

# PHRCorps Press

Winter 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 (PHSKC) related information.

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**Public Health**  
Seattle & King County 



## Alternate Care Facility (ACF) Planning & PHRC Volunteer Involvement

What is an Alternate Care Facility (ACF)? An ACF is a non-medical facility that is converted to provide limited healthcare services on a temporary basis. An ACF is not an extension of a general acute care hospital, rather is a converted facility that operates under the authorities defined in local health and medical response plans. During emergency events, ACF's have served a variety of functions such as triage stations, urgent care centers, or in-patient facilities when local healthcare infrastructure is damaged.

On March 25, 2008 PHSKC will test components of its Alternate Care Facility planning by conducting a training exercise and PHRC volunteers will be recruited to participate in the exercise.

The objectives of the exercise are to:

- Test delivery of limited supplies to the ACF
- Determine staffing model for Logistics Team set up and breakdown of limited supplies at the ACF
- Evaluate efficacy of floor plan for an ACF by setting up limited supplies
- Evaluate efficacy of floor plan for Intake and Triage by setting up limited supplies

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**Save the Date!**  
**PHRC New Volunteer Orientation**

**January 28, 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 Opportunities

### PHRC New Volunteer Orientation\*

January, 28, 2008

8:00 – 10:30 AM **OR** 6:00 – 8:30 PM

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

Food and beverages provided; parking is reimbursable

### PHSKC Alternate Care Facility Planning Training Exercise\*

March 25, 2008

Location: Seattle area

More information to follow

### Partners in Preparedness Annual Conference

April 1 – 2, 2008

Location: Tacoma Convention Center

For more information, visit:

<https://capps.wsu.edu/conferences/emergencyprep/>

### 2008 Medical Reserve Corps National Leadership & Training Conference

April 8 – 11, 2008

Location: Portland Hilton & Executive Tower, Portland, Oregon

For more information, visit:

<http://www.medicalreservecorps.gov/Conference/2008>

\* If you would like more information or are interested in participating in the Volunteer Orientation and/or Alternate Care Facility training exercise contact Mandi George at [mandi.george@kingcounty.gov](mailto:mandi.george@kingcounty.gov).

### Online Training Opportunities:

**Introduction to Community Emergency Response Teams** training includes an introduction to CERT, Fire Safety, Hazardous Material and Terrorist Incidents, Disaster Medical Operations, and Search and Rescue.

[https://www.citizencorps.gov/cert/training\\_mat.shtml](https://www.citizencorps.gov/cert/training_mat.shtml)

### **Nurses on the Front Line: Preparing for and Responding to Emergencies and Disasters**

is an online training recently launched by The National Nurse Emergency Preparedness Initiative (NNEPI), which provides training and resources for nurses. This initiative, funded by the Department of Homeland Security and supported by George Washington University, also includes the option for up to 6 CEUs for a small fee. This learning tool may also provide some insight for professions other than nursing, as well. <http://www.nnepi.org/>

### **Psychological First Aid: The Role of MRC Volunteers in Disaster**

**Response**, presented by The National Association of County and City Health Officials provides an overview of Disaster Mental Health, the role of Psychological First Aid (PFA) and how it evolved. Additionally, the key elements of PFA will be discussed as well as the benefits and limitations of PFA.

<http://webcasts.naccho.org/session-archived.php?id=823>

## 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!**

Recruiting PHRC  
volunteers (medical &  
non-medical) now for  
the Alternate Care  
Facility exercise on  
March 25, 2008.  
Contact Mandi  
George at  
[mandi.george@kingcounty.gov](mailto:mandi.george@kingcounty.gov)  
for more information.

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- Test patient flow of ACF (identify delivery entrances for patients and supplies)
- Test communication devices within ACF between PHSKC Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and response partners (facility phone lines, cell phones, 800 MHz radios, laptops, Amateur radios)

In addition to evaluating the floor plan of the ACF for testing set up and breakdown, PHSKC is also planning to test communication systems to and from the facility out to response agencies' Emergency Operations Centers at Public Health, the City of Seattle EOC, and the King County Regional Communication and Emergency Coordination Center. The exercise will allow PHSKC 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.

### PHRC & PHSKC Protect Hundreds Against the Flu!

On the tail of National Immunization Week (Nov 26 – Dec 2), PHSKC and the PHRC successfully set up, operated and tore down two medication centers in which over 1,100 adults and children were vaccinated against the seasonal flu. Over 200 staff and volunteers participated in the two centers located at Delridge Community Center and Renton Community Center on December 9.

Activating two full-scale Medication Centers simultaneously was a first for Public Health, stretching resources and capabilities to new levels. As we reflect on the day, improving, growing and most importantly maintaining the capability requires us to listen carefully to the lessons learned and willingness to design or redesign medication center plans and actions accordingly.

Meanwhile, we are proud of each and every volunteer who rolled up their sleeves and did the hard work of the day. Vaccinators, health educators, flow monitors, signage, logistics... no matter the role served the success of the medication centers could not have happened without volunteer presence, compassion and hard work.

