

MRC Newsletter

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THANK YOU FROM OUR SITE MANAGER NICK DREWS

Once again, thank you all for raising your hand to support our community! The Alternate Care Site succeeds through volunteers like you continuing to be engaged and at the ready for what the future brings. I've seen many of you come through our orientations or training sessions, and it is that commitment to readiness that has put our community in a position not many others can match. Please continue to stay connected and continue to be at the ready. Your commitment is essential to the ongoing safety and preparedness of our community. - Nick Drews

STAFF SPOTLIGHT

When Vince Pierucci was 3 years old, he declared that he wanted to be a fireman so he could take care of people. Starting when he was just 14 years old, he worked in pre-hospital care. Since then, he has worked in all levels of care and has worked in ambulances, helicopters, and hospitals alike. He has trained paramedics, EMTs, MAs, CNAs, and others on how to take care of people. His work in emergency management has spanned 10 years, the last four as the county's EMS Director. He is currently the Med/Health director working at the CPACS. Tom Clancy novels are his favorite books due to their real-life scenarios with geopolitical intrigue. His favorite character Jack Ryan is someone behind the scenes who always, somehow, ends up in the middle of things, kind of like Vince himself. Any free time Vince has is used spending time with his son and daughter. He has coached their flag football, basketball, and t-ball teams, to name a few. Looking back at all Vince has done and continues to do, it is fair to say that he has become the person that his 3-year-old-self wanted to be. When asked what he wanted to say to the volunteers, Vince said this, "This can't be done without you. You are the most important part of anything we do. We rely on you in Public Health for so many things. You are the heroes."



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

If you see Amber Carbo around the CPACS, you might see her in a wheelchair or laying in a patient bed with a hospital gown on. She isn't sick; she is one of our mock patients. Running drills with Amber helps our medical staff practice working in their PPE. Volunteering with the MRC isn't Amber's first time volunteering. She also gives her time to the Red Cross and has worked in the shelters in Malibu. She recently completed UCLA's Emergency Management Program. In her free time, she enjoys hiking and travelling. When she travelled to the Czech Republic, the bombed-out ruin bars, a relic of World War II, captured her attention and helped to make the country her favorite destination. "A Man's Search for Meaning" by Victor Frankl, a story of survival in concentration camps, is one of Ambers favorite reads because it demonstrates the importance of hope and perseverance. Amber wanted to leave you with her favorite quote, "It wasn't raining when Noah built the Arc," which really demonstrates the value of preparedness.



CPACS UPDATES

The CPACS continues to be ready to start caring for COVID-19 patients. The facility now boasts a Telehealth "Quiet Room" and a Patient Facetime area. This week will continue "just in time training" with volunteers to enhance preparedness. This interactive training includes PPE donning and doffing, patient admission and discharge, as well as expected level of care at patient bedside. Read about the CPACS at ReadySLO.org.

RESOURCES FOR WORKING AT THE CPACS

At the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, there was a push for personal preparedness. Some information was a little misinterpreted (one person definitely does not need ten 36 packs of toilet paper). However, the importance of personal preparedness remains essential, as preparedness starts with the individual. As we've grown used to the new normal imposed by COVID-19, it can be beneficial to review and update our emergency plans.

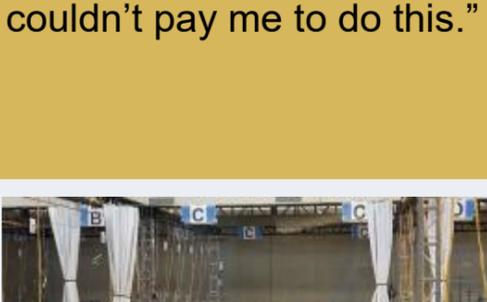
The PrepareSLO.org section on Family Preparedness is a great resource to guide your planning. The assurance that your family is safe and taken care of during an emergency will make you a better volunteer.

COURSES & LEARNING

This newsletter's training is going to focus on post-CPACS response. Further down the line, we will need volunteers to run our Vaccination Points of Distribution (PODs). These Vaccination PODs may distribute flu vaccines or a COVID-19 vaccine, when the time comes. PODs will be essential for COVID-19 response and future disease response. If you would like to learn more about how PODs work and what roles exist for working in a POD, please take [this training by the CDC](#). This training does require signing up for a free account on Train.org. It is not required but is beneficial for understanding future MRC operations.

JOKE OF THE DAY

"Volunteering: because you couldn't pay me to do this."



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: Do I have to sign up for a FEMA Student ID Number to do the IS-100 course?

Currently, we are not requiring the IS-100 course for MRC Volunteers. In the future, we will require this course. If you would like to look over the course materials without gaining the certificate by taking the test, you can. If you would like to proactively get your certificate, then you will want to get your FEMA Student ID Number. This is up to you at this point.

Q: What PPE training is provided?

Donning and doffing PPE instruction is included in the Just-In-Time trainings and scheduled as needed before the beginning of your first shift. Medical volunteers will be required to certify via written documentation that they have passed the skills training. A trained medical volunteer or staff member will always be scheduled and available for all shifts to assist and observe volunteers as they don and doff. Additionally, several large signs with step-by-step instructions have been placed in all donning/doffing areas so volunteers can reference the signs for the correct process.

Q: What is the schedule for training?

We are continuing Just-In-Time trainings through Thursday, April 23 for medical volunteers. We plan to launch more targeted training drills the following week, which will be announced shortly.

Q: How can someone without a medical background get involved?

Currently, we have a few positions open to help create our newsletter. We have positions open to write the "Resources for Working at the CPACS" section, the "Courses and Learning" section, and a new section called "MRC Manual Highlights." We are looking for volunteers with strong written communication skills and preferably familiarity with emergency management concepts (not required). You will have any guidance you need. Please email hr_alternate_care_site@co.slo.ca.us using the subject line "Newsletter Writing Opportunity" if you are interested. Please mention any relevant experience and what section(s) you would be interested in working on.

CONTACT US

If you have a joke for the next newsletter, want to nominate someone for a volunteer spotlight, or have any questions or concerns, send us an email to hr_alternate_care_site@co.slo.ca.us or call us at (805) 781-1722.