



Okaloosa-Walton Medical Reserve

Volunteers Strengthening Our Community's
Emergency Preparedness and Response

Okaloosa-Walton MRC Newsletter



July—September 2015

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OWMRC Gets National Recognition

The Okaloosa-Walton Medical Reserve Corps was recognized by CAPT Tosatto, Director of the Division of the Civilian Volunteer Medical Reserve Corps (DCVMRC) for our Ebola response training. Below is the caption that highlighted the OWMRC training.

“Okaloosa - Walton MRC (Fort Walton Beach, FL). The MRC unit held a joint training event with the local FDOH that was attended by seven (7) personnel (2 FDOH team leaders, 3 MRC members, 2 MRC visitors). This 3-hour training focused on the following: four major threats bigger than Ebola, Personal Protective Equipment and how to protect yourself, Alternate Care Site and Point of Dispensing plans, and the role of the MRC in the preparedness and response capability of the county health department.”

To read the full report on the 2014 Domestic Ebola Response MRC Activities report please click on this link visit https://mrc-cms.icfwebservices.com/File/MRC_Ebola_Report_Final.pdf



ANNOUNCEMENTS!

Upcoming Events

- QTR 2 meeting 10/24
- A World of Disease meeting 11/14
- Everbridge call-down drill 11/17
- IS 100/700 class 12/5

4th Quarter Volunteer Activities

The first quarter of Fiscal Year 2015-2016 was active. This organization donated 126.5 hours of community outreach and recruitment efforts. Some of these events include the SMART/MRC Alternate Aare Site exercise, Special Needs Shelter exercise, Back to School Immunization clinic, CERT academy, Pet Preparedness in the Park as well as initial MRC orientation training. Thank you to the following OWMRC members for taking time out of your schedules to support our Corps and the Okaloosa-Walton community.

- Laura Saucedo
- Linda Epperson
- Jennifer Behymer
- Laura Messer
- Tiffany Sommers
- Darrin Gooding
- Dr. Frank Goldstein
- Rebekah Collins



- Megan Braunschweig
- Bennet Bastian
- Peggy McDeavitt
- Jay Brosnan
- Ester Molder
- Dr. Marie Gray
- Catherin Spears
- Carol Baker

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Welcome New Members!

Kathleen Knowlton
Jennifer Randall
Cory Rivers



Noëlle Jeanminette
Ashley Licciardello



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OWMRC BY THE #'S

- 168 members.
- 62 fully deployable.

If you're not fully deployable and want to know what you need, contact Steven at:
850-833-9240
x 2304

ARE U READY



FEMA Courses

MRC members should complete the following courses:

- IS-22-Are You Ready?**
- IS-100- Introduction to Incident Command**
- IS-700- National Incident Management System**

All courses are online at:
<http://training.fema.gov/>

E-mail your certificate to:
Steven.Rendon@flhealth.gov



Stay Alert and Informed!

American Red Cross
www.redcross.org/services/disaster

FEMA
www.fema.gov/hazards/hurricanes

National Weather Service
www.nws.noaa.gov

National Hurricane Center
www.nhc.noaa.gov

New MRC Team Leader



Steven spent the last 7 years serving his country in the Army during that time he volunteered with the American Red Cross, the EL Paso Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) and the Boy Scouts of America. He gained first hand public health preparedness experience as an active Okaloosa-Walton Medical Reserve Corps volunteer. He joined the Local Epidemiology Response Team during the Ebola Response. His volunteer experience coupled with his military leadership experience provides him a great foundation to be the new MRC team leader! Steven lives in Mary Ester with his wife, Ashley. They have one daughter named Tempe. They enjoy spending time outdoors and have a dog named Ruger. He grew up in South Texas, and attended Texas A&M University. His hobbies include running, fishing, and reading.

New MRC Assistant Team Leader



Paige is a recent graduate from the University of Louisville in Kentucky where she majored in communications. She is the new training coordinator for the DOH. This will be the first time she is working in public health preparedness and with the medical reserve corps. She has many years of experience in the mission field, including helping facilitate a medical clinic in Honduras. She moved to Crestview a year ago with her family when her husband, Kevin, became stationed at Eglin. They have one son named Easton. In their free time they like to go to the beach and discover new places on the panhandle.

Back to School Immunization Clinic

The Florida Department of Health in Okaloosa County held a back to school immunization clinic in both the Fort Walton Beach and Crestview facilities from Aug 3rd –13th. This clinic was open to families in the community to have their children vaccinated prior to the start of the new school year. Leading up to the event, the DOH medical section put in a request for MRC support for this event. The Department of Health had a great turnout of families coming out to get their children vaccinated with people filling the waiting room from the time the doors opened to close of business each day.

Throughout the course of the immunization clinic the MRC provided volunteer support to the DOH staff clocking a total of 38 hours! A special thanks goes out to Carol Baker, Rebekah Collins, Linda Epperson, Laura Messer, Catherine Spears, John King and Jennifer Randall for volunteering to help.

This kind of support embodies what the MRC was created for and stands ready to do, which is provide support to and augment medical staff when the need arises in our community.



Rebekah working the window at the immunization clinic



Okaloosa-Walton Medical Reserve Corps



everbridge/SERVFL

On August 31st the Okaloosa-Walton MRC conducted a quarterly Call Down Drill. Below are the OWMRC stats for this drill.

- 31 Confirmed (43.1%)
- 0 Unreachable (0%)
- 34 Not Confirmed (47.2%)
- 7 Confirmed late (9.7%)

This is a 2% increase from previous response results. **!!!GOOD JOB!!!**

The next drill is scheduled for November 17th and were hoping to continue to improve our numbers.

