National Preparedness Month is recognized each September to promote family and community disaster and emergency planning now and throughout the year. The 2019 theme is "Prepared, Not Scared."

Week 1: Sept 1-7
Save Early for Disaster Costs

Week 2: Sept 8-14
Make a Plan to Prepare for Disasters

Week 3: Sept 15-21
Teach Youth to Prepare for Disasters

Week 4: Sept 22-30
Get Involved in Your Community’s Preparedness

Please go to Ready.gov for additional information and web resources for each week.

#BeReady
#PreparedNotScared

(Cont on page 3)
MRC VOLUNTEER RECALL DRILL

On June 18, 2019 at 10:00 A.M., Madison County Health Department initiated a One Call Now alert notification and acknowledgement drill of 442 Madison County Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) Volunteers. This was the third year the One Call Now system was used for the MRC Volunteer Recall Drill. 24/7 emergency contact home and cell phone numbers and email addresses, which are maintained by the health department, were used to conduct the drill. Work phone numbers were not used for this drill. Volunteers were instructed that a notification and acknowledgement drill was being conducted. Volunteers were instructed to acknowledge receipt of the simulated message. The alert remained active for 12 hours.

This year, 181 of the 442 Medical Reserve Corps Volunteers acknowledged receipt of the message. This is a 41% response rate. The percentage of responses increased by 1% over last year (2018).

Volunteer Recall Drills test our ability to reach all of you in a timely manner in the event of a public health disaster or emergency. Drill response percentages also have to be reported to the CDC. We need to start to be able to attain a 51% response rate to our Volunteer Recall Drills. In order to help us determine barriers to response, we will be sending out a survey (Survey Monkey) in the next month or so. The survey is short and we would really appreciate your feedback so we can take the necessary steps to revise the drill format and, hopefully, increase drill response rates.

We know you are very busy, but would sincerely appreciate your completing the survey, providing us with any updates to your contact information, and responding to the next MRC Volunteer Recall Drill which will be held before the end of 2019. Thank you!
NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH (cont)

Every September, the Centers for Disease Control’s (CDC’s) Center for Preparedness and Response (CPR) along with its preparedness and response partners in government, private and public health, and academia come together to observe National Preparedness Month (NPM) and encourage year-round personal and community preparedness for disasters, disease outbreaks, and human-caused emergencies.

Personal health preparedness is about having the wherewithal to care for and protect your health and wellness in the immediate aftermath of an emergency or disaster. That means having the supplies, skill, and self-confidence to bounce back from a difficult or life-changing event like a natural disaster.

Please visit https://www.cdc.gov/cpr/npm/npm2019.htm where you will find a Personal Health Preparedness Toolkit which has materials on personal needs, prescriptions, paperwork, power sources, and practical skills.

For more information, tips, and lists, visit cdc.gov/prepyourhealth

We hope these materials help you and your family learn about how to prepare for all kinds of emergencies.

“Every person who prepares is one less person who panics in a crisis.”

Attributed to Mike Adamson, British Red Cross
EXERCISE HELP
We are still in need of about three to five more MRC volunteers to help us on October 8th with our portion of the bi-state (IL and MO) regional exercise. We need volunteers to help work with MCHD staff in the Distribution area. Volunteer hours are 9:00 A.M. to 12:30 P.M. Please call or email Cathy if you can help:

618-296-6096
or
cmpaone@co.madison.il.us

POD TRAININGS
The Gateway Volunteer Network (GVN) held a Points of Dispensing (PODs) 101 Training for MRC Volunteers in the bi-state (IL and MO) region on July 20, 2019. The training presented the purpose of PODS, discussed job roles, included a hands-on exercise to apply learned material, and was an opportunity for volunteers to gain a better understanding about their crucial role in a POD. The training was well received. We thank the seventeen Madison County MRC Volunteers who attended the training.

We hope to hold a similar POD training here in Madison County next summer to prepare additional Madison County MRC Volunteers for the October 2020 Illinois state-wide exercise.

GATEWAY VOLUNTEER NETWORK
Help us get the word out to the entire IL and MO bi-state region about the Gateway Volunteer Network!!!