

THE CALL

Quarterly Newsletter



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MRCKC to Change Base of Operations

The Medical Reserve Corps Kansas City (MRCKC) is transferring its base of operations to the City of Independence Fire Department's Emergency Preparedness Division (EPD). The MRCKC will undergo a rebuilding and relaunch in the next twelve months. Andrew Carpenter, Emergency Planner with EPD will be Coordinator of the MRCKC program. Doug Norwood will lead volunteer leader of MRCKC. At this time, the emphasis of the rebuild and relaunch effort will be the following:

- To develop relationships with the Mid-America Regional Council
- Secure financial resources
- Obtain re-commitments of MRCKC volunteers
- Reconstitute MRCKC leadership
- Procure supplies and equipment
- Arrange for office space and storage
- Establish protocols and procedures
- Conduct outreach to regional partner organizations
- Convene meetings
- Schedule training and exercises and
- Integrate MRCKC into the emergency management and health-medical preparedness systems.

For more information contact: Andrew Carpenter: Office phone at 816-325-6961 or Email: acarpenter@indepmo.org

NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH 2018



In Light of National Preparedness Month...

The Federal Emergency Management Agency recommends stockpiling enough emergency supplies to last you and your loved ones, including pets, for roughly three days. Well, if you've seen one survival kit checklist, you've seen them all, am I right!? But preparing ahead of time could save your life in an emergency.

Curious what the Deputy Director of the State Emergency Management Agency has in his preparedness kit? So were we!



Ron Walker, SEMA Deputy Director

1: What are the three most important things in your home preparedness kit?

- bottled water, canned food and a flashlight

2: What is the strangest thing in your home preparedness kit?

- books of word puzzles

3: What nonperishable foods do you have in your home preparedness kit?

- canned food

4: If money were no object - what would you like to add to your kit?

- a whole house generator

5: What is in your car preparedness kit?

- a blanket and cell phone

6: What is in your work preparedness kit?

- Inflatable mattress, bedding, bottled water and snack items

Now we'd like to see yours!

Take a picture of either your home, car or work preparedness kit and also tell us what is in it. Then, submit it by email to Alyssa.borchelt@sema.dps.mo.gov for a chance to win a \$25 Amazon gift card.



Returning to Normalcy for Missouri's Youngest Citizens

As families recover from disasters, it is important they consider the need to return children to some sense of normalcy. A child's level of resiliency can be impacted greatly by returning him/her to usual routines and traditions. The structure of regular bedtimes and mealtimes indicate to a child that things are right in their world. Favorite toys, bedtime stories and playdates with friends are comforting to children whose lives have been turned upside down by disasters.

For this reason, emphasis is placed on repairing and rebuilding schools and childcare centers as quickly as possible when disasters strike. They can serve as gathering places for families and, in many small towns, for the entire community. Opening their doors gives people a location not just for education, but for sporting events, theater productions, town meetings, chili suppers and much more. For children, seeing smiles and sensing relaxation in adults gives them a sense of reassurance, so honoring traditions and milestones is also important.

Missouri's faith-based and community partners are dedicated to bringing hope, help and recovery to families impacted by disasters. This was apparent when a Multi-Agency Resource Center (MARC) opened after an EF-2 tornado struck the southeast Missouri town of Malden. A family of four came to find resources to assist in their recovery. They were staying in a local motel; their home had been deemed uninhabitable after the tornado shifted it partially off the foundation.

As the parents were making the rounds of assisting agencies in the main room, the two young girls were amusing themselves in the childcare area under the watchful eyes of Missouri Baptist Disaster Relief volunteer staff. In casual conversation, the younger of the two girls said it was almost her birthday and she would be five. The father later told one of the staff at the MARC there probably would not be a birthday party – money was tight until the insurance check came and he could go back to work.

Word spread like wildfire through the MARC. To all the partners there, making sure there was a birthday party became an absolute MUST. A local organization that collected Christmas toys was able to find gifts for the girl, and for her sister. A gift card to a local retailer appeared to ensure there would be everything needed for the JoJo Siwa-themed party of her dreams, complete with a cake in the shape of JoJo's signature big hair bow. A second gift card came to the parents to make certain there were balloons, party napkins and anything else the young girl wanted.

Missouri's emergency human services organizations know that helping takes many forms – from rebuilding an entire house to making sure there are party balloons – in recovering all citizens impacted by disasters, from the oldest to the youngest (including those about to turn five years old).

By Deb Hendricks, State Voluntary Agency Liaison



Show-Me Response stands ready to assist you with volunteer management and training!

Please contact Pat Curtis or Alyssa Borchelt with your suggestions and requests.

Pat: 573-522-8637

Patricia.curtis@sema.dps.mo.gov



Upcoming Conferences

2018 Children and Youth in Disasters Conference

Helping Children Cope with Disaster Trauma



Times: Day 1— 7:30 - 4:00

Day 2—8:00 - 4:30

Times subject to change as the agenda develops.

Where: Tan-Tar-A
494 Tan Tara Drive,
Osage Beach, MO

Phone: 800-826-8272
Give Block Code CHLD to receive the reduced
rate of \$89.00

Registration: [https://health.mo.gov/emergencies/ert/
childreneyouthdisasterconference.php](https://health.mo.gov/emergencies/ert/childreneyouthdisasterconference.php)

or contact Tina Brown 573-526-3780

Who should attend?

This conference will appeal to a wide variety of partners who may be called upon to assist in disaster scenarios that impact children occurring anywhere in the state of Missouri.

This includes but is not limited to: EHS Partners, COADs, VOADs, CERTs, Faith Partners, Medical Reserve Corps, Local Public Health Agencies, Schools, Child Serving Agencies, Child Care Facilities, Behavioral Health Agencies, and EMDs.

Unleashing the Power of PUBLIC HEALTH

September 25-27, 2018

Holiday Inn Executive Center
2200 I-70 SW, Columbia, MO

PRESENTED BY

Missouri Public Health Association,
Missouri Association of Local Public Health Agencies,
Missouri Institute for Community Health
and the
Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services

The conference will take place on September 25-27, 2018 at the Holiday Inn Executive Center in Columbia, MO. The Conference Planning committee has coordinated an outstanding array of nationally known speakers—all professionals in their fields of expertise.

The Holiday Inn Executive Center has extended a conference room rate of \$98.95 for single or double occupancy. This rate is available until August 26, 2018 by calling 573-445-8531, mention group block rate and Missouri Public Health Association when making your reservations.

We are looking forward to your participation in our Conference and are grateful for your involvement. We know it will be an effective opportunity for you to interact with Public Health Professionals from Missouri and around the region!