

## SERV-OR Bulletin

**Hello Summer!**  
**16 July 2024**



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## 2024 Volunteer Activity

Unit	Hours	Deployed Volunteers	Value of Service
State Managed Volunteer Pool	442.5	58	\$25,724.30
Medical Reserve Corps	2,140.50	633*	90,010.23
<b>Total Oregon</b>	<b>2,583</b>	<b>691*</b>	<b>\$115,734.53</b>

\*Contains duplicative counts of some members who deployed multiple times.

### [|Trusted Resources](#)

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- [Heat Predictions for Summer 2024](#)
  - [Resources for Staying Safe in Extreme Heat \(OHA\)](#)
  - [Heat Safety Tips \(City of Portland\)](#)
  - [OHSU Emergency Preparedness for People with Developmental Disabilities](#)
  - [Disaster Information for People with Disabilities](#)
  - [Sign up for Oregon Public Alerts](#)
  - [OHSU Environmental Exposure page](#)
  - [Personal Preparedness for Emergencies](#)
  - [Track Oregon Wildfire Maps, Warnings, and Recovery Resources](#)
  - [ASPR TRACIE | Healthcare Preparedness Gateway](#)
  - [Oregon Department of Human Services \(ODHS\) Resources and Support Services in Oregon](#)
  - [ODHS Office of Resilience and Emergency Management \(OREM\) Resources](#)
  - [Oregon Department of Emergency Management Training Calendar and Resources](#)
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## | News You Can Use

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- [Hotter, Drier Summer Looms for Most of Oregon](#)
- [Mental Health Resources](#)
- [Resource for acute air quality](#)
- [ODHS/OHA Air conditioner and Air Filter Program](#)

## Introducing the Oregon Health Authority's New Permanent Director of Emergency Operations, Eric Gebbie, DrPH



The Oregon Health Authority has welcomed Dr. Eric Gebbie, DrPH, permanently to the role of Director of Emergency Operations in the Health Security, Preparedness and Response (HSPR) Program at the Public Health Division. As Director, Eric will be managing and leading Oregon's public health preparedness and response work, such as analysis and implementation of policies and new legislation, strategic operational

planning, and overseeing the federal grants our state receives which drive local and tribal public health and hospital preparedness work.

Growing up in Portland, Eric's passion for public health was baked-into his family history. As an adult, Eric gained international experience while living and studying in St. Andrews, Scotland, where he studied for four years. In the late 90s, Eric made the move to New York city to attend Columbia University, where he studied international affairs. He recalls it was during this time in NYC, and after the 2001 terrorist attacks, where his interest in a career in public health and emergency preparedness began. He returned to Portland 13 years ago in 2011 to begin his tenure with the Oregon Health Authority. He began in a position very familiar to us – as the SERV-OR Systems Coordinator! Later roles also included the responsibilities of serving as the MRC State Coordinator and manager of the AmeriCorps VISTA partnership program.

In 2016 Eric was promoted to the Planning Section Chief in the HSPR program; a role he held for....

[Click here to read more.](#)

## Reflections on the Return of an Annual Medical Surge Exercise: Operation Pathfinder 2024



In June, the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) came together with state, federal, and community response partners for the full-scale medical surge exercise, Operation Pathfinder.

This annual event, which began in 2014, has traditionally been a multi-agency exercise based on response to a mass casualty incident (MCI) following a coastal earthquake and subsequent tsunami. However, in 2020 when the world collectively experienced the tragedy and stress of COVID-19, planning for the annual Pathfinder event was put on an abrupt hiatus.

In 2024, the return of Operation Pathfinder required necessary changes, and a decision was made to go "back to basics," scaling the event down to a single day and focusing on foundational skills of all-hazard mass casualty triage. Participants of Operation Pathfinder this year received a half day of didactic training

on topics such as Radio Communications, the En Route Patient Staging System (ERPSS), Patient Triage and Re-Triage for Transport, and a Burn Care Basics course. The afternoon consisted of a scenario-based, full-scale medical response drill designed to test medical response teams' ability to coordinate internally and conduct rapid triage of live and simulated patients.

Participants this year included volunteers from the Oregon Disaster Medical Team (ODMT), SERV-OR's State Managed Volunteer Pool (SMVP), the Department of Veterans Affairs, Linfield University's School of Nursing staff and students, Cascadia Moulage, and safety staff with the Oregon Health Authority's Office of the Public Health Division Director. Although smaller than years' past, the 2024 Pathfinder event saw around 90 participants from instructors, patient actors, moulage artists, and of course our healthcare volunteers. We are so grateful for the return of Pathfinder and the opportunity to enhance skills in rapid medical triage, treatment, and incident coordination for partners and the state's healthcare volunteer pool. These types of training events, and the learning mindset our partners and volunteers bring with them, nudge us ever closer to being ready for whatever tomorrow brings.



