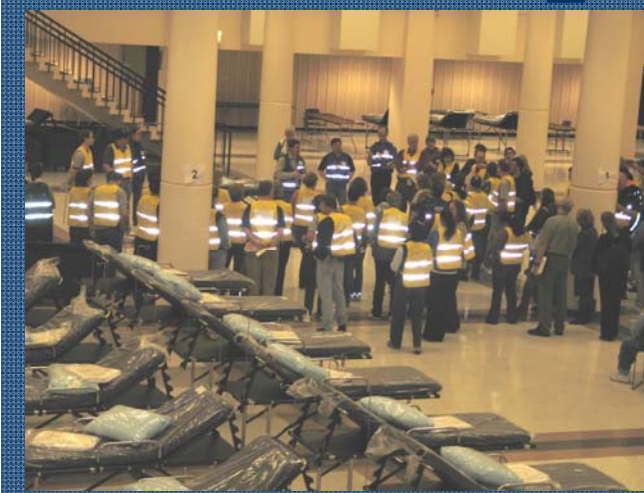


PHRCorps Press

Spring 2008



A quarterly newsletter to inform Public Health Reserve Corps (PHRC) volunteers of:

- Education & training opportunities,
- Relevant news & events, and
- Public Health - Seattle & King County related information.

Inside this Issue:

- *PHRC Education & Training Opportunities*
- *Public Health Gears Up to Expand the PHRC Volunteer Base*
- *Faces of the PHRC Program*
- *Alternate Care Facility Training Exercise a Huge Success*
- *CDC State Preparedness Report Highlights Progress & Challenges*
- *King County 9-1-1 chosen for national pilot program*
- *King County Medical Reserve Corps*

Volunteers building strong, healthy and prepared communities!

Public Health
Seattle & King County 



PHRC Volunteers Walk on Water!

A celebration is in order! Public Health would like to express its gratitude to all PHRC volunteers for the time, dedication and support given the past two years. In the summer of 2006 Public Health launched the Public Health Reserve Corps as a pilot program, augmenting Public Health staff in medication center response. The 100+ volunteers we've recruited and trained provide an excellent foundation as we gear up for PHRC expansion for alternate care facility response. Join Public Health Leaders, PHRC program staff, fellow volunteers, and partners for a nice evening on the beautiful MV Skansonia:

Thursday, June 12

6:00 to 9:00 PM

MV Skansonia

On the north shore of Lake Union

<http://www.skansonia.com/>

You and a guest enjoy dinner on us!

Receive your PHRC volunteer T-shirt or vest!

Get your photo taken for your PHRC permanent ID badge!

Meet new PHRC program staff!

HAVE FUN!

We hope everyone can attend. You must RSVP to Mandi George at mandi.george@kingcounty.gov to attend.



Save the Date!
PHRC New Volunteer
Orientation

June 23, 2008

If you are a new volunteer and/or a volunteer that has not attended an in-person orientation see page 2 for more information and how to register.

PHRC Education, Training, & Volunteer Opportunities

Fulfill Your NIMS Training Requirements in One Class with Fellow PHRC Volunteers!

Introduction to the Incident Command System and National Incident Management System Combo Class (see sidebar to right)

Thursday, June 19

Location: PHSKC, Chinook Building, Ground Floor, Training Room 121, 401 Fifth Ave, Seattle

Food and beverages provided; parking is reimbursable

One of our very own PHRC volunteers has offered to conduct these trainings for PHRC volunteers. PHRC volunteer George Hadley is a train the trainer for these two FEMA classes. **You must sign up by e-mailing Mandi George at mandi.george@kingcounty.gov if you plan to attend.**

PHRC New Volunteer Orientation

June 23, 2008

6:00 – 8:30 PM

Location: PHSKC, Chinook Building, Ground Floor, Training Room 121, 401 Fifth Ave, Seattle

Food and beverages provided; parking is reimbursable

You must sign up by e-mailing Mandi George at mandi.george@kingcounty.gov if you plan to attend.

Public Information Call Center (PICC) Full Scale Activation Training Exercise

November 17, 2008

Public Health will be recruiting PHRC support volunteers interested in becoming trained as call center operators as well as participating in the full scale exercise. Stay tuned for more details. PICC training will occur in early October.

Alternate Care Facility Full Scale Training Exercise

November 18, 2008

7:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Location: Seattle Center Exhibition Hall

Food and beverages provided; parking is reimbursable

Public Health will be recruiting all types of PHRC volunteers to participate in the full scale exercise. Stay tuned for more details.

