Slide 1:

medical reserve corps

Re-Engaging Community Volunteers

Maine Responds Conference
November 18, 2023

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Slide 2:

What is the Medical Reserve Corps?

Presented by…

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Slide 3:

What is the MRC?

- The Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) is a national network of volunteers, organized locally to improve the health and safety of their communities

- Today, the MRC network comprises more than 300,000 volunteers in roughly 800 community-based units across the U.S. and its territories

It's All About Service: A brief history

2002	2002	2006	2006
Office of the Surgeon General (OSG) announces the MRC as a demonstration project; **MRC is defined as a program** for medical, public health, and other volunteers interested in public health preparedness.	42 MRC **community-based units established** to uphold the principles of the MRC project, as defined by OSG.	Congress passes the **Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Act (PAHPA)**, which formally authorizes the MRC and its network to support emergency response at all levels, Local, State,	500 MRC units established nationwide, including Washington, DC, Guam, Puerto Rico, and US Virgin Islands. **MRC Program Office joins forces with NACCHO** through a cooperative agreement to build capacity

Source: NACCHO MRC Network Profile 2020

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What does the MRC do?

- MRC units engage in their local communities to improve emergency response capabilities, build community preparedness and resilience, and strengthen public health
- No MRC unit is the same – specific engagement activities vary by community need, volunteer skills and interest, and partner support

Common MRC Missions

- Testing
- Epidemiology and Surveillance
- Medical Surge
- Community Screening
- Call Center Operations
- Behavioral Health
- Community Education
- Community Outreach
- Logistics
- Training
- Mass Vaccination

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How do MRC units benefit the community?

- Bolster local public health and emergency response infrastructures by providing supplemental personnel
- Enable communities to meet specific health needs
- Give community members the opportunity to offer their skills and time to make their communities healthier and safer
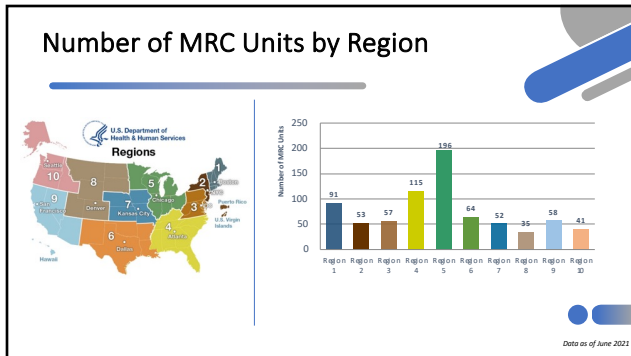
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Where are MRC units located?

- There are 739 MRC units located across the U.S. and its territories, including:
  - 48 states
  - American Samoa, Federated States of Micronesia, Palau, Puerto Rico, and Northern Mariana Islands
- Size of MRC units ranges from fewer than 50 to more than 2,500 volunteers
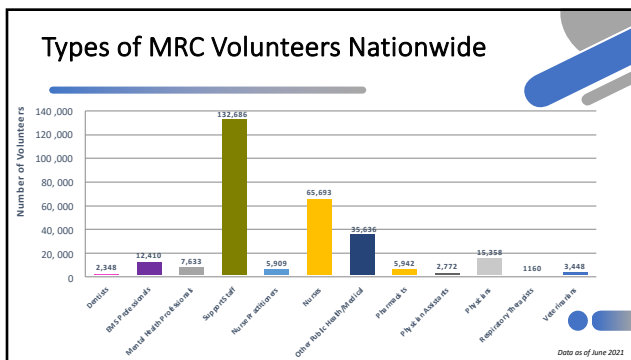- More than 300,000 volunteers nationwide!
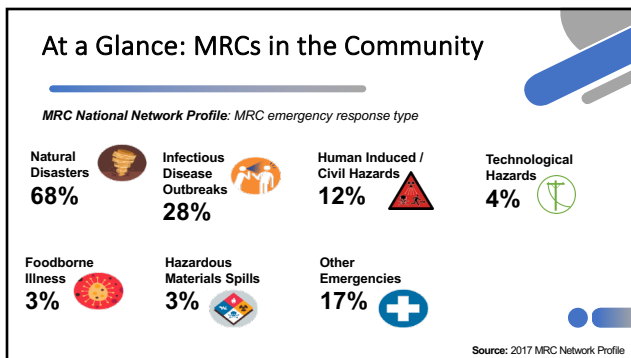
Updated October 2023

