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Manager’s Message

Patrick Lynch, RN
Manager, Response Personnel Unit



A GUID NEW YEAR TAE YEN AND A'!
A GOOD NEW YEAR TO ONE AND ALL!
Happy 2016!

As my Scottish cousins say, “A Guid New Year Tae Yen A’ !” (A good new year to one and all!) I hope your new year is starting off well and continues to bring good things.

It is certainly starting off with some needed rain and (thankfully) some snow! Let’s hope the El Niño provides enough water to fill our lakes and reservoirs, but not enough to cause us trouble.

Since the last issue of the DHV Journal, Lake and Calaveras Counties experienced devastating fire activity. The DHV Program figured significantly in the Lake County Valley Fire response. Eleven California Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) units and a county DHV unit deployed volunteers (157) to aid the residents and victims of Lake County. We thank all of the DHV and MRC volunteers who deployed/responded to that incident. (See more details on this on page 2, MRC Corner.)

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As these fires demonstrate, disaster can occur anywhere in California, and occur quickly. The citizens of our state are lucky that individuals such as you have registered with the DHV Program to help in time of need. Thank you to all of you, as well.

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MRC Corner

Sheila Martin
California Medical Reserve Corps Coordinator

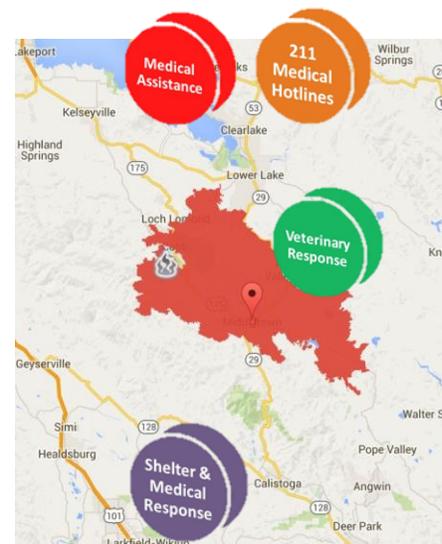


Sheila Martin

This past Fall, our Northern California MRCs were put to the test with their response to the Valley Fire which started on September 12, 2015 in Lake County. This fire burned 76,067 acres and over 1,958 structures of which the majority were homes. The MRCs in Mutual Aid Region II were called upon to provide assistance; subsequently, Region IV and Region V MRCs were also contacted.

I am proud to say that 155 MRC members from 11 different MRC teams responded to 4 separate missions for the Valley Fire. The four missions included: 1) Veterinary response; 2) Shelter care; 3) Medical assistance; and 4) Mental Health assistance on a 211 Medical Hotline.

At the start of September, no one could have predicted that this type of devastation would occur in two rural communities simultaneously. The Butte Fire counties made no requests for medical assistance. However, the Valley Fire put dozens of families out of their homes in a matter of minutes. These Lake County residents had little time to gather up their needed belongings and the majority of them never considered grabbing their prescription drugs. A big shout out goes to Contra Costa County's MRC team, that responded with a portable pharmaceutical unit which was used at the Calistoga Fair Grounds in Napa County to assist the shelter population. This unit was then transitioned over to the Marin MRC team when it was moved to the town of Middletown, ground zero, to assist the newly homeless there with medical and pharmaceutical needs. The California Veterinary MRC and the UC Davis Veterinary Emergency Response Team MRC also responded to Middletown to assist with large and small animal care for the area. Numerous other nearby MRC teams responded to the 211 Medical/Mental Health Hotline established in Lake County for the community. This includes: Alameda County MRC, Berkeley MRC, Napa County MRC, Sacramento County MRC, Santa Cruz County MRC, Sonoma County MRC, Stanislaus County MRC and the non-MRC team, San Joaquin County DHV Unit. I cannot say enough about these MRC team members that selflessly assisted this community in its time of need.



