

SERV-OR Newsletter

State Emergency Registry of Volunteers in Oregon

"Volunteers Building Strong, Healthy and Prepared Communities"



This is the place to read and learn about the latest news of the Medical Reserve Corps and the State Managed Volunteer Pool at the national, state and local levels. We want to express our **THANKS** to all volunteers for making Oregon a safer and healthier place!

<https://SERV-OR.org>

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Oregon MRC Updates

The **Nehalem Bay MRC** partnered with Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) to teach triage, first aid and emergency medical techniques to freshman and sophomore students at Neah-Kah-Nie High School in Rockaway, Oregon. This TeenCERT program empowers teens by teaching them medical and leadership skills that they can put into action in an emergency and their day-to-day lives.

Coos County MRC recently hosted a Basic Disaster Life Support training, which 50 participants attended, including five that are new Coos County MRC volunteers. Michelle

Wyatt is currently planning the first orientation for new volunteers.

The **Clackamas County MRC** hosted another volunteer orientation on August 8, which seven new volunteers attended to learn more about the MRC program in Oregon and in Clackamas County.

The **Jackson County MRC** hosted a Strategic Planning Retreat in mid-May, at which leaders came together to assist in brainstorming what the focus of the unit should be for the next two years.

The **Josephine County MRC** volunteers participated in a

CERT exercise after being asked to assist as a nurse triage team. Additionally, this MRC hosted Medical Skills Day for their volunteers.

The **Yamhill County MRC** has a new Preparedness Coordinator, Sarah Bates! Ms. Bates will also act as the MRC Unit Coordinator. Welcome to the team, Sarah!

The **Linn County MRC** is recruiting volunteers and also cleaning up their volunteer database.

The **Deschutes County Public Health Reserve Corps** just formed a Public Health Advisory Committee to look at MRC expectations and scope of practice.

National MRC Updates

Back-to-School Immunizations

As summer comes to a close, it is time to prepare our children for their return to school. MRC units can play a role in keeping school-age children healthy by preventing illness and disease through administering back-to-school vaccines. The Office of the Civilian Volunteer Medical Reserve Corps (OCVMRC) highly encourages units to partner with their local health departments to provide immunization clinics and promote the importance of vaccines. To learn more about immunizations for children and adults of all ages, visit www.vaccines.gov

September is National Preparedness Month

As MRC Units across the nation begin to plan activities for National Preparedness Month, there is a national resource online available to MRC units to help in preparing called the

National Preparedness Month Coalition Web site. This site serves as an organizing tool for preparedness resources and allows the sharing of ideas, activities, training opportunities and also includes a virtual calendar to post events. One tool that may be of particular interest is the regional discussion board that allows members to chat about local issues.

The theme for this year is "*A Time to Remember. A Time to Prepare*" and is intended to encourage activities that will:

- Honor our professional and volunteer first responders
- Encourage community service
- Reaffirm that preparedness is a shared responsibility

For more information, please visit <http://community.fema.gov/connect.ti/READYNPM>.

National MRC Unit Number Update: 987 MRC Units

Food-for-Thought:

The **Los Angeles County Department of Public Health** unveiled a new disaster-readiness campaign that urges neighborhoods and communities to "**connect, prepare and respond.**" The three elements of the campaign are designed to encourage residents to meet their neighbors, prepare disaster plans that include a neighborhood map and other resources, and to offer tips on responding appropriately to emergencies. Visit their website for more information and resources: <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/eprp/index.htm>



Did you know.....

New Hampshire MRC units collaborated with the state's Drug Enforcement Agency and state police for a regional Medication Take Back initiative in New Ipswich, with 19 MRC volunteers serving 77.5 hours.

The Egyptian Medical Reserve Unit (Eldorado, IL) assisted staffing the county Emergency Operations Center (EOC) during flooding responses in April & May of 2011.

Medical Reserve Corps AmeriCorps*VISTA Team Attends National Integrated Training Summit



The VISTA members pose by their poster submission at the Integrated Training Summit 2011

During the Integrated Medical, Public Health, Preparedness and Response Training Summit in Grapevine, Texas, May 2-5, 2011, the Oregon AmeriCorps*VISTA/Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) Partnership Project was recognized for its contribution to the National MRC Program. Seven VISTA members, their site supervisors, Oregon MRC Unit Coordinators, and the Project Director, Akiko Berkman, were asked to stand during the national MRC luncheon. CAPT Robert Tosatto, Director of the National MRC program, honored the Project for its contribution to creating sustainable practices and building the volunteer base in Oregon.