NORTH
SOUTH AMERICA

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Slide 7

Number of MRC Units by Region

U.S. Department of Health & Human Services
Regions

Chart — Number of MRC Units:
- Region 1: 91
- Region 2: 53
- Region 3: 57
- Region 4: 115
- Region 5: 196
- Region 6: 64
- Region 7: 52
- Region 8: 35
- Region 9: 58
- Region 10: 41

Data as of June 2021

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Slide 8

Types of MRC Volunteers Nationwide

Chart — Number of Volunteers:
- Dentists: 2,348
- EMS Professionals: 12,410
- Mental Health Professionals: 7,633
- Support Staff: 132,686
- Nurse Practitioners: 5,909
- Nurses: 65,693
- Other Public Health/Medical: 35,636
- Pharmacists: 5,942
- Physician Assistants: 2,772
- Physicians: 15,358
- Respiratory Therapists: 1160
- Veterinarians: 3,448

Data as of June 2021

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Slide 9

At a Glance: MRCs in the Community

MRC National Network Profile: *MRC emergency response type*

Natural Disasters 68%
Infectious Disease Outbreaks 28%
Human Induced / Civil Hazards 12%
Technological Hazards 4%

Foodborne Illness 3%
Hazardous Materials Spills 3%
Other Emergencies 17%

Source: 2017 MRC Network Profile

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MRC National Network Program Communications

- Visit the MRC website at https://aspr.hhs.gov/mrc.
- Join MRC-TRAIN; https://www.train.org/mrc.
- Like us on Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/medicalreservecorps.
- Follow us on Twitter: @MRC_ASPR or visit https://www.twitter.com/MRC_ASPR.

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MRCs in Maine

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Maine's Public Health Volunteer Structure

- Maine Responds: a database that is used to support our Emergency System for Advance Registration of Volunteer Health Professionals (ESAR-VHP) and Medical Reserve Corps (MRC)
- All MRCs in Maine use Maine Responds as their database to support volunteer activities
- When signing up for Maine Responds volunteers are assigned to their local MRC, whether or not it is active
- Liability insurance for MRC volunteers during MRC activity is provided by the responding MRC's housing organization
- Liability insurance for volunteers responding under Maine Responds / ESAR-VHP is provided by the State of Maine's Emergency Management Association

ME-MRC

ESAR-VHP

Maine Responds

MAINE RESPONDS
Emergency Health Volunteer System

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Common Maine MRC Activity Types

Including but not limited to…

- Educational events
- Emergency preparedness exercises
- First aid stations at local fairs, concerts & gatherings
- Hydration stations
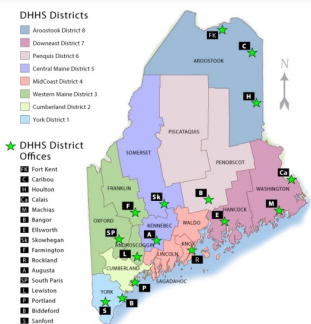- Trainings
- Vaccination clinics
- Sheltering

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Maine MRCs: Recent Response Activity

- **Midcoast MRC**:
  - 2017 You Are the Help Until Help Arrives Training
  - 2019 POD Training
  - 2019 Community Shelter Training
  - 2021 FEMA OPEN Training

- **Northeastern MRC**:
  - 2020 COVID-19 Vaccination Planning Meetings
  - 2020 ACS Site Planning

- **Downeast MRC**:
  - 2020 State MRC and Strike Team Training
  - 2022 Overview of MRC Unit to Public Health Council
  - 2022 Resiliency Preparedness Training

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3 of our 8 DHHS (Public Health) Districts currently have

ACTIVE MRC UNITS IN MAINE

DHHS Districts
- Aroostook District 8
- Downeast District 7
- Penquis District 6
- Central Maine District 5
- MidCoast District 4
- Western Maine District 3
- Cumberland District 2
- York District 1

★ DHHS District Offices

- FK Fort Kent
- C Caribou
- H Houlton
- CA Calais
- M Machias
- B Bangor
- E Ellsworth
- SK Skowhegan
- F Farmington
- R Rockland
- A Augusta
- SP South Paris
- L Lewiston
- P Portland
- B Biddeford
- S Sanford

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Midcoast MRC, Public Health District 4

