



In this Issue:

(Click on the links below to navigate to articles.)

Page Article

1. [Message from Patrick Lynch](#)
2. [MRC Corner, Sheila Martin, State MRC Coordinator](#)
3. [Storms and Extreme Weather](#)
4. [CHA Disaster Planning Conference](#)
4. [Great ShakeOut](#)
5. [National Preparedness Month](#)
6. [DHV Drills](#)
7. [Disaster Online Training Opportunity](#)
8. [DHV User-Tips](#)
9. [DHV is California's ESAR-VHP Program](#)
10. [Update Your DHV User Registration Information](#)



Patrick Lynch

Manager's Message

Patrick Lynch, RN
Manager, Response Personnel Unit

Here it is September, National Preparedness Month, and there are wildfires burning, the drought continues, and the media keeps talking about the upcoming "Godzilla" El Nino. Plus, the geologists are saying our "big one" is closer to coming. Seems like the Boy Scouts' motto, "Be Prepared," was meant for today's disastrous incidents, (those happening and those with potential). I hope you all take appropriate actions to prepare yourselves and your loved ones.

It has been a terrible fire season all over the Western United States. We send our condolences to the families of the firefighters who lost their lives. We send good thoughts to those who have been injured. We give thanks to all those who fight the fires at every level, line personnel to camp staff.

Several members of the EMSA Disaster Medical Services Division management staff had the opportunity to spend an overnight visit at the U.S. Forest Service's fire camp in Willow Creek, Trinity County, CA. We learned some good things from the California 3 Incident Management Team. They were very gracious hosts who patiently



Pictured above are EMSA staff with members of the Rapid Extraction Module Support (REMS) crew.

allowed us to ask lots of questions. We picked up some good lessons about managing camp operations and logistics. We are also very thankful to Chief Gene Madden of the U.S. Forest Service for arranging this visit and acting as our guide.

Last month, August, saw the tenth anniversary of Hurricane Katrina. I went to Mississippi as an American Red Cross volunteer. It was a humbling, educational, and rewarding experience for me. Please take time during this, National Preparedness Month, to prepare yourselves and your loved ones to be able to cope and survive during a disaster. More information is available on page 5 of the DHV Journal.

And, finally, we should all take a moment to remember the victims and the heroes of 9/11. Sacramento is celebrating our local heroes who thwarted a terrorist attack in France. Three cheers for them!

[Go back to "In this Issue" ↑](#)



Sheila Martin

MRC Corner

Sheila Martin
California Medical Reserve Corps Coordinator



Have you ever wondered if MRCs are used in their counties for disaster or for public health events? Here in California, they sure are! MRCs are used regularly for various types of events including disasters. In the last 3 months, California's MRCs have participated in: First Aid Stations (Santa Barbara, Riverside MRCs); Hands Only CPR demonstrations; sorting disaster supplies at a county Office of Emergency Services (OES); staffing shelters for power outages (Long Beach MRC); warehouse supply training (Riverside MRC); staffing booths at the Annual HOSA Convention; LA County's Anthrax exercise; Ventura

County's Airshow Preparation Day for the upcoming September Point Mugu Airshow; youth heart screenings; and Alameda County's First On Scene training and exercise. MRC members were also asked for their availability for the Lake County Rocky Fire by Lake County, Alameda County, and Sonoma County MRC units.

More and more MRCs are being called upon to support the public health and medical needs of their communities. With classes starting at our elementary, middle, and high schools, and in anticipation of flu season, public health departments throughout California are gearing up for vaccination clinics. The added staff that MRCs provide to assist in these events is invaluable. You are all greatly appreciated for donating your time and skills to your communities.

To be sure you receive the notifications for your team's MRC events, please log into your DHV Profile at www.healthcarevolunteers.ca.gov and update your information. Should you need assistance with a password reset, or any other issue, please send a message to dhv@emsa.ca.gov.

The EMS Authority appreciates your volunteerism and hopes that you will continue to support your MRC teams.

Sheila Martin
Statewide MRC Coordinator

[Go back to "In this Issue" ↑](#)

Storms and Extreme Weather

El Niño



Typical precipitation departures from late fall (Nov.) through winter (Mar.) during a moderate to strong El Niño. (NOAA/CPC)



Typical temperature departures from late fall (Nov.) through winter (Mar.) during a moderate to strong El Niño. (NOAA/CPC)



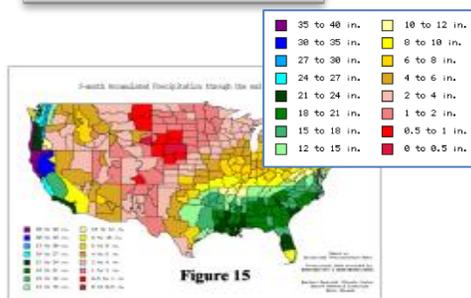
NOAA El Niño Portal
<http://www.elnino.noaa.gov/>

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) forecasts California to have wetter than average weather from late fall (November) through winter (March).

