**
- Ruby Carver**
- Mark Robertson**
- Mary Kay Williams**
- Tommy Williams**
- Steve Williams**
- Jaime LaPorte**
- Ana-Ysabel Williams**
- Toni Lancaster**

We have others who are currently in Researching Status and hope to have them on board soon. Upon completion of all training requirements and background screening, a new member receives a "Go-Pack" filled with response swag and reference materials, ID badge, T-shirt and Polo Shirt.

If you know anyone who would like to join us, please give them my email address and have them contact me, or forward this newsletter to them with the interest application on the back page. I will send them the information that will get them on the way to becoming a deployable OWMRC member! We need you and we need them!

EVERBRIDGE NOTIFICATION SYSTEM Is Your Information Complete?

So, you are sitting at the dinner table or working during the day and you get a call on your cell or home phone. You look at the number on the display... **866-804-9169**. Another scam call? Telemarketers? Political poll?

None of the above. This phone number is from **Everbridge**, the alert and notification system your OWMRC uses to notify you of an activation or emergency, information about trainings or events, and for the state to reach out to volunteers for assistance with responses.

Each member of our OWMRC is loaded into the system and we use your information to populate certain fields. We then send you a link to the site where you can register your own login and password, and then provide the information requested while completing your member profile.

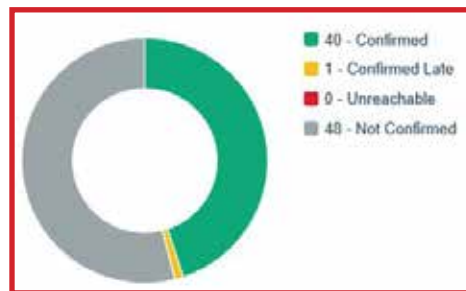
If you have any problems, we can help you! There is a video available that helps walk you through each step of the registration process. Here is the link to that YouTube video, produced by DOH-Escambia:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ux0qsjoP17c>

Why are we asking? Please go into your Everbridge Profile Account. Make any updates that

are required and complete as much of the information as you possibly can. Important that you give us at least one personal contact (cell phone, text number, home phone, personal email, etc.) so we can contact you quickly.

We drill the system each quarter, with notifications going out during the day and in the evening. These drills give us the ability to gauge the response of our membership, and to see if the emergency messages are being seen by you!



**OUR LATEST
QUARTERLY
NOTIFICATION
TEST**

**MESSAGE SENT TO 89 CONTACTS
40 MEMBERS CONFIRMED RECEIPT
48 MEMBERS DIDN'T CONFIRM RECEIPT
1 CONFIRMED LATE**

LEAN ON ME PROJECT

It is with great pride that we announce the multiple awards and recognition of our Lean On Me Project. Since the inception of the project, we have worked to make it into a program that others can use. The road map for preparing our seniors and other vulnerable populations is currently being followed in multiple Florida counties and it has been presented to various local organizations, most recently at a meeting of the Coastal Seniors of South Walton.

The Lean On Me Project received the 2017 Medical Reserve Corps Recognition Award for Community Resilience. It was the Featured Article in the National MRC *In Touch* Newsletter in May of 2018.

Our abstract titled "Lean On Me Project: Serving a Vulnerable Population for Disaster Preparedness Awareness" was given the opportunity for oral presentation at the 2018 Healthy Aging Summit in Washington D.C. At that meeting, Katie presented our project to hundreds of healthcare and professionals touting the successes of our relatively new program. It was so impressive, that the then Florida's Surgeon General, Dr. Celeste Philip moved to try and have our project adopted statewide.



Peggy McDeavitt was nominated and awarded the Public Education/Public Information Award at the 33rd Annual Governor's Hurricane Conference in May of this year. The award recognized an individual or organization that has developed an

innovative and effective public educational tool or program which has improved hurricane preparedness, response, recovery, or mitigation in the State of Florida. You can see the full video of all the award

winners at the GHC here: <http://flghc.org/award-recipients/>.

And recently at the 2019 National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) Annual Meeting, we were awarded with a Promising Practice Certificate in Building Community Resiliency.



