

SERV-OR Bulletin

Issue 7: Fires in Oregon, the Road to Recovery

September 30, 2020

SERV-OR Answers the Call **NEW**

By Sophie Miller-Desart, SERV-OR Manager

Oregon is experiencing one, if not, the most destructive fire season on record. Many of you including friends, family members, and neighbors have been directly affected by this emergency. Our hearts are there with you, while we join together to rebuild.

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Once again, I am reminded of the strength and compassion shown by the SERV-OR community. Whether you are managing a local Medical Reserve Corps unit, putting in extra hours at your workplace, or supporting needs in your own community, we see you and we thank you!

SERV-OR volunteers have answered the call, yet again, in response to unpredictable and extraordinary needs. Thirteen volunteers across the Washington, Columbia, Linn, Lincoln and Marion County Medical Reserve Corps units have been deployed to support sheltering, food distribution, and medical missions since last week. With little more than twelve hours' notice, four members from the State Managed Volunteer Pool have been deployed assisting local health departments with medical needs for sheltered populations. Just this week, nearly 250 volunteers raised their hand when asked if they would be willing to volunteer with the American Red Cross Disaster Health Services.

As many of our hardest hit communities recover, remember that SERV-OR is here to help. Whether in partnership with local health departments, the American Red Cross, or Community-Based Organizations, the road to recovery, while challenging, will not stop us. Thank you volunteers. You have made a difference. With you, we are stronger!

Wildfire Resources **NEW**

If you've been affected by the wildfires or know someone who has, **Oregon Wildfire Resources** is an excellent one-stop portal, hosting resources for evacuees (including re-entry) and links for health, safety, claims, and individual county links - your county emergency management office is an important resource. If you are interested in a narrative of the events, **2020 Oregon Wildfire Spotlight** hosts an illustrated storyline with periodic updates.

Current Volunteer Opportunities Updated

Due to the disaster activity all over the US, there is a real shortage of American Red Cross Disaster Health Services staff. The Red Cross is looking for help at one of their many sites, or remotely, to make phone calls to clients. The easiest way to do this is to become what Red Cross calls DEBVs (Disaster Event Based Volunteers). For more information please go here: <https://www.redcross.org/volunteer/become-a-volunteer.html>

SERV-OR COVID Response ACTIVE MRC's and SMVP Updated, not include fire response

MRC or SMVP	Activity
State Management Volunteer Pool (SMVP)	Current Status: Active. Recent Activities: COVID Response and Recovery Unit (CRRU) support, Douglas County Public Health Specimen Collection, Contact Tracing in Jackson County, OHA hosted Specimen Collection events, Oregon Behavioral Health Access Health System Provider Outreach Calls, Long Term Care Facility Lebanon Testing. Staging: Spanish Language Contact Tracing.
Coos County	Current Status: Active. Recent Activities: Screening front doors; RSS for State stockpile items; Admin and volunteer scheduling; Social media monitoring; Response planning and meetings; Administrative support.
Linn County	Current Status: Active. Recent Activity: COVID-19 specimen collection.
Washington County	Current Status: Active. Recent Activity: Delivering meals.



Tester, 8/29/20
Multnomah County



Drive through testing, 8/29/20
Multnomah County

Cannon Beach Preparedness NEW

Written by Renee Menkens

Lila Wickham, the City of Cannon Beach MRC Unit Coordinator, and the MRC members have set the bar high for MRC activities over the past few months with over 450 hours of volunteer contributions. This MRC began six years ago and is paving the way for the current 37 MRC volunteers to support emergency preparedness in their community. In past years, the MRC has had a presence at the local Sand Castle

festival staffing a first aid station, horse riding sporting specially made MRC horse blankets in the 4th of July parade, and a variety of trainings including pet first aid, stop the bleed, wound care, and table top exercises. Some of the accomplishments of this busy MRC in 2020 include the acquisition of \$23,000 from grants and donations from hospitals, hotels and individuals for medical supplies. In addition, the members updated their Strategic Plan, surveyed members for training interests, and held sessions on radio use, go bag training, and tent assembly exercises in collaboration with their local CERT members.