The Partnership Project also presented a poster at the conference, highlighting

the goals and success stories of the program. The poster was on display all four days of the conference.

The Integrated Training Summit is an annual conference that brings together partners from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) including the National Disaster Medical System (NDMS), the Medical Reserve Corps (MRC), the Emergency System for Advance Registration of Volunteer Health Professionals (ESAR-VHP), and the United States Public Health Service (USPHS). This forum permits coordination, collaboration and interaction amongst the leaders and members of the preparedness and response partner organizations. This year over 2,700

people attended the conference and both the US Surgeon General, Dr. Regina Benjamin and the Assistant Secretary of Preparedness and Response, Dr. Nicole Lurie were keynote speakers.

The Oregon AmeriCorps*VISTA/MRC members would like to thank the Oregon Health Authority for the opportunity to attend the Integrated Training Summit as well as for their continued support. Similarly, they would like to thank Akiko Berkman, the Partnership Director and Oregon State MRC Coordinator, for her great leadership and encouragement. For this next service year, OHA has been awarded 15 VISTA positions an increase of 36% from this year.

Marion County MRC Unit Participates in Full Scale Exercise with Silverton Hospital



Four MRC volunteers taking time out from the exercise for a quick photo.

On Friday, May 20, 2011, the **Marion County MRC (MCMRC)**, along with several other local organizations, participated in the disaster exercise with the Silverton Hospital. The exercise was based on the premise that an earthquake of a 9 magnitude had occurred off the Oregon Coast with catastrophic damage spreading as far inland as Silverton. With Silverton High School students acting as mock, but very real looking patients, a field hospital, decontamination unit, and psychological support facility was set up to receive and treat these patients. The Marion County MRC Unit personnel were assigned ancillary support

duties by the hospital providing the MRC volunteers with valuable hands on experience in this type of situation.

In addition, the Marion County MRC was able to bring equipment, a support trailer and a medical tent to the site which also provided a good experience in transporting and use of this equipment. The experience that the MRC received during this realistic exercise will certainly be of great value as the Unit continues its organizational planning and development in the coming months. Each of the MRC Unit Coordinators and volunteers who partici-

pated had very enthusiastic praise for Jamie Baxter, RN of Silverton Hospital who set up this very realistic exercise! Well done Marion County MRC!

You can visit the Marion County MRC on the web at <http://www.co.marion.or.us/HLT/ep/MRC.htm>

New Sites for the AmeriCorps*VISTA Partnership

The Oregon AmeriCorps*VISTA/MRC and Accreditation Partnership Project has been approved by the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) to continue a third year and increase their VISTA team member amount by 36%, for a total of 16 VISTAs.

We are happy to welcome four new host sites throughout Oregon:

Union County Health Department, also known as the **Center for Human Development, Inc.**, in La Grande. The VISTA here will work on Accreditation as well as developing a MRC Unit.

Curry County Health Department in Gold River. This VISTA will focus on Accreditation and working with vulnerable populations planning.

Lane County Health Department in Eugene, at which the VISTA will focus on Accreditation and strengthening the MRC program.

Lincoln County Health Department in Newport. The VISTA will look at Accreditation and vulnerable populations planning.

The Accreditation VISTA members will be helping the local health departments build their infrastructure to a national standard where they are able to respond to the public's needs, and particularly the underserved, in an efficient and effective way beyond emergency preparedness.

The VISTA members are also looking at vulnerable populations at their host sites and will be learning more about who

these populations are in their community, what their needs are and how to effectively include them and the facilities that serve them into the health department's emergency response plans.

It is very exciting to see this program grow and have the opportunity to bring these incredible VISTA members as resources to local communities throughout Oregon in the coming VISTA year.

We'd like to extend a warm welcome to our new host site supervisors at these new locations: Laura Ellis, Karen Gillette, Jan Kaplan, Joell Archibald and Neil Jensen. We thank you for contributing to this partnership!

Meet the New VISTA Team!

The recruitment process is complete! 14 new members (and 2 returning members) will be joining the Oregon AmeriCorps*VISTA/MRC and Health Department Accreditation Partnership Project at the end of August 2011. There were over 200 qualified applicants for the positions.

