

Okaloosa-Walton Medical Reserve Corps

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

Okaloosa-Walton MRC Newsletter



October – December 2016

Your Medical Reserve Corps

What do you think about when you hear OWMRC? What do you do when an email with OWMRC in the subject line appears in your inbox? How do you feel when you read this newsletter or other official document from the OWMRC or from the national or state MRC office? What do you do when an alert over Everbridge comes to your phone, text, or email?

I understand that many of you work full-time at other endeavors, may not have the time to commit to many of the events or trainings that we may schedule, but we strongly encourage you to get involved! The MRC is what you, the volunteer, makes of it! So far these past two quarters, eighteen different volunteers have attended various meetings, calls for assistance, first aid booth help, performing Community Health Improvement surveys, trainings, and other things. That is 18 out of 65 deployable volunteers. 190 total volunteer hours!

Our next two quarters will be somewhat busy:

In January, we will hold our **Semi-Annual Luncheon** at the DOH-Okaloosa Auditorium. This meeting will be a social and business affair with a pot-luck lunch munchies and fellowship, followed up by a meeting to recognize members who have attended events, given volunteer hours from last year, and to discuss multiple events on the horizon. Please make the effort to attend this meeting on January 28th, starting at 11:00 a.m. The lunch and meeting should last a couple of hours. We will also have a training component that will refresh everyone on the ICS and NIMS.

March brings our **Full Scale Exercise** of the Special Needs Shelter Plan. When the SpNS is activated, the OWMRC is a major part of setting up, operating, and tearing down the shelter. Please make time to participate in this event on March 13 or 14 at Davidson Middle School in Crestview.

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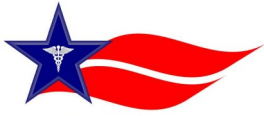
Paige.Crawford@flhealth.gov

As of this writing, we have applied for a NACCHO Award and also for a Preparedness Grant to fund our **Lean On Me Project**.

We are also in the beginning stages of starting a **Disaster Behavioral Health Response Team** that can help both responders and citizens cope with the mental stress of natural or man-made disasters. This teams along with a solid core of members ready to deploy for first aid booths or work within the Health Department will make us a much stronger and prepared MRC.

We need your input, your ideas, your commitment, your strength, your action, your help.

WE NEED YOU FOR YOUR OWMRC!



Okaloosa-Walton Medical Reserve Corps



OWMRC BY THE #'S

- 76 members.
- 65 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



everbridge/SERVFL

On October 13, 2016 the Okaloosa-Walton MRC conducted a request for members to activate for the Mullet Festival First Aid Tent with OCEMS. Below are the OWMRC stats for this call.

- **20 Confirmed (27.40%)**
- **0 Unreachable (0%)**
- **48 Not Confirmed (63.01%)**
- **7 Confirmed late (9.59%)**

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

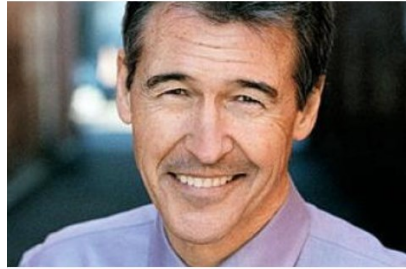
FEMA
www.fema.gov/hazards/hurricanes

National Weather Service
www.nws.noaa.gov

National Hurricane Center
www.nhc.noaa.gov

Emerald Coast Healthcare Symposium

The **Emerald Coast Healthcare Symposium** will take place on **March 10-11, 2017** at Sandestin. This symposium attracted EMS and emergency care professionals from around the nation. If you are a Nurse or Nursing Student, Firefighter/EMT or Firefighter/Medic, Licensed Paramedic or EMT or a student in the EMS program, a Physician, Trauma Surgeon, Mental Health Provider, EMS or Hospital Administrator or Educator; this conference is for you. The registration is open and the fee is very affordable.



RANDOLPH MANTOOTH
Actor
NBC'S EMERGENCY!

There are some great speakers and I am sure you will enjoy the two days filled with excellent messages. Keynote speaker is **Randolph Mantooth**, or **Johnny Gage** to all you old enough to remember the **NBC show Emergency**. If you watch the **A&E show Nightwatch**, you will recognize **Deputy Chief Kenneth Bouvier** from the City of New Orleans EMS as one of the presenters. And what a opportunity to hear our own **OWMRC Board of Advisors member Dr. Frank Goldstein** present on First Responders and PTSD; and Suicide and other Catastrophic Behaviors among First Responders.

Visit the Symposium Website at <https://emeraldcoasthealthcaresymposium.com/> for more information and to see what all the conference has to offer.

CMEs and CEUs are available.

The symposium is organized by the Emerald Coast Healthcare Coalition, FloridaOne, and HCA.