Online Training and Resources

Take the Lead: Working Together to Prepare Now

Developed by Department of Health & Human Services and the CDC this toolkit was designed to provide information about pandemic flu, ready-to-use and ready-to-tailor resources, and ideas and materials to encourage organizations to prepare and encourage leaders to get involved. <http://www.pandemicflu.gov/takethelead/>

Applying ICS to Enhance Preparedness Webinar (archived)

Learn new information to enhance organizations' capacity to respond in a public health emergency. Webinar content includes Points of Distribution (POD) training curriculum for Medical Reserve Corps volunteers, skills to augment capacity and quality of POD services within an ICS structure, establishing a Joint Information Center (JIC), staffing roles and, responsibilities in a JIC, and working within an ICS structure in a JIC. <http://nccphp.sph.unc.edu/APC/webinars.htm#April23>

PHRC Required Training & the National Incident Management System (NIMS)

The National Incident Management System (NIMS) is a federal mandate, linked to federal funding. All response agencies, including Public Health Seattle & King County, must be NIMS compliant to be eligible to continue receiving federal grant funding for preparedness. This includes the PHRC program. One piece of NIMS compliance is required training of staff and volunteers. **PHRC volunteers are included in NIMS compliance and are required to fulfill two specific NIMS online trainings by December 2008.**

The two required trainings can be completed online by accessing the direct web links shown below:

1. IS-100.HC Introduction to the Incident Command System for Healthcare/Hospitals
<http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/is100HC.asp>
2. IS-700 National Incident Management System an Intro
<http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/is700.asp>

When volunteers have completed the two online courses copies (electronic preferred) of completion certificates should be sent to Mandi George to include in volunteer personnel files. For questions regarding the trainings contact Mandi.

Thank you for your participation!

Public Health Gears Up to Expand the PHRC Volunteer Base

Public Health is gearing up to expand the PHRC.

Back in the summer of 2006 when the PHRC was first launched as a pilot program, Public Health recruited specific medical and non-medical volunteers for augmenting Public Health staff during mass vaccination/mass dispensing response.

Now, as Public Health steps up planning efforts around pandemic flu, disasters and alternate care facility operations so too will volunteer recruitment efforts for the PHRC. By the end of this year, we hope to triple the PHRC volunteer base to include the following members:

- Support volunteers (i.e. logistics, call center operators, catering, office staff, etc.)
- Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioners
- Cardiovascular Technologist and Technicians
- Chaplains
- Clinical Social Workers
- Dentists and Dental Hygienists and Assistants
- Diagnostic Medical Sonographers
- EMT and Paramedics
- Licensed Practical Nurses and Vocational Nurses
- Marriage and Family Therapists

continued on page 4

Faces of the PHRC Program

As Public Health's role in field operations expands so too will the volunteer base of the PHRC (see sidebar to left). An expanded PHRC volunteer base means additional Public Health staff to assist with and expedite volunteer recruitment, application processing and credentialing, and training.



From application to orientation and training to deployment, PHRC volunteers will intersect with new Public Health staff as well as with the "old" Public Health staff (Mandi George Program Manager, PHRC). All of the Public Health staff work very closely with Mandi George. As a volunteer it may help to know who's who and how you could interact with:

(From left to right in the photo above)

Amie Larsen – Senior HR Analyst

"I have been with Public Health for over nine years in various Human Resource positions. Recently, I was hired to manage all Human Resource aspects of the PHRC program: recruitment, applications, and deployment. I enjoy camping, hiking, going to concerts, spending time with friends and family and am the proud 'mother' of CK and Chanel, my two boxers. I really enjoy working in HR and am excited for the opportunity to serve the community and be a part of Preparedness work."

Amanda Darby – Intern for Field Operations & PHRC Support

"I have been with Public Health for about a year. I will be directly supporting Bryan and Field Operations, which includes supporting Mandi and the PHRC program. I have a passion for nutrition, hiking, running, biking, sewing, cooking, trying new restaurants, camping, swimming, and reading. I am really looking forward to working with volunteers."

Mandi George – Program Manager, PHRC

"I really enjoy working with volunteers and continue to be amazed and impressed at the cadre of volunteers we have in the PHRC. I look forward to continuing my work around PHRC program development and being a part of the growth. This summer I look forward to camping, hiking and being an aunt to new twin nieces."

