

All Health Hazards Region 8
Southern Carroll County
*Planning for public health emergencies in S.
Carroll County*

DISASTER VOLUNTEER NEWSLETTER
Summer 2008

This newsletter is the first of what we hope will be quarterly publications to inform volunteers and community organizations of the public health emergency planning efforts in Carroll County. A public health emergency could be anything from a large outbreak of food poisoning in one of our communities to a world-wide influenza outbreak. We are working to prepare effective responses to this range of possible events.

The planning efforts are nearly completed. The largest yet unmet need is for volunteers. A database has been formed and as you read this newsletter take notice of completed training as well as future plans for additional training. Please feel free to contact us at 539-6747 or kemc226@aol.com

TRAINING

Northern Carroll County AHHR #3 and Southern Carroll County AHHR #8 have joined together to sponsor two different workshops. One was for the CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) training and the other a one day workshop on Isolation and Quarantine (I & Q). Both functions were held at Granite State College in Conway.

Eighteen volunteers spent two recent Saturdays (5/24 and 5/31) learning a variety of skills to serve the county should the need arise. Gene Heighton, an experienced EMT and state trainer, served as the instructor for the beginning two day course which consisted of seven distinct segments:

Day one, 5/24 9 am-5 pm:

- Introduction to CERT
- Fire Safety
- Hazardous Materials and Terrorist Incidents
- Disaster Medical Operations
- Search and Rescue

Day two 5/31 9am-5 pm:

- Red Cross First Aid
- CPR/AED* for adults

All attendees will receive certification in both First Aid and CPR/AED.

*(CPR-cardio-pulmonary resuscitation

*AED-automated external defibrillator)

The training above is the basis for involvement in either a health hazard or large-scale emergency in a local or regional location.

The Isolation and Quarantine (I & Q) workshop on May 30, 2008 was shown via satellite in ten locations throughout NH. This approach afforded interaction between participants at each site and the presenters. Presenters were Jose Montero, MD, NH DHHS and Ms Nancy Smith, Esq., NH Attorney General's Office. Topics included routine and emergency use of I & Q; roles of state and local health and safety officials. A scenario allowed the attendees to discuss the roles of human service organizations as well as the regional plans for I & Q in a pandemic influenza event.

INVOLVEMENT

This is part of an effort to recruit and train a large number of interested residents to assist in the event of any emergency, particularly in cases of a public health incident. We are looking for two types of volunteers. The first group interested in being active and would receive training in various areas. These volunteers could provide a variety of services in the community. The second category would agree to serve in the case of a public health emergency only.

As the number of volunteers increases the training, as listed above, will be repeated in the fall. In addition, there are plans for workshops on Shelter Management and Psychological First Aid.

If interested in becoming a member of this team please contact Kate or Michael Cauble at kemc226@aol.com or Ed Duffy at eduffy@conwaynh.org.

EXERCISES

Recently both regions have tested part of the plan by examining the ability of the MACE (Multi Agency Coordinating Agency) Team to activate. This exercise requires a scenario, evaluators, a facilitator and members of the Regional Coordinating Committees, which have representation from each town including police, fire, EMD, participating hospital, Homeland Security and DHHS.

The purpose of these events are to identify areas in the plan that need to be refined in order to allow for a smoother alert in case of an emergency. If an actual emergency were to occur it would most likely be necessary to open a POD (Point of Distribution) to distribute medications or a NECH (Neighborhood Emergency Help Center) to provide treatment to effected residents. To accomplish this a large number of volunteers would be needed to staff these facilities as well as direct traffic and provide "crowd control".

UPDATE

Each town in the region will be visited to bring the local officials as well as residents up to date with the planning process.

In addition, plans are in the works to provide a booth at various town events-Old Home Weeks, Celebrations this summer to inform, educate and recruit local residents to become part of the volunteer effort which is so vitally important to provide the services required by the planning process.

Submit any items you wish to have included in future publication.