Training Opportunities

Looking for more classes? Do you know you can register for SERT TRAC and MRC TRAIN? These two sites are open to you to use and identify additional training opportunities. In SERT TRAC, various ICS and NIMS courses are offered within and outside our regional area. Beginning and advanced courses are identified and many are open for MRC members to attend. The MRC TRAIN is available to you for completion of the core competencies and other classes. While they are not mandatory like IS-100 and IS-700, the classes you can take in MRC TRAIN are great supplements to your training transcripts. Follow these links to each of the sites and register to see some very good training classes.

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

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

Once you complete any classes, make sure you provide me with copies of any earned certificates so they can be added to your volunteer folder. They can be scanned and sent via email or mail me a copy. Make sure you keep your original, you never know when you may need it!

“The essence of training is to allow error without consequence.”

– Orson Scott Card, Ender's Game





Okaloosa-Walton Medical Reserve Corps



FEMA Courses

MRC members are required to 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



WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS

**Dwane Samuel
Paul Lio**

Background Rescreening Update

Background re-screenings are continuing. If you have been a volunteer for more than 5 years, good news and bad news! Good news first, right? **CONGRATULATIONS and thank you for your service!** Bad news is, we have to do a background rescreen. It's easy, we will walk you through these steps:

- Complete and submit the Livescan form to Shayne
- Provide clear color copies of your Social Security Card and State issued Driver's License or Identification Card
- We will schedule your appointment, please honor that appointment.
- If you need to change it, please notify us as soon as possible in order to alert the agency.

If we schedule and you do not show up without contacting us, or no longer want to be in the OWMRC, we cannot plan for additional screenings from our program revenue line. Please help us by honoring the appointment or advising us if you must cancel or no longer want to be a part of the organization.

Going forward, we are transitioning into a 4 year re-screening process that will hopefully make the process easier on you, our membership, and on the folks that keep up with everybody (me!). New members or those over 5 years will still have to be fingerprinted to confirm the Level II screening process has been completed. Thanks for everyone's patience and assistance moving through this process. Background screenings must be current in order to be deployed!

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



First Aid "Boo Boo Booth" Activities

The OWMRC was able to kickoff its ability to assist or activate for First Aid Tents or "Boo Boo Booths" at a few events this past quarter. The idea was presented to the BOA and then taken to Dr. Chapman for her approval. Since then we have sought out events that we could deploy volunteer members to either assist or man the tent/booth as a stand alone group.

Last October, we had the opportunity to assist Okaloosa Emergency Medical Services for three days at the Boggy Bayou Mullet Festival. The following members participated: *Rebekha Collins, Vikki Flores, Craig Boydston, Ashley Licciardello, and Nichole Walters.* OCEMS praised our volunteers and we look forward to working with them in the future at other events. In November, we were asked to man the First Aid Tent at the ECHOG's Toys for Tots ride and gathering at the Mullet Festival Grounds. It was a last minute request, but we were able to provide coverage with *Peggy McDeavitt and Dwane Samuel.* Shayne and Katie were also there to assist. We are working to secure additional events where we can deploy our volunteers to assist the community. We need your commitment if these types of events are to be properly staffed. This is the another type of team we want to have identified and ready if the need arises.

Training Ideas?

Let us know if you have ideas for training that you think would be beneficial for our OWMRC membership.



Okaloosa-Walton Medical Reserve Corps



BACKGROUND CHECKS AND RE-CHECKS

We will be performing rescreening prior to the end of 4 years since your last background screening. This will enable us to save money on Level II screening costs. If you are a new member, you will still be required to have Level II. If you are over 4 years since your last screening, you will also require a Level II. Please continue to be patient as we work though this to get everyone done!

**Coming soon DOH—Okaloosa Zika After Action Report!
Contact Shayne for your copy.**

Community Health Improvement Tobacco Surveys

From Alliree Gingerich, DOH-Okaloosa Health Educator Consultant

The **Okaloosa County Tobacco Prevention Program** is currently conducting store assessments at the tobacco retailer point of sale. The tobacco point of sale includes any brick or mortar store where tobacco is sold, such as, grocery stores, pharmacies, bars, and tobacco only stores. Even though every consumer product wants to be at the checkout area of point of sale, the tobacco industry dominates this space. Every customer, young or old, smoker, non-smoker, or successful quitter, who visits the store is exposed and cued by an excess of advertising for tobacco products – and the products themselves.

There are four main reasons you should care about tobacco at the point of sale:

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



1. The tobacco industry spends \$1 Million per hour and \$8.7 Billion per year for point of sale advertising.
2. Tobacco at the point of sale prompts kids to start smoking.
3. Cigarettes at the point of sale make it harder for people to quit smoking.
4. Tobacco retailers cluster in already disadvantaged neighborhoods.

