

THE CORPS

Official Newsletter for the Maryland Responds Medical Reserve Corps



Greetings, Maryland Responders!

We are thrilled to present the latest installment of the MRC quarterly newsletter, "**The Corps**." In light of the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, we temporarily paused the newsletter to redirect our efforts towards the pandemic. Now, after a three-year hiatus, we are delighted to announce our return!

As some of you may already know, Maryland Responds has welcomed two new state administrators. Our arrival signifies the exciting developments we have in store for our dedicated Maryland Responds MRC volunteers. This newsletter marks the initial step in our journey, showcasing our past achievements and providing a glimpse into our future endeavors.

Our overarching goal is to recruit, retrain and revitalize Maryland Responds Medical Reserve Corps volunteers to address the needs of at-risk populations, reduce resource gaps, and mitigate health disparities to build a more resilient and prepared Maryland. We hold steadfast in our belief that, with your unwavering support, we can realize these goals.

Fall 2023

Introducing "**The Corps**," thoughtfully presented by the Maryland Responds Medical Reserve Corps, Office of Preparedness and Response. In this edition, we are pleased to provide the latest insights on essential emergency preparedness tips, in-depth program recaps spanning the last six months, inspiring volunteer spotlights, and our current unit administrators.

Introducing the New Maryland Responds MRC State Administrators

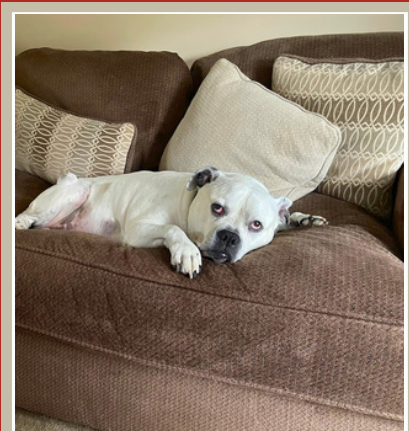
Karen Hopper, our esteemed Program Manager of Maryland Responds MRC, brings over 11 years of experience working for the State of Maryland. She started her career with the Department of Juvenile Services before being called upon to assist the Maryland Department of Health during COVID-19 as the Resource Management Lead for the COVID-19 Testing Team. Karen's exceptional work ethic and dedication to the mission led her to make the position permanent in November 2022. Outside of work, Karen is a passionate sports fan and takes pride in cheering on the Philadelphia Phillies and Pittsburgh Steelers during her leisure time.



Mallory Simcox is the Program Specialist of Maryland Responds MRC. A true Maryland native, Mallory currently resides in Baltimore City. She was hired by the Maryland Department of Health six months ago, bringing a wealth of experience from her previous role as a Program Specialist at the Y of Central Maryland, where she focused on serving families, children, and volunteers. Mallory enjoys captaining her kickball team and playing golf with her boyfriend in her leisure time.



Both administrators share a passion for animals. Karen's lovable yet sometimes grumpy American Bulldog, Brees, and Mallory's charming calico cat, Pickles!



Preparedness News: Preparedness Month

September holds a special place in the hearts of many Americans, as it signifies National Preparedness Month - a time when we come together to educate and empower individuals, communities, and organizations to prepare for emergencies. This year, the theme is "**Preparing For Older Adults**," which aims to shine a light on those in our communities who are disproportionately impacted by all-hazard events. As we know, older adults may face greater risks during emergencies, especially if they live alone, have low incomes or disabilities, or reside in rural areas. We must prioritize their safety and well-being and work together to ensure they are prepared to respond to any situation. *Here are some tips to help with Disaster Preparedness in Older Americans and People with Disabilities:*



Plan how you will communicate if you have a communications need.



Plan for food, water, and essentials for you and pets or service animals. Research pet-friendly evacuation centers.



Plan for your transportation if you need help evacuating.



Include items that meet your individual needs, such as medicines, medical supplies, batteries and chargers, in your emergency supply kit.



Plan how you will have your assistive devices with you during an evacuation.



Make copies of Medicaid, Medicare, and other insurance cards.



Preparedness News: Hurricanes

Hurricane Season is here; staying informed about the latest updates and preparing to face any potential challenges is crucial. *Here are some valuable tips to help you stay safe during this season of turbulence.*

Know Your Hurricanes Risk: It is essential to recognize that hurricanes are not just a coastal issue. Hurricanes and tropical storms can cause rain, wind, water damage, and even tornadoes far inland from where they make landfall. Therefore, it is crucial to educate yourself about the potential risks that could affect your area and prepare accordingly. Doing so can help keep yourself and your loved ones safe during hurricane season.

Make an Emergency Plan and Know Your Evacuation Zone: To prepare for a hurricane, make an emergency plan that includes everyone in your household, your workplace, and any place you visit often. Learn your evacuation zone and routes, and practice the plan with your family and pets. Follow the instructions of local emergency managers for the latest recommendations and safety measures.