With the new team arriving, the current team will be saying farewell to the project and a successful year of national service. The current members are preparing to exit on August 19th to start their new adventures in medical school, careers, cross-country moves and graduate school. Please take some time to wish the current VISTA team well and join us in welcoming the new members at the end of August...

Alyssa Bostian VISTA Leader coming from Bozeman MT, although she is originally from Fossil, OR.

Kristine Babbish Linn County MRC coming from Auburn, CA.

Karn Brynildson Curry County Accreditation and Vulnerable Populations coming from Edina, MN.

Anne Celovsky Lane County Accreditation and MRC is joining us from Portland, OR.

Paula Dorfman Project Connect coming from Jenkintown, PA.

Elise Englert Nehalem Bay MRC is returning for a second year with our team!

Jamila Freightman Lincoln County Accreditation and Vulnerable Populations joining us from Atlanta, GA.

Christopher Goodwin Portland Metro MRC coming from Honolulu, HI.

Barbra Henry Jackson County MRC and is in the middle of her second year with our team!

Tessa Newell Clackamas County MRC coming from Portland, OR.

Frances Nicholas North Central Accreditation and MRC coming from Atlanta, GA.

Mikkel Quam Benton County Accreditation coming from Memphis, TN. Mikkel will be a 3rd year VISTA!

Monique Schreiber Yamhill County MRC and Accreditation and is coming from WA.

Theodore Solberg Statewide MRC Training Program and is joining us from Iowa.

Teresa Tomaszewski Union County Accreditation and MRC and coming from Michigan.

Jared Wolschlager Washington County Accreditation and coming from Alaska.

Turn to page 5 to read more about each member!



Advance Disaster Life Support Training Class is a Success



Exercise: One of the VISTAs acting as a moulage victim for the ADLS course in Eugene July 2011



Exercise: Another photo from the ADLS course

On July 19 and 20th, 37 students attended a two day Advance Disaster Life Support course supported by the American Medical Association and taught by the Sierra Medical Services Alliance (SEMSA) and local trainers. The class was attended by MRC and State Managed Volunteer Pool (SMVP) volunteers and other Health-care Preparedness Program partners. All participants had a health professional license and/or clinical experience. The OR AmeriCorps VISTA team also

contributed to the training as moulage victims as part of their end-of-the year celebration. On the second day of the ADLS course, the team participated in four one hour exercises with all of the ADLS students. In the morning, two VISTA members, **Elise Englert, Nahelem Bay MRC** and **Holy Mueller, Clackamas County MRC**, applied moulage make-up to the rest of the team as well as the other community volunteers to simulate the injuries incurred from the mock explosion. The VISTA team did a ex-

cellent job acting as victims during the exercise and then were invited to debrief their experiences with the students at the end of the day.

The course was held at the Eugene Fire Training Facility in Eugene and was made possible by a grant awarded from the Emergency System for the Advanced Registration of Health Professionals (ESAR-VHP). Please see the article below about other upcoming training and how to register!

Upcoming Disaster Life Support Training Courses

The Oregon Health Authority Public Health Emergency Preparedness Program, through a grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services is sponsoring two **FREE** upcoming Disaster Life Support Courses: Basic and Advanced. Get prepared, learn new skills to help others in disasters and meet colleagues with similar interests.

Training Dates:

BDLS: Wednesday **September 7, 2011 in Portland** at the Red Lion

Hotel by the Portland Convention Center. 8:00am-5:00pm. Lunch and coffee service provided.

Pre-requisites: None, however, preference may be given to members of MRC or SMVP.

Course Credits: 7.5 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits

ADLS: Thursday and Friday **September 8 and 9 in Salem** at the Salem Fire Training Division. 8:00am-5:00pm each day.

Pre-Requisites: BDLS and an

active healthcare provider license. Preference may be given to members of the MRC or SMVP.

Course Credits: 15.5 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits

To learn more about these classes and to register, please visit <https://serv-or.org>



Quarterly Partner Highlight: Radiation Protection Services

The State of Oregon Radiation Protection Services has continued to be a vital training and exercise partner to the Oregon Medical Reserve Corps program. In the Spring of 2011, Radiation Protection Services program presented at the Spring Regional MRC Training event at the Monarch Hotel and Conference Center. Additionally, training was provided for MRC members and other volunteers in Washington and Columbia counties in the month of July.