*Collage image descriptions:*

*1. The SERV-OR team Sophie Miller-DeSart (OHA) and Stuart Vaughters (OHA & AmeriCorps VISTA) pose together next to a banner at the end of the day (top left)*



2. Dr. Guy Gehling, MD (SMVP & Nehalem Bay MRC) and Len Petrush, EMT (SMVP & Nehalem Bay MRC) triage patients initially placed in the Yellow triage tent (top right)

3. Victor Triana, EMT (SMVP & Lane County MRC) and Dr. Fran Munkenbeck, MD (SMVP & Lane County MRC) triage patients in the Red triage tent (middle left)

4. Low acuity simulated inflatable patients triaged to Green triage area (middle right)

5. Members of the Oregon Disaster Medical Team triage patients received in the Green triage area (bottom left)

6. OHA Staff, Sarah Barnard, poses next to the Red and Yellow triage tents while supporting event safety personnel (bottom right)

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## The National Summit for Medical Reserve Corps



In May, the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) hosted the first MRC National Summit since 2012, in Chicago, IL. This event was made possible from the \$100 million American Rescue Plan Act funds [appropriated to the National Medical Reserve Corps program](#) in 2021 by the Biden Administration.

The national conference, hosted by NACCHO with support from the Administration of Strategic Preparedness and Response (ASPR) and local MRC programs, provided a space for MRC State Coordinators, Unit Coordinators, and volunteers to connect, bond, and share stories of success. The [packed agenda](#) offered countless opportunities for learning from MRC peers with topics ranging from diversifying MRC leadership and membership, practical strategies for foundational organization and capacity building, to new and innovative initiatives like Vermont's pediatric dental clinics.

The theme of the Summit was "The Power of Community, Collaboration, and Connection: MRC Leading the Way for the Next 20 Years." This theme encouraged reflection on our communities of practice and growth during the first 20 years. We reflected on the response to COVID-19, a universal experience for MRC units; and other common challenges many face, such as legal protections for deployed volunteers.

Oregon was highlighted on the main stage during the National MRC Recognition Awards ceremony. While the National MRC Program has held these awards for many years, this was the first opportunity to celebrate together and acknowledge outstanding contributions from members, leaders

and partners over the past year. The awards recognized nominees across 12 categories and awarded stand-outs in each of these categories - and Oregon proudly had two winners!

We are so humbled and proud to be recognized and celebrate awardees **Carissa Heinige from Deschutes County MRC**, who was honored with the Outstanding New Leader Award and **Sophie Miller-DeSart, Oregon's MRC State Coordinator**, who received the Elizabeth Fitch Memorial Leadership Award. <https://aspr.hhs.gov/MRC/Pages/2024awards.aspx>.

Thank you to the National Association of City and County Health Officials and the ASPR MRC National Program Office for their dedication to honoring the work of MRC affiliates around the country and endeavoring to strengthen our wonderful network for another 20 years!



**Winner of the Elizabeth Fitch Memorial Leadership Award:  
Sophie Miller-DeSart, Oregon MRC State Coordinator**



**Winner of the Outstanding New Leader Award: Carissa Heinige,  
MSGH Deschutes County MRC Unit Coordinator**

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## **MRC Regional Conference at Sunriver Resort**

On April 22, the Oregon Health Authority hosted a conference for leaders within the Oregon Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) Coordinator network in Sunriver, OR. Unit Coordinators and volunteer leaders from the statewide MRC network gathered at Sunriver Resort for a full day of strategic planning and networking. The meeting marked the return of in-person annual conferences that were put on pause during the COVID-19 pandemic.

This year attendees, who represented 10 of the 14 MRC units in Oregon, were lucky to be joined by special guests Moji Obiako, MPH and Bryan Lewis, MPH, from the Administration on Strategic Preparedness and Response (ASPR) and Kathy Deffer, the Director of Preparedness with the National Association of City and County Health Officials (NACCHO). These federal partners shared critical resources that support MRC units and leaders.



Attendees were also joined by Emergency Education International co-directors Sarah Swofford and Jesus Leon Monsalve who presented on “Sustainable Strategies for Diversity and Cultural Competency in MRC Volunteer Management.” This session was repeated a month later at the National MRC Summit in Chicago, IL.

Oregon's MRC network is small but mighty. Many of the leaders who coordinate an MRC in our state are either full-time staff (with MRC being less than 5% of their job duties) from county public health and emergency management programs. Or, they're full-time volunteer leaders, building their unit's capabilities year-round out of compassion and an innate commitment to service leadership. Our common thread as MRC leaders is uncommonly center stage. Meetings and conferences like these give us the opportunity to connect and consider our shared experiences, learn from our shared challenges, and plan for our shared futures.

The Oregon Health Authority, particularly the Health Security, Preparedness and Response program, wishes to extend our deepest gratitude to the MRC network leaders for their continued engagement, vision, and partnership.

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## | Training Opportunities - Virtual and In-Person

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### Interactive Web Based Courses

[ICS- 100: Introduction to the Incident Command System \(Click Here\)](#)

- This training provides an overview of the Incident Command System and provides the foundation for high level ICS training. This course describes the history, features and principles, and organizational structure of the Incident Command System. It also explains the relationship between ICS and the National Incident Management System (NIMS)
- Self-Paced!

