

*Okaloosa-Walton Medical Reserve*

**Volunteers Strengthening Our Community's  
Emergency Preparedness and Response**

# **Okaloosa-Walton MRC Newsletter**



October—December 2015

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## **Meeting Announcements**

### **Active Bystander Training**

23 Jan @ 9am-1pm

### **Chemical Preparedness**

19 Jan @ 8:15am-11:15am

### **Everbridge Call Down Drill**

Week of 11 Feb

### **IS 100/700 class**

20 Feb @ 9am

### **3rd QTR Meeting**

27 Feb @ 10am

### **Monthly Meeting**

19 Mar @ 10am

## **MRC DOH Leadership**

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**Paige Crawford**

**OWMRC Assistant Team Leader**

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## **The Rundown**

First off, let me say how happy I am that everyone had a safe holiday season. We had a great first half of the fiscal year, and we're looking forward to many more great trainings and exercises for this next quarter and second half of the fiscal year.

Our second quarter had our MRC program taking part in the Fort Walton Beach Chamber of Commerce Dog Daze event and receiving training on the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) put on by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). We also had a presentation given on Bioterrorism, and our Strategic Planning Team continued their work to refine the training, capabilities and the future of the OWMRC.

This third quarter is already shaping up to be just as good if not better than the last. Right now, we are looking at having an active bystander training, a chemical preparedness course, an IS100/700 class, our monthly meetings and hopefully an active bystander train-the-trainer course. Plus, who knows what will pop up for us to throw out. We're always looking for new opportunities to provide our MRC members with additional trainings and exercises.

Katie, Dave, Paige and I are all looking forward to a great third quarter, and we hope you all are as well. If you are working on your full member requirements and have any questions or need some help, please feel free to contact any of us at any time.

## **2nd Quarter Volunteer Activities**

The holiday season can be a busy time for everyone with a number of work and family commitments. However, even that doesn't stop some members from making their way out to our MRC events. I would like to recognize those who donated their time to the MRC this last quarter despite the hustle and bustle the holiday season can bring.

- Megan McDaniel
- Peggy McDeavitt
- Edmond Safarian
- Noelle Jeanminette
- Tiffany Sommers
- Darrin Gooding



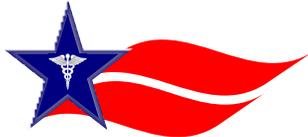
- Keily Rosado
- James Helms
- Tony Daquila
- Dr. Goldstein
- Linda Epperson

## **SNS Training**

Members of the OWMRC had the opportunity to participate in a two day class put on by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS). Participants learned about the process of requesting supplies, receiving supplies, establishing a Point of Dispensing (POD) and associated forms. The training also included a culminating exercise that utilized the knowledge gained in the course to plan and execute a POD.



The training was not only limited to OWMRC and DOH-Okaloosa employees. Representatives from throughout Region 1 attended the training—including some of our military partners. So, not only was it a great training opportunity, but it also allowed everyone the opportunity to network and come together as a region and share our different thoughts, experiences and concerns. We were happy to have Tiffany Sommers, Peggy McDeavitt, Linda Epperson and Tony Daquila join us for this wonderful and unique training opportunity.



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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



## 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.



## Dog Daze

The Florida Department of Health was invited by the Fort Walton Beach Chamber of Commerce to participate in their annual Dog Daze event on October 10th to spread the word to the public about pet preparedness.

The event was a great success and gave us the opportunity to continue to spread our message on the importance of not only having yourself and family prepared for an emergency but your pets as well. There were hundreds of pets roaming around and bringing their owners by our booth to learn about how to better prepare them for an emergency.

Thank you to Darrin Gooding, Tiffany Sommers and Peggy McDeavitt for coming out on their Saturday and supporting the Florida Department of Health, the Okaloosa-Walton Medical Reserve Corps, the Fort Walton Beach Chamber of Commerce and their local community. We couldn't have made such a great impact and helped prepare so many people without your support, dedication and willingness to volunteer your time.

We're looking forward to participating with the Chamber in their Dog Daze event next year and we hope to see more MRC volunteers and their furry friends out there with us.



Katie and Peggy taking a selfie at Dog Daze

## Zika

The Zika virus is an arboviral disease most commonly spread by the Aedes species of mosquito. There has been evidence of Zika virus transmission in Africa, Southeast Asia, the Pacific Islands, and the Americas. Puerto Rico recently reported its first case.



There are currently no reported cases of Zika virus in the United States. However, epidemiologists at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention project that, like Dengue, spread to the US is likely due to ease of travel, climate, and overcrowding in tropical cities. Florida was identified as one of the entry points for the virus along with Gulf Coast states and possibly Hawaii. ([The New York Times](#))

1 in 5 individuals infected with Zika virus become ill. Symptoms include fever, rash, joint pain, and conjunctivitis. Other symptoms may include headache, retro orbital pain, and vomiting. There is no treatment for Zika virus and no vaccine to prevent its contraction. ([Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#))

The best means of prevention is to avoid mosquito bites entirely. Wearing long pants, wearing repellent, and draining and covering areas that contain standing water can help prevent people from coming in contact with mosquitos. Clinicians that suspect Zika virus should discuss recent mosquito exposure with their patients. Determine whether the residence has air conditioning and window screens.

Individuals that have Zika virus should avoid additional mosquito bites during the first week of illness as the virus circulates in the blood and can be spread to others if the infected individual is bitten.

### Brazil investigates link between Zika and birth defects

While severe presentations of the disease are uncommon, Brazil is currently investigating a link between pregnant women that contract the Zika virus and later birth defects of their children, namely microcephaly.

\*This article was written by Ashley Rendon, epidemiologist for the Florida Department of Health in Okaloosa County and Team Leader for the Florida Region 1 Epidemiological Response Team.