

Chattanooga-Hamilton County Health Department



Public Health Emergency Preparedness Informer

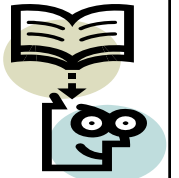


Contact Susan McNabb, Volunteer Coordinator at 209-8068 or e-mail at susanm@mail.hamiltontn.gov

Fall 2008



Medical Reserve Corps Core Competencies



The Medical Reserve Corps Core Competencies represent the baseline level of knowledge and skills that all Medical Reserve Corps volunteers should have regardless of their roles within the Medical Reserve Corps Unit. The Core Competency Trainings are:

MRC Orientation / Point of Dispensing Clinic / Strategic National Stockpile Training; Personal Emergency Preparedness; Seasonal and Pandemic Influenza Training; Disaster Mental Health Training; Incident Command System 100, National Incident Management System 700 and Incident Command System 200 Trainings. All volunteers are encouraged to attend these training sessions.

From both Federal and State levels of government, all "first responder" agencies, including the Medical Reserve Corps, have received direction to support the nation-wide implementation of the National Incident Management System. The National Incident Management System (NIMS) is

the nation's standardized approach to incident management and response. This integrated system unifies Federal, State and local lines of government into one coordinated effort. NIMS establishes a uniform set of processes, protocols and procedures which all emergency responders will use to conduct response actions. This system also ensures that each emergency responder will have the same preparation, goals and expectations, as well as speaking a common language, during an emergency response. **Implementation of and compliance with the NIMS is critical to ensuring a strong and prepared emergency response in our community, throughout Tennessee and across our nation.**

The Incident Command System (ICS) is a critical component of the NIMS. The ICS is a standardized, on-scene, all-hazard incident management system and provides a common framework within which people can work together effectively. It is designed to give standard response and operation proce-

dures to reduce the problems and potential for miscommunication during emergency response. All Federal, State and local governments are required to use ICS in order to be compliant with NIMS.

The Medical Reserve Corps recommends that all MRC leaders and at least 80% of the Unit's volunteers complete FEMA's Introduction to Incident Command (IS-100), the National Incident Management System (NIMS, IS-700), and the Incident Command System for Single Resources and Initial Action Incidents (IS-200).

On November 11th, the Health Department will host training on the IS-100 Introduction to Incident Command and IS-700 NIMS (see Training Opportunities on the back for more details). These trainings may also be taken online at <http://training.fema.gov/IS/crslist.asp>. Click on NIMS Courses in the red box.

(Source: <http://training.fema.gov>)

Seasonal Influenza

Every year in the United States 5% - 20% of the population gets the flu, more than 200,000 people are hospitalized with flu complications, and about 36,000 people will die from these complications. Influenza viruses are always changing. Because of this, influenza vaccines are updated every year. An annual vaccination against influenza is recommended annually for all persons who want to reduce the risk of becoming ill with influenza or from transmitting influenza to others. There are two types

of vaccines available and both provide protection against influenza virus infection.

An intramuscular injection contains a killed virus and is recommended for all persons aged 6 months and older. Most people need one dose of influenza vaccine each year. Children younger than 9 years of age getting influenza vaccine for the first time – or who got influenza vaccine for the first time last season but got only one dose – should get 2 doses, at least 4 weeks apart, to be protected.

The intranasal spray contains a live virus and is recommended for healthy persons aged 5 years to 49 years of age. This may produce mild symptoms related to a weakened influenza virus, such as cold-like symptoms, but

most people experience no problems at all. Because intranasal spray uses live (not killed) vaccine, pregnant women and people with long-term health problems should NOT take it.

Plan to get an influenza vaccine in October or November if you can. But getting vaccinated in December, or even later, will still be beneficial in most years. You can get the vaccine as soon as it becomes available. Influenza can occur any time from November through May, but it most often peaks in January or February. **Check with your health-care provider to determine which vaccine is right for you.**

(Source: <http://www.cdc.gov>)

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Visit us on the web at health.hamiltontn.org



CHCHD Public Health Emergency Preparedness Informer

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 Office of Emergency Preparedness and Planning
 921 East Third Street
 Chattanooga, TN 37403-2165



Holiday Safety



Have a safe and happy holiday season by following these Consumer Product Safety Commission safety tips:

Trees: Look for the “Fire Resistant” label when purchasing an artificial tree. This does not mean the tree won’t catch fire, but it will resist burning and should extinguish quickly. For live trees, check for freshness. Needles should be hard to pull off and not break when bent between your fingers.

Lights: Use only lights that have been tested for safety by a recognized testing laboratory. Use only lights that have fused plugs. Turn off all holiday lights when you go to bed or leave the house. Never use electric lights on a metallic tree. The tree can become charged with electricity from faulty lights and a person touching a branch could be electrocuted.

Decorations: Use only non-combustible or flame resistant materials to trim a tree. Never use lighted candles on a tree. Keep decorations with small, removable parts or decorations which look like candy away from small children. Wear gloves to avoid eye and skin irritation while decorating with “angel hair”.

Fireplaces: Use care with “fire salts” which produce colored flames when thrown on wood fires. Fire salts contain metals that cause intense gastrointestinal irritation and vomiting if eaten. Do not burn wrapping papers in the fireplace. A flash fire may result as wrappings ignite suddenly and intensely.

[Source: [U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission](http://www.cpsc.gov)]

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

The Chattanooga-Hamilton County Health Department will host volunteer training sessions in the upcoming months on the topics listed below. As a part of the Medical Reserve Corps Program and part of the Surgeon General’s Community Initiatives, we not only respond to a public health emergency, but we are also a part of the community education plan.

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>TOPIC</u>	<u>PRESENTER</u>
January 15, 2009	5:30 p.m.—6:30 p.m. (Light Dinner Provided)	Health Department 921 East Third Street	Incident Command System 200	Susan McNabb MRC Volunteer Coordinator
March 31, 2009	5:30 p.m.—7:00 p.m. (Light Dinner Provided)	Health Department 921 East Third Street	The Health Department’s Role in a Sequoyah Radio- logical Response	Sabrina Novak Environmental Scientist and Radio- logical Response Coordinator

Please RSVP (so we will have a head count for space and food) to Susan McNabb, 209-8068 or e-mail at susanm@mail.hamiltontn.gov.

Park in the garage behind the Health Department building and follow the signs once you exit the elevator on the first floor. Bring your parking ticket with you to be stamped for \$1.00 parking.

Volunteer Information Update

If you have moved, changed telephone numbers, or are no longer interested in being a volunteer, please complete the form below and return to the address at the top of this page or e-mail Susan McNabb at susanm@mail.hamiltontn.gov.

Name _____ Home Phone _____ Cell _____ Work Phone _____

Home Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Work Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Email _____

_____ I am unable to be a volunteer at this time. Please remove my name from the active volunteer list.