Bryan Heartsfield – Medical Operations Manager

"I bring 14 years of Medical Operations Planning and Aeromedical Evacuation experience as a commissioned officer in the United States Army. Prior to Public Health I was the Clinical Education Coordinator and disaster planner with Seattle Cancer Care Alliance. Last December I was hired by Public Health to lead Alternate Care Facility development, Field Operations, Cities Readiness Initiative, and growth of our Volunteer Management System. As a transplant to the Pacific Northwest, I am a huge Seahawks fan, self proclaimed computer geek, and avid dirt bike rider."

continued from page 3

- Medical and Clinical Laboratory Technicians and Technologists
- Medical Assistants
- Medical Records and Health Information Technologists
- Mental Health Counselors – Registered or Licensed
- Pastors
- Pathologists
- Pharmacists and Pharmacy Technicians
- Physicians and Physician Assistants
- Psychiatrist
- Psychologist
- Radiologic Technologist and Technicians
- Registered Nurses
- Respiratory Therapists
- Veterinarians

If you know of friends, family members, co-workers, etc. in the professions listed above tell them about the PHRC and stay tuned for more information about when they can apply online.

Alternate Care Facility Training Exercise a Huge Success

Tuesday, March 25 marked the first ever alternate care facility (ACF) training exercise for Public Health. Thirty seven Reserve Corps volunteers enthusiastically worked alongside 36 Public Health staff to test components of Public Health's ACF planning which included:

- Testing delivery of limited supplies to the ACF
- Determining staffing model for Logistics Team set up and breakdown of limited supplies at the ACF
- Evaluating efficacy of floor plan for an ACF by setting up limited supplies
- Evaluating efficacy of floor plan for Intake and Triage by setting up limited supplies
- Testing patient flow of ACF (identify delivery entrances for patients and supplies)
- Testing communication devices within ACF between PHSKC Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and response partners (facility phone lines, cell phones, 800 MHz radios, laptops, Amateur radios)



Volunteers and staff were so efficient and worked so well together that it took only about one and half hours to transport and set up 220 hospital beds in three different locations in about 90 minutes. Way to go team!

The exercise allowed Public Health to strengthen planning efforts around ACF set up and be better prepared for their full-scale exercise in November 2008, in which they will test the ACF Plan in more depth. We hope PHRC volunteers will join us again in November.



CDC State Preparedness Report Highlights Progress & Challenges

An inaugural report on public health preparedness released recently by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) indicates states have made significant progress with respect to emergency preparedness, but that significant challenges remain. More than \$5 billion of federal funding has been distributed to the nation by CDC to improve public health preparedness & response since 2002.

The report and state specific information is available on CDC's Web site at:

http://emergency.cdc.gov/publications/feb08ph_prep.

Full Article located:

<http://www.cdc.gov/od/oc/media/pressrel/2008/r080220.htm>

<http://www.medicalreservectorps.gov/resources.asp?mode=BrowseByCategory&category=12>

King County 9-1-1 Chosen for National Pilot Program

New technology allows for text, data, and video communications

King County's Enhanced 9-1-1 System has been selected by the U.S. Department of Transportation as one of five 9-1-1 centers nationally to participate in a pilot project of Next Generation 9-1-1. This new system would allow 9-1-1 centers to accept emergency calls via text, data, and video. The Next Generation pilot project is expected to begin in April, 2008 and will last approximately three to six months, however full implementation of such a system is still at least two years away. The growth of both cellular and Voice-over-Internet-Protocol (VoIP) telephones has underscored the limitations of the current 9-1-1 infrastructure. The current system cannot handle the text, data, images, and video of modern personal communications, and must be completely upgraded to make this possible.

King County was selected from over 50 applicants from across the country due to its sound infrastructure, strong relationships with local, state, and national partners, as well as the technical readiness of program staff.

King County/Region 6 Medical Reserve Corps

The mission of the Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) is to improve the health and safety of communities across the country by organizing and utilizing public health, medical and other volunteers. Currently, there are four MRC units in King County, including the Public Health Reserve Corps, which are listed below. MRC units are also located throughout the state as well as nation. For more information about other MRC units go to:

<http://www.medicalreservectorps.gov/state.asp?state=56>

Carnation-Duvall Medical Reserve Corps
Gene Laughlin
genelaughlin@avvanta.com

Fall City-Snoqualmie Valley Medical Reserve Corps
Fuzzy Fletcher
fuzzy@snoqualmienation.com

William Crone
william_crone@hotmail.com

Vashon Island Medical Reserve Corps
Carol Ireland-McLean
CIM@centurytel.net