

# THE CORPS

Official Newsletter for the Maryland Responds Medical Reserve Corps

## *September is National Preparedness Month!*

Since 2004, FEMA's Ready Campaign has used September to remind Americans to take simple steps to prepare for emergencies. This year's theme, "Preparedness Starts at Home," focuses on getting back to the basics.

Four Steps to Be Ready:

- Know your risks: Learn what hazards could impact your area so you can plan ahead.
- Make a family plan: Planning in advance reduces stress, saves time, and keeps everyone on the same page.
- Build an emergency kit: Stock food, water, medicine, and a go-bag with essentials you may need in an evacuation.
- Get involved: Take a CPR or first aid class, join a local volunteer team, or practice simple skills that can save lives.

Check out this National Preparedness Month video, featuring some of our very own MRC Unit Administrators! It's a great reminder that preparedness starts at home and that our volunteers are leading the way in building stronger, more resilient communities. Watch the video here: <https://youtu.be/o6fKWt5QtH0?feature=shared>



# Maryland Responds Volunteer Registry Update

Maryland Responds is excited to announce the launch of our new and improved Volunteer Registry! The responder management platform has been upgraded with a refreshed look and more user-friendly workflows to make your experience smoother and more efficient.

## *What You Need to Know:*

- Go-Live Date: September 25, 2025
- Activation Email: On September 25, you received an account activation email from no-reply@login.juvar.com.
  - This is a legitimate email , please do not mark it as spam.
- Login Information: Your new login ID will be the primary contact email listed in your current Maryland Responds Volunteer Registry profile.
- Website: The URL will remain the same: **<https://mdresponds.health.maryland.gov>**

*We can't wait for you to explore the updated platform and continue your important work as part of Maryland Responds!*





# Howard County: Radiological & Nuclear Training



*Submitted by Randell Young*

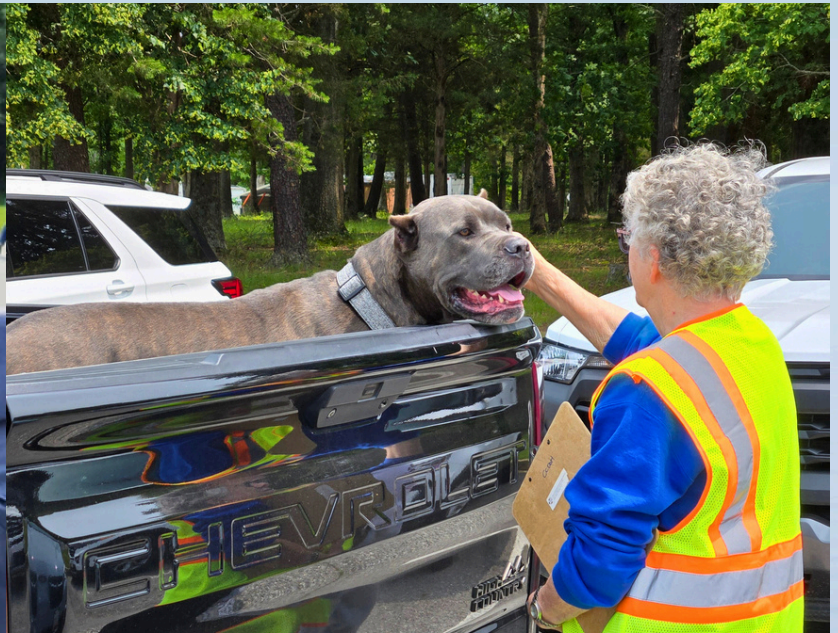
From September 9–11, the Howard County Health Department hosted a three-day training on emergency response to radiation exposure, led by the Counterterrorism Operations Support (CTOS), a branch of FEMA under the Department of Homeland Security. Day one covered the basics of radioactivity, radiation sources, and detection devices. Day two focused on response protocols during the first 100 minutes of a radiation exposure incident, and day three provided hands-on training in population monitoring at a Community Reception Center. Participants included fire and rescue personnel, emergency response staff, health department employees, MRC volunteers, and other partners from across Maryland.



# Charles County: Rabies Clinics Support

*Submitted by Mary Lilly*

Last spring and this fall, Charles County MRC members assisted with four rabies clinics in La Plata, MD. Volunteers supported check-in by reviewing forms, directing traffic, and helping ensure an efficient flow of cars through the single-lane site. Their involvement made a noticeable impact, clinics that typically ran up to 1.5 hours past the posted end time finished much closer to schedule, saving nearly an hour. This opportunity also allowed members to re-engage after limited deployments since COVID-19 response clinics. Volunteers received just-in-time training, shared feedback with program staff, and expressed enthusiasm about returning for future events. Both the rabies program team and participants noted the value of MRC support, making this a strong example of how local partnerships can enhance public health efforts.





# Montgomery County: Pride On the Plaza HIV Testing



*Submitted by Noudehou Koutangni*

On August 3, Maryland Responds volunteers played an important role in supporting community health at this year's Pride events. Two nurses and two non-medical members joined the Mobile Health Clinic team to provide free and confidential STI testing at local Pride events, helping to make these vital services more accessible to the community. In addition, MRC members volunteered at the Pride on the Plaza celebration, working alongside the HHS STI/HIV Team. Volunteers assisted with outreach, event setup, and safety efforts, ensuring that attendees had access to resources, education, and support in a welcoming environment. These efforts highlight the diverse skills within our volunteer network and demonstrate the meaningful impact that MRC members have when they step up to serve. By supporting both medical services and logistical operations, our volunteers continue to strengthen public health and foster inclusive, resilient communities across Maryland.



**For any questions or concerns, please email:**

**[mdresponds.health@maryland.gov](mailto:mdresponds.health@maryland.gov)**

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