

Okaloosa-Walton Medical Reserve

Volunteers Strengthening Our Community's
Emergency Preparedness and Response

Okaloosa-Walton MRC Newsletter



First Quarter - 2012, Issue 15

ANNOUNCEMENTS!



Movie
Night

March 14, 2012

6 p.m.

See page 4 for details

Inside this issue:

MRC Celebrates 10 Years	2
Twin Tornadoes	2
Shots for Tots	3
Training	3
OWMRC Movie Night	4

Elaine Bieber

OWMRC Coordinator

833-9240 ext 2304

Elaine_Bieber@doh.state.fl.us

Kellie Knight

OWMRC Team Leader

833-9240 ext 2381

Kellie_Knight@doh.state.fl.us

Katie Holbrook

OWMRC Assistant Team
Leader

833-9240 ext 2149

Katie_Holbrook@doh.state.fl.us

Kathryn Barley

OWMRC Assistant
Team Leader

892-8015 ext 1152

Kathryn_Barley@doh.state.fl.us

OWMRC Stars!



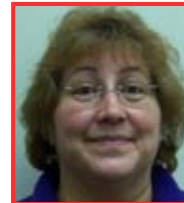
Jeanne Ashley



Kasia Knaus



Tammy Encina



Linda Epperson



Robin Culbertson

Thank you Jeanne, Kasia, Tammy, Linda, and Robin for working Flu Shots for Tots!



Kathy Barr (right)



Tony D'Aquila



Dr. Marie Gray



Bob Stephens

Way to go Kathy, Tony, Dr Gray, and Bob! Congrats for earning your Go-Bag!

Community Happenings



The community needs the Okaloosa-Walton MRC for assistance in local shelters during disasters! The Federal Emergency Management Agency has issued new Functional Needs Support Services Guidance (FNSS) on emergency sheltering of individuals with functional needs during disasters. The guidance requires every open emergency shelters to meet all functional needs of the shelterees. So what are Functional Needs Support Services? They're services that enable individuals to maintain their usual level of independence in general population shelters. FNSS includes: personal assistance services, durable medical equipment, consumable medical supplies and other goods and services as needed. It's estimated that 50% of the community has a functional need. To provide the necessary Functional Needs Support Services, our the community needs us. Soon, the OWMRC Team Leaders will send you a survey to determine your willingness to assist in emergency shelters when open.

Remember, all volunteers must have a successful background screen completed. Please contact Katie to set up your background screening!



National MRC Program Celebrates 10 years!



This year marks the 10-year anniversary of the National Medical Reserve Corps program! In these 10 years, the program has grown to over 200,000 volunteers and nearly 1,000 units across the United States. So, how did it all start? After the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, thousands of unaffiliated volunteers arrived at Ground Zero to help but despite their good intentions, the volunteers were unable to provide assistance due to a lack of training and credentialing. President George W. Bush recognized the country's desire to volunteer in his 2002 State of the Union address encouraged every American to volunteer time to their communities.

He introduced the USA Freedom Corps, the umbrella organization under which the Medical Reserve Corps falls—and the MRC was born! In November 2006, the Okaloosa-Walton Medical Reserve Corps was founded. We've continued to grow and now have over 300 volunteers!

Thank you for your support of the MRC. It's only with your involvement that we can continue to serve our community. Talk with your friends and family about the OWMRC. Let's meet and surpass the OWMRC membership goals by our 10-year anniversary!

Florida's Twin Tornado Seasons

Did you know that Florida has two tornado seasons?

We have a spring tornado season (February - April) and a summer season (June - September). The spring season produces more powerful tornados than the summer due to the presence of the jet stream. The high winds of a jet stream, in combination with a strong cold front, can strengthen thunderstorms into supercells. These supercells produce the most deadly tornados! Are you and your family prepared to respond to a tornado?

Remember these simple tips while preparing for tornados:

- Recognize the signs and sounds of a tornado – whirling clouds and loud continuous roars/rumbles.
- Keep a weather radio in your home.
- Have a shelter-in-place kit ready (food, water, flashlights, radios, etc) .
- Protect yourself from flying debris.
- Get indoors (but not a mobile home or building)! Find an interior room — away from windows — and get underneath large, solid pieces of furniture.
- If you're caught outside, lie flat in a low ground area.
- Do not stay in automobiles or mobile homes! You're safer outside lying in a low ground area.
- After a tornado, watch your step. Look for downed power lines, broken glass and other sharp objects. Don't enter damaged houses as they could collapse!



Your first role as an OWMRC responder is to prepare yourself so you're ready when your community needs you!



