

SERV-OR Newsletter

Special points of interest:

- > Welcoming our new SERV-OR systems coordinator
- > Also welcoming our latest VISTA team leader
- > Partnering with disaster epidemiology during emergency response



DeWayne Hatcher

Welcome DeWayne Hatcher: An interview to remember

By: Julie Black

Health Security, Preparedness and Response is thrilled to welcome our new SERV-OR systems coordinator, DeWayne Hatcher. I recently sat down with DeWayne to ask him questions about himself and his new role with us.

How have your first three months in your new position been?

Well, my first day was March 3 and so far it has been incredibly educational! Especially related to the incredible amount of public health work that goes on behind the scenes. It is wonderful to see the detailed research being done on things like earthquakes, vaccines, infectious diseases and disaster planning. Regarding SERV-OR, I'm truly enjoying meeting and getting to know the people behind it. There is no substitute for creating real connections with people in their communities. I have also been impressed with the fact that communication here is really rich. We have the opportunity to get feedback from and integrate communication and participation with a variety of partners."

Tell me about your education and work experience and how they have prepared you for this position.

I have my undergraduate degree in Biology from Southern Oregon State College as well as my master's degree in business from City University. I worked 16 years with Providence Health System

(Continued on page 3)

Inside this issue:

Our response partner, disaster epidemiology	2
Exercise, Exercise, Exercise	2
Shelter-in-place personal preparedness tips	2
DeWayne Hatcher's interview continued	3
Zach Fund article continued	4
Personal preparedness tips continued	5
SERV-OR information	6

New VISTA team leader, Zach Fund

By: Jocelyn Lang

This spring, the OHA/AmeriCorps VISTA Partnership Program is welcoming a new VISTA Team Leader, Zach Fund. Zach recently completed his first VISTA year in Clatsop County, where he developed community wellness initiatives. One such initiative is the Seaside Recess Project, a worksite wellness program he adapted to fit the needs of Clatsop County's coastal communities. Clatsop County's decision to reapply for another VISTA member is a testament to the great service he accomplished there. As a Portland native, Zach is excited to be serving his second VISTA year in his hometown.

(Continued on page 3)

Our response partner, disaster epidemiology

By: DeWayne Hatcher

During public health emergencies caused by natural disasters, reliable information is critical for incident managers and responders. Gathering timely and accurate information reduces deaths, illnesses and injuries.

"Reliable information is critical in public health responses," said Eric Gebbie, Dr.P.H., M.I.A., Oregon Health Authority State Medical Reserve Corps Coordinator. "We work closely with our partners and other subject matter experts to ensure we have the best data available. Every response is a team effort in that respect."



DeWayne Hatcher and Melissa Powell

State and local epidemiologists conduct special surveillance during disasters. "Teams of volunteers can help collect information about the extent and scope of health effects to guide our response

(Continued on page 4)

"SERV-OR issued a test alert to over 1,100 SMVP volunteers and system administrators"

Exercise, Exercise, Exercise

By: DeWayne Hatcher

The Oregon Health Authority (OHA) Public Health Division's Agency Operations Center (AOC) was activated on April 16th at 7:00 a.m. to respond to the simulated challenge of either flooding or a Cascadia subduction zone earthquake. The exercise request came from the Office of Emergency Management (OEM). Many members of the state public health incident management team participated, including volunteer management.

At 11:22 a.m., SERV-OR issued a test alert to over 1,100 SMVP volunteers and system administrators, notifying them of the exercise earthquake and flooding alert. Volunteers were asked to confirm receipt of the message.

(Continued on page 4)

Shelter-in-place personal preparedness tips

By: Sophia Grimm

Preparedness is an individual responsibility. By preparing your home and workplace, you help ensure your safety and the well-being of those closest to you. Your ability to care for yourself and others after a disaster is determined by the preparations you made prior to the devastation. That said, just because it's your responsibility to prepare doesn't mean we won't lend you a hand.

We hope that this scenario will help show any gaps in your personal preparedness.

Sophia Grimm



(Continued on page 5)



DeWayne Hatcher

Welcome DeWayne Hatcher: An interview to remember (continued)

(Continued from page 1)

in medical supplies, marketing and business development. I spent the next 12 years managing licensing and customer service at the Oregon State Board of Nursing. During that time I began my adult education career teaching business and technology classes at Marylhurst University and DeVry University.

What attracted you to this position?

I've actually had my eye on this position for years. It is never easy to change directions, but this — for me — is one of those once in a lifetime opportunities. Being selected was an honor. I admire the work that Akiko Saito and Eric Gebbie have done to bring the program to where it's at today.

