



Spring/Summer 2007

Broome County Medical Reserve Corps Newsletter



**From the
Director's Chair
- Claudia Edwards**

My sincere thanks to the MRC volunteers who are still participating in the program. Your expertise will be needed in the months ahead, as we meet the challenges of Emergency Preparedness directives. I'm looking forward to working with you again during our new 2008 grant year, which begins August 31, 2007.

Enjoy Your Summer!

**Coordinator's Clips
- Cindy Sullivan**



Recruitment efforts have resumed, and all MRC volunteers are reminded to talk to friends and co-workers about our group. Anyone interested can request an enrollment form by accessing our website @ gobroomecounty.com.

On May 29, 2007, an outreach and education session was provided to the "Hog Club", our local group of motorcyclists who engage in various fund raisers and other volunteer activities

Important to MRCs is a recently signed MOU (memorandum of understanding) between the Red Cross and the Dept. of Health and Human Services. This Agreement endorses the use of a standard assessment tool to be utilized at the Red Cross Centers. As you know MRCs are called upon to staff these shelters and volunteers will need to become familiar with this new triage tool.

Reminder:

The required "Incident Command System 100" is located at <http://www.training.fema.gov/is/>.

A new Course entitled "Psychological First Aid" is encouraged for all MRC volunteers. We have CDs available at the health department for this course.

Call Brenda Crone at 778.2855 to borrow a CD, and please submit to her a copy of any on-line course certificates received.

Emergency Preparedness News

- Benjamin J. Krakauer, MPA, AEMT-CC

I had the pleasure of meeting many of you at the last MRC meeting. For those of you whom I have not met, I am the new Emergency Preparedness Coordinator for the Broome County Health Department. Originally from Long Island, I came to Binghamton University 5 years ago and fell in love with the area. It is an honor to serve this community, and I am looking forward to working with all of you.

To update all of you, our 3rd Quarter Deliverables have been submitted to New York State and are under review. The 3rd quarter's focus was on identifying, locating, and quantifying both our county's "Special Needs Populations" those services providing services to this population. If you are interested, I would be happy to share the results with you.

We are working on many exciting projects in the local emergency preparedness world including cultivating our capacity with the Health Alert Network, developing databases and incorporating GIS technology. Please share your emergency preparedness ideas and experiences with me at 607-778-3903 or BKrakauer@co.broome.ny.us

Emergency Preparedness Websites:

CDC Home Page: www.cdc.gov

NYS Department of Health: www.health.state.ny.us

US Dept. Of Health and Human Services: <http://remm.nlm.gov/typsofevents.htm>

Broome County Health Department: www.gobroomecounty.com

MRC: www.medicalreservecorps.gov/

Homeland Security: <http://www.dhs.gov/xfrstresp/>

NYS Emergency Management Association: www.nysema.org/index.htm



MEDICAL RESERVE CORPS

To provide a structure for recruiting, organizing, and training volunteer health professionals to augment and strengthen existing county health and emergency response services during a public health crisis.

BROOME COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT VISION STATEMENT

Leading the community to the promise of a healthy future



Various pictures during last year's devastating flood
A Binghamton car submerged, emergency construction of the Lourdes Berm and the shelter's "ER"



Bird's Eye view of the Binghamton University Joint General Population and Special Needs Shelter



Melissa Brennan, FNP at the Broome County Health Department discusses medications with residents at the Binghamton University Emergency Shelter

Red Cross Volunteers check flood victims into the Binghamton University Shelter

MRC VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES

April 2007

The MRC met Tuesday, April 17 from 4-6 PM. Melissa Brennan, FNP and Acting Clinic Director, presented certificates of appreciation signed by Director Edwards and County Executive Fiala to our volunteers for their service during the past few years. Sharon Aswad, Disaster Services Coordinator for the Red Cross Southern Tier Chapter, described the various types of Red Cross training available to the MRC volunteers. A brief summary of the role of our local Red Cross during the flooding in June/July 2006 was also presented.

Ben Krakauer, Emergency Preparedness Coordinator informed the group of new plans and requirements for the coming months and highlighted volunteer opportunities.

Training requirements and learning opportunities were reviewed by Cindy Sullivan, MRC co-coordinator. A light supper was provided, and volunteers had an opportunity to socialize

May 2007

Four MRC nurses participated in a disaster drill at Binghamton University on May 3, 2007 from 8 AM until 12 noon. The Decker School of nursing facilitated the mass casualty incident. The Red Cross, Harpur's Ferry (BU EMS), faculty, students, BU Police and others assisted with the exercise. Volunteer victims were moulaged (covered with red make-up on areas where injuries were feigned) and student nurses, MRC nurses, nursing faculty and EMTs triaged and treated the injured. The drill is a yearly exercise and was held at the BU Events Center.

June 2007

Four MRC volunteers took a new Red Cross Course offered June 14th and entitled "Fulfilling Our Mission". It replaces "Introduction to Disaster Services", which is now available on line Sharon Aswad has informed us that "Family Services 1" is no longer required for the MRC, but "Shelter Ops and Simulation" is needed to qualify volunteers for shelter positions. It's an all day course and offered periodically. Call the Red Cross at 785.7207 to register and stipulate "MRC Volunteer".