- Location: Sagadahoc, Lincoln, Knox and Waldo Counties
- Unit Coordinator: Holly Clayton
- Unit Membership: 344
- Housing Agency: AdCare Educational Institute

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Northeastern MRC, Public Health District 6

- Location: Piscataquis and Penobscot Counties
- Unit Coordinator: Kathy Knight
- Unit Leadership: Ken Latham
- Unit Membership: 249
- Housing Agency: Northern Light

Updated October 2023

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Downeast MRC, Public Health District 7

- Location: Hancock and Washington Counties
- Unit Coordinator: Al May
- Unit Membership: 143
- Housing Agency: Hancock County EMA

Updated October 2023

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Units Needing Housing & Leadership
*(a.k.a. Units needing **YOU**, if you live in one of these currently unserved areas!)*

Maine needs units in these areas:

- **York**: York County, Public Health District (PHD) 1

- **Cumberland**: Cumberland County, PHD 2

- **Western**: Androscoggin, Franklin & Oxford Counties, PHD 3

- **Central**: Somerset & Kennebec Counties, PHD 5

- **Aroostook**: Aroostook County, PHD 8

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We Need You!

Ways to engage:

- Start a unit in an area without one
  - Join our online MRC deep dive in January
- Join an active unit
- Join an active MRC's unit leadership

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UPCOMING MRC DEEP DIVE ONLINE

At the end of this session, we'll urge YOU to join us in setting a New Year's Resolution to help build out our Maine MRC network AND register to join for an online deep dive into what it takes to get an MRC Unit up and running!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

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Thank You!

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Introduction to the Midcoast MR
Unit #2649

Knox, Lincoln, Sagadahoc & Waldo

Fellowship & Action

Holly Clayton, RN, MSN
Midcoast MRC Unit Coordinator
midcoast651coord@gmail.com

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How did we get started?

- Established Unit Coordinator role
- Worked closely with the State MRC Coordinator
- Stayed in contact with the Regional Liaison, New England DHHS, Region 1

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Getting Started

- Agendas for monthly meetings with educational session

- Emailed agendas and invites

MIDCOAST medical reserve corps

AGENDA

Public Health District 4 – MIDCOAST Medical Reserve Corps
MRC Unit 2642
Wednesday, June 27, 2018
5:00 pm -6:00 pm *1 hour meeting*
Knox County EMA Building

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Getting Started

Leveraged Existing Leaders & Resources

- Invited local Emergency Management Director and Public Health Liaison
- Meetings posted on local Public Health Calendar

Networking

- Attended Maine Emergency Management Association (MEMA) Conference
  - Had an MRC booth!
- Public Health Liaison invited Local Health Officers (LHOs) to our meetings
- Volunteers invited to meetings
- Volunteers invited to exercises and trainings

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Building Partnerships

Early On:

- County Emergency Management Associations
- Public Health

After Our Base Was Established:
- Local hospital, library
- Homecare Association
- Rotary Club
- School Nurses
- Windjammer Festival Committee/Town of Camden
- Other Maine MRC Units
- Invited speakers from the Maine CDC and the Maine Emergency Management Association to our meetings
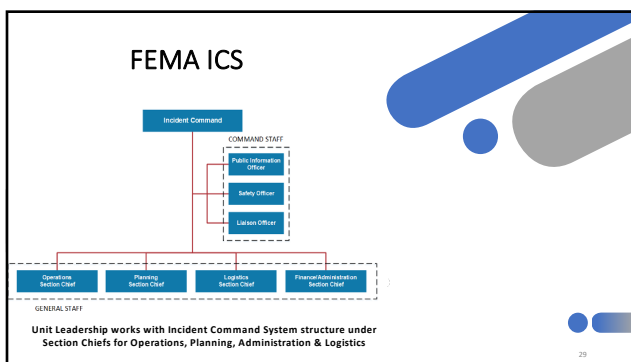
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Role of Unit Coordinator

"At the local level, each MRC unit is led by an MRC unit coordinator, who matches community needs—for emergency medical response and public health initiatives—with volunteer capabilities."

"Local coordinators are also responsible for building partnerships, ensuring the sustainability of the local unit, and managing volunteer resources."

aspr.hhs.gov

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FEMA ICS

Incident Command

COMMAND STAFF

Public Information Officer

Safety Officer

Liaison Officer

| Operations Section Chief | Planning Section Chief | Logistics Section Chief | Finance/Administration Section Chief |

GENERAL STAFF

Unit Leadership works with Incident Command System structure under Section Chiefs for Operations, Planning, Administration & Logistics

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How did we recruit volunteers?

