



Albany County Medical Reserve Corps VOLUNTEER NEWSLETTER

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The Albany County Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) Volunteer Newsletter is designed to keep our volunteers informed about Albany County's emergency preparedness efforts, volunteer training opportunities and pertinent emergency preparedness news.

2014 Review: Celebrating a Successful Year

The mission of the Albany County MRC is clear: to enhance emergency preparedness efforts by ensuring a trained group of healthcare professionals and community volunteers are ready to assist the County in response to a public health emergency. Since the formation of the Albany County MRC in 2007, over 570 registered volunteers have helped to carry out this goal. The Albany County MRC Volunteer Coordinator strives to keep you, our valued volunteers, engaged by planning new trainings, seminars, and other activities every year.

In 2014, two unique trainings were offered to volunteers: SKYWARN Spring/Summer Weather Workshop and a Disability Etiquette Seminar. Volunteers also had the opportunity to participate in a mass care feeding table-top exercise with the American Red Cross. Also, who can forget the fun times had assembling dozens of emergency backpacks, thousands of flu kits, and organizing countless medical shelter supplies earlier this year.

Additionally, Albany County MRC volunteers participated in many routine trainings, such as Adult CPR/AED, New Volunteer Orientation, and Introduction to Point-of-Dispensing. Volunteers also responded to a total of eight notification drills in 2014: four via e-mail using the ServNY system, and four via the ACCESS automated phone system. This past April, our biennial Volunteer Recognition Dinner was held during National Public Health Week and we were thrilled to come together and recognize so many wonderful volunteers.

**Thank you for another successful year of
volunteer service and dedication. Happy New Year!**



Notification Drills Make a Difference!

Albany County MRC activities increase and/or decrease depending on the time of year, grant requirements, or other primary responsibilities of the Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response (PHEPR) program at the Albany County Department of Health. However, two of our activities that remain constant are phone and e-mail **notification drills**. Both types of drills are conducted four times per year (eight drills total), often in the evenings.

Your participation in these drills allows the MRC Coordinator to:

- 1) Verify that we have your correct contact information on file.
- 2) Test our methods of reaching volunteers in the event of a real emergency.



Phone Drills

The last phone drill took place the evening of December 15, 2014. Please [click here](#) for detailed step-by-step instructions for responding to phone notification drills using the Albany County Community Emergency Support System (ACCESS).

What if I received the call, but I couldn't get to my phone in time and it left a voicemail?

This is **OK** and shows that we have your correct phone number(s) on file. We understand that you may not always be home or able to answer your phone.

My spouse picked up the phone and then hung up because he/she didn't understand what it was - what should I do?

Share with your spouse (or children, roommates, etc.) what the phone drill is for and how to respond correctly. We do receive a detailed report that indicates when a recipient hangs up on the call.

I haven't received any automated phone calls. Why?

Please contact Maureen.Casale@albanycounty.com to verify that we have your correct phone number(s) in our system.

E-Mail Drills

On December 2, 2014 all Albany County MRC members should have received an e-mail notification requesting volunteers review and update their ServNY profiles. This is crucial, as having updated information allows us to rapidly contact volunteers in times of need!

If you haven't already, please [click here](#) to log into ServNY.

For detailed, step-by-step instructions on updating your ServNY profile, please [click here](#).





Ebola Planning and Preparedness Update

Thank you to all Albany County MRC volunteers that contacted the Albany County Department of Health (ACDOH) with questions and concerns related to planning and preparedness for Ebola Virus Disease (EVD). The ACDOH is in complete compliance with the EVD planning requirements set forth by the New York State Department of Health Commissioner's Orders. We will continue to work with our health care partners to assist with any additional planning requirements.

In the event that the Albany County MRC is needed to play an active response role, volunteers would receive "Just-in-Time Training" and appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) to ensure safety.

For more information, including a PSA video from Albany County Health Commissioner, Dr. James B. Crucetti, click the link below:

<http://www.albanycounty.com/Government/Departments/DepartmentofHealth/ebola.aspx>

TRAINING ANNOUNCEMENT:

New Volunteer Orientation and Point of Dispensing (POD) Training

This training will provide MRC volunteers with:

- ✓ A brief orientation to the MRC
- ✓ An introduction to the Incident Command System (ICS).
- ✓ Details on the Albany County Medical Counter-Measures (MCM) plan.
- ✓ The roles we will ask volunteers to fill in an emergency.

This training is for new and existing volunteers who have not yet attended a Point of Dispensing training.



Tuesday, January 13, 2015

5:30pm - 7:30pm

Albany County Department of Health, Auditorium

175 Green St

Albany, NY 12202

Dinner will be provided

To register, please complete the survey below:

https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/MRC_Orientation_011315

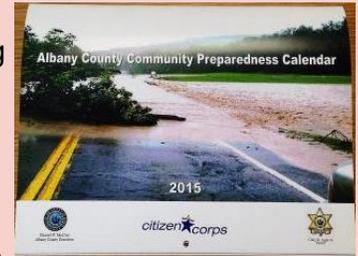
or contact Maureen Casale at

Maureen.Casale@albanycounty.com



2015 Albany County Community Preparedness Calendar

Many of our volunteers have helped pass out copies of the Albany County Community Preparedness Calendar, created by the Albany County Citizen Corps. Calendars have been widely distributed, including local libraries, faith-based groups, child care providers, and government agencies. Thank you for helping to place this valuable resource in the hands of our fellow citizens!



Did you know you can also view and download a copy of the calendar online? Please visit the link below (or click the picture of the calendar on the right) to save the calendar to your computer and share with family and friends.

http://www.registeredandready.com/Libraries/Document/ACCC_Calendar_2015_Printable.sflb.ashx

Welcome to Our New Volunteers!

The following volunteers joined the Albany County MRC in 2014:

Alice Esmond
Andrea Krusieski, LPN
Becca Chewins
Charla Anderson
Deborah Bennett, RN
Erica DeBie
Genevieve Boyd, LPN
Ishmael Amu
Jenny Romero, MD

Kathleen McCarthy, RN
Kaw Gay Hei
Marietta Angelotti, MD
Mary Kelly, RN
Maryann Tirella, RN
Maureen O'Brien, LCSW
Michael Waxman, MD
Michelle Durling, RN
Michelle Joseph

Nandee Aung, MPH
Natalie Perrott, LPN
Nicole Ostoyich, MPH
Penelope Cuevas, MD
Richard Gutheil
Thuy Van, RN
Yee Tchao



If you joined in 2014, but do not see your name on this list, your information may not be complete in our volunteer system, [ServNY](#). Please contact Maureen.Casale@albanycounty.com to verify your registration.

Questions or Comments?

Please contact:

Maureen Casale, MPH
Public Health Planner, MRC Coordinator
(518) 447-4610

maureen.casale@albanycounty.com