The store assessments we are completing provide information about what's happening in the retail environment in our community. Once the assessments are complete we will have a complete picture of the retail environment in Okaloosa County. This will help guide us when moving forward with policy change at the point of sale. We are required to complete 179 assessments at assigned stores in Okaloosa County.

The help of volunteers is crucial to completing these assessments timely and accurately. The MRC volunteers have already been a great asset while completing assessments, however, we can always use more help!

A big **THANK YOU** to the MRC volunteers that have already stepped up and assisted the Community Health Improvement Section with these surveys:

- **Megan McDaniel** • **Anthony Labonte** • **Kathy Graves** •

If you are able to volunteer and assist with helping complete the tobacco point of sale surveys:

Contact Alliree at alliree.gingerich@flhealth.gov or 850-833-9240 ext. 2278.



Lean On Me Activities

A project announced a few months ago is getting starting slowly but surely. OWMRC Member Peggy McDeavitt was looking for an innovative way to reach out and bridge some community gaps that may exist in certain vulnerable populations. After some discussion, we reached out to Elder Services, more specifically the Meals on Wheels group and asked if an emergency preparedness gap exists with the folks they serve. The coordinator of Meals on Wheels answered with a resounding YES. She stated that she is very worried that some of her clients are not prepared and do not have all the information they need if there is a hurricane, weather related emergency, evacuation, or other event that will disrupt their normal schedule. Our **“Lean On Me Project”** will have this identified population as our pilot group.



We would like to offer you an opportunity to join the team on this project to reach out and help your community through our OWMRC. Peggy is looking for some additional volunteers to help compile and contact Okaloosa and Walton community members that have a vulnerability, special need, or are aging and alone. Simple acts such as packing a “go bag”, making a list or organizing a supply of prescriptions, needs and information for their pets, helping with inventory of important papers, emergency contact lists or important phone numbers 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.**

Peggy has a small list of volunteers who have shown interest in this project, but she needs more! If you are willing and able to assist us with this awesome project, contact Peggy via email or phone, Margaret.Mcdeavitt@flhealth.gov or call **850-830-0743** to get information about when and where meetings are held and how you can let someone know to **“Lean On Me”** for help.



Okaloosa-Walton Medical Reserve Corps

Can you help someone be prepared?

Join the new
OWMRC
“Lean On Me”
Project





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

This is where YOU and your fellow Volunteers can help!

Email Margaret.McDeavitt@flhealth.gov to learn more!



Zika Update!

Even as cooler weather arrives, Zika continues to be in the forefront of the Department of Health's mission to combat the spread of this outbreak. Zika fever is a mild febrile illness caused by a mosquito-borne 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. Our own Katie McDeavitt responded to the Miami-Dade area as part of an Environmental Health Strike Team combating the disease. She worked in the area known as Little Haiti. There were many cultural and language barriers that had to be overcome in order to get the message to that population. We will continue to report this in our newsletter as we should always be vigilant against any mosquito-borne disease or illness.

As of this writing, there were 1,002 travel-related infections, 253 locally acquired infections, 17 undetermined, and 198 cases involving pregnant women with lab-evidence of Zika. There are currently no identified areas with active Zika transmission. Okaloosa County has 4 confined travel related cases. Miami-Dade county has the most cases with 320, followed by Broward with 166 and Orange with 145. Escambia has had 4 travel related cases, and Santa Rosa has had only 1. No cases reported in Walton County.

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 6,426 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. Other developmental issues with infants born to mothers with the Zika virus are still unknown at this time. Continuing research will provide additional information.

Only about 1 in 5 people infected with Zika virus are symptomatic. Zika fever is a mild illness. Severe disease requiring hospitalization is uncommon. Signs and symptoms of Zika fever may include: acute onset of low-grade fever, rash, joint pain, conjunctivitis (reddening of eye), body aches, headache, eye pain, and vomiting. Treatment is symptomatic since there is no specific treatment against the virus. Illness typically resolves within a week.

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. The virus can be transmitted by a male or a female to their sexual partners.

Whether you're staying at home or traveling abroad, preventing mosquito bites is the best way to reduce the risk of mosquito-borne disease. Mosquito activity in Florida can be year round. The following are some steps that can be taken to help prevent mosquito bites.

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 pet's 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. Repair broken screens on windows, doors, porches, and patios.

CLOTHING: If you must be outside when mosquitoes are active, cover up. Wear shoes, socks, long pants, and long sleeves.

REPELLENT: Apply mosquito repellent to bare skin and clothing. Always use repellents according to the label. Repellents with DEET, picaridin, oil of lemon eucalyptus, para-menthane-diol, and IR3535 are effective. Use netting to protect children younger than 2 months.

