



TMRC Spotlight

“Be Prepared, Be Informed, Be Involved”



TMRC Spotlight
July 2011

Director’s News

Community resiliency is a topic that seems to be getting more and more attention in recent months. This topic was very well described in a recent report by the “All Things Considered” program on National Public Radio.

In this program, the speaker refers to community resiliency in a unique way, calling it social capital. His point is that in disaster affected communities, the areas which respond and recover fastest and best do so because of the community networks and social contacts in place, and not because of government support and emergency responders.

This theme of community resiliency

fits perfectly with the ideas behind the TMRC. We are not just volunteers; we are the engineers of community resiliency and developers of social capital. Because of our volunteers, our community is better prepared to respond and recover from future emergencies.

Keep reading for information about our recent exercise involvement, our upcoming regional volunteer summit, and get a sneak peak at some of the materials that will be discussed at the volunteer summit. I hope you enjoy this quarter’s newsletter.

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Thanks go to Debbie Conradi and Angela Makowski for their help in developing this newsletter.

Check the TMRC out on Facebook!



Cincinnati Health Department Advertising Campaign

The Cincinnati Health Department has been working since July 10th to manage a major volunteer recruitment campaign for the Cincinnati-Hamilton County MRC Unit. This project has included online ads, ads in the Enquirer, radio commercials, radio interviews, and billboards.

Results from this campaign, which is being paid with federal emergency preparedness grant money, will be shared in future MRC information updates.

Watch for billboards, listen for radio spots, and help us spread the word about the TMRC!



Who was there to help? They were & so can you!

VOLUNTEER tristatemrc.org



NDMS Exercise

About 20 TMRC volunteers and leaders participated in a National Disaster Medical System (NDMS) exercise held at the Cincinnati / Northern Kentucky Airport in May. This exercise was conducted as a part of the national level earthquake exercise that was being conducted in several states during the same time.

As a part of the exercise, the NDMS coordinators opened up a patient reception center. A patient reception center is designed to allow the rapid movement of patients off of airplanes and into waiting ambulances, which then move patients to waiting hospitals.

Around 10:00am, an airplane from the Kentucky Air National Guard landed and taxied to the front of the hangar where the patient reception center had been established. The plane was loaded with 35 simulated patients. These simulated patients suffered from a variety of wounds and injuries, and required a rapid triage once on the ground to determine if their condition had changed during flight.

The TMRC was given several roles in the exercise. Many of our non-medical volunteers worked as litter bearers, and helped to unload simulated victims from the airplane. Medical volunteers worked to triage simulated victims and move them to staging areas until ambulances could be used to move the victims. Other volunteers worked to help organize and record information about the patients.

This exercise was an excellent opportunity to showcase the TMRC's ability to provide reliable, trained, and accessible volunteers to support community response efforts. We identified several strengths during the exercise, as well as a number of areas where improvements are necessary.

Special thanks goes to those who were able to make it to the exercise. Stay tuned for other exciting volunteer opportunities coming up in the future.



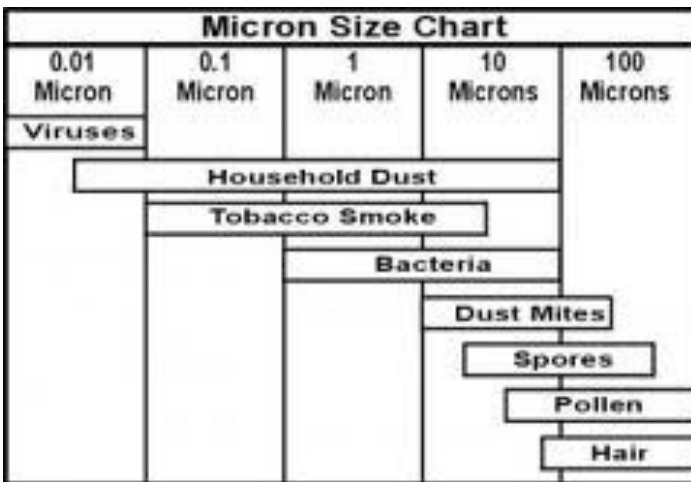
Bioterrorism 101: Particle Size

During the upcoming Regional Volunteer Summit, one of the breakout sessions is called “Bioterrorism 101.” This article covers the importance of particle size, one of the topics of that presentation. Be there on July 30 to learn more!