Valley Fire Map

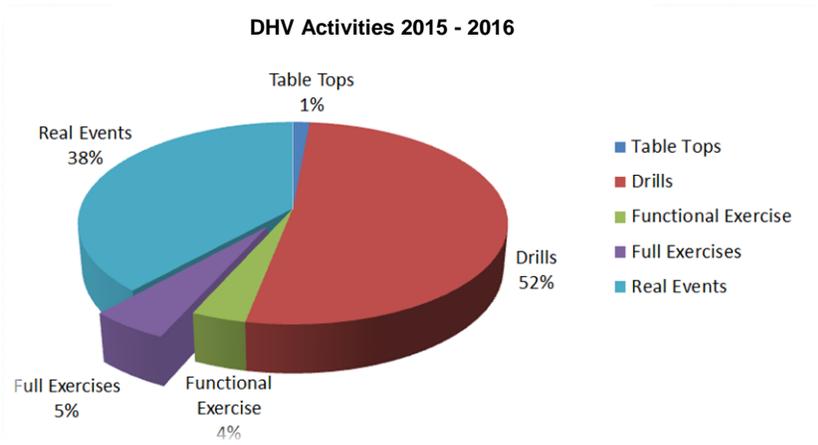
Many of you have participated on an MRC team and have not been called upon to respond to a disaster or public health emergency. With these two recent occurrences, you can see that this can happen at any time, whether it is a disaster or an outbreak of a disease. I am thankful for all you who are members of an MRC and hope you will continue to participate to help those who may suddenly become in need of your specialized services.

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DHV Program 2015 Summary

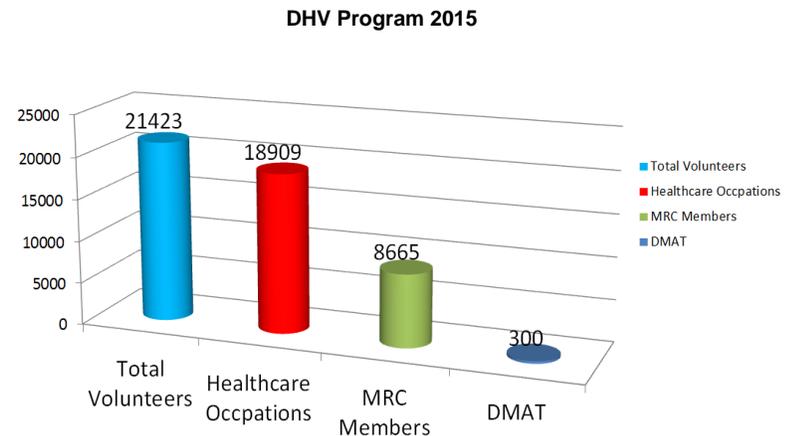
DHV/MRC Activities/Events

For 2015, from January to December, 38 percent of DHV activities were real events. Real events include Mass Vaccination Clinics, First Aid Stations, CPR Training and other physical deployments.



DHV Statistics

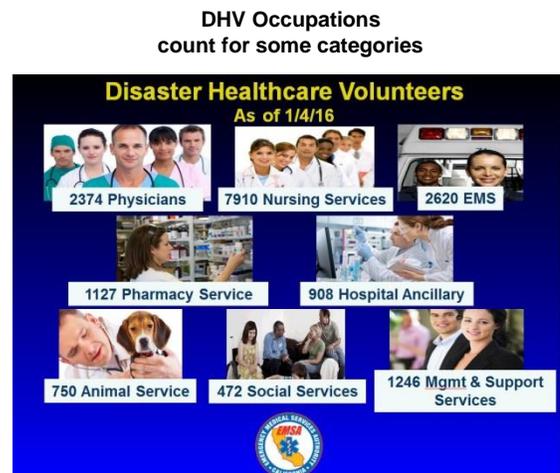
As of December 2015, the total number of DHV/MRC Volunteers is 21,423. Volunteers in healthcare occupations are 18,909, about 88% of the total.



DHV/MRC Top 10 Medical Occupations

We have a large number of Registered Nurses in our program. Next are Physicians, EMTs and Pharmacists. Currently the DHV system checks licenses and certificates from 49 different medical occupations. An occupation count by category is shown below.