#### [ICS-700: Intermediate ICS for Expanding Incidents \(Click here\)](#)

- This training provides overview of the National Incident Management System (NIMS). The National Incident Management System defines the comprehensive approach guiding the whole community – all levels of government, nongovernmental organizations (NGO, and private sector- to work together seamlessly to prevent, protect against, mitigate, respond to, and recover from the effects of incidents. The course provides learners with a basic understanding of NIMS concepts, principles, and components
- Self-paced!

## In-Person Training

#### [Preparedness Roundtable: Older Adults and Disasters \(Click here\)](#)

- A day for organizations serving older adults and state, tribal, and federal emergency managers to come together to listen and learn from one another! Older adults are disproportionately impacted by disasters. Join us for this important conversation on how to strengthen preparedness capabilities for older adults and the organizations/ services many may rely on before, during, and after disasters.
- July 30-31, 2024 from 8:30am-4pm (day one) and 8:30am-12pm (day 2) in Salem, OR
- To secure your place and receive additional information, please email [fema-r10-communityprep@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:fema-r10-communityprep@fema.dhs.gov) by July 2, 2024.

#### [ICS 400: Advanced ICS Command and General Staff- Complex Incidents \(Click here\)](#)

- October 15-16, 2024 from 8am-5pm in Wilsonville, OR [\(Sign up here\)](#)

Visit the [SERV-OR Training page](#) for links to the foundational training series for Disaster Medicine and Public Health Core Competencies, FEMA Incident Command courses, and more!

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## | Volunteer and Job Opportunities

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- **Volunteer as a Moulage Artist with Cascadia Moulage!**  
Are you interested in learning skills in moulage artistry for emergency healthcare trainings and exercises? Cascadia Moulage is training new artists. Email [Cascadia.moulage@gmail.com](mailto:Cascadia.moulage@gmail.com) to get involved in upcoming training and events in July and August.
- [OHA Board and Commission Member Opportunities](#) (multiple listed)
- Become an **American Red Cross** Mental Health Volunteer [here](#)
- All **Healthcare News** Job postings [here](#)
- New job postings from **Healthcare News**
  - [Physical Therapist, Astoria, OR](#)
  - [Occupational Therapist, Astoria, OR](#)
  - [Family Practice Physician \(MD/DO/NP/PA\), Bend, OR](#)
  - [Therapist – Forensics/Outreach, Grants Pass, OR](#)
  - [Occupational Therapist – Children’s Resource Team, Grants Pass, OR](#)



- [Clinic Medical Director, Redmond, OR](#)
- [Hospice Aide \(CNA\), Salem, OR](#)
- [Clinical Supervisor - Forensic Services, Grants Pass, OR](#)
- [RN Hospice Case Manager, Salem, OR](#)
- [Oregon Health Authority State and County opportunities](#)
  - [Medical Surge and Wildfire Planner \(Operations Policy Analyst 3\), Oregon Health Authority](#)
  - [Risk Management Analyst II, Washington County](#)
  - [Emergency Management Program Coordinator 1, Marion County](#)
  - [Oregon Dept. of Human Services Volunteer \(General\)](#)
  - [Oregon Dept. of Human Services Intern \(General\)](#)
  - [Clinical positions now recruiting at Oregon Health Authority, Oregon Dept. of Corrections, and Oregon Youth Authority](#)
  - [Public Health Nurse 2 - Clinical Preventative Services, Marion County](#)
  - [Traditional Health Worker, Tillamook County Public Health Clinic](#)
  - [Health Services Operation Strategist, Polk County Health Services](#)
  - [Community Health Chief Financial Officer, Tillamook County Health and Human Svcs.](#)
  - [Dental Hygienist \(multiple Openings\), Clackamas County](#)
  - [Nurse Practitioner - Jail Clinic, Josephine County](#)
  - [Clinic/School Based Therapist, Yamhill County](#)

Contributors to this bulletin include

*Enola Mercer, Sophie Miller-DeSart, Karissa Rue, and Stuart C Vaughters.*

Thank you to this team for all their efforts!



**Mission**

*The mission of the State Emergency Registry of Volunteers in Oregon (SERV-OR) and Oregon's MRC network is to ensure health and well-being, educate, and protect all people in Oregon.*

*We will accomplish this through recruiting, registering, training, exercising, and deploying licensed volunteer health professionals to support public health initiatives, health and medical needs during public health crises, and by improving access to preparedness education and resources for all individuals and communities.*

## Contact Us

[Badge Request](#) | [Click here to request an updated State Managed Volunteer Pool badge.](#)

Do you have a **Story of Service**? We desire to hear it! Email your story to [stuart.c.vaughters@odhsoha.oregon.gov](mailto:stuart.c.vaughters@odhsoha.oregon.gov) so your story can be recognized and published in the next newsletter!

**General questions?** Email [SERV.OR@odhsoha.oregon.gov](mailto:SERV.OR@odhsoha.oregon.gov)

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