NOAA forecasters say there's a 90 percent chance that El Niño will continue through the winter months, and an 85 percent chance (up from 80 in July) that it will last into early spring next year...Collectively, these atmospheric and oceanic features reflect a significant and strengthening El Niño.¹

More rain may cause flooding², mudslides and other hazards. The official City of San Diego observation site recorded more rainfall in 3 days during July 2015 than during all previous months of July since at least the 1800s³. Widespread flash flooding occurred and significant damage occurred in a few spots, including the collapse of a bridge over heavily-traveled Interstate 10.

While we are focusing on wildfire and extreme heat now, plans to deal with flooding and other extreme weather should also be on your preparedness list.



3-month Accumulated Precipitation through the end of February 1998
National Climatic Data Center Technical Report No. 98-02
El Niño Winter of '97 - '98



Flooding along California's Russian River after torrential rains from El Niño storms in March 1998.
Credit: Dave Gatley/FEMA



Tex Wash bridge on Interstate 10 collapsed on July 19 after a storm. I-10 is closed indefinitely in both directions between Palm Springs and Phoenix.
Photo: Lucas Esposito/The Desert Sun

1. Nation Weather Service, Climate Prediction Center
http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/analysis_monitoring/ens0_advisory/ensodisc.html
2. Strong influence of El Niño Southern Oscillation on flood risk around the world
<http://www.pnas.org/content/111/44/15659>
3. Dolores storm smashes July records
<http://www.10news.com/news/more-rain-hits-san-diego-county-on-sunday-071915>

El Niño, which in Spanish means "The Christ Child," was named by South American fishermen who noticed this phenomenon occurs around Christmas time.

[Go back to "In this Issue" ↑](#)

California Hospital Association Disaster Planning Conference



Planning for today, tomorrow and beyond



The California Hospital Association (CHA) is hosting the Disaster Planning for California Hospitals conference on September 28 – 30, 2015 in Sacramento. The conference and the exhibit show will be held at the Sacramento Convention Center, located just across the street from the host hotel, the Hyatt Regency Sacramento. The pre-conference workshop on Monday, September 28 will be held at the Hyatt Regency.

Target audience includes hospital emergency preparedness coordinators, administrators, staff, and interested healthcare personnel. The conference provides the opportunity for hospital and health system emergency preparedness coordinators and others to hear from nationally known speakers about current emergency preparedness topics.

Please see CHA website for details: <http://www.calhospital.org/disaster-planning>

[Go back to "In this Issue" ↑](#)

The Great ShakeOut

Millions of people worldwide will practice how to Drop, Cover, and Hold On at 10:15 a.m. on October 15, 2015 during Great ShakeOut Earthquake Drills!

Participating is a great way for your family or organization to be prepared to survive and recover quickly from big earthquakes—wherever you live, work, or travel. ShakeOut is also a major activity of [America's PrepareAthon!](#)

Register here to be included in the 2015 ShakeOut!

<http://www.shakeout.org/register/>



[Go back to "In this Issue" ↑](#)

National Preparedness Month (NPM)



“Don’t Wait. Communicate. Make Your Emergency Plan Today.”

[2015 National Preparedness Month \(NPM\) | Ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov)

September is National Preparedness Month. FEMA has announced that the 2015 U.S. National Preparedness Month theme will be: “Don’t Wait. Communicate. Make Your Emergency Plan Today.” Plan how to stay safe and communicate during the disasters that can affect your community. Participate in America’s PrepareAthon! and the national day of action, National PrepareAthon! Day, which culminates National Preparedness Month on September 30th.

2015 weekly hazard focused themes

Week 1: September 1-5th	Flood
Week 2: September 6-12th	Wildfire
Week 3: September 13-19th	Hurricane
Week 4: September 20-26th	Power Outage
Week 5: September 27-30th	Lead up to National PrepareAthon! Day (September 30th)



Social Media

National Preparedness Month official Hashtag: #NatlPrep

America’s PreapreAthon! hashtag: #PrepareAthon

Social media accounts to follow: @Readygov and @PrepareAthon

More details please visit: <http://www.ready.gov/september>

Watch the video of: [“It started like any other day”](#)



[Go back to "In this Issue" ↑](#)

DHV Events Quarterly Drills

Each quarter EMSA conducts a drill for all DHV System Administrators. The third quarter drill was conducted on Wednesday July 1 and 2. System Administrators were directed to send a specific message to all responders and request their availability, then share the message with State Coordinators via DHV internally and provide a report to EMSA. The drill was held over a 24-hour period.

There were 56 County/MRC units that participated. Volunteer average response rates were 21% with some units up to 63% of volunteers responding to messages.

If you are a DHV/MRC volunteer, it is important to respond to drill messages. These drills are in place for practice so that when a real event occurs, local System Administrators know they can contact you. Please update your DHV profile if any contact information changes. If you get contacted for a drill, please participate by indicating the appropriate response option.