	Occupation	Count
1	Registered Nurse	6368
2	Physician	2025
3	EMT	2025
4	Pharmacist	950
5	Physician Assistant	684
6	Licensed Vocational Nurse	652
7	Veterinarian	589
8	EMT, Paramedic	569
9	Nurse Practitioner	406
10	Public Health Nurse	370



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National Weather Service

Severe weather can happen anytime, in any part of the country. Severe weather can include hazardous conditions produced by thunderstorms, including damaging winds, tornadoes, large hail, flooding and flash flooding, and winter storms associated with freezing rain, sleet, snow and strong winds.

NOAA's Weather Radio (NWR) program

National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Weather Radio (NWR) is a network of radio stations that continuously broadcast National Weather Service (NWS) forecasts, warnings, watches and other hazard information 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. During an emergency, NWS forecasters interrupt routine broadcasts and send a special tone that activates Weather Alert Radios to notify you of the oncoming danger. NWR broadcasts warnings and post-event information for all types of hazards: weather (e.g., tornadoes, floods), natural (e.g., earthquakes, forest fires and volcanic activity), technological (e.g., chemical releases, oil spills, nuclear power plant emergencies, etc.), and national emergencies (e.g., terrorist attacks)^[1]. NOAA Weather Radio currently broadcasts from 1029 stations in fifty states, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, American Samoa, Guam, and Saipan on seven frequencies in the VHF band, ranging from 162.400 to 162.550 megahertz (MHz). *These frequencies are outside the normal AM or FM broadcast bands*^[2].



Safety Radio with phone charge and NOAA Weather Radio

Weather.gov on Your Mobile Phone

Take the weather with you on your mobile phone! Wherever you are, you can get the local weather forecast from the National Weather Service with one click on your home screen. Bookmark mobile.weather.gov to make sure that you have the latest weather news and information on the go. Instructions and screen shoots are here:

<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/com/weatherreadynation/mobilephone.html>



Weather forecast from National Weather Service

Reference: [1] NOAA Weather Radio: <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/nwr/info/allhazard.html>

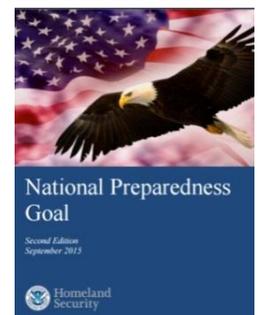
Reference: [2] NOAA Weather Radio: http://www.nws.noaa.gov/nwr/resources/NWR_Brochure_NOAA_PA_94062.pdf

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National Preparedness Goal

Last September, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and its partners released the second edition of the National Preparedness Goal. The National Preparedness Goal describes a vision for preparedness nationwide and identifies the 32 core capabilities and the 5 mission areas: Prevention, Protection, Mitigation, Response and Recovery. The goal itself is succinct and remains unchanged.

"A secure and resilient nation with the capabilities required across the whole community to prevent, protect against, mitigate, respond to, and recover from the threats and hazards that pose the greatest risk."



These risks include events such as natural disasters, disease pandemics, chemical spills and other manmade hazards, terrorist attacks and cyberattacks.

<https://www.fema.gov/national-preparedness-goal>

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Riverside Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) Exercise

EMSA was very pleased to participate in the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) Exercise conducted by Riverside County on November 17th & 18th, 2015. It was part of the Statewide Medical and Health Exercise Program. California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and the EMS Authority are working with the Center for Disease Control to assist in the warehouse distribution and Points Of Dispensing (POD) for medications from the CDC SNS pharmaceuticals.

The Riverside County MRC Coordinator had requested DHV volunteers for various positions from November 16th to November 19th, 2015. Multiple MRC units participated. In the exercise, these volunteers broke down and separated the large multi-county SNS for distribution to surrounding Southern California counties.



Volunteers load pharmaceuticals into the trucks



Medications ready to distribute to the county



Training and discussions



Santa Barbara MRC provided acupuncture relief support for the staff and volunteers on site during exercise



Patrick Lynch (EMSA), Steve Chambers (Tulare County MRC Coordinator), Lauran Capps (EMSA), Martin Baxter (Riverside County MRC Coordinator)

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What is in the SNS?

