



Natick Medical Reserve Corps

A Unit of the Region 4A Medical Reserve Corps

And the Natick Board of Health

(508) 647-6460

Hello Natick MRC members. This letter is to update our members about accomplishments of the Natick MRC since the last newsletter to you, January 2008. The Medical Reserve Corps was created after the 2002 State of the Union Address when President Bush asked for Americans to volunteer to help their country. The Natick MRC is part of the Massachusetts Region 4a, which includes 34 communities mainly in the Metro-West area. Non-medical and Medical volunteers are needed to assist in preparing for and responding to public health emergencies.

The first Natick MRC executive committee meeting was held on August 3, 2006, and there have been a total of 40 executive meetings through March 2009. There have been several major activities your Executive Committee has worked on since last year.

Major Natick MRC activities:

- Begun ID badge/ photo production for volunteers
- Begun testing the HHAN (Health & Homeland Alert Network) as MRC volunteer call-up system
- Established web link for Natick MRC: go to boards and committees link from Natick town web site (www.natickma.org)
- Held free training sessions for Family Emergency Preparedness, CPR & AED, Bioterrorism, ICS-100, Mental Health Disaster Response
- Identified many on-line free training opportunities (<http://www.region4a-mrc.org/Training.php>)
- Set up recruitment/information booth for MRC for Natick Days, September 2008
- Became a member of the Natick Local Emergency Preparedness Committee
- Initiated a Pet Shelter Plan Committee and sent out a Pet Shelter Survey with the annual Town Census
- Presented a Flu Prevention Program as part of the Natick Pegasus Cable System
- New Executive Committee officers were elected; Herb Kupchik – chair, Mike Linehan, vice chair, Dan Goldstein – recording secretary
- Natick MRC members have participated in Town Flu Vaccine Clinics, Mass Decontamination Unit (MDU) drill at Metro-West Medical Center, as volunteers during the Worcester area ice storm in Dec. 2008, MEMA run Emergency

Operations Center Training, a functional disaster exercise coordinated by the
Northeast Homeland Security Regional Advisory Council

There continue to be many free training course opportunities that can be accessed online at www.region4a-mrc.org and the Natick MRC intends to present several courses locally (you will be notified). To make sure that all are familiar with the emergency management structure used in all emergencies, it is now **required that all MRC members take the ICS-100 and NIMS-700 courses** which are sponsored by FEMA. If you would like to become more involved with the Executive Board or would like more information, please join us at one of our Executive Committee meetings, the second Tuesday of each month at 7 PM in the Retirement Board Conference Room on the third floor of the Natick Town Hall or e-mail Leila Mercer, lmerc@natickma.org.

March, 2009