Prepare Your Home and Get Tech Ready: To prepare for a hurricane, clear out your drains and gutters, bring in any outdoor furniture, and consider installing hurricane shutters. To stay connected with your loved ones and have access to important information during the hurricane, keep your phone charged and get backup charging devices for your electronics in case of a power outage.

Gather Supplies and Review Important Documents: Gather essential supplies such as medication, disinfectant, and pet supplies. Keep them in your go-bag or car trunk, as you may not have access to them for a few days or weeks after a hurricane. Also, ensure your important documents, like insurance policies and personal IDs, are up-to-date and stored safely in a password-protected digital space.

Help Your Neighborhood and Those With Disabilities: If you or anyone in your household has a disability, identify if you need extra help during an emergency. Also, consider helping your neighbors, senior adults, or those needing assistance securing their hurricane plans.



Program Recap: MRC STTRONG Grant

Check out this

MRC STTRONG Grant Recipient

Maryland Responds
Medical Reserve Corps

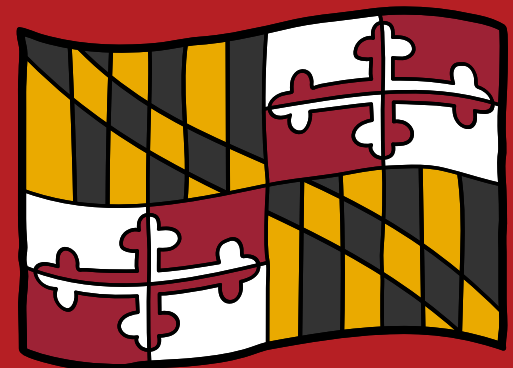


ASPR
ADMINISTRATION FOR STRATEGIC
PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE



Maryland
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

We are excited to share that Maryland Responds Medical Reserve Corps has achieved a momentous milestone! We are thrilled to announce that our team has secured a substantial two-million-dollar grant from the HHS Administration for Strategic Preparedness and Response. With these significant funds, we gain newfound momentum in our mission to elevate Maryland's Medical Reserve Corps network. Our focus is fortifying emergency preparedness, fostering a swift and effective response, and championing health equity in all initiatives. For more information, click [HERE](#).



**MARYLAND
RESPONDS**
MEDICAL RESERVE CORPS

Join us: mdr.health.maryland.gov

Program Recap: Basic Life Support & First Aid



Maryland Responds MRC hosted two statewide Basic Life Support and First Aid Training sessions at the Office of Preparedness and Responds in Hanover on Saturday, May 20th, and June 24th. Over 50 volunteers from various parts of Maryland participated in the training. The goal was to enhance the volunteers' response capabilities and refocus our efforts post-COVID-19.

Program Recap: COVID Testing Site Demobilization Deployment

In April of this year, our dedicated volunteers, under the leadership of Program Manager Karen Hopper, played a pivotal role in the conclusive demobilization of the COVID-19 testing sites located in Bowie and Annapolis. Our heartfelt gratitude extends once more to the Maryland Responds MRC volunteers who generously contributed their time and efforts at similar sites throughout the entire state during the pandemic. You have been instrumental in preserving innumerable lives in Maryland and beyond through your unwavering commitment and selflessness.



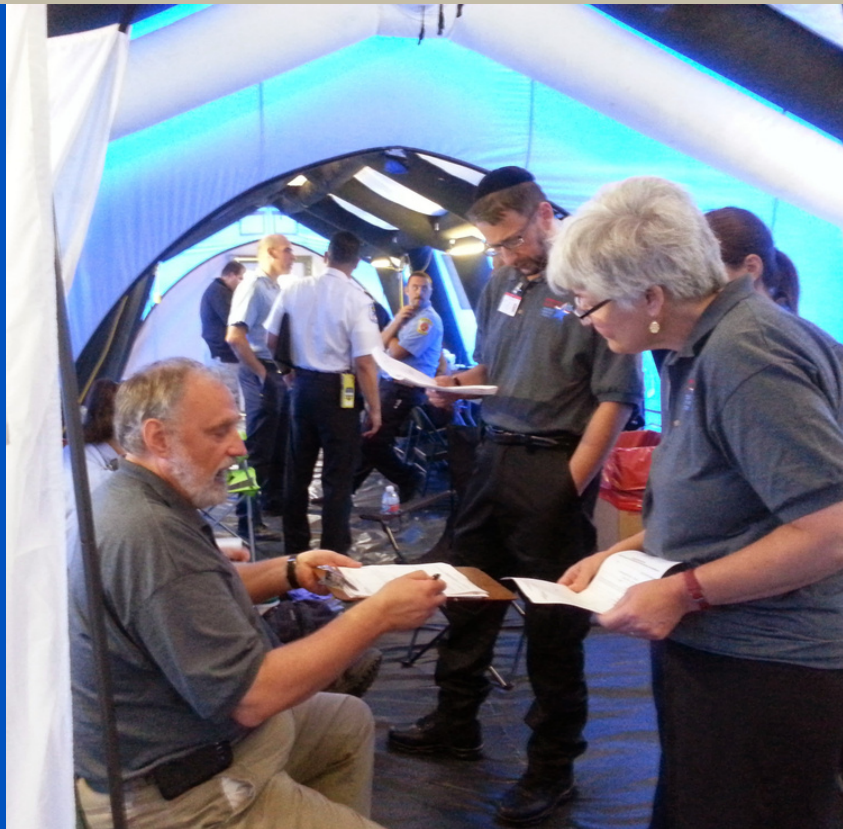
Program Recap: Virtual MRC Sheltering Training

