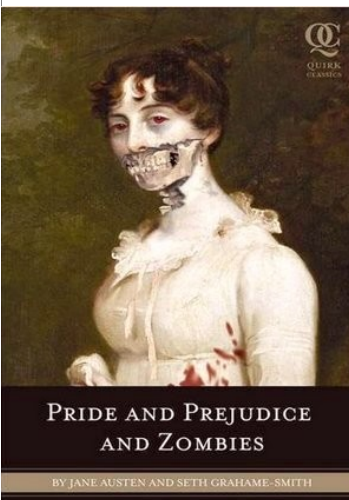




Director’s News

In this edition of our quarterly newsletter, you will find the usual reports on recent exercises, upcoming events, and public health preparedness. You will also find something a bit different.

The CDC posted a somewhat controversial webpage earlier this year which offered tips for “Zombie Preparedness.” With new shows like AMC’s “The Walking Dead,” and the popular “Pride and Prejudice and



Zombies” novel, this unique approach to preparedness planning really helped CDC get their message across. The Cincinnati/Hamilton County MRC

Unit capitalized on this attention and recently held a regional Zombie Preparedness training.

We have also started the planning process for the 2012 Regional Volunteer Summit. For this year’s summit, we are trying to bring in some of our other volunteer agencies in the community. We are also working to include more hands on training opportunities and exercises into the event.

For those who haven’t heard, the TMRC’s participation in the NDMS exercise got us national and state attention. Articles about the exercise appeared in the federal and Ohio quarterly newsletters.

As always, lots of behind the scenes planning is underway so we can continue providing a trained, prepared, and dedicated volunteer resource to our communities.

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Check the TMRC out on Facebook!

Northern Kentucky September Preparedness Month Activities

September is Disaster Preparedness Month, and the NKY TMRC Chapter took the opportunity to participate as victims in two local exercises:

Friday, September 2, at Saint Elizabeth Hospital, Grant County. Scenario: Patients present at emergency department needing decontamination.

Friday, September 16, at Northern Kentucky Greater Cincinnati International Airport (CVG). Scenario: Victims of plane crash are triaged and transferred to area hospitals.

During these exercises, the NKY MRC Unit identified several strengths, and areas for improvement. In particular, the NKYMRC Unit was able to call out small groups of individuals based on geographic distance from the incident. This allowed exercise planners to control the volunteer callout more effectively.

The two local exercises presented a successful and timely opportunity for NKMRC volunteers. Four NKMRC volunteers supported the hospital decontamination drill and at least 30 NKMRC volunteers participated in the CVG airport exercise.



Zombie Preparedness

A horde of zombies is predicted to enter your town in the next hour and you are told to evacuate. Are you ready?

As a member of the Tristate Medical Reserve Corps, it is essential that you be prepared to take care of yourself and family members no matter the type of emergency. It may seem silly to prepare for a zombie invasion. However, "all hazard preparedness" is the concept that all disasters (even a zombie invasion!) have common issues which allows for the same basic plans and preparedness items to be used.

Do you have a kit with needed items for yourself, your family and your pets? Visit <http://emergency.cdc.gov/preparedness/kit/disasters/> for an in-depth list of what that should your kit should include.

Do you have a plan? This should include communication items (printed list of phone numbers even if they are in your cell phone, an out-of-state person that everyone knows to contact if local lines are busy) and evacuation plans.

And make sure your family knows that if the cell phone towers are overwhelmed to try texting- calling and texting operate on two separate systems.

Are you informed on disaster procedures in your area and where to find more information? In our region, you can join Codespear. Visit <https://sosink.smartmsg.com/> for more information.

The TMRC used this tongue in cheek approach to preparedness at a recent training. One of the other MRC units in the central Ohio region is taking this one step further and participating in a county wide zombie preparedness exercise, complete with costumed zombies. We encourage you to use this same unique approach to encourage your family and friends to think about emergency planning, and to get a kit, make a plan, and stay informed!

ZOMBIES!!!

Ten Years Later - Anthrax Planning Progress

The 10 year anniversary of the most notorious bioterrorism attack in US history was last month. In 2001, letters containing anthrax spores were mailed to various locations across the country. This incident, often called Amerithrax after the FBI case designation name, resulted in 22 known illnesses and 5 deaths. This attack is fascinating to research, with much controversy still surrounding the case today.

In Southwest Ohio, several health departments are part of what is called the Cities Readiness Initiative (CRI). The CRI program is designed to help the larger urban areas in the nation to prepare for an anthrax type attack.

In order to determine how prepared a jurisdiction is, the CRI areas are assessed using a scoring system called the Local Technical Assistance Review (LTAR). Each year a score is determined and provided to each CRI location.

