

Okaloosa-Walton Medical Reserve Corps

Volunteers Strengthening Our Community's
Emergency Preparedness and Response

Okaloosa-Walton MRC Newsletter



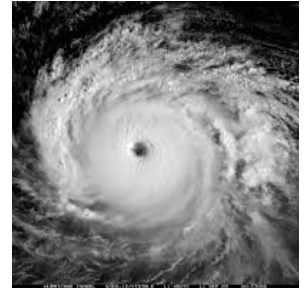
April – June 2016

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Hurricane Preparedness

It's that time of year again! **Are you READY?** The annual hurricane season started on June 1 and will continue through the end of November. It has been many years since the last time we were affected by a tropical system, I hope everyone has not let their guard down. All it takes is one storm to change everything. Knowing the vulnerabilities and what actions to take can greatly reduce the effects of a hurricane disaster. Hurricane hazards include storm surges, heavy rainfall, inland flooding, high winds, tornadoes, and rip currents. Have a plan, and be ready to implement it. Don't wait till the last minute!



BEFORE HURRICANE SEASON

Determine safe evacuation routes and learn the location of shelters near you. Check all emergency kits and supplies; replace any items that are expired or unserviceable. Get your important papers together and get an Insurance Check-up to see if you have the proper coverage for flood and wind damage. Prepare your home by trimming trees and cleaning gutters.

Family Emergency Plan: You and your family will most likely not be together when a disaster strikes. Ensuring you have a Family Emergency Plan is pivotal. Designate two meeting places, one inside your home and one away from your neighborhood. Assign an out of state point of contact incase your family gets separated and make sure you have an emergency telephone number listing. Once you have created a plan, implement, practice, and maintain that plan.

DURING THE STORM

When in a Watch Area: Hurricane conditions are possible within the specified area within 48 hours of the anticipated onset of tropical storm force winds. During a watch, review your plan and prepare your home for evacuation. Listen closely to information and instructions from local officials about the progress of the storm.

When in a Warning Area: Hurricane conditions are expected within 36 hours of the issued warning. Closely monitor all information and instructions given by local officials and follow all directions as appropriate. Inform your family or friends of your evacuation plans. Do not stay in mobile homes. Remember to take your pets with you when evacuating.

Hurricane Shelter: Know the locations of shelters near you and be aware of all shelter rules prior to leaving your home for shelter.

AFTER THE STORM

Continue to listen to the news for updates and stay alert for extended hazards. Return to your home only after it has been deemed safe by officials. Inspect your home for damage and wildlife upon your return.

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS!

Orientation
and

Monthly Meeting

July 16, 2016 @ 9:00 am
FWB Health Department

Come and meet the
New Team Leader and get
updated Hurricane Info!

OWMRC CONTACTS

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OWMRC Director

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OWMRC Assistant Team Leader

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Paige.Crawford@flhealth.gov



Okaloosa-Walton Medical Reserve Corps



OWMRC BY THE #'S

- 168 members.
- 71 fully deployable.

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

ARE U READY



New MRC Team Leader



Shayne Stewart is a retired firefighter with over 30 years experience in the fire and emergency services field. He retired from the Okaloosa Island Fire District as a Captain in 2013. He has been an State Certified Fire Service Instructor for over 12 years and until recently taught at Northwest Florida State College as a Lead Instructor for the Fire Academy. Shayne holds two Associate of Science degrees; one in Fire Science from then OWCC, and one in Emergency Administration and Management from NWFSC. He holds numerous State Fire Service Certifications such as Fire Officer, Fire Inspector, Fire Instructor, Live Fire Instructor Trainer, and Apparatus Operator. He is a Florida Certified Emergency Medical Technician and teaches the First Responder Curriculum. Shayne lives in Destin with his wife, Michelle, and has three adult children: Matthew, Kathryn, and Cody. In his spare time he and Michelle enjoy good food and long rides on their motorcycles. He is looking forward to this new chapter in emergency service.