We are into the third year of this program and have over 125 clients. Our outreach is limited only by the ability of our volunteer force to get out and make contacts or schedule visits. We need more help to do this. Of all the things our MRC is involved in, this is one of the most important. Can you provide time to do home visits? Can you provide a couple of hours each week to work with the Lean On Me team to prepare our seniors or other vulnerable community members for natural or man-made disasters?

If you are interested in helping, or if you know of someone or a group of someones who would benefit from Lean On Me, please contact Kirk Webb or Peggy McDeavitt. Let's make our community a storm ready and prepared place to live and work.

Peggy can be reached via email or cell phone: Margaret.McDeavitt@flhealth.gov or 850-830-0743! Email Kirk Webb at Robert.Webb@flhealth.gov.

HURRICANE MICHAEL - CATAGORY 5 MONSTER



During Hurricane Michael, DOH-Okaloosa asked for volunteers to standby for possible deployment to the Special Needs shelters in Okaloosa and Walton Counties. Although a few team members, Janet Huckabee, Leonard and Deanna Schoenherr, and William Haik indicated they were able to help in the shelters. As Michael moved more to the east, there wasn't a strong need for OWMRC team members to assist.

After the storm however, numerous OWMRC team members volunteered in different ways with other organizations to help those affected by the storm. Clelia Garrity provided Chaplain services at different shelters, Janet Huckabee worked at a distribution point in Panama City, Barry Ratcliffe and Pat Casey worked the ESF-15 desk at the Emergency Operations Center in Okaloosa county, and Peggy McDeavitt made status phone calls to Lean On Me Clients and also brought numerous supplies to the Jackson County Special Needs Shelter. Even though these team members were not operating under a OWMRC activation, we can not thank them enough and are very proud to have them on our team. And to those team members that also provided any type of aid to those affected by the storm and we haven't heard about your contributions, we Thank You!



PHOTOS FROM MEXICO BEACH AND BAY COUNTY EOC



Okaloosa-Walton Medical Reserve Corps & DOH-Okaloosa Events and Meetings

On September 5, 2018, Kirk was invited by OWMRC team member Laura Messer, to help her distribute preparedness material and educate anyone who had questions regarding personal, family, and/or work place preparedness. Laura is the Emergency Preparedness Specialist at the North Okaloosa Medical Center in Crestview and is passionate about being prepared for whatever disaster that may happen. During National Preparedness month, Laura gathered numerous preparedness brochures to display in the hospital cafeteria. She had the booth set up for four hours during the lunch hour rush. During this time, Laura talked to approximately 150 employees and visitors. Laura and Kirk also brought their “bug out bags” and showed those who stopped to ask questions how to use certain products or supplies. During those personal presentations, each person went away with more knowledge than they previously had. Laura did an excellent job! Not only is North Okaloosa Medical Center lucky to have her, OWMRC is as well. Thank you Laura for setting the example of educating the public in personal preparedness.



For those of you that were unable to sign up for the OWMRC Boo-Boo booth during the Triple B Festival, you missed out! Team members Rhena Wienert, Peggy McDeavitt, and Trish Dall helped us operate the booth and voted for the best BBQ for the festival. We were fortunate in the fact that there were at least ten different BBQ vendors competing and we were able to try all of them. Not only was the food fantastic, the bands were rocking! Luckily, the only injury we helped with was a little girls skinned knee and handing out sunscreen to those who forgot to bring some. We handed out over 200 Lean On Me and OWMRC brochures. We had a great time meeting new people and educating people about the great things Lean On Me and OWMRC are doing. Did I mention we got to try and vote for best BBQ?



Jasmine Selph and Cesar Pinero helped us run another Boo-Boo Booth at the first annual United Way “Rock United Music Festival”. This was an all-day event with numerous vendors, 5 bands who were really entertaining, and all of it supported a really good cause. Since it was the first music festival the United Way had done in this area, there wasn’t a very large crowd until later in the afternoon. But the lack of fans didn’t stop the bands from performing like they were playing a big arena. We all had a good time and just like the Triple B festival, we handed out sunscreen and had no injuries to deal with. Hopefully they have this festival again next year.