Presented by Sudhir Oberoi and Emal Wahab, the sessions include a comprehensive lecture about

Radiation theory, safety and equipment with a hands-on experience including usage of live sources, an exercise with portal monitors to simulate the response needed, as well as a by-request guided tour of the state's All Hazard Mobile Laboratory. The training session is approximately four hours in length and has been attended by about 70 volunteers so far.

If you and your local MRC unit are interested in hosting a Radiological training, please contact:

Sudhir Oberoi at 971-673-0493 or sudhir.oberoi@state.or.us



Regional MRC Volunteers at the Spring Training Event this past spring



Meet the NEW VISTA Team Cont.

Alyssa Bostian will be the **VISTA Leader**. The position is located at the Portland State Office Building. Alyssa is joining us from Bozeman, MT, where she recently finished a VISTA year focused on developing and expanding the capacity of the veteran services program at Eagle Mount Bozeman. Alyssa attended Portland State University where she studied Arts and Letters with a dual emphasis in Communication and Technical Theater. She is a native Oregonian from Fossil, OR.

Kristine Babbish will be serving at the **Linn County Health Department Accreditation and Medical Reserve Corps** in Albany, OR. She recently was in Fukushima City, Japan teaching English at the Fukushima English Center and returned to the United States after the earthquake hit. Kristine is a graduate of the University of Alaska, Anchorage where she studied languages, specializing in Japanese.

Karn Brynildson will be serving at the **Curry County Health Department Accreditation** position in Gold River, OR. Karn is joining our program from Edina, Minnesota where she recently served as a Committee Page for the Health and Human Services Committee. She graduated from Bethel University in St. Paul, MN with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. Karn also studied abroad in Mukono, Uganda for a semester.

Anne Celovsky will be serving at the **Lane County Health Department Accreditation and Medical Reserve Corps** position in Eugene, OR. Originally from Long Beach, CA, Anne graduated from Reed College in Portland, OR with a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology where she also headed the Reed Queer Alliance and organized multiple campus events to increase the Alliance's visibility on campus and build support.

Paula Dorfman will be serving as a VISTA member at the **Project Connect** position in Redmond, OR. Paula is from Jenkintown, Pennsylvania and attended Antioch College in Yellow Springs, Ohio where she received a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology. She recently completed a year of AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC) assisting with a variety of national service projects, including disaster relief.

Elise Englert will be serving her second year as the **Nehalem Bay Medical Reserve Corps** VISTA member located in Wheeler, OR! Elise graduated from Linfield College with a double major in Political Science and Spanish. She is a certified HAN Radio Operator and is interested in becoming a Wilderness First Responder. Elise is an avid runner who recently completed her first half marathon. She currently lives in Manzanita, OR.

Jamila Freightman will be serving as the **Linn County Health Department Accreditation** VISTA member that will also be working with vulnerable populations in regards to emergency preparedness and response. Jamila is joining us from Atlanta, GA where she recently graduated from Georgia State University with a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology and a minor in Biology. Jamila hopes to attend Medical School in the future.

Christopher Goodwin will be serving as the **Portland Metro Medical Reserve Corps** VISTA member, which includes Multnomah, Columbia, and Washington Counties. Originally from Redmond, WA, Chris attended and graduated from Portland State University with a Bachelor of Science in Sociology. He also worked as a Resident Advisor with the Portland State Department of Residence Life. After graduating, he re-located to Honolulu to work as an Emergency Medical Technician for the City and County of Honolulu EMS.

Barbra Henry is currently serving at the **Jackson County Medical Reserve Corps!** She is in the middle of her second service year with the Jackson County MRC and third year as an AmeriCorps VISTA member. Barbra is on the January to January service year track and is very interested in working with vulnerable populations and helping them to build their resiliency.

Tessa Newell will be serving at the **Clackamas County Medical Reserve Corps** in Oregon City, OR. She recently worked as a volunteer coordinator and Clinic Assistant at The Arts Center for Developmental Health in Portland, OR. Tessa graduated from Portland State University with a Bachelor of Arts in Community Health. Additionally, Tessa recently earned a Nursing Assistant Certificate through the Pacific Healthcare School. Tessa is a native Oregonian from Salem.

Francis Nicholas will be serving at the **North Central Health Department and Medical Reserve Corps** position in The Dalles, OR. Francis recently graduated from Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia where she earned a Bachelor of Arts in Economics. In the summer of 2010, Francis interned as the Community Development Coordinator for Global Vision International in Cape Town, South Africa and led a team in implementing an English program at a local school.