April POD Exercise

The Florida Department of Health in Okaloosa County is charged with dispensing mass medications during a public health emergency. These operations are called Points of Dispensing (PODs). The department operates two types of PODs; large-scale, open Public PODs and smaller Closed PODs. In order to expedite mass medication dispensing and reduce the number of community members coming to the public PODs, the department enters agreements with businesses, churches, or community groups to dispense to their membership within these Closed PODs. On April 30, the department teamed up with a local church and the MRC to practice dispensing operations. This church (will remain unnamed for privacy reasons) was the very first Closed POD agreement to practice their plan. The team received a brief training and moved quickly into planning, setting up, and operating the Closed POD. After a couple dry runs, we conducted a "hotwash" to discuss what operation strengths and areas for improvement. The exercise taught the team a tremendous amount and the leaders are quickly drafting a Closed POD plan based on the results. Congratulations to the team, we are proud of your dedication to public health preparedness!



GREAT WORK TEAM!



everbridge/SERVFL

On March 24, 2016 the Okaloosa-Walton MRC conducted a quarterly Call Down Drill. Below are the OWMRC stats for this drill.

- **25 Confirmed (35.21%)**
- **2 Unreachable (2.82%)**
- **37 Not Confirmed (52.11%)**
- **7 Confirmed late (9.86%)**

If you are not receiving a call down from Everbridge and you are a deployable volunteer, we need to update your information.

It is important that we stay on top of your contact info so in case of an activation or alert, you are receiving the call, email or text. Don't forget that there is also an App for Everbridge!

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



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FEMA Courses

MRC members should complete the following courses:

IS-100
Introduction to Incident Command

IS-700
National Incident Management System

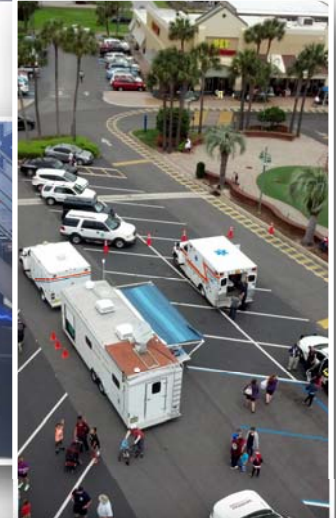
All courses are online at:
<http://training.fema.gov/>

You will need to register for a FEMA Student Number

E-mail your certificate to:
Shayne.Stewart@flhealth.gov



Disaster Expo at Uptown Station



Do you know anyone who may be interested in joining the Okaloosa-Walton MRC?

We accept Medical and Non-Medical volunteers to assist with responses to various emergency and non-emergency events in Okaloosa and Walton Counties.

Training opportunities are provided throughout the year and there are other opportunities that provide volunteers with chances to network with peers and others who are providing specialized care and response to our citizens and visitors.

We are always looking to bring new volunteers into our group. Contact Shayne Stewart at Shayne.Stewart@flhealth.gov

or call
850-833-9240 x 2304



DISASTER PREPAREDNESS EXPO 2016
SPONSORED BY
FLORIDAONE STATE MEDICAL RESPONSE TEAM

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS
(Subject to change)

- 10:00 AM – EXPO Opens
- 10:30 AM – Fire Extinguisher Demonstration (Hiller booth)
- 10:30 AM – Who is FloridaOne (Seminar Tent)
- 11:00 AM – Emerald Coast Martial Arts Demo (Central Park)
- 11:00 AM – Bioterrorism and Dermatology (Seminar Tent)
- 11:30 AM – Protecting Your Home Against Wildfires (Seminar Tent)
- 12:00 PM – Helping Your Children Survive a Disaster (Seminar Tent)
- 12:30 PM – Fire Extinguisher Demo (Hiller Booth)
- 12:30 PM – Medical Reserve Corps and You (Seminar Tent)
- 1:00 PM – Active Shooter – What do you do? (Seminar Tent)
- 1:30 PM – Fire Extinguisher Demo (Hiller Booth)
- 2:00 PM – FEMA After a Disaster
- 2:30 PM – Who is FloridaOne (Seminar Tent)
- 2:30 PM – Fire Extinguisher Demo (Hiller Booth)
- 3:00 PM – Zika Virus (Seminar Tent)
- 3:30 PM – Preparing Your Pet for a Disaster (Seminar Tent)
- 3:30 PM – Fire Extinguisher Demo (Hiller Booth)
- 4:00 PM – EXPO Closes
- All Day – Family Safety House (Mary Esther Fire Department)
- All Day – Uptown Station Train Rides
- All Day – Art Show and Sale