*"Wow! It's reassuring to know the city is preparing for an emergency like this and all these people are here to help us",* a young woman holding a small child said while standing in line, reminding us of the reason why we do this and the dedication of our volunteers.

Once again, thank you for your efforts and contribution of time!!





## NEW Washington State Retired Volunteer Medical Worker License

**Volunteers,  
Cast your Vote on  
PHRC Apparel!**

The PHRC Program received a small grant to purchase apparel for volunteers as a way to thank you and show pride of PHRC volunteer participation. We want to purchase items that prove to be most useful for volunteers "on or off the job". Some ideas to vote on are: long-sleeve t-shirts, baseball caps, vests, or hooded sweatshirts. Or perhaps you have a great idea of your own? Please e-mail ideas and/or cast your vote to Mandi George at [mandi.george@kingcounty.gov](mailto:mandi.george@kingcounty.gov) by January 31, 2008.

Rules for implementing the new Washington State Retired Volunteer Medical Worker License were filed and became effective on 12/01/07.

Now, by accessing the following link to the Washington State Department of Health's web site <https://fortress.wa.gov/doh/hpqa1/hps5/RetiredMedicalWorker/default.htm> retired health care providers may obtain a retired active credential if such a credential is authorized by the appropriate disciplining authority. Retired active status allows the license holder to practice for no more than 90 days per year or in emergency situations. License holders must maintain any continuing education obligations that may be required of the profession, and they receive a reduced licensing fee.

Washington State Department of Health is authorized to issue a retired volunteer medical worker license to any person that:

- held an active health care provider license within 10 years prior to his/her initial application for the retired volunteer medical worker license;
- does not have any restrictions to practice due to violations of the Uniform Disciplinary Act; and
- registers with a local emergency services or management organization affiliated with the Emergency Management Division of the Military Department (PHRC program is an affiliate)

An individual who holds a volunteer medical worker license and is registered as an emergency worker (as in the PHRC) is considered a "covered volunteer". Covered volunteers are immune from liability for the acts or omissions of a covered volunteer while providing assistance or transportation during a disaster or participating in an approved training or exercise in preparation for an emergency or disaster. Immunity applies when the covered volunteer was acting without compensation, within the scope of his/her assigned duties, and under the direction of the local organization with which he/she had been registered. The immunity does not apply to acts of gross negligence or willful misconduct.

More information regarding the new rule can be found at the web link listed in the second paragraph.



## Get Advance Warning. Subscribe to RPIN.

Breaking news for citizens in King, Pierce and Snohomish Counties! The Regional Public Information Network (RPIN) is a one-stop resource for news alerts from more than 75 government, transportation, utility, health and emergency response agencies serving citizens in King, Pierce and Snohomish Counties. RPIN keeps the public informed about street and highway closures, weather, major

transit disruptions, and provides updates to what agencies are doing to respond to emergencies and incidents. The public can also sign up to receive e-mail alerts and pager headlines from RPIN partners and get helpful tips to prepare for emergencies.

Subscribe to RPIN by accessing their web site at [www.rpin.org](http://www.rpin.org).

## Public Health – Seattle & King County and the King County Healthcare Coalition release a Request for Proposal (RFP)

The King County Healthcare Coalition and PHSKC recently received a grant award from the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response. With this newest Partnership Grant, PHSKC and the Coalition are seeking to fund non-hospital healthcare agencies serving King County to develop and enhance their resiliency in an emergency. There are two different types of RFP's the Coalition is currently advertising. The goal of the funding is to support healthcare organizations' ability to maintain service delivery during an emergency event. The award amounts range up to \$24,000. For more details go to the King County Healthcare Coalition website at [www.metrokc.gov/HEALTH/hccoalition/](http://www.metrokc.gov/HEALTH/hccoalition/)

## Welcome Bryan!

Bryan Heartsfield has joined PHSKC as the Medical Staffing Systems Project Manager which will intersect with the PHRC program. In this newly created position, Bryan will

work closely with the King County Healthcare Coalition\* to design a comprehensive system to identify and mobilize and deploy medical staff and volunteers during disasters.

Responsibilities also include developing clinical staffing models, identifying standards for volunteer typing and establishing the protocol for credentialing health and medical volunteers. Bryan will also work to incorporate local and state reserve corps programs into the volunteer staffing plan.

Bryan most recently worked with the Seattle Cancer Care Alliance as a Clinical Education Coordinator and was also in charge of disaster response planning for the organization. Please help me welcome Bryan to Public Health.

\* For more information on the King County Healthcare Coalition go to [www.metrokc.gov/HEALTH/hccoalition/](http://www.metrokc.gov/HEALTH/hccoalition/)

Note: The vacant HR Associate Position for the PHRC, previously staffed by Stephanie Cherberg, was recently revamped and will be advertised this month.