Within your first year, what are you most looking forward to?

I have so much more to learn. I have people to meet and build relationships with. I understand the general framework within which we work, but I really look forward to getting into the details of SERV-OR and how we can effectively network, exercise and plan for real event mobilization. Along

those lines I also look forward to contributing to the integrated partnership between SERV-OR and the Public Health Division's Health Security, Preparedness and Response program. I gauge my success on the success of the program's ability to meet the needs of the local Medical Reserve Corps units and our ability to provide the requested licensed medical personnel during exercises and emergencies.

What is one thing people would find most interesting about you?

I worked nights at an AMPM gas station to get myself through college. It took me longer than I care to admit here. And at the same time (the late 1970s) I played saxophone in a local rhythm and blues band. I eventually graduated, the band broke up and I moved to Portland. These days I live out my musical aspirations by listening to my daughter play the piano.

How can we help you be successful?

SERV-OR is something I am really excited about. I want others to be excited too and to help me get the word out to healthcare professionals that this is a solid way to participate and make a difference in your community. Also, ask me questions when you have them. I am happy to help.

“SERV-OR is something I am really excited about. I want others to be excited too”

New VISTA team leader, Zach Fund (continued)

(Continued from page 1)

Zach Fund



Prior to his VISTA service year, Zach worked as a farm educator at Zenger Farms in Southeast Portland. This role involved teaching about sustainable farming, urban farming, healthy food options and encouraging community involvement. In 2012, Zach received a Bachelor's of Science in Health Studies from Portland State University. While obtaining his degree, he taught at a day camp at Tryon Creek State Park that focused on educating children about wildlife, plants, human impact on natural environments and the importance of protecting forests. Zach's enthusiasm, energy, positive attitude and past experience executing VISTA projects will be essential to support the new team of VISTAs. We are thrilled to have Zach on board and are excited to see him take on a leadership role with the OHA/VISTA Partnership Program!

Our response partner, disaster epidemiology (continued)

(Continued from page 2)

efforts," said Gebbie. "Asking SERV-OR volunteer teams to interview individuals within their local communities may be a real need during a disaster."

"There are many examples of how disaster epidemiology techniques have contributed to better outcomes during disaster response," according to Melissa Powell, M.P.H., Oregon Health Authority Disaster Epidemiologist. "For example, rapid needs assessments were used during the 2009 tsunami/earthquake in American Samoa and the 2010 Deepwater Horizon gulf coast oil spill to determine the extent of damage and determine the unmet needs of the communities. Public health epidemiologists also created registries of all workers who could potentially be exposed to hazardous substances during cleanup, in order to monitor their health over time.



Melissa Powell

"Natural disasters create many public health risks. For example, an earthquake can cause traumatic injuries, and can also lead to water contamination and infectious disease outbreaks. Earthquakes also often cause displacement, which in turn can cause physical and mental health needs. Having timely, systematically collected data, is critical to pinpoint or predict issues that have or may occur, so that we can respond appropriately and get ahead of the curve," said Powell.

If your Medical Reserve Corp (MRC) organization would like to learn more about how to conduct interviews during public health assessments, watch "The Dos and Don'ts of Outbreak Interviewing" here:

<http://public.health.oregon.gov/DiseasesConditions/CommunicableDisease/LocalHealthDepartments/Pages/TrainingVideoOutbreakInvestigation.aspx>.

To learn more about disaster epidemiology in general, visit the CDC's disaster epidemiology page: www.cdc.gov/nceh/hsb/disaster/epidemiology.htm.

"Having timely, systematically collected data, is critical... so that we can respond appropriately"

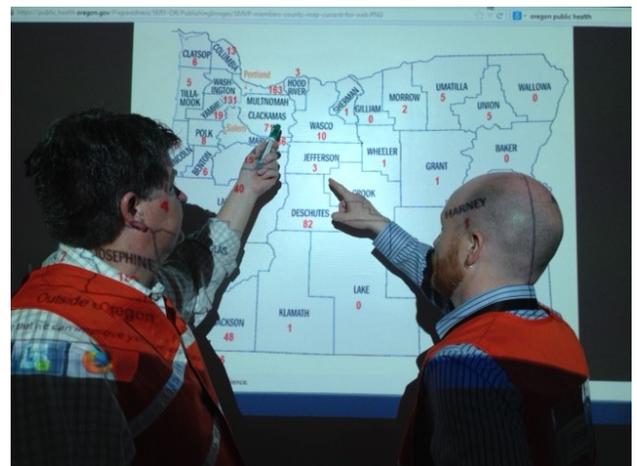
Exercise, Exercise, Exercise (continued)

(Continued from page 2)

Within 24 hours, 669 had acknowledged – a response rate of 56 percent. Although no volunteers were officially activated, the exercise provided a valuable opportunity to assess response numbers for future emergencies.