Thank you for attending the EXPO.

Please tell us on our Facebook Page how we did today.
<https://www.facebook.com/OkaloosaWaltonMRC/>

Or send us an email
Disastprep@2020216@gmail.com

Members of the Florida Region 1 SMRT hosted the Disaster Preparedness Expo on April 16th. In addition to *Katie* and *Ryan* from the DOH, the OWMRC was represented by *Peggy McDeavitt*, *Linda Epperson*, *Angelica Cummins*, and *Kathy Graves*. There was great information passed along to the general public and the event was well attended. Thanks to all those folks who were able to be there and we are looking forward to a great event next year!



Okaloosa-Walton Medical Reserve Corps



Additional FEMA Courses

MRC members are encouraged to complete the following courses:

**IS-200b
ICS for Single Resources and
Initial Action Incidents**

**IS-800b
National Response Framework,
An Introduction**

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

You will need to register for a
FEMA Student Number

E-mail your certificate to:
Shayne.Stewart@flhealth.gov



Update Your Information!

As we move into July and the start of a new fiscal year, I want to try and get everyone's information updated and the new and recheck background screenings completed. We have some new applications that need completion and there are still a few folks that need to finish all their required classes in order to change their status to deployable. I also want to clean up our files to make sure that if you are no longer wanting to be a member of the OWMRC, we take care of that as well (I hope that is not the case, but understand if you must leave us). This task may take some time but I will try and get it completed as soon as possible. While we are all hoping that this will not be the year we get a storm would cause a deployment, I want to do my best to have a robust list to pull from in case we are needed. If you have changed your name, your address, phone numbers, email address, updated your medical provider license, changed careers, took additional classes and other such things such as these please let me know. I have send a form out to everyone on the email list. If you did not receive one, please let me know and I will get one to you.

"Someone To Lean On!" Initiative

My name is Peggy McDeavitt and I have been an OWMRC volunteer for five years. I have joined the OWMRC Board of Advisors and the Strategic Planning Team. During our planning meetings, we have been looking into innovative ways to bridge community gaps and get volunteers more involved. It was then, that I suggested the **"SOMEONE TO LEAN ON"** initiative. Our OWMRC coordinators liked the idea and they presented it to the DOH Director and she also liked it! **Now is where I need YOUR help!**

I would like to offer you an opportunity to join me in this initiative to reach out and help your community through our OWMRC. I am looking for some volunteers to help me **compile and contact Okaloosa and Walton community members that have a vulnerability, special need, or are aging and alone.** Some of these individuals have already expressed a need for help in preparing for and surviving an emergency. **Others may not even know they are at risk and need help.** Packing a 'go bag', a supply of prescriptions, needs for your pets are just a small part of the emergency plans one should be making. This planning is daunting to the most robust individuals. **This is where YOU and your fellow volunteers can help.**

Training Ideas?

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

BACKGROUND CHECKS AND RE-CHECKS

I know that many of you are waiting to get your initial background checks completed and others are due for their 5 year rescreening. These will begin over the summer and early fall. I will be making contact with those individuals who need to get this completed in order to stay compliant. I appreciate everyone's patience as this process can be rather lengthy in time commitment.

Okaloosa-Walton Medical Reserve Corps

Hurricane Season is here!

Join the new OWMRC "Someone To Lean On" Initiative.

Imagine being elderly, alone, handicapped or homeless and not capable of any planning.