Training Website Links

Interested in some additional training? Want something to do when you can't sleep? Want to learn more without having to sit in a classroom? Consider checking out these Training Websites to get your learning on!

SERT TRAC: <https://trac.floridadisaster.org/TRAC/loginform.aspx>

MRC TRAIN: <https://www.mrc.train.org/DesktopShell.aspx>

FEMA: <https://training.fema.gov/>

You will need to register to get access, but it's free. Almost all classes you see are free to attend or take online. All you have to provide is your time! **HAPPY LEARNING!**

STOP THE BLEED UNTIL HELP ARRIVES

The Uniformed Services University's National Center for Disaster Medicine and Public Health (NCDMPH) recently launched a new "Stop the Bleed" app, which is available for free on Google and Apple sites (links below). The app is designed to educate users on what to do in an emergency, how to determine the severity of bleeding, and how to correctly apply a tourniquet to stop bleeding.

With many MRC units leading "Stop the Bleed" and "Until Help Arrives" initiatives in local communities, we thought this would be a valuable resource for the network.

"Stop the Bleed" App Available at:

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=edu.usuhs.stb>

<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/stb/id1336173602?mt=8>

Additional Online Resources

[Stop the Bleed Resources](#): National public awareness and training campaign started by the White House in 2015 to encourage the general public to become trained, equipped, and empowered to help in a bleeding emergency.

[Until Help Arrives Curriculum](#): Launched in 2017, educates the public about the important role it plays in providing immediate care to those who have experienced life-threatening injuries prior to the arrival of emergency services. Covers five main topics: call 9-1-1, protect the injured from harm, stop bleeding, position people so they can breathe, and provide comfort.

Be A Local Hero!

VOLUNTEER

TODAY

850-344-0575



Florida Health Alert Network

<https://floridahealthalertnetwork.com/mrcvolunteer>



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Join and LIKE US Today!

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/449740222113537/>



No matter how rapid the arrival of professional emergency responders, bystanders will always be first on the scene. A person who is bleeding can die from blood loss within five minutes, so it's important to quickly stop the blood loss.

Remember to be aware of your surroundings and move yourself and the injured person to safety, if necessary.

Call 911.

Bystanders can take simple steps to keep the injured alive until appropriate medical care is available. Here are three actions that you can take to help save a life:

1. Apply Pressure with Hands

EXPOSE to find where the bleeding is coming from and apply **FIRM, STEADY PRESSURE** to the bleeding site with both hands if possible.



2. Apply Dressing and Press

EXPOSE to find where the bleeding is coming from and apply **FIRM, STEADY PRESSURE** to the bleeding site with bandages or clothing.



3. Apply Tourniquet(s)

If the bleeding doesn't stop, place a tourniquet 2-3 inches closer to the torso from the bleeding. The tourniquet may be applied and secured over clothing.



The Stop the Bleed campaign was initiated by a federal emergency response convened by the National Security Council Staff, The White House. The purpose of the campaign is to build national resilience by better preparing the public to save lives by taking a series of basic actions to stop life-threatening bleeding following an injury, emergency, and man-made and natural disasters. Addresses made by military medicine and research in hemorrhage control during the war in Afghanistan and Iraq have informed the work of this initiative which exemplifies translation of knowledge back to the homeland to the benefit of the general public. The Department of the Defense owns the "Stop the Bleed" logo and phrase - trademark pending.



Office of Health Affairs

OWMRC Interest Form

Name (Last) (First) (Middle)

Mailing Address City State Zip

Work Telephone / Home Telephone / Cell Phone

Email: _____

What type of volunteer position are you interested in? _____

List any professional license, registration, or certificate you currently possess (include certificate/license number):

List any special skills, interests, or hobbies: _____

List any special considerations or needs: _____

List your most recent volunteer or employment experience: _____

How did you learn about the OWMRC? _____

Scan and email this form to OWMRC Team Leader Kirk Webb at Robert.Webb@flhealth.gov

or mail to: Robert "Kirk" Webb
OWMRC Team Leader
221 Hospital Drive, NE
Fort Walton Beach, Florida 32548