Marion County Medical Reserve Corp (MRC) and the Oregon Veterinary Emergency Response Team (OVERT) also successfully performed exercise call outs to their members.

DeWayne Hatcher and Eric Gebbie





Sophia Grimm

Shelter-in-place personal preparedness tips (continued)

(Continued from page 2)

Toxic waste spill

It's a Saturday morning, a train has derailed near your home and one of the tankers carrying chlorine gas is punctured. You've just received an emergency alert on your cell phone, which instructed all residents within a one mile radius of the spill to shelter-in-place.

Shelter-in-place is used when a toxic chemical will reach an area faster than its residents can be evacuated. Different factors affect a resident's ability to evacuate, including: proximity to the source, their physical mobility and the number of people within a building.

The rail system transports millions of gallons of toxic chemicals through highly-populated areas daily. Chlorine gas is one of the most widely transported chemicals. It has a green-yellow color and it settles in low-lying areas because it's heavier than air. This water soluble gas is a pulmonary irritant. It breaks down moist tissue of our eyes, nose, throat, lungs, creating hydrochloric acid. In small doses it will

cause burning, pain and redness, and in large quantities it kills within minutes.

The moment you receive a shelter-in-place alert:

- Go inside the closest building; close all doors, windows and fireplace dampers.
- Turn off fans, heating and air conditioners.
- Grab your emergency supply kit.
- Move into a room without exterior walls and above ground level if available. A room without exterior walls will decrease your exposure to the chemical because the air entering your shelter room is coming from within the building, rather than directly from the outside.
- Seal room, using plastic sheeting and duct tape around doors, windows, vents, electrical outlets and cracks.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a damp towel.
- Listen to a battery-powered radio for additional instructions.
- Use phone only for emergencies.

Tips for shelter-in-place:

- Create an emergency supply kit.
- Identify a room of your home that does not have any exterior walls and is above ground level.
 - Bathrooms are a great option because they have water, something you'll want after a few hours.
 - **Do not shelter in a basement.** Many chemicals are heavier than air and will seep into low-lying areas.
- Cut plastic sheeting to fit and seal the room's doors, windows, vents, electrical outlets, and cracks.
- Store the cut plastic sheets and some duct tape in your shelter room.
- Make sure your family knows how to follow your shelter-in-place plan.
- For those I really scared, you can purchase an air filter that also creates positive pressure within your shelter room. By creating positive pressure it forces air out of your shelter, instead of allowing air to enter.

Note: If you are in your car when you receive an alert, stay inside it and turn off everything including the engine.

Sophia Grimm



You just received the "all-clear," now what?

Open all windows and doors to ventilate your building. This helps quickly remove any chemicals that may have entered your shelter, decreasing your exposure.

Shower and bathe to eliminate residue.

Wash household items.

Call your mom. She'll want to know you're okay.

We hope you found this scenario helpful and informative. If you have questions or concerns feel free to contact Marion County Emergency Management.

SERV-OR

Portland State Office Building (PSOB)
800 NE Oregon Street
Suite 465b
Portland, OR 97232

Phone: 971-673-1038
Fax: 971-673-1309
E-mail: serv.or@state.or.us



<http://serv-or.org>

SERV-OR is a statewide registry system to help pre-credentialed health care professionals volunteer their services during emergencies with significant health impacts. The registry is sponsored by the Oregon Public Health Division in partnership with the Medical Reserve Corps. It utilizes a secure database to register, credential, and alert volunteer health providers.

Oregon health care workers: When disaster strikes, can we count on you?

You could make a difference!

[Register now!](#)



SERV-OR

State Emergency Registry of Volunteers in Oregon



SERV-OR website banner

If you or someone you know is interested in becoming a member of Oregon's state managed volunteer pool but have questions, visit our pages on the Oregon Health Authority's website. Take a look at our [Frequently Asked Questions](#).

There are over twenty of them, including:

- What is the State Emergency Registry of Volunteers in Oregon (SERV-OR)?
- Are you obligated to volunteer for an emergency?
- What is my liability and injury coverage as a Registry volunteer?
- What are the training requirements and opportunities?
- Which professions are you targeting with the registry?
- Is volunteering right for me?