Maryland Responds MRC hosted an all-encompassing virtual presentation called "Introduction to Sheltering" in June. This session was designed to provide volunteers with all the necessary details about a sheltering deployment. The presentation was highly engaging and interactive, allowing participants to ask questions and gain insightful knowledge. We recorded the entire presentation, which you can access [HERE](#). We value your feedback and welcome your suggestions. We aim to ensure our future virtual training offerings align with your interests and needs. Therefore, we invite you to share your thoughts via email at mdresponds.health@maryland.gov. Please do not hesitate to let us know which virtual training sessions interest you the most.

EMERGENCY



SHELTER



Program Recap: Brooklyn Homes Community Center Support



The morning of July 2, 2023, was expected to be a joyous celebration and community gathering in Brooklyn Homes. However, a tragic mass casualty event disrupted the intended festivities, resulting in the loss of two young lives and over 30 people injured. Maryland Responds Medical Reserve Corps expresses its deepest condolences to the victims' families and stands in solidarity with the Brooklyn Homes community during this difficult time.

In response to this traumatic incident, the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement, in partnership with the Housing Authority of Baltimore City and Office of Emergency Management, launched the first phase of stabilization response from July 2 to July 12, 2023, at the Brooklyn Homes Community Center. The Mayor's Office coordinated City, State, and community-based organizations and providers to offer direct services from the Community Center. The goal was to provide on-site therapeutic and mental health services, coordinated victim services, and trauma-responsive care. Maryland Responds deployed ten behavioral health professionals to offer support to those affected.

In the picture on the left, Maryland State Delegate Robbyn T. Lewis of Legislative District 46 in Baltimore City discusses community outreach with dedicated MRC volunteers Melinda Maule, Mercedes Hightower, and Lakeisha Mixon. Their collective efforts showcase their unwavering commitment to strengthening their community. On the right, MRC volunteer Lakeisha Mixon's dedication shines through as she generously volunteered for both day and evening shifts on July 4, 2023. Her selflessness and unwavering support are a testament to individuals like her who contribute to their community's well-being.

Program Recap: Medical Inventory Deployment



In June, Maryland Responds deployed volunteers to help inventory emergency medical supplies and resources for the Office of Preparedness and Response; Antoinette McLeod and Trenton Ruopp led this mission. Though scheduled for three weeks with three four-hour shifts daily, our incredible volunteers helped us finish a week early. On the last day, Antoinette and Trenton took photos with MRC volunteers Robert Sweeney, Christine Santos, and Sandy Riggs.



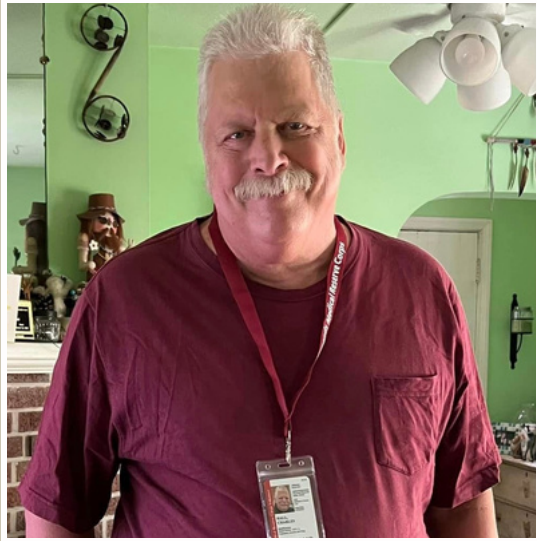
Special Thanks!

The Maryland Responds Medical Reserve Corps would like to express its heartfelt gratitude to the selfless volunteers listed below, who wholeheartedly contributed during statewide deployments over the past six months. Your unwavering dedication and tireless efforts have made a remarkable difference in our mission, and we are immensely grateful for your invaluable support. Thank you for being an indispensable part of our team and positively impacting the lives of those in need.

