



Portage County Medical Reserve Corps



Summer Edition 2017

Full-Scale Training Exercise

Several Portage County teams are planning a multi-disciplinary, fully-functional training exercise in September. The scenario will involve a tornado touch-down that will require search & rescue and a hazardous materials response. Canine, mounted and human search teams; rope rescue; incident management team; and HazMat team capabilities will be tested. We are looking for several volunteers to assist with this exercise—checking-in participants, tracking events, paperwork, physical exams of rescuers, etc. The tentative date is September 23. I will send out a notice when everything is confirmed.

Rabies Clinic—Update

In the previous newsletter, I mentioned that MRC volunteers would be requested to help the county dog warden with a rabies clinic. This clinic has been postponed until the fall. I will notify you of any updates.

“Until Help Arrives” Course

Trauma is the leading cause of death in Americans under age 46. Life-threatening injuries require immediate action to stop someone from dying. This course was designed to educate the public about the important role it plays in providing potentially life-saving interventions prior to the arrival of emergency services. The course objectives of this 3-hour class include:

- Use simple & effective skills to save lives
- Communicate with 911 operators effectively
- Act to protect the injured from further harm

- Position the injured
- Stop life-threatening bleeding
- Provide emotional support

This class is being offered at the Portage County Health Department, 705 Oakwood St., Ravenna, OH, in the first floor community room on two different days to any interested MRC member.

- Friday, August 11; 9 am—noon OR
- Saturday, August 19; 9 am—noon

Please RSVP to sforgacs@portageco.com or 330-298-4490, ext. 138.

Ohio Responds

I attended an MRC Coordinator meeting in Columbus last week. They emphasized the need for all volunteers to be registered on the Ohio Responds website. One of the benefits of being registered is liability protection. (See more information on back page.) The Coordinators were told to instruct members to register and/or update their profile by **JUNE 30, 2017.**

Please go to <https://www.ohioresponds.odh.ohio.gov/welcome.php> and update your profile with current:

- Address
- Email
- Phone number
 - Under “Contact Method” be sure to select “SMS/Text msg” to receive text message notifications as well as email
- Licensure/ certifications
- Roles

Thank You!

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LIMITED LIABILITY PROTECTION

Ohio Revised Code Section 121 404 was repealed effective on July 3, 2012. This change was the result of Ohio EMA and the Ohio Department of Health(ODH) taking over management and administration of the Ohio Responds volunteer database from the Ohio Community Services Council.

Ohio Revised Code Sections 5502.281 and 3701.04 now take the place of Section 121.404 and have essentially the same language. These statutes require that the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) and the Ohio Emergency Management Agency (OEMA) jointly share the responsibilities of the statutes.

The limited liability protection for registered volunteers during an emergency declared by the state or political subdivision or in disaster-related exercises, testing or other training activities) remains the same.

ORC 3701.04 (B) The director (of health), in accordance with Chapter 119 of the Revised Code, shall adopt rules jointly with the executive director of the emergency management agency to do both of the following, as required by section 5502.281 of the Revised Code:

- (1) Advise, assist, consult with and cooperate with agencies and political subdivisions of this state to establish and maintain a statewide system for recruiting, registering, training and deploying volunteers reasonably necessary to respond to an emergency declared by the state or a political subdivision;
- (2) Establish fees, procedures, standards and requirements necessary for recruiting, registering, training and deploying the volunteers.

ORC 5502.281 (A) The executive director of the emergency management agency, jointly with the director of health shall do both of the following:

- (1) Advise, assist, consult with, and cooperate with agencies and political subdivisions of this state to establish and maintain a statewide system for recruiting, registering, training, and deploying the types of volunteers reasonably necessary to respond to an emergency declared by the state or a political subdivision;
- (2) Establish fees, procedures, standards, and requirements necessary for recruiting, registering, training, and deploying the volunteers as required under this section.

...

(C) A volunteer registered under this section is not liable in damages to any person or government entity in tort or other civil action, including an action upon a medical, dental, chiropractic, optometric, or other health-related claim or veterinary claim, for injury, death, or loss to person or property that may arise from an act or omission of that volunteer. This division applies to a registered volunteer while providing services within the scope of the volunteer's responsibilities during an emergency declared by the state or political subdivision or in disaster-related exercises, testing, or other training activities, if the volunteer's act or omission does not constitute willful or wanton misconduct.

(D) As used in this section:

- (1) "Registered volunteer" means any individual registered as a volunteer pursuant to procedures established under this section and who serve without pay or other consideration, other than the reasonable reimbursement or allowance for expenses actually incurred or the provision of incidental benefits related to the volunteer's service, such as meals, lodging, and child care.
- (2) "Political subdivision" means a county, township, or municipal corporation in this state.