The SNS is a national repository of antibiotics, chemical antidotes, antitoxins, life-support medications, IV administration, airway maintenance supplies, and medical/surgical items ^[3].

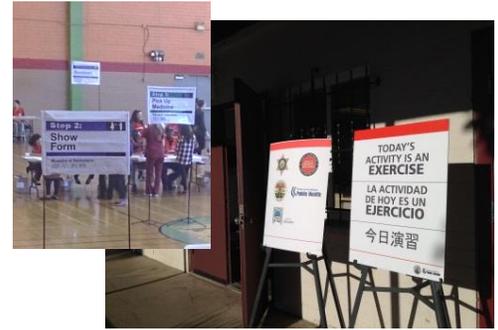
CDC Strategic National Stockpile - Official Site: <http://www.cdc.gov/phpr/stockpile/stockpile.htm>

Reference: [3] National Institutes of Health: <http://chemm.nlm.nih.gov/sns.htm>

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MRC Los Angeles: 2015 Public Health Medical Point of Dispensing (MPOD) Exercise

The City of Alhambra hosted an exercise on Thursday, November 19, 2015. Several city and county agencies participated in the exercise, which simulated a bio-terrorism attack and need to rapidly dispense life-saving medications to local citizens. This was one part of a weeklong emergency response simulation on how the state, county and other local agencies would respond to a regional medical event that affected the general public.



Exercise Signs in three languages

MRC Los Angeles and Long Beach MRC worked with County of Los Angeles Public Health to perform this exercise. The Almansor Park, Medical Point of Dispensing (MPOD) was part of the Statewide Medical Health Exercise which started November 16 and ended November 20, 2015. The exercise used the SoCal READI scenario. Approximately 150 volunteers^[4] participated in this exercise that was conducted in three major languages: English, Spanish and Chinese.



Exercise participants and EMSA staff at Almansor Park, City of Alhambra



Volunteers from MRC LA



Students and volunteers participating in the exercise



Local agencies participating:
Sheriff of Los Angeles County,
County of Los Angeles Office of Emergency Management,
County of Los Angeles,
County of Los Angeles Public Health,
City of Alhambra

Reference: [4] Alhambra Source: <http://www.alhambra.org/news/public-health-conducts-bio-terrorism-attack-drill-alhambra>

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Disaster Online Training Opportunity

[Independent Study Course IS-242.B: Effective Communication](#)

Course Length: 8 hours

Prerequisites: None

Course Overview

Being able to communicate effectively is a necessary and vital part of the job for every emergency manager, planner, and responder. This course is designed to improve your communication skills. It addresses:

- Basic communication skills
- How to communicate in an emergency
- How to identify community-specific communication issues
- Using technology as a communication tool
- Effective oral communication
- How to prepare an oral presentation

Emergency Management Institute (EMI) offers independent study courses on a variety of emergency management topics and can be a good source for educational materials.

Course Objectives:

At the completion of this course, participants should be able to:

Identify factors that contribute to and detract from effective communication.

Develop a strategy for ensuring that emergency communications meet the needs of the whole community, including those with access and functional needs.

Identify strategies for communicating effectively in emergency situations.

Identify strategies for improving your oral presentation skills.

Primary Audience

All individuals involved in crisis and emergency management decision making.

To learn more about this training class and many other training opportunities, visit FEMA's Emergency Management Institute's website: <http://www.training.fema.gov/EMI/>

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DHV “User Tips”

Update your Email Address

In your DHV “My profile”, “Contact”, there is an Email address box. If you have an email account, it is important for you to provide this information. Without your email address, you may miss important messages and notifications. Please note that the system will not allow two accounts with the same email address. To add an email, click “Edit Information” and enter your email address.

Welcome, Patricia Humboldt (Log Out) Help Center Search

Home My Profile Missions Messages (43) Organizations Responders Administration

Summary Identity Deployment Prefs **Contact** Occupations Training Skills & Certifications Medical History Background Check Settings PRINT VIEW

Contact

Edit Information

Email

No email address provided.

