



## EP & R Exercises

Title	Date/Time	Where	Who	Details/Registration
Emergency Operations Center (EOC) Stand-up / Surry Exercise	Tuesday July 19, 2011 8:00 am—4:00 pm	EOC's in Peninsula Health District	Volunteers have been deployed	Closed

### Peninsula Medical Reserve Corps — The Way Forward — Teresa Blakeslee, MRC Coordinator

As you know, the Medical Reserve Corps exists to pre-credential and pre-train volunteers to help them become better equipped both mentally and physically to engage in opportunities to strengthen public health, respond to emergencies, and help build community resiliency. Through pre-credentialing and pre-training, volunteers can more rapidly be a resource on the ground through the ESF #8 function (Public Health). You may also know that all of the funding that allows MRC units to function in order to reach this goal comes entirely from grants. The Peninsula Medical Reserve Corps relies on grants from the Hampton Roads Metropolitan Medical Response System, active local Citizen Corps Councils, National Association for City and County Health Officials, and others who desire to support specific programs such as free rabies clinics.

You are well aware that the economic times are impacting us as a Nation, as families, and as individuals. Local funding streams are being substantially cut, and utilizing grant funding is, as it should be under close scrutiny to ensure that the granted dollars are being spent to operationally support the programs they are intended for. Times are not only tough with economics, but you've witnessed in inordinate amount and intensity of storm related disasters over the past 6 months. Terrorism activities lurk ever more on the horizon, and efforts are being stepped up in light of recent uprisings and war on terrorism.

In the past year, the Peninsula Medical Reserve Corps has increased partnerships in the Hampton and Peninsula Health Districts exponentially. These partnerships collaborate resources so as to lean on each other to continue the important work that we do for the citizens we serve. Credit is given to you, as an active volunteer for being ready to serve and with excellence, utilizing your skills and expertise to support important public health activities with quality partners have seen, both in emergency and non-emergency situations. **Your shining skills and expertise are highly sought after by community partners.** Going forward I need to make certain that we do not dilute the mission of the Medical Reserve Corps/Peninsula Medical Reserve Corps, and we **step up to and in support of activities that protect our homeland here at home and encourage resiliency through preparedness, planning for rapid and effective response, and remaining vigilant.** Requests for volunteers that I receive in PenMRC will now be scored against a decision tool to ensure we are working within the mission/scope of the Medical Reserve Corps, in alignment with grant funding, and as a result can receive continued and additional funding to do so.

I will be taking much time throughout July and August to do **strategic planning** to ramp up in areas where MRC support has been requested, and **your help is needed:**

*\*Volunteer Reception Center Strike Teams (James City, Williamsburg, York, Poquoson, Newport News, Hampton) - to help check-in spontaneous unaffiliated volunteers, and re-credential, and place qualified MRC volunteers when/where they are needed most.*

*\*Hospital Emergency Response Team (H.E.R.T.) - Acute Care facilities/Emergency Departments such as Riverside, Sentara, Bon Secours - Hospital Surge Capacity. This program has expanded to include providing assistance for any level 2 (non-declared) emergencies when the ED staff is overwhelmed.*

*\*Instructors with experience in Disaster Services (James City, Williamsburg, York County, Poquoson, Newport News, Hampton) - to assist in teaching MRC Core Competencies and Specialty Training classes.*

*\*Federal Medical Station set-up/logistics Team (Newport News) - an alternate care site that can hold up to 250 hospital beds and provide medical care using Federal Assets.*

*\*State Managed Shelter Team (Newport News) - similar to a Federal Medical Station but utilizing State assets.*

*\*Emergency Assembly and Citizen Reception Center Teams (Hampton, Newport News) - can be utilized for a general population shelter, or as an Emergency Assembly Center for decontamination and medication dispensing.*

*\*Get P.R.E.P.D. Team - Peninsula Resiliency Emergency Preparedness Days - turning information in to action by bringing interactive learning opportunities around the entire Emergency Management Cycle (prevention/mitigation, preparedness, response, recovery) to citizens that attend community health events.*

**I need leaders, I need you, and I need more willing leaders like you** to help plan/develop/implement/support these areas of critical need. Thank you for your continued interest and support. I look forward to working alongside of you in these endeavors.

**Volunteers Protecting the Health of Virginia**