



# NIAGARA COUNTY MEDICAL RESERVE CORP NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2009

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## *NCMRC Participates in unique FluRab Clinic*

On Saturday, December 6th, the Niagara County Health Department, in cooperation with the City of North Tonawanda officials, operated a special combined animal and human vaccination clinic ("FluRab" Point of Dispensing, or "POD") from 2pm to 4pm at the North Tonawanda Department of Public Works. At this POD, nurses and doctors administered standard flu vaccine to humans 3 years and older, and veterinarians vaccinated their pets with rabies vaccine. This concept of simultaneous animal and human vaccination at a POD is a unique idea developed by Emergency Preparedness Program in

Niagara County to test animal and human disease emergency response plans.

While pet owners receive their flu shots, specially trained animal handlers assisted them with their pets. Volunteers from the Niagara County Medical Reserve Corps (MRC), Community Emergency Response Teams (CERTs), North Tonawanda Emergency Medical System, Radio Amateur Citizen Emergency System (RACES), the North Tonawanda Auxiliary Police, Niagara County Animal Response Team (CART) and Niagara University Border Community SERVICE participated in the

clinic.

Niagara County Health Department is the first health department to

present this unique opportunity to the public, and it was a great opportunity to exercise our POD skills. Representatives from the New York State Department of Health were present to assist and evaluate the clinic.



- ◆ *MRC participates in 1st ever—in the nation—FluRab Event.*
- ◆ *Exercise demonstrated Niagara County ability to respond to a zoological event.*
- ◆ *Attendee's were please with the opportunity to vaccinate themselves and their animals in one trip!*

## *Upcoming MRC Meetings*

The Niagara County Medical Reserve Corp holds monthly meetings on the second Wednesday of each month, at 7:00 p.m.

The meetings are held at the

American Red Cross  
2079 Sawyer Drive  
Niagara Falls, NY 14304

All members are encouraged to attend, and bring persons interested in joining.

Upcoming meetings are scheduled for:

No January meeting—  
Psychological Fist Aid  
training on 1/10/2009  
instead

January is National Blood  
Donor Awareness Month

February 2/11/2009

February is American  
Heart Month

March 3/11/2009

March is National Nutri-  
tion Month

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*MRC Region II & III Conference*

On November 13 & 14, Elaine Roman and Tami Deemer attended the MRC Region II & III Conference in Atlantic City, NJ.

The conference was well attended by representative from the MRC’s in the two regions. It provided a wonderful opportunity to network, as well as learn what projects other MRC Units are currently working on.

The program was a full day and a half, and offered updates from the Office of Civilian Volunteer Medical Reserve Corps, the National Association of County and City Health Officials, Recommendations for NIMS Compliance and Marketing and Sustaining MRC Units.

Breakout sessions were held at various time through the conference and sessions were presented by various MRS Units in the Regions.



Region II held a roundtable discussion on the Technical Assessment Review process, the Regional Strategic Plan and how it integrates into MRC Units, and What has worked well, and how we can improve.

The Conference sessions were informative and the dinner and break times provided a good opportunity to meet with other MRS Unit members and discuss what they’re doing, and how it is working for them.

Elaine and Tami returned with new ideas for the NCMRC Unit, and would recommend the Confer-

“PSYCHOLOGICAL  
FIRST AID  
TRAINING CLASS  
JANUARY 10,  
2009”

*Psychological First Aid Training*

Rev. Chamberlain will be conducting a **Psychological First Aid (PFA)** training on January 10, 2009 at Niagara University from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

The training is free of charge, and all MRC members and guests are encouraged to attend.

The training focuses on providing basic Psychological First Aid to the survivors of an emergency.

Please contact Jayne Ferguson at 439-7439 to register.

*MRC Grant Application & Technical Assessment Review*

In September 2008, the NCMRC applied to NAACHO for the annual \$5,000.00 MRC Grant.

On Friday, October 10, 2008, the NCMRC participated in the MRC Technical Assessment Review (TAR). Participants included Dr. Melvin Dyster, Elaine Roman, Tami Deemer, Kristen Lepore the Regional Technical Assistance Coordinator, Region II at Medical Reserve Corps, and Lieutenant Commander Dean Trombley, Program Officer in the Office of the Civilian Volunteer Medical Reserve Corps in the Office of the U.S. Surgeon General.

This process was completed to assess this units strengths and capabilities as well as to select goals for the upcoming months.

## *From the Commander*

To all our loyal volunteers and cooperating agencies, I wish to extend all the blessings and happiness for the joyous season we are celebrating. A happy Hanukkah, a happy and holy Christmas and a safe and prosperous New year!

I owe a big thanks to the loyal NCMRC volunteers who are always there when needed, to the loyal and supportive big three at the NCDOH and the supportive, busy two at Niagara University. We are also happy for our alliance with the ARC at our home base on Sawyer Drive and their help. Our backup by our

radio group and all at the NC EOC is appreciated. Without all of you above we could not exist.

