

SERV-OR Bulletin

Issue #14: Get ready! Get Set! Get Prepared!

August 6, 2021

IN THIS ISSUE

Trusted Messengers: Preparing for the Wildfires **NEW**.....1
 Stories of Service: MRC Disaster Work **NEW**.....2
 Volunteer Opportunity: Provider on Duty **NEW**.....3
 Online Training, and Tool kits **Updated**.....4
 Job Opportunities **Updated**4
 SERV-OR FAQ: Request a member badge **Updated**.....4

UPDATES COLUMN

Oregon's 2021 Volunteer Activity

Unit	Hours	Deployed Volunteers <small>Duplicative of members who deployed multiple times.</small>	Value of service
State Managed Volunteer Pool	6915.5	584	\$184,232
Medical Reserve Corps	32,943	4,977	\$1,400,57
<small>Nothing new to report since last publication (6/4/21). The National MRC reporting system is undergoing migration.</small>			
Total Oregon	39,858.5	5,479	\$1,584,80

Trusted Messengers: Preparing for the Wildfires **NEW**

By Sophie Miller-Desart, Isna Waqas

Mission example

- Behavioral Health/Psychological First Aid for affected communities
- COVID vaccinations/testing for sheltered or displaced populations
- Support American Red Cross medical components at shelters
- Medical shelter logistical support including set-up/break-down, check-in, triage, basic first aid, administrative support, etc.
- Community well-checks (virtual/door-to-door)

- ✓ COVID-19 Vaccine Facts can be found **here**
- ✓ Vaccination updates can be found **here**.
- ✓ COVID talking points **here**. (updated: 08/03/2021)
Subscribe to COVID-19 Health talking points
- ✓ **Request** a SERV-OR member badge
- ✓ We want to hear your **stories of service!**
- ✓ **Join our development team** and let us know ways we can improve the bulletin!
- ✓ **News** from the national Medical Reserve Corps office
- ✓ MRC in Touch **July 2021 Issue**



This video shows the Evacuation Center that the Linn County Commissioners in Albany setup at the Linn County Expo Center. This was done with working closely with community partners to set up evacuation shelters at the Linn County fairgrounds

Wildfire situational awareness tools

- **InciWeb- Incident Information System**
Locate current fire incidents in Oregon with incident specific details such as evacuation lines, containment, and more.
- **Oregon Smoke Blog**
Find the latest smoke outlooks for Oregon from the US Interagency Wildland Fire Air Quality Response Program. Outlooks are updated daily.
- **AirNow**
Highlights air quality in your local area first, while still providing air quality information at state, national, and world views. A new interactive map even lets you zoom out to get the big picture or drill down to see data for a single air quality monitor.
- **Oregon Air Quality**
A mobile app is also now available for smart phones. Simply search for OregonAir in your app store.
- **SmokeSense App**
This app by the EPA combines local info, health info, and a reporting function; it's tied to an ongoing citizen-science study for people who are susceptible to wildfire smoke.
App Store Download [here](#), Google Play Download [here](#)

Statewide wildfire resources

- **Community Resources on Wildfires** (includes translations in *Spanish, Arabic, Simplified Chinese, Traditional Chinese, Chuukese, Hmong, Korean, Marshallese, Russian, Somali, Vietnamese*)
- **Key Resources to Help You Stay Safe While Evacuated from Wildfires** (includes *Spanish, Arabic, Simplified Chinese, Traditional Chinese, Chuukese, Hmong, Korean, Marshallese, Russian, Vietnamese*)
- **Smoke Exposure or COVID-19?** (includes translations in *Spanish, Arabic, Simplified Chinese, Traditional Chinese, Chuukese, Hmong, Korean, Marshallese, Russian, Somali, Vietnamese*)
- Find more information on our **Wildfire Messaging site** and the **Oregon Wildfire Resource page**.

Other ways to support your community's preparedness

- Volunteer or Donate to the **Oregon Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (ORVOAD)**
- Register with the **American Red Cross**
- Find a local **Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)** or **Neighborhood Emergency Team (NET)** chapter
- **Neighbors helping neighbors** – Plan with neighbors. Some people need additional help to evacuate, and this might save a life

THREATENED BY WILDFIRE?

Local law enforcement orders evacuations, but there are steps you can take to prepare yourself and your family at each level of evacuation.

LEVEL 1: GET READY

Prepare yourself, monitor the situation, pack your important documents & valuables. 

LEVEL 2: GET SET

Be set to evacuate at a moment's notice. 

LEVEL 3: GO!

Leave immediately! 