To learn more about disaster preparedness visit these sites:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bSH87RsRnZs>

<http://www.cdc.gov/features/beready/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TcA4KXPffIA>

http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6435a2.htm?s_cid=mm6435a2_x

Be Prepared!



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Alternate Care Site Exercise

On June 26th, the Florida Department of Health in Okaloosa County along with the Okaloosa Walton Medical Reserve Corps and the State Medical Response Team (SMRT) conducted an Alternate Care Site (ACS) exercise in the parking lot of the Fort Walton Beach Medical Center. The event was intended to exercise the joint capability of the DOH, MRC and SMRT assets to support a surge in patients at the Fort Walton Beach Medical Center. The event began on June 25th with a request for support to test the everbridge notification system and the call chain to request SMRT assets. Once the approval was granted for SMRT assets we began setup of the ACS in the FWB Medical Center parking lot. The exercise ran into the next day and concluded with tours and Q&A sessions with members of the community.



A couple of smaller “patients” receiving care



MRC volunteers Peggy and Laura signing in volunteer Ester

Over all the event was a great success for everyone involved and was also a perfect way to showcase our capabilities to respond and support our medical facilities in the area. We look forward to continuing to exercise our capabilities and work with our partner medical response elements to better prepare ourselves in the event of a true emergency where we are called upon to establish an Alternate Care Site.

I also want to send a special thank you to all the OWMRC members that volunteered to help make this exercise the great success that it was. In addition, I also want to thank all of you who may not have been able to volunteer but still took time out of your schedule to come tour the site. Its always a pleasure to have an opportunity to see everyone in person and interact with one another no matter how long or short a time.



A far away view of the medical response trailer, receiving tent and medical tent

CERT Academy

OWMRC members John King and Linda Epperson participated in the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Academy held in Pensacola from July 31st to August 2nd. The CERT Academy was a three day event where members of many different disaster and emergency response volunteer organizations come together to learn new skills and work with some of those other volunteers that they may see in future real world disasters. Participants got the opportunity to increase their knowledge in a number of different skills to include land navigation, search and rescue operations, epidemiological processes and even proper use of a chainsaw. All courses were taught by subject matter experts from throughout the area who all came with a wealth of knowledge and experience. The three days of training culminated in a mass casualty exercise on the final day where participants got the opportunity to put their old and newly acquired skills to the test during a mock disaster exercise.



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Annual Meeting

We held our annual meeting on August 15th and we had a great time. Dave opened up the meeting by giving everyone a quick overview of the last year with the highlight achievement being that we met our recruiting goal of raising our deployable member numbers by 25%. After all that was done we moved on to one of the favorite events of the MRC leadership which is recognizing volunteers and our new deployable members.

Congratulations to the following individuals for their commitment to volunteering with the OWMRC during the 2014-2015 fiscal year. **Peggy McDeavitt** did 28.5 hrs, **Laura Messer** did 29 hrs and **Megan Braunsweig** did 34.5hrs. The volunteer with the most hours over all last year was **Darrin Gooding** with 58hrs.

We were also very happy to recognize our newly deployable members to the Okaloosa-Walton Medical Reserve Corps. **Reba Bedoya**, **Jay Brosnan**, **Rebecca Collins**, **Patrick Donahue**, **John King**, **Kathlene Knowlton** and **Laura Messer**. We

are very excited to have you joining our team and we look forward to seeing you at future events.



Laura receiving her deployable member certificate

At the meeting we also introduced the members of our new Strategic Planning Team (SPT). We are proud to introduce everyone to your SPT committee members; **John King**, **Megan Braunsweig**, **Laura Messer** and **Peggy McDeavitt**. Members of the SPT were selected on their basis of background, commitment, professional experience and desire to play an active role in the growth and development of the OWMRC. The purpose of the SPT is to help the MRC leadership identify, develop, refine and implement long term



MRC members working on identifying SpNS patients

training and strategic goals. Congratulations go out to all the SPT members and thank you for continuing to dedicate your time to making a difference in the OWMRC.

During the annual meeting we also conducted a training on Special Needs Shelters (SpNS). Volunteers received training in how a SpNS is set up, what forms are used, the leadership structure of a SpNS and what their specific roles would be when volunteering to work in a SpNS. This was the second iteration in a multi phased training plan on Special Needs Shelters.



Katie explains the setup and equipment of a SpNS

New Board of Advisors Member

Last but certainly not least we have a new member of our Board of Advisors (BOA). Congratulations to **Amanda Bower** for being selected as the newest member to the BOA committee!



She grew up in Georgia before moving to Florida eight years ago. She is a graduate from the University of West Florida with a bachelor's in public health and is currently pursuing her MPH. She joined the MRC in February and is also a member of the Student Section of the American Public Health Association. Amanda joined the MRC because she has an interest in disaster preparedness/relief and thought it would be a great opportunity to expand her knowledge and offer her assistance to her community in the event of a disaster. She has a six-year old son and they enjoy spending their time together on the beach during the summer. She also enjoys reading, painting, and traveling.

Amanda was carefully selected to be a member of the BOA and we are all looking forward to having her as part of the committee.

Training Ideas?

If you have ideas for training that you think would be beneficial for our members please contact Steven Rendon at 850-833-9240 x 2304 or Steven.Rendon@flhealth.gov



MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS

Strategic Planning Committee
October

Board of Advisors
December

Monthly Meeting
24 October 2015 @ 9am
Location: FWB Health Department

HOLIDAYS

The 2nd quarter is filled with holidays. We hope you all have a wonderful, safe holiday season!