Mikkel Quam will be serving at the **Benton County Health Department Accreditation** in Corvallis, OR. Mikkel is joining us from Memphis, Tennessee where he successfully completed a year as a VISTA member with BRIDGES-Peace Jam, where he developed regional program capacity as well as assisted with leadership transition within the organiza-

tion's Poverty to Peace program. Mikkel graduated with a Bachelor of Arts from Rhodes College in German in 2009.

Monique Schreiber will be serving at the **Yamhill County Medical Reserve Corps and Health Department Accreditation** position in McMinnville, OR. Monique recently graduated from Linfield College with a Bachelor of Science in Health Education, during which, she was also an intern with the Yamhill County Health Department. As an intern, Monique developed various projects and created presentations to educate the public on services the Health Department provides.

Theodore Solberg will be serving at the Oregon Health Authority in Portland, OR as the **Statewide Medical Reserve Corps and Health Department Accreditation Training** VISTA member. Teddy is a recent graduate from the University of Iowa (UI) where he earned a dual Bachelor degree in Journalism and Psychology. He has experience working as a journalism intern with the UI Hygienic Laboratory and is interested in pursuing a higher degree in public health.

Teresa Tomaszewski will be serving at the **Union County Health Department Accreditation** in La Grande, OR. Teresa graduated from Central Michigan University in Mount Pleasant, Michigan with a Bachelor of Science in Exercise Science. She has experience as a Health Fitness Specialist with MediFit where she assisted members, supervised the fitness floor, and monitored member's blood pressure. She is excited to move to Oregon and participate in some awesome outdoor adventures.

Jared Wolschlager will be serving at the **Washington County Accreditation** position in Hillsboro, OR. Jared graduated from Hiram College in Hiram, Ohio with a Bachelor of Arts in Religious Studies. Jared served as a summer VISTA with the Syracuse Habitat for Humanity, for which he developed a service manual that is still being used at the organization.





SERV-OR System Updates

A system upgrade is coming to a computer near you on October 27th!!

This upgrade to the website at

<https://SERV-OR.org> should improve volunteer registration, notification and deployment.

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September is National Preparedness Month

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September is National Preparedness Month (NPM)! This awareness month is sponsored by the Ready Campaign in partnership with Citizen Corps. NPM is held each September and is designed to encourage Americans to take simple steps to prepare for emergencies in their homes, businesses, and communities.

Are you a Ready Responder? Get training:

Personal Safety and Health for Emergency Responders [http:// www.ualbanycphp.org/learning/ registration/tab.cfm? course=PSHER&s=Overview](http://www.ualbanycphp.org/learning/registration/tab.cfm?course=PSHER&s=Overview)

This course will help the emergency responder understand the types of dangers that may be encountered in a disaster setting, as well as the common injuries and other health impacts that can be sustained during an emergency response. This course will also examine various health and safety preparedness measures a responder may take be

fore, during, and after an emergency.

Personal Preparedness

[http://www.ualbanycphp.org/
learning/registration/tab.cfm?
course=pep&s=Overview](http://www.ualbanycphp.org/learning/registration/tab.cfm?course=pep&s=Overview)

Community volunteers, hospital workers, and public health staff members may be called on to help with a community response to a disaster. In order to respond effectively in such an emergency, these workers must have plans in place to be sure their families, other dependents, pets, etc. are cared for. This course provides a step-by-step process for developing a family disaster plan and a personal emergency plan. Approved for 1 hour of CME and CEU credits.

Become a National Preparedness Month Coalition Member

By joining the Coalition, individuals or organizations agree to promote emergency preparedness during September. NPM Coalition membership is open to all individuals as well as the public and private sector organiza-

tions for free. Even if you were a coalition member last year, it's important that you register this year to have the benefits of a coalition member. And be sure that each level of your organization registers - branch offices, regional offices, retail stores, etc. - so they can promote preparedness at their location, too. By becoming a Coalition Member, you gain access to the NPM community Website, where you can find a toolkit that includes templates, resources and tips to assist you with promoting emergency preparedness. You will also find an NPM calendar where you can post your events and see what other organizations are doing in your community. In addition, you can share your success stories, participate in best practice discussions, and connect with fellow coalition members. Your organization will also be listed on our Web site! Join here: [http://
community.fema.gov/
connect.ti/READYNPM](http://community.fema.gov/connect.ti/READYNPM)