The MRC acquired a MASH tent from Providence Foundation and set up the tent twice so far this year. In a MASH practice session being held this month, members created victim profiles and set up cots, identified a lead for each victim, and supplies and equipment needed for treatment. As part of this important exercise, MRC members learn where supplies are located for future needs if and when a disaster strikes.



Tent assembly, 2020
Cannon Beach

Online Training Modules, Technical Assistance, and Toolkits **Updated**

Find training opportunities at this [new link](#) here which will be updated regularly. Please continue to check it throughout the month!

Wondering how disaster declaration and aid processes work? FEMA has a pair of Independent Study class that cover the basics and have links to more detail:

- Introduction to Individual Assistance ([IS-403](#)): includes small business, self-employment, and farms (~1 hour)
- A whole series on Public Assistance (starting with [IS-1000](#)), which supports government and critical non-profit organizations (wide range of times for the classes, but all are self-paced)

These courses have no prerequisites and offer a course completion certificate upon completion of the online multiple-choice test. If you just want the information and don't care about the certificate, you can take any IS class and skip the test. Although separate CE is not offered, FEMA course-completion certificates are accepted by some governing bodies.

Job Opportunities Updated

- **AmeriCorps VISTA** has an opening for a Vulnerable Populations Access Coordinator (Application open until 12/31)
- **CDC Foundation** Currently has two COVID related open positions in Oregon--a Tribal Nation Case Manager and Tribal Nation Workforce Development Trainer. (No closing date listed, both positions have been posted for 30+days).
- **Samaritan Health Services** in Corvallis has an opening for an Emergency Management Coordinator (Posted 9/14, no closing date listed)
- **Samaritan Lebanon Community Hospital** is looking for a temporary COVID entrance screener. (Job posted 9/10, no closing date listed)
- RDPO Weekly Update, contains information on current job openings. <https://rdpo.net/weekly-update> (Application closing dates vary depending on week)
- Oregon Health Authority State and County jobs <https://www.oregon.gov/oha/PH/About/Jobs/Pages/index.aspx> (Dates vary depending on openings)

Flu Shot Reminder NEW

As flu season nears, CDC and OHA recommend we receive the seasonal flu vaccine, which is widely available. As usual, early autumn vaccinations are recommended and are particularly important for avoiding dual flu-COVID infections. Full information, including the Vaccine Finder tool, is available at [OHA's Flu Prevention Portal](#)

Interest Survey

If you haven't already done so, **please complete [this survey](#)** to be placed on our COVID-19 volunteer interest list and contacted when missions aligning with your specialty and capabilities arise. Reminder Update Profile as Needed! As always, we need our volunteers to keep their profiles up to date. This is essential for contacting you for an emergency deployment, verifying your licensure and trainings, and sending equipment like an ID badge or uniform. **Send training certificates and questions to SERV.OR@state.or.us**

THANK YOU NEW

Thank you to our incredible team of SERV-OR Bulletin volunteers for their contributions to this bulletin: Paul Kaplan, Renee Menkens, Daniel Hughson, Sara Culling, Scott Willits, Jeff Rubin, and Yoram Yakimovksy. We are currently recruiting for a lead volunteer to support the bulletin. If you are interested, please contact Jordana Leeb at jordana.a.leebe@state.or.us

SERV-OR Mission

The mission of the State Emergency Registry of Volunteers in Oregon (SERV-OR) and Oregon's MRC network is to ensure health and wellbeing, educate, and protect all people in Oregon by recruiting, registering, training, exercising, and deploying licensed volunteer health professionals to support local, tribal, and statewide public health initiatives, health and medical needs during public health crises, and to improve access to preparedness education and resources for all individuals and communities.