



TMRC Spotlight

“Be Prepared, Be Informed, Be Involved”



TMRC Spotlight
January 2012

Director’s News

The last few months have been a busy time for the TMRC. We have released a new online training, worked on the implementation of a new statewide volunteer registry system, started planning our next annual volunteer summit, and received funding from the CDC and Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response to continue our TMRC planning efforts in the coming year.

It is nice to see these individual projects begin to move forward locally, but in order to continue heading in the right direction, it helps to remember where you have been. The Surgeon General of the United States reminds us of this in a recent letter to MRCs in the nation. In this letter, she states:

2012 will mark the 10th anniversary of the inception of the MRC and we have a lot to be proud of. We have seen the program grow from a fledgling (but enthusiastic) 42 units in 2002, to a robust network of over 970 units across the country--with more **than 200,000 volunteers**. We look forward to continued growth and the opportunity to strengthen as a network of dedicated leaders, committed volunteers, supportive housing organizations, and resourceful partners.”

I want you to know and understand how much of a difference you are making. With each public health activity, preparedness exercise, and response to crisis, you make America stronger and more resilient. I am inspired by each of you, and look forward to your continued dedication and commitment as we serve our communities and our nation in 2012.

We have come a long way in 10 years, but have a longer way still to go. Enjoy the newsletter, and thanks for volunteering.

Online TMRC Training

The TMRC has released our first online training. Volunteers can now take our TMRC Orientation by going to our website, www.tristatemrc.org.

Completing the TMRC Orientation training is a requirement for all TMRC volunteers. Many volunteers have completed this training in a classroom setting. For those who haven’t been to an in person training, this online version provides another opportunity for you to take this important course.

This training will satisfy your 3 year liability training requirement that all Ohio volunteers must meet. Once training has been completed, be sure to go through the post training quiz. The quiz is 10 questions long, and helps the TMRC track who has completed the trainings. Be sure to log into your volunteer profile and update your training information.

Please let us know if you have any suggestions for improving the training!

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TMRC on

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2012 Tristate Disaster Volunteer Summit

Each year the TMRC holds a volunteer summit where we provide updates on the program, provide emergency response training, and also eat food and get to know the other volunteers and coordinators in our region. This year's regional summit is our fourth annual event. Thanks to additional funding that Hamilton County Citizens Corps Council was able to obtain, we are excited this year to be able to open up the summit to include several other disaster volunteer organizations.

To date, the American Red Cross, the Northern Kentucky Regional Citizens Corps Council, the Tristate County Animal Response Team, and several Community Emergency Response Teams are partnering with the TMRC to hold this summit.

The focus of this year's event is hands on training. Training courses include Introduction to Radiation, CPR , Damage Assessment, Psychological First Aid, START Triage / Mass Casualty Response, CERT 101, and Animal First Aid. Each training will include a practical, hands on component and exercise that will allow these newly learned skills to be tested.

As in the past, there is no charge to attend. We will be providing continental breakfast and lunch. Be sure to dress in layers, since we can't control the temperature in the facility.



More information will be released soon, including how to register. With all the other groups involved this year, the summit is sure to be a great event. We hope to see you there!

We know many of our TMRC volunteers are also part of other disaster volunteer organizations in the region. Feel free to extend an invitation from the TMRC to these groups, we would welcome their involvement!

SAVE THE DATE

Tristate Disaster Volunteer Summit

April 14, 2012, 8:00AM-3:30PM

Vineyard Community Church, 11340 Century Circle East, Cincinnati, Ohio 45246

Attendance is Free!

Volunteer Registry System Upgrades in Ohio

The Ohio Department of Health (ODH) recently completed a major overhaul of the volunteer profile and alerting system that all Ohio based volunteers are required to use. As the state moved forward with this important project, plenty of surprises were discovered along the way. The end result, however, is a robust and resilient system for both capturing volunteer profile information and for notifying and managing a volunteer activation.

Two primary issues in this system upgrade were particularly challenging. The first was that all volunteer passwords would have to be reset as part of the upgrade. ODH uses a one way encryption process for volunteer passwords. This means that, while local TMRC Coordinators can reset passwords for you, we can never tell you what your original password was. This is good news for our volunteers, because your passwords are as protected as they can be. This does mean, however, that we couldn't move these passwords to the new system, since we didn't know what they were.

The second challenge was moving over the training records into the new system. With some changes in federal guidelines, and an

updated list of approved training, ODH felt that it would be best to move volunteer records to the new system without including training information or uploaded attachments. We know this creates an additional burden on our volunteers, and we are as frustrated as some of you will surely be.

As the system is brought into line with federal guidelines, more volunteer profile information is requested from each volunteer. This information will allow faster (potentially automated) license checks with the state and allow more specific volunteer callouts to be conducted.

Even with these challenges and frustrations, the new system is a great improvement over the old one, and we hope you will think so too. Please check your email for your updated volunteer profile password. Log into the system, update your profile as needed, and let someone know if you have any problems. You can reach us at ohioresponds@odh.ohio.gov or by contacting your local coordinator with the information provided at our website (www.tristatemrc.org).

The screenshot shows the user interface of the Ohio Responds Volunteer Registry. At the top, there is a navigation bar with 'HOME', 'MY PROFILE', 'MISSIONS', and 'MESSAGES (3)'. Below this is a 'Home' section with a personalized welcome message: 'Welcome, Jared Warner'. The main content area is divided into three columns:

- Profile:** Shows a placeholder for a profile picture with the text 'Photo Not Yet Provided' and a progress indicator for 'Your profile is: 97 % Complete'.
- Updates:** A table listing recent updates:

Date	Subject
08:54 PM	2 volunteers are pending for membership in Hamilton County - MRC
Jan 28	3 volunteers are pending for membership in Brown County - MRC
- Calendar:** A calendar for January 2012, with the 30th highlighted. Below the calendar is a 'Did you know?' section with the text 'Creating a mission'.

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Visit us at
www.tristatemrc.org

Update Your Profiles!

Please log in to your Ohio Responds or KHELPS profile page and update your contact information. This will allow the TMRC to automatically perform license verifications and manage our volunteers more effectively. Contact sam.thompson@cincinnati-oh.gov if you need assistance accessing your profile.

KHELPS - <https://khelps.chfs.ky.gov>

OhioResponds - <http://www.ohioresponds.odh.ohio.gov>




www.tristatemrc.org

Exercise and Training Opportunities

Several training opportunities are available in the next few months. Check out the website for more details, including how to register.

TMRC Orientation
Tuesday, 6-8PM, February 14, 2012
Anderson Center in Anderson Township

TMRC Orientation
Thursday, 6-8PM, March 8, 2012
Blue Ash Fire Department in Blue Ash, OH



WRIGHT STATE UNIVERSITY
National Center for Medical Readiness
Calamityville

Wright State University National Center for Medical Readiness
And the University of Memphis School of Nursing
Present
**Emergency Air Medical
Transport Training**

Emergency Air Medical Transport Training
National Center for Medical Readiness
February 23 and 24, March 8th and 9th, 2012
National Center for Medical Readiness at Calamityville
506 East Xenia Drive, Fairborn, OH 45324

This new training is available free of charge, and is designed for medical professionals, and is held at the "Calamityville" training location in Fairborn, OH. This is a very interesting opportunity, and may require some physical activity. View their website for more information, www.medicalreadiness.org