We are still awaiting and hoping for the NACCHO grant to appear. Keep praying and keep your fingers crossed. In the meantime please use your computers to advance your training and skills using the many sites available.

There will be no Wednesday night meeting in January since we are having the Psychological First Aid course by Rev. Chamberlain on 1/10/09, from 8:30—4:30 at Niagara University.

Please contact Jayne Ferguson at 439-7439 if you have not signed up yet. Lunch will be provided, please plan on attending—we need YOU.

Once again, THANK YOU for your time and support. GOD be with you in the new year. And pray for peace and for our new president.

Melvin B. Dyster, MD  
Commander NCMRC



## *Upcoming National Events*

### **2009 Local, State, and Federal Public Health Preparedness Summit February 18-20, 2009 • San Diego, California**

The Summit is the largest conference for public health and emergency preparedness professionals offering a variety of plenary, panel, and poster presentations, roundtable discussions, and interactive workshops all focused on building, enhancing,

and sustaining our nation's ability to plan for, respond to, and recover from disasters and other public health emergencies.

### **Public Health, Preparedness, and Response Training Summit April 4-8, 2009 • Dallas, Texas**

This conference is taking the place of the MRC National

Leadership and Training Conference.

The vision for the conference is to have a robust, well-trained, and integrated pool of public health and medical responders in which all members understand their own roles and missions, as well as those of their response partners.

## *NIMS Training Requirements for MRC Units*

Office Of Civilian Volunteer Medical Reserve Corp recommends that all MRC units adopt NIMS and an ICS response structure, and have a NIMS/ICS training plan that utilizes a tiered approach to meeting NIMS compliance requirements.

All MRC leaders and members must be trained in ICS-100: An Introduction to ICS, or equivalent and IS-700: NIMS, An In-

troduction or equivalent, and have received certificates of completion for these courses.

It is expected that all MRC members will meet this baseline level of understanding (i.e., "awareness" level), regardless of their position or employment status (i.e., paid or volunteer) within an MRC unit.

MRC units can use the online training courses provided by

FEMA's Emergency Management Institute (EMI) Independent Study Program at <http://training.fema.gov/IS/>

Remember to print your certificate of completion, and send a copy to  
Jayne Ferguson  
Niagara County Dept. of Health  
5467 Upper Mountain Road  
Lockport, NY 14094

ARE YOU NIMS  
COMPLIANT?

## NIAGARA COUNTY MEDICAL RESERVE CORP

c/o American Red Cross  
2079 Sawyer Drive  
Niagara Falls, NY 14304

Phone: 716-716-731-4030  
E-mail: [ncmrc@niagaracounty.com](mailto:ncmrc@niagaracounty.com)

Please contact Tami Deemer to have an article included in the Newsletter at 439-7431.

*The NCMRC, under sponsorship of the Niagara Falls Citizens Corps Council, is a 501 C-3 organization. We are actively recruiting practicing physicians, registered nurses, dentists, pharmacists, social workers, ham radio operators and non-medical personnel to assist the county health teams with immunizations and vaccinations in case of epidemics, local catastrophes or even terrorist events.*

*Interested persons are encouraged to attend a monthly meeting to join!*

### WE'RE ON THE WEB!

[HTTP://WWW.MEDICALRESERVECORPS.GOV/DETAIL.ASP?D=220&STATE=40](http://www.MEDICALRESERVECORPS.GOV/DETAIL.ASP?D=220&STATE=40)

## September, National Preparedness Month



*Commander Dyster explaining the MRC to Dan Huntington, Niagara County Budget Director.*



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

September was National Preparedness Month, and the Niagara County Medical Reserve Corp participated in the following activities:

#### 9/6/2008

Participated in Lewiston Peach Festival parade. Pulled MRC trailer with NCMRC banner on vehicle as well. Had 6 members hand out "Files of Life", Homeland security pamphlets on "Be prepared" that included checklists, family preparedness, care of elderly & special needs population. We handed out nearly 400 pamphlets. There were about 2,000+ viewers!

#### 9/19/2008

Manned a booth at Trott Vocational School with NCMRC members, RACES radio operators, NCDOH nursing and NU Border Services. Gave applications & answered inquiries into MRC. Also handed out & explained Files of Life, Be Prepared

check lists and care of disabled & "pets" in an emergency. Had over 100 visitors.

#### 9/26/2008

Manned a booth at Civil Defense Building with NCMRC members, RACES radio operators, NCDOH nursing and NU Border Services. Gave applications & answered inquiries into MRC. Also handed out & explained Files of Life, Be Prepared check lists and care of disabled & "pets" in an emergency. Had over 100 visitors.