The Importance of Particle Size

When discussing the development and use of aerosolized biological weapons, particle size is a very important area for consideration. In order for biological weapons to be effective in causing illness in others, specific particle characteristics are required.

Particle size for small and microscopic materials is often measured in microns. Microns are one thousandth of a millimeter. The period at the end of this sentence is about 615 microns in size. Below is a chart comparing many common objects and their micron size.



When developing biological agents for an aerosolized release, the size of particles created in the development process greatly affect the ability of the agent to both be disseminated and to create illness. Particles that are too large will not travel far in the air, and will be more likely to be lodged in the upper respiratory tract of an individual, which can cause a more mild illness. Particles that are too small will be too easily dispersed by the wind and air

movement, and are more likely to be exhaled out of the body, instead of sticking in the lungs and causing illness.

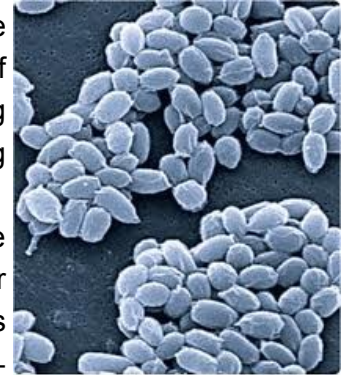
The most effective particle size for powder based biological weapons is between one and five microns. This allows the materials to be released easily, remain airborne for longer periods, and to stick deep in the lungs in order to cause illness. Biological agents that are developed in this range of size are described as “weapons-grade.”

Other issues that greatly affect aerosolized biological agent effectiveness include the static electrical charge of the materials, the atmospheric conditions during the release, and the hardness of the agent once in the environment.

One case study of interest is the 1950 simulated biological agent releases in San Francisco. The use of biological agents was in its infancy, and few large scale tests of potential biological effectiveness had been conducted. During this study, a US Navy ship released a weapons grade biological agent (non-pathogenic to humans and animals) over the city of San Francisco during ideal weather conditions. Measureable samples of this material were detected as far as 30 miles inland.

If we ignore the ethical considerations of this study, the results clearly show how wide spread a release could be using the right micron size, weather conditions, and other release characteristics.

Understanding this information is vital to emergency planners. Micron size of a biological agent can provide clues to who made it (amateur vs. highly skilled), impact what types of protective measures are put into place, identify areas potentially impacted, and help to identify the long term impact of the release.



Tristate Medical Reserve Corps
3101 Burnet Ave
Cincinnati, OH 45229

Phone: 513-515-8594
E-mail: jared.warner@cincinnati-oh.gov

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Visit us at
www.tristatemrc.org



Volunteer Registry Updates

We are working to update our online volunteer registry, and we need your help. If you haven't already done so, please log in to your online profile and be sure that your contact and other profile information is up to date.

Contact jared.warner@cincinnati-oh.gov, jean.caudil@nkyhealth.org, or 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>

**Remember to check out the new
TMRC Website at
www.tristatemrc.org**

Volunteer Spotlight—Angela Makowski

Tell us about yourself.

I am a Xavier grad, and looking forward to grad school at UC. I share my home, nicknamed "Dogwood Cottage", and with a 9 year old golden retriever named Jake, a 2 year old mini-schnauzer named Bella, a 2 year orange tabby named Hodgins. I also foster a cross-eyed tabby name Tiger and tortoiseshell sweetie named Snickers. I have all my own power tools/saws and I love to refinish and repurpose furniture, sew, knit, and garden. I have worked in publishing for 7 years in the technology department, and love what I do. I have moved 33 times, but have finally found a home here in Cincinnati.

How long have you been involved in the TMRC?

2 years this month!

What advice would you give other TMRC volunteers?

Education is vital, as volunteers and for the community! Attend as many drills and trainings as you can. Get out in your community and spread the word about the great work we are doing at TMRC.

Has being in the TMRC changed your perception of public health and your role in your community?

I am much more aware and vigilant now. Being prepared and willing to help others- helps me! I learn something new each time I am with my TMRC peers. Working with such great people and getting know more about my community is invaluable to me.