Autumn Charge VI



The next DHV Quarterly Drill will be the Autumn Charge VI multi-state exercise conducted by Intermedix. Intermedix is the software vendor for our DHV Program. The exercise is scheduled for October 7 to 8. **Participants will NOT be asked to physically deploy.** The objective of the Intermedix Autumn Charge Exercise is to assess the overall capability of the DHV System. The exercise will also test the capability of Intermedix to support large-scale and multi-state activation. All DHV System Administrators and Volunteers are invited to participate in this Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP) compliant exercise.



July 1-2, 2015 DHV Drill Results

Thank You for Participating!

Alameda County Unit	Kings County Unit	San Francisco County Unit
ALCO (Alameda County) MRC	Lake County Unit/ Medical Reserve Corps	San Joaquin County Unit
Alpine County Unit	Los Angeles County Surge Unit	San Luis Obispo County Medical Reserve Corps
Amador County Unit	Madera County Unit	San Luis Obispo County Unit
Berkeley MRC	Marin County Medical Reserve Corps	San Mateo County Unit/ MRC
Butte County Unit	Medical Reserve Corps of Los Angeles	Santa Cruz County Medical Reserve Corps
California Veterinary Medical Reserve Corps	Modoc County Unit	Siskiyou County Unit
Colusa County Unit	Mono County Unit	Solano County Unit/Medical Reserve Corps
Contra Costa County Medical Reserve Corps	Napa County Unit/Medical Reserve Corps	Sonoma County Medical Reserve Corps
Contra Costa County Unit	Orange County Unit	Stanislaus County Medical Reserve Corps
El Dorado County Unit/ Medical Reserve Corps	Plumas County Unit	Sutter County Unit
Glenn County Unit	Porterville MRC/Tulare MRC/Visalia MRC	Tehama County Unit
Humboldt County Unit	Riverside County Medical Reserve Corps	Tuolumne County Unit
Imperial County Unit	Riverside County Unit	Ventura County Medical Reserve Corps
Inyo County Unit	San Diego County MRC	Ventura County Unit
Kern County Medical Reserve Corps	San Diego County Unit	Yolo County Unit
		Yuba County Unit

[Go back to "In this Issue" ↑](#)

Disaster Online Training Opportunity

IS-10.A: Animals in Disasters: Awareness and Preparedness

Course Overview

This course is intended to help animal owners, care providers, and industries to understand incident management.

Course Objective

The objectives of this course are to increase awareness and preparedness among animal owners and care providers, and to describe how typical hazards affect animals and what can be done by responsible owners to reduce the impact of disasters.

Primary Audience:

Animal owners and care providers.

Prerequisites: None

Course Length: 3.5 hours

Prerequisites: None



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

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/>

[Go back to "In this Issue" ↑](#)

Caring for animals

FEMA Pet Owners Brochure and the Pet Instructional Video can help you to create an emergency plan and kit for your pet.



For additional information, please contact the [Humane Society of the United States](#).

Prepare for Emergencies Now: Information for Pet Owners.
<http://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/90356>

Preparing Makes Sense for Pet Owners
<http://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/videos/78847>

More guild line on pet planning, please visit:
<http://www.ready.gov/caring-animals>

[Go back to "In this Issue" ↑](#)

DHV “User Tips”

DHV Occupations

DHV Volunteers can update or add occupations in their profile.

Please follow the following steps:

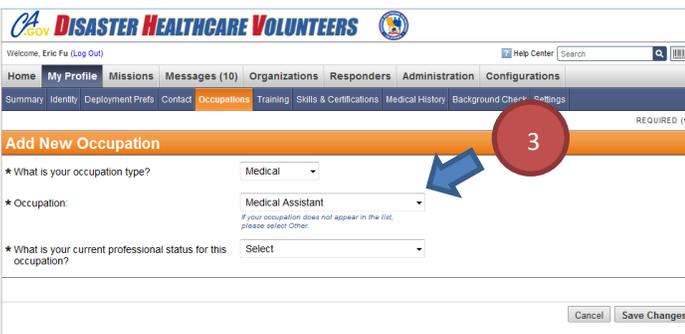
Step 1:
Click “Occupations” under My Profile.

Step 2:
Click “Add Another Occupations”.

You can add up to two occupations in total.

Step 3:
In this example, we would add Medical Assistant and select active and current.

Step 4:
You can click on the up or down arrow to adjust which one is your primary occupation.



[Go back to "In this Issue" ↑](#)



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. And 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 Emergency Medical Services Authority in partnership with the 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



[Go back to "In this Issue" ↑](#)



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 just 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.

[Go back to "In this Issue" ↑](#)

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.



Dr. Howard Backer, Director, EMSA
Daniel Smiley, Chief Deputy Director, EMSA
Lisa Schoenthal, Chief, Disaster Medical Services
William Hartley, Assistant Chief, Disaster Medical Services
Patrick Lynch, Manager, Response Personnel Unit
Sheila Martin, MRC State Coordinator/Response Personnel Unit
Elizabeth "Polly" Lopez, Response Personnel Unit
Lauran Capps, Response Personnel Unit
Eric Fu, Response Personnel Unit

EMSA - DHV Journal, 10901 Gold Center Drive, Suite 400, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670.
Phone: (916) 322-4336 Ext. 467

[Go back to "In this Issue" ↑](#)