Ann Purcell
Barry Bress
Brenda Zoltak
Bruce Gordon
Catherine Raymond
Charles Hall
Che Childress Hynson
Christine Santos
Ciera Bernhardt
Dale Glass
Demere Hess
Diana Hall
Eileen Souders
Ericka Leonard
Heather Douglas
Ilana Jackson
Jacquelynn Crabb
Janet Barnes
Jasmine Lampadarios
John Stinson
Joy Malanyaon
Justin Miles
Karen Kitney
Kerry Wargo
Kim Conaway
Kimberly Palasik

Lakeisha Mixon
LaVonne Doucette
Lisa Kelley
Mai AbdulRahman
Mark Davis
Mary Kapp
Mary Vargo
Maureen Kelley
Melanie Bunting
Melinda Maule
Mercedes Hightower
Okechukwu Ukanwa
Patricia Foster
Priscilla Furth
Ray Palasik
Regina Carpenter
Robert Sweeney
Rosalyn McKine
Samantha Manos
Sandy Riggs
Sara Bounds
Sara Robinson
Teresa Baker
Tina Menefee
Vincent Masi

Volunteer Spotlight



Charles (Chip) Hall is a dedicated Baltimore County MRC volunteer. His unwavering commitment to serving his community led him to assist in the Brooklyn Homes Community Center Deployment. Chip is a social worker at a local high school in the Brooklyn, Maryland community. His selflessness was fully displayed as he devoted four out of five days to volunteering at the center. We are grateful for individuals like Chip who go above and beyond to impact their community positively.



Robert (Bob) Sweeney is a dedicated MRC Volunteer within Anne Arundel County. According to Antoinette McLeod, "Mr. Bob showed up around noon as he had not noticed the email indicating the end of the deployment. Rather than sending him away, we welcomed his assistance, and he played a crucial role in finalizing the remaining data entry." Throughout the Medical Inventory Deployment, he generously offered his time on multiple occasions and proved invaluable to the mission's success.



Catherine (Cathy) Raymond, a dedicated MRC volunteer from Anne Arundel County, stood out during the Medical Inventory Deployment in June. Cathy contributed nearly 20 hours of her valuable time to the deployment. Antoinette McLead spoke highly of Cathy, expressing that her exceptional efforts in aiding the inventory and data entry warrant an additional round of applause. Cathy, your dedication and outstanding contributions are immensely appreciated.

Unit Administrators Contact List

Do you need help figuring out who to contact in your unit for information? Worry not, for we've got you covered! Look at this list of all active unit administrators, making it easy for you to connect with the right person.

Allegany County (Brenda Caldwell): brenda.caldwell@maryland.gov

Anne Arundel County (Kelly Payne): hdpayn20@aacounty.org

Baltimore City (Nicole Bradbury): nicole.bradbury@baltimorecity.gov

Baltimore County (Kathleen Long): kelong@baltimorecountymd.gov

Calvert County (Sarah Chestnut): sarah.chesnut@maryland.gov

Caroline County (Heather Grove): heather.grove@maryland.gov

Carroll County (Cheryl Webb): cheryl.webb@maryland.gov

Cecil County (Denise Hill): denise.hill@maryland.gov

Charles County (Mary Lilly): mary.lilly@maryland.gov

Dorchester County (Hannah Mayhew): hannah.mayhew@maryland.gov

Fredrick County (Todd Johnson): tjohnson2@frederickcountymd.gov

Garrett County (Eric Cvetnick): eric.cvetnick@maryland.gov

Harford County (Lisa Swank): lisa.swank@maryland.gov

Howard County (Randell Young & Stephanie Benavides):
ryoung@howardcountymd.gov & sbenavides@howardcountymd.gov

Kent County (Robert Glenn): roberta.glenn@maryland.gov

Unit Administrators Contact List

Montgomery County (Jeremy Costin): jeremy.costin@montgomerycountymd.gov

Prince George's County (Matthew Jones): mjones1@co.pg.md.us

Queen Anne's County (Elizabeth Copp): elizabeth.copp@maryland.gov

Somerset County (Christopher Osment): christopher.osment@maryland.gov

St. Mary's County (Eliot Willenborg): eliot.willenborg@maryland.gov

Talbot County (Richard Taylor): richard.taylor1@maryland.gov

Washington County (Caitlin Weems & Timothy Abe):
caitlinm.weems@maryland.gov & timothy.abe@maryland.gov

Wicomico County (Jack Orris): jack.orris1@maryland.gov

Worcester County (Sarah Milligan): sarah.milligan@maryland.gov

State MRC: mdresponds.health@maryland.gov

Maryland Animal Response Team (Karen Clark): karen.clark1@maryland.gov

Board of Pharmacy Emergency Preparedness Task Force (Dixie Leikach):
dixie.leikach@gmail.com

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