The region recently completed a review of these past LTAR scores, tracking our planning progress and preparedness scores since the program started in 2005. Our region has shown continual improvement, with an original score of 56% and a current score of 85%.

As we close out 10 years since the first anthrax attack in our nation's history, the CRI jurisdictions in Southwest Ohio can point to objective evidence that our preparedness levels have increased dramatically. And with the support of the TMRC, we are better prepared than ever to face a threat like this in our community.

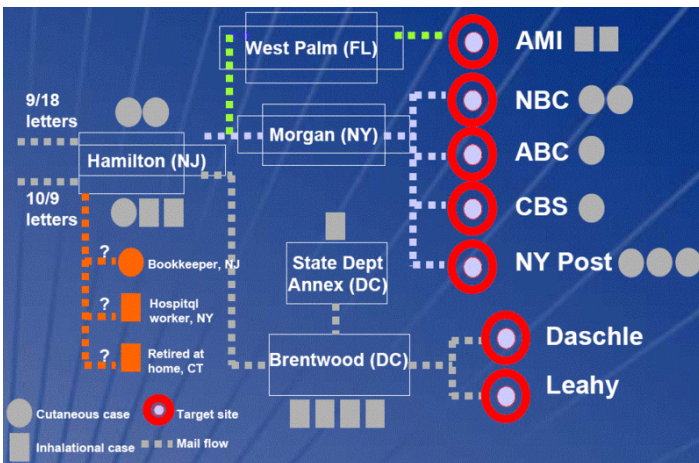
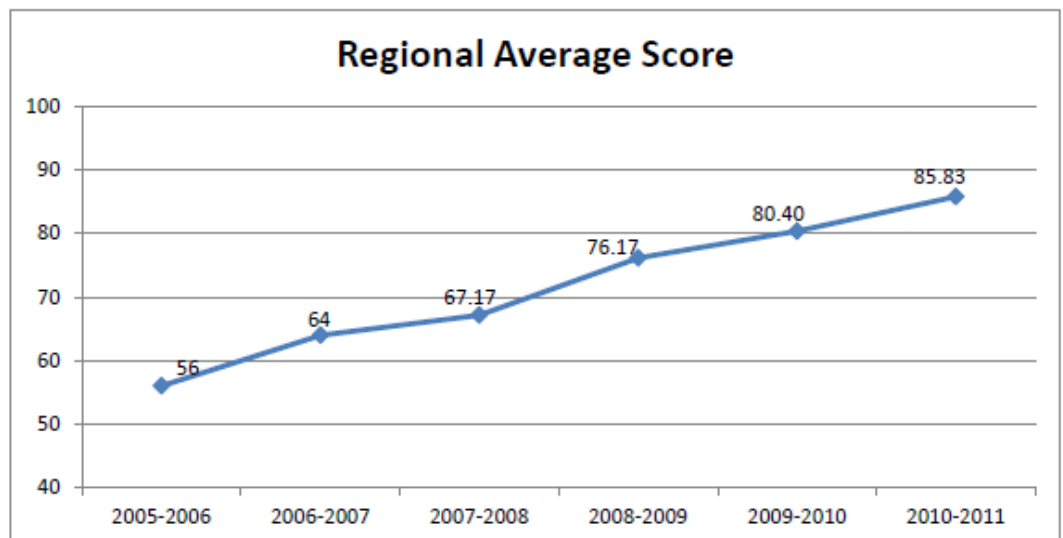


Diagram of the mail routes involved in the Amerithrax attacks

The anniversary of these attacks has led to a large number of articles, editorials, and reports related to how things have changed in biological terrorism preparedness over the last decade. One of the most asked questions is whether our investments of time and funding has led to a more prepared nation.



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Be Prepared. Be Informed. Be Involved.

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 jwarner@warnerprep.com 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>



www.tristatemrc.org

Clermont County POD Exercise

The Clermont County General Health District held their seasonal flu shot drive through clinic at the Clermont County Fairgrounds on a beautiful Saturday morning in October. This year's clinic included a mock dispensing exercise. A small number of Health District employees staffed this clinic as well as 45 volunteers (see pictured) from the Tristate Medical Reserve Corps (TMRC). Twelve volunteers were used in medical positions. The volunteers did an awesome job at the drive through clinic and we are fortunate to have such dependable volunteers.

This year was also the first year to utilize a Volunteer Reception Center (VRC) to help organize volunteers as they arrived to the clinic. This county is privileged to have the Clermont County Developmental Disabilities agency to coordinate volunteers through the VRC.

