

# Massachusetts Region 4A



# PRESENTER



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# Disasters

# Catastrophes

# Crises

September 11, 2001



Boston Marathon Bombing



Avian Influenza



Anthrax Threats



Earthquakes

Hurricanes



# LOCAL NEEDS



Hepatitis A / H1N1 Clinic



Deployment - Otis AFB - 2005



Local Flooding



Explosion-Danvers



Ice Storm



Revere Tornado

gty.im/  
452857956

By  
Boston Globe

# WHAT'S NEXT?

- No idea when or where the next crisis will occur or what it will be
- What we do know:
  - Bad things will continue to occur
  - We will need volunteers
  - We need to be prepared
  - We need to be organized

# MRC – The Beginning

- **After 9/11 –**
  - surge of “What Can I Do to help”?
- **President Bush called upon the Citizens to make life-time commitment to Volunteer**



**Created to organize  
volunteers**



*Promoting a culture of service, citizenship and responsibility*



DHS / EPR / FEMA

**National Citizen Corps Council  
Corporate Support**

**Charter Federal Partners**



DOJ / NSA



DOJ / IACP



DHS / EPR / EMI



DHHS / OSG

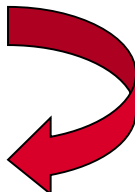


*Ready.gov / Are You Ready? / Safety - Preparedness Awareness Programs*

**State Citizen Corps Councils**

Tribal / Local Citizen Corps Councils

*American Public*





# The MRC is:

## NEIGHBOR HELPING NEIGHBOR

- Community-based units
  - locally organized
  - utilize time and expertise of volunteers
  - prepare for and respond to emergencies
  - promote healthy living throughout the year
- MRC volunteers supplement existing emergency and public health resources





# MRC - MISSION

To establish teams of local volunteer medical and public health professionals who can contribute their skills and expertise throughout the year and during times of community need



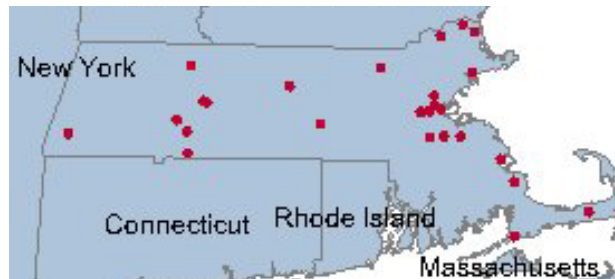
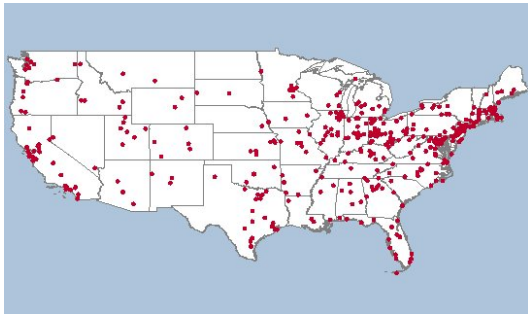
# MRC - CONCEPT

- Organize medical, public health, and other volunteers in support of existing programs and resources that improve the health and safety of communities and the nation
- Use an all-hazards approach to strengthen and improve the public health infrastructure, including emergency response
- ❑ Credential, train and prepare these volunteers in advance of a public health event



# MRC - STATUS

- 988 MRC units in 49 states, the District of Columbia, U.S. Virgin Islands and Guam



- Massachusetts has 45+ MRCs as of Dec 2013
  - is divided into sub-regions – we are in Region4A
  - Region 4A is composed of 33 towns and cities



# MRC - STATUS

- National MRC Volunteers - 206,000+
- Massachusetts MRC Volunteers – 19,000+
  - Physicians
  - Physician Assistants
  - Nurse Practitioners
  - Registered Nurses
  - Dentists
  - Veterinarians
  - Pharmacists
  - Mental Health Professionals
  - EMTs and Paramedics
  - Epidemiologists
  - Health Educators
  - Others (non-medical)...



# Benefits to the Community

- **Supplemental personnel to support existing public health and emergency response systems**
- **Mechanisms for information sharing and coordination among the community partners**
- **Enhances community preparedness through citizen involvement**
- **More autonomy in responding to community emergencies, with less reliance on state or national resources**



# Benefits to the Community

- **Enables communities to meet specific health needs**
- **Opportunity for private citizens to participate in developing strategies that make their communities healthier and safer**
- **Ongoing dialogue between emergency management and public health agencies**
- **National recognition of local public health and emergency response efforts**



# MRC – Who Can Volunteer

- We need 4-6 volunteers functioning in non-medical roles for every 1 volunteer functioning in a medical role
- What are MRC Volunteer requirements?  
Willingness to learn and work with others in your community

**INTEREST AND DESIRE TO HELP**



# MRC – What is Involved

The time you give to the MRC is up to you

- Trainings may be offered – but **NOT** required
- Drills may be held – but **NOT** required
- Alerts for volunteers may be sent to you – but volunteering for the event is **NOT** required

**There are some Core Competencies that we would like all volunteers to be familiar with that pertain to safety and communications**





# MRC 101- Core Competencies

1. Personal Protection Protocols (PPP)



2. Personal/Family Protection Plan

3. Chain of Command



4. Role of MRC in emergencies

5. MRC Communication protocols



6. Mental/Behavioral Health

7. Volunteer Activation and De-Activation



8. Personal Limitation Awareness



# MRC – Web Sites

- **National MRC site** – includes: links to general implementation manuals; introductory brochure; Q & As; training/education  
<http://www.medicalreservecorps.gov>  
<http://training.fema.gov/>
- **State MRC site** – includes: list of all MRCs in the state; general information; forms, sample operating procedures; Q & As; training/education  
<http://www.mamedicalreservecorps.org>  
<https://training.mema.state.ma.us/Mema/mmFrontPage.do>
- **Region 4A MRC site** – Work in progress...  
<http://www.region4a-ma.org>

# Questions/Comments



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