Contact Method

Contact Method 1

Contact Method 1: Home Phone

Number to Attempt: 555-555-5475 x9558

Primary Emergency Contact

If you do not have an email address or your email address is already registered with the system, you can learn more about obtaining a free email address at any of the following sites:

Email Service Provider	Direct Access Sign-Up Page
Yahoo.com	Yahoo eMail
Outlook.com	Microsoft Outlook.com
mail.com	mail.com
Google.com	gMail

Primary Email Address

* Email Address:

If you have an email account, it is important for you to provide this information. Without your email address, you may miss important messages and notifications. Please note that the system will not allow two accounts with the same email address. If you do not have an email address or your email address is already registered with the system, you can learn more about obtaining a free email address by [clicking here](#).

* Confirm Email Address:

[Add Email Address](#)

On your DHV account, if you don't have an email, please click here for additional information.

This information is provided as a helpful resource only as the California EMS Authority does not endorse or recommend any provider.

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DHV is California's ESAR-VHP Program

The Emergency System for Advance Registration of Volunteer Health Professionals (ESAR-VHP) is a federal program created to support states and territories in establishing standardized volunteer registration programs for disasters and public health and medical emergencies.

Disaster Healthcare Volunteers (DHV), California's ESAR-VHP program administered at the state level, verifies health professionals' identification and credentials so that they can respond more quickly when disaster strikes. By registering through ESAR-VHP, volunteers' identities, licenses, credentials and accreditations are verified in advance, saving valuable time in emergency situations.

Why Do We Need ESAR-VHP?

In the wake of disasters and public health and medical emergencies, many of our nation's health professionals are eager and willing to volunteer their services. In these times of crisis; hospitals, clinics, and temporary shelters are dependent upon the services of health professional volunteers. However, on such short notice, taking advantage of volunteers' time and capabilities presents a major challenge to hospital, public health, and emergency response officials. For example, immediately after the attacks on September 11, 2001, tens of thousands of people traveled to ground zero in New York City to volunteer and provide medical assistance. In most cases, authorities were unable to distinguish those who were qualified from those who were not - no matter how well intentioned.

There are significant problems associated with registering and verifying the credentials of health professional volunteers immediately following major disasters or emergencies. Specifically, hospitals and other facilities may be unable to verify basic licensing or credentialing information, including training, skills, competencies and employment. Further, the loss of telecommunications may prevent contact with sources that provide credential or privilege information. The goal of the ESAR-VHP program is to eliminate a number of the problems that arise when mobilizing health professional volunteers in an emergency response.

Disaster Healthcare Volunteers (DHV)

In accordance with federal mandate, California has developed the Disaster Healthcare Volunteers (DHV) Program to facilitate and manage the registration, credentialing, and deployment of volunteer healthcare professionals (VHPs) in California. DHV uses a software system for the management of volunteers, including the registration, notification, communication and credentialing needs associated with volunteer management. The DHV Program is the single source system operated and administered by local, regional and state, public health and emergency medical services agencies.

DHV is administered by all system stakeholders and managed by the California EMS Authority in partnership with the CDPH California Department of Public Health. DHV volunteers include healthcare professionals (medical, public health, mental health, EMS, and other personnel) who are willing to be called upon in the event of an emergency or disaster. DHV volunteers are pre-registered and pre-credentialed. Deployment of volunteers will follow Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS) procedures.

To register on the DHV system or get more information, visit our website,

www.healthcarevolunteers.ca.gov

America's Health Volunteers



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Have You Updated Your DHV Registration Information Lately?

We depend upon each of you to update your DHV profile with your correct information. It is important that when your information changes you take a moment to update your DHV System information. Have you moved? Do you have a new occupation or a new employer? Have your email or phone numbers changed?

Please take a moment to update your file. Just log into www.healthcarevolunteers.ca.gov and click on the "Profile" tab. From there you can navigate through your information. Click on "Edit Information" to make your changes and then be sure to click on "Save Changes" when you have completed your edits.

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The DHV Journal is Published and Distributed Via Email

News and information for participants in the Disaster Healthcare Volunteers Program administered by EMSA and operated by System Administrators in local communities and Medical Reserve Corps Coordinators throughout California. This Journal is published and distributed periodically to the partners of the DHV Program.



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