Online Tornado Resources

www.spc.noaa.gov/faq/tornado/index.html#Climatology

www.ready.gov/tornadoes

www.tornado-project.com/safety/safety.htm

www.co.okaloosa.fl.us/dept_ps_weather_tornado.html

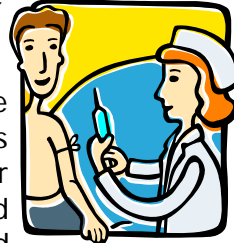
weather.gov

www.wunderground.com



Mobile Flu Shots for Tots!

The Okaloosa County Health Department (OCHD) held small, mobile flu shot clinics at local childcare centers around Okaloosa County from Oct—Dec 2011. Okaloosa-Walton MRC volunteers worked in these clinics alongside OCHD staff to hone their skills in working a variety of roles in mass dispensing clinics (a.k.a. Points of Dispensing or PODs). The OCHD and OWMRC RN's and LPN's staffing the clinics focused on giving vaccinations while the administrative folks processed client paperwork and managed the clinic flow. Our busiest clinics vaccinated as many as 60 students in two hours and the volunteers' support made these clinics run smoothly and efficiently. The volunteers played a key role administering 534 flu vaccinations. During an emergency, the OWMRC will play a large role in staffing PODs in Okaloosa and Walton Counties so the more experienced volunteers we have, the better we'll!

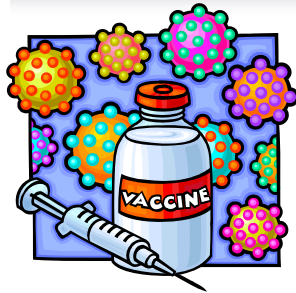


Special thanks to our OWMRC Volunteers who participated:

Jeanne Ashley * Robin Culbertson

Tammy Encina * Linda Epperson * Kasia Knaus

Training Available!



Want to learn more about mass vaccinations and dispensing – with a free CEU?

Take the Florida Mass Dispensing course at this link:

http://www.doh.state.fl.us/DEMO/BPR/FL_Mass_Dispensing.html

This free, online course provides an overview of the Florida's Strategic Nation Stockpile (SNS) program. You will learn the SNS has the capability to re-supply large amounts of essential medical supplies to local health authorities that may be overwhelmed during a catastrophic public health emergency. As an OWMRC volunteer, you could be involved in dispensing SNS medications and supplies in PODs.

The following licensed professionals are eligible to receive one hour of continuing education credit at no cost to them upon successful completion of the course: ARNP, RN, LPN, RS, CEHP, CLT, CLS. In addition, emergency medical technicians and paramedics who wish to receive continuing education credit for the course will need to present a certificate of completion to their Medical Director. The Medical Director can then provide a letter of affirmation for recertification requirements. The online course gives instructions on how to receive the CE credit for the other listed professionals.

When you've completed the course, make sure to print a copy of your Certificate of Completion; and, please send a copy to Katie Holbrook for your training file.

**OWMRC
Membership:
315
Volunteers!**

**Physicians
17**

**Physician
Assistants
2**

**ARNPs
10**

**Nurses
135**

**EMS
Professionals
22**

**Pharmacists
6**

**Mental Health
Professionals
19**

**Respiratory
Therapists
3**

**Other
(Medical)
57**

**Other
(Non-Medical)
42**



To enroll in a **FREE** AHA BLS (CPR + AED) for Healthcare Providers class – call Katie Holbrook:

850-833-9240 x2149

Upcoming Classes:
(all are held in OCHD facilities)

Renewals:

March 2 (FWB)

March 16 (Crestview)

March 3 (FWB)

March 30 (FWB)

Initial:
April 27 (FWB)



If you didn't catch it in the theater, you can catch it here!

OWMRC Movie Night!

March 14th, 2012 at 6 pm

Okaloosa County Health Department
221 Hospital Dr. NE, FWB, FL 32548

A woman returning from a trip to Hong Kong gets sick and ends up dead in the emergency room 24 hours later from an apparent novel virus! As the story unfolds, you witness the virus infect millions worldwide. This Warner Bros. film depicts the emergency response efforts to investigate and contain the outbreak. Not only entertaining, Contagion is an excellent training film for Public Health Preparedness! We see Points of Dispensing (PODs) and Alternate Medical Treatment Sites in operation – two of OWMRC's primary missions. As the virus spreads, workers open PODs and administer the new vaccine to the community.



OWMRC volunteers who have had Field Investigative Response and Surveillance Training (FIRST) will recognize Epidemiology Strike Teams using their investigative skills used to track the outbreak. As the Center for Disease Control coordinates its response, see actual footage inside the CDC headquarters in Atlanta. Your Board of Advisors highly recommends this thriller for all volunteers. (It depicts well the response we may need from MRC members.) Come out and enjoy the film while training for our mission at the same time!

Contact Katie Holbrook to RSVP your seat– TODAY!



BYOB

Bring Your Own Beverage!

(Non-alcoholic only)