

Western Tidewater Medical Reserve Corps - Coordinator Letter 22 Nov, 2013

Hello volunteers;

As of today, our unit is comprised of 77 medical and 33 general support volunteers. Like all successful organizations, our progress, growth and readiness are measured and funded by various factors or metrics established and monitored by the Virginia Medical Reserve Corps (VAMRC), the Division of the Civilian Volunteer Medical Reserve Corps (DCMRC), the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO), and the Hampton Roads Metropolitan Medical Response System (HRMMRS). Alert response, training, and preparedness are just a few of the factors; however, they are very important factors, this newsletter will concentrate on these 3 topics; plus some good news about all of those Alerts you receive.

Alert Response:

Since 1 January 2013; 102 non-emergency Training, Exercises, Readiness, Awareness, Activation, and Deactivation alerts have been issued. Our best response rate to date has been 47.14%; when we had less than 80 volunteers. As our unit grows, this percentage rates traditionally declines until new volunteers become more familiar and confident with the response process; other variables that impact declining response rates are incorrect or outdated volunteer e-mail addresses. I have asked the Virginia Department of Emergency Management, Eastern Region Training representative to assist us in improving these response rates. You can assist by regularly reviewing your incoming e-mail alerts, confirming that the coordinator is using the most correct e-mail address for you (one that would be best to contact you in an emergency), and consistently responding with your availability by following the [Click here to Confirm Receipt of this Alert](#), or the [Click here to indicate your Availability for this Alert](#) hotlinks embedded in the alerts.

Training:

There are 3 Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) core courses that all volunteers are expected to complete. These FEMA courses are designed to assist you in elevating your individual awareness and our collective unit responsiveness. These courses can be completed online at the links indicated below or in a classroom setting as scheduled and announced by the unit coordinator. Once you complete a course, please send a copy of the FEMA generated e-mail to the coordinator for verification and entry into your training profile. Below is a breakdown of our current status for these 3 courses. We are behind track on these training completions.

Course Name	Web Link	Total Volunteers	Completed	Awaiting Test Results	Not Completed
IS-22: Are You Ready?	http://www.training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/courseOverview.aspx?code=is-22	110	28	1	81
IS-100.b - Introduction to Incident Command System	http://www.training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/courseOverview.aspx?code=is-100.b	110	39	3	68
IS-700a: National Incident Management System (NIMS), An Introduction	http://www.training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/courseOverview.aspx?code=is-700.a	110	27	6	77

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Individual Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR), Automated External Defibrillator (AED) and Basic First Aid certifications/qualifications round out our core training requirements. Below is a breakdown of our current status for these 2 qualifications/certifications; these numbers look real good; we just need to update some volunteer records to indicate current expiration date and then training the last number of volunteers.

Course Name	Total Volunteers	Completed	No Recorded CPR/AED or 1 st Aid Qualification
Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation Automated External Defibrillator	110	79	27
Basic First Aid	110	22	

There are 2, Cities Readiness Initiative (CRI) and Point of Dispensing (POD) Overview videos that volunteers should review prior to engaging in a POD exercise/event. We are on track with this training. If you opt to review these videos; please send an e-mail with the dates that you completed the individual course to the coordinator for verification and entry into your training profile.

Course Name	Web Link	Total Volunteers	Completed	Volunteers Participated in a POD Exercise	Not Completed
Cities Readiness Initiative	http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/mrc/WTMRC/videos/CRI_Training_Tidewater.exe	108	34	37	74
Point of Dispensing Overview	http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/mrc/WTMRC/videos/PointsOfDispensingOverview.mp4	108	33		75

Finally, over the next few months, we will be working to increase our Psychological First Aid, Disaster Behavior Health, and Immunization Techniques for Nurses training completion rates.

Preparedness:

This topic has direct linkage to training, alert responses, and most importantly serves to build community and individual resiliency! Please take a moment to review the unit growth patterns below. This increase in growth is due in part to focused recruitment, and advertisement; however, the majority of our growth has been from volunteers making a difference in the community and our communities understanding that we are a non-traditional volunteer organization. Based on our past and projected growth, 2014 promises to be an exciting year as we begin recruitment campaigns in Isle of Wight County and the City of Suffolk!

Start Month	Total Number of Volunteers	End Month	Total Number of Volunteers
1-Jan-10	14	31-Dec-10	25
1-Jan-11	26	31-Dec-11	31
1-Jan-12	31	31-Dec-12	71
1-Jan-13	72	20-Nov-13	110

Alerts in General:

It has taken some time and a lot of effort, but we have a working system in which we can better direct training, plus, medical and general support specific alerts to our volunteers. By using established groups or by establishing new groups, we have been able to significantly reduce the number of "spam" type e-mail to those volunteers who have completed certain training events. We can also now direct specific alerts to more focused groups of volunteers! Basically if you have completed your core training requirements, you will not see new alerts relating to that core training requirement events in the future.

In closing; please accept my most sincere thanks, praise and appreciation for your tremendous efforts in bringing our unit to a higher level of proficiency, readiness and involvement within the Western Tidewater Health District and the Eastern Region Medical Reserve Corps!

Thank you for all that you have done, and all that you continue to do. Happy Thanksgivings to one and all.

S/ Jim