This is where YOU and your fellow volunteers can help.

Florida HEALTH Okaloosa County
Email Margaret.McDeavitt@FLHEALTH.GOV to learn more!

This initiative is in its infancy but if you are willing to help, we will assemble a qualified team and have planning meetings. If you will help us with this benevolent endeavor, please email Margaret.Mcdeavitt@flhealth.gov or call **850-830-0743** to sign up for our first planning meeting. The date to be announced later.



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July Training Opportunity

Our DOH Full Scale Hurricane Exercise has been postponed, but on July 16th after the MRC meeting, we will have the Door 2 Door Zika Outreach training class for our membership. If there comes a time when we have a locally transmitted case of the virus, we will be going Door 2 Door with information materials. This class gives us the tools we need to talk to the residents within a certain geographical area. Class will begin at 11:00 a.m. and last about an hour.

Zika Information

Zika fever is a mild febrile illness caused by a mosquito-borne virus similar to those that cause dengue and West Nile virus infection. It has been identified in several countries in Central and South America, Mexico, and the Caribbean since 2015. Outbreaks have previously been reported in Africa, Southeast Asia, and the Pacific Islands. Local transmission has been reported in Puerto Rico, but not elsewhere in the United States. Cases of Zika fever have been reported in travelers returning to the United States.

As of this writing, there were 203 cases not involving pregnant women and 43 cases involving pregnant women. (The counties of pregnant women cases will not be disclosed) and **THERE ARE NO LOCALLY TRANSMITTED CASES IN FLORIDA.** Miami-Dade county has the most cases with 69, followed by Broward with 33 and Orange with 18. Okaloosa, Escambia, and Santa Rosa all have only 1 each.

On Feb. 12, Governor Scott directed the State Surgeon General to activate a Zika Virus Information Hotline for current Florida residents and visitors. The hotline, managed by the Department of Health, has assisted 2,189 callers since it launched. The number for the Zika Virus Information Hotline is **1-855-622-6735.**

CDC researchers have concluded that Zika virus is a cause of microcephaly and other birth defects.

The FDA released guidance regarding donor screening, deferral and product management to reduce the risk of transfusion-transmission of Zika virus.

The CDC has identified that Zika can be transmitted by sexual contact. The CDC recommends that if you have traveled to a country with local transmission of Zika, you should abstain from unprotected sex.

Feeling the sting of mosquitoes?
Then it's time to **drain and cover.**



Drain standing water.

Drain water from garbage cans, house gutters, pool covers, coolers, toys, flower pots or any other containers where sprinkler or rain water has collected.

DISCARD:

old tires, drums, bottles, cans, pots and pans, broken appliances and other items that aren't being used.

EMPTY AND CLEAN:

birdbaths and pets' water bowls at least once or twice a week.

PROTECT:

boats and vehicles from rain with tarps that don't accumulate water.

MAINTAIN:

the water balance (pool chemistry) of swimming pools. Empty plastic swimming pools when not in use.

Stop mosquitoes from living and multiplying around your home or business.

PROTECT YOUR FAMILY AND COMMUNITY: HOW ZIKA SPREADS

Most people get Zika from a mosquito bite



A mosquito bites a person infected with Zika virus

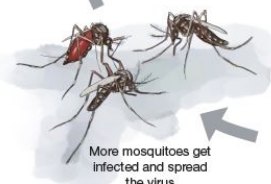


The mosquito becomes infected



A mosquito will often live in a single house during its lifetime

More members in the community become infected



More mosquitoes get infected and spread the virus



The infected mosquito bites a family member or neighbor and infects them

Other, less common ways, people get Zika:



During pregnancy

A pregnant woman can pass Zika virus to her fetus during pregnancy. Zika causes microcephaly, a severe birth defect that is a sign of incomplete brain development



Through sex

Zika virus can be sexually transmitted by a man to his partners



Through blood transfusion

There is a strong possibility that Zika virus can be spread through blood transfusions