- Maine Emergency Management Association conference
- Consultation with State MRC Coordinator
- Inclusion of Local Health Officers
- Ideas from Emergency Management Association
- Community preparedness tables
- Community library events
- Natural surge during incidents (COVID)

VOLUNTEERS

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How did we engage volunteers?

Engagement Balance
- Education
- Training
- Participation
  - *Drills*
  - *Exercises*
  - *Community events*
- After Action Reports & Discussion

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Tips for New (and all) Leaders

UTILIZE UNIT LEADER RESOURCES ASPR.HHS.GOV

ATTEND MRC NEW LEADER ORIENTATION PERIODICALLY

MRC WELL CHECK WEBINARS

LISTSERV/LEADERS

UPDATE UNIT PROFILE AND UNIT REPORTING ACTIVITIES

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Challenges & Barriers for Leaders & Volunteers

Midcoast MRC experience

Midcoast MRC keys to success

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Education and Training at our Unit meetings

- Hosted library event
- Story of Point of Dispensing (POD) preparedness
- Education on influenza trends with epidemiologist
- Led statewide MRC meeting
  - CDC Epidemiologist repeated the same presentation at a statewide MRC meeting that our Unit hosted
- Vaccination clinics, including COVID
- Hosted Statewide MRC meeting with New Hampshire MRC presenter on PODS
- FEMA training courses

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Thank You!

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Downeast Maine Medical Reserve Corps

Al May, MPH
Public Health district liaison
Maine CDC

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Downeast Maine Demographics (2021)

	Hancock County	Washington County
	56,192	31,095
	2,345 square miles *24 people per square mile*	3,259 square miles *9 people per square mile*
	65+ Living alone: 31%	65+ Living alone: 31%
	Children Living in Poverty: 15%	Children Living in Poverty: 25%
	Persons with disability: 15%	Persons with disability: 23%

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Downeast Maine Medical Reserve Corps

- Vision
  A network of local volunteer units actively working with community partners to strengthen public health, reduce vulnerability, build resilience, and improve preparedness, response, and recovery capabilities statewide.

- Mission
  The Downeast Maine Medical Reserve Corps Unit will maintain a sustainable network of medical and non-medical volunteers to strengthen public health, improve emergency response capabilities, and build community resiliency.

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Downeast MRC Updates

Received 2018-2019 NACCHO Operational Readiness Award.

Since 2017, hosted periodic planning and recruiting meetings.

Integrated MRC with Public Health Council and County Emergency Management Agencies.

In 2023, MRC Unit hosted statewide trainings:
- MGT 433 Isolation & Quarantine for Rural Communities.
- MGT 403: Underserved Populations Preparedness Planning
- Planning Houses of Worship Roles in Preparedness

Developed Behavioral Health Training in Response to Nuclear Power Plant Emergency in 2017.

Recruitment plan: building trust with organizations by engaging in trainings and exercises.

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Downeast Maine
Medical Reserve Corps Unit 2644

Downeast MRC	Hancock County Emergency Management	Maine CDC Downeast
Team Leader	Andrew Sankey, Director	Public Health District
Barbara MacPike	ema@hancockcountymaine.gov	Al May, MPH, District Liaison
bmacpike@gmail.com	207-667-8126	alfred.may@maine.gov
207-288-5082		207-255-2017

Please register for Downeast MRC Unit at Maine Responds:
https://www.maineresponds.org/

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Thank You!

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PANEL Q&A

Moderated by:

Kathy Knight, RN, BSN, CHEC II
Director
NLH Center for Emergency Preparedness
Northeastern Maine Medical Reserve Corps
Northern Light Health

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(207) 856-2525   Mobile
(207) 818-4848   Pager
kknight@northernlight.org

Panelists:
• Al, Downeast MRC
• Holly, Midcoast MRC
• Kathy, Northeastern MRC

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Thank You!

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New Year's Resolution:

Please join for an online Maine MRC deep dive!

Tuesday, January 16, 2024
5:30pm-6:30PM

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THANK YOU!

Sadie Faucher(she/her)
State MRC Coordinator and
ESAR-VHP Volunteer Management Coordinator
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