Includes translations in Spanish, Arabic, Simplified Chinese, Traditional Chinese, Chuukese, Hmong, Korean, Marshallese, Russian, Somali, Vietnamese

Stories of Service: MRC Disaster Work, “Good for the Soul” NEW

By Renee’ Menkens

Lisa Achim, RN, is one of those truly amazing people who go out of their way to help others. She works as a nurse case manager and her day-to-day tools are computers and phones. In September 2020, when

COVID and fires became significant, Lisa was called as an MRC volunteer to come to Newport to help at a medical shelter that was set up to support those who were displaced by fires in the Lincoln City area. She was told to be prepared to be there for a week. Several people needed oxygen, insulin, or other medications as they had left home quickly and were not prepared. Lisa was able to counsel the folks in the shelter about their experiences and help them with their medical needs.

“I spent time talking to people to hear their stories. I was there for the night shift and spent time organizing donations that were received. This was overwhelming – the generosity that happened. We spent time organizing supplies for people to come through and grab what they needed.”

Within a few days, the Red Cross was able to get everyone checked into hotels and those with medical needs were checked into nursing facilities.

Lisa indicated that even though it was overwhelming, people responded to the crisis. “There are humans in the world who will help out strangers; it was really pretty moving. People would just go to their local store to buy things to help people. It was powerful to see the community come together like that. I would absolutely do this again.” She also noted that “It was good for my soul to do this.” Lisa continues to volunteer through SERV-OR with local vaccine clinics.



Red Cross staff and volunteers are operating a shelter at the Oregon Convention Center during the September 2020 wildfires in Multnomah County

Volunteer Opportunity: Provider on Duty (POD) Volunteers – Why, Where, and How?

By Paul Kaplan

Many SERV-OR members, who are license holders of MD, DO, NP and PA, have been receiving invitations to volunteer as a Provider on Duty (POD) for OHA facilitated COVID vaccination events. As the vaccination campaign moves past the large vaccination events, these dispersed clinics take health care where it is needed and often support events taking place at small remote locations. The assignment may be staffed by a licensed practitioner – MD, DO, NP, PA – who can provide clinical advice to vaccination staff conducting intake screenings, as well as patients receiving a vaccine who have questions, anxiety, specialized medical history, and more. These consults may be done remotely on your cell phone; however, occasional shifts must be done in-person.

The POD model extends the reach of public health efforts through an effective and efficient method of provider consultation with a licensed practitioner, without the time, cost, and commitment of statewide travel for SERV-OR volunteers. The Provider on Duty position is not to be confused with Point of Distribution PODs that have also played a large role in the COVID-19 clinics.

As with all State Managed Volunteer Pool deployments, volunteer Tort liability and Workers’ Compensation is provided by the state when deployed with official mission orders from OHA. PODs are not acting as a standing orders or protocol issuing provider, rather they provide the nimble and essential service of clinical consultation in a virtual, on-call model.

In my personal experience with several POD shifts, you usually will receive a phone call from the event lead at the start of the event and few or no further calls. Most of our vaccinators are now very experienced and capable. Your reward is the satisfaction of knowing you are helping the continuing OHA vaccination effort.

To apply for this opportunity, volunteers within scope of practice can add their name to the opt-in form [here](#). Once you are screened you will be signed up to receive POD volunteer opportunities.

Online Training Modules Updated

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

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

Job Opportunities Updated

- **Fiscal Analyst, Acute and Communicable Disease Prevention (Fiscal Analyst 2) - Limited Duration (24 months)** Full-time, Application deadline: 08/09/21
- **Project Manager (Operations & Policy Analyst 3)** Full-time, Application deadline: 08/08/2021
- **Reproductive Health Nurse Consultant (Public Health Nurse 2)** Portland, OR, Full-time, Application deadline: 08/09/2021
- **RDPO Weekly Update**, contains information on current job openings. (Application closing dates vary depending on week)
- For more volunteer opportunities, events, and petitions near you check out [Made to Save](#).
- **Oregon Health Authority State and County jobs** (Dates vary depending on openings)

SERV-OR FAQs: I Need a SERV-OR Member Badge Updated

Provided by Sophie Miller-Desart

The SERV-OR state program, as well as Medical Reserve Corps units, have worked to keep up with the avalanche of new volunteers to the program. Unfortunately, with this rush to join the program, along with staff capacity issues, some of you might not have received your volunteer badge.

If you have not received your SERV-OR badge or need to change the information on your current badge, please use the following request form, linked below.

- Please ensure that the information provided on the website is correct.

[Click here to request a new or updated SERV-OR badge](#)

Contributors to this bulletin include Isna Waqas, Renee' Menkens, Jeff Rubin, Daniel Hughson, Paul Kaplan, and Sophie Miller-Desart. Thank you so much to this team for all their efforts!

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 well-being, 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.