

MRCSA NEWS



Medical Reserve Corps of Southern Arizona

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Hot Topics for 2018

We're looking forward to an action packed new year for MRCSA!

- 2018 Kick Off - "Volunteer Readiness Workshop", Saturday, February 10 - Abrams Public Health Center - 9am-1pm (see page 2)
- March 24 - "Be A Leader When Disaster Strikes" - Wildfires, Floods, Nuclear Threat, 9-11:30 am, U of A Drachman Hall.
- May 19 - "Stop the Bleed", All Hazards First-Aid and CPR for Healthcare Professionals with our partners from ICSAVE.

2017 in Review

This past year was another busy year for MRCSA. Here's a sampling of what we've done.

- Hosted a *Prescription Drug Abuse and Misuse Community Workshop and Train the Trainer* in collaboration with the Pima County Health Department.
- Conducted a roundtable focused on *Caring for Vulnerable Populations During a Disaster*
- Participated in the AZ Healthcare Coalition regional exercise.
- Participated in wildfire shelter response in partnership with the Red Cross. (See page 2 for more of what we've done)

"Continuous effort, not strength or intelligence, is the key to unlocking our potential."

-Winston Churchill

Ready or Not?

In their recently published report, *Trust for America's Health* (TFAH), found the country does not invest enough to maintain strong, basic core capabilities for health security readiness and, instead, is in a continued state of inefficiently reacting with federal emergency supplemental funding packages each time a disaster strikes.

According to *Ready or Not?*, federal funding to support the base level of preparedness has been cut by more than half since 2002, which has eroded advancements and reduced the country's capabilities

The primary source for state and local preparedness for health emergencies has been cut by about one-third (from \$940 million in FY 2002 to \$667 million in FY 2017) and hospital emergency preparedness funds have been cut in half (\$514 million in FY 2003 to \$254 million in FY 2017).

"While we've seen great public health preparedness advances, often at the state and community level, progress is continually stilted, halted and uneven," said John Auerbach, president and CEO of TFAH. "As a nation, we—year after year—fail to fully support public health and preparedness. If we don't improve our baseline funding and capabilities, we'll continue to be caught completely off-guard when hurricanes, wildfires and infectious disease outbreaks hit."

Your Opinion Counts!

Your MRCSA Leadership Team has developed a brief survey to help us better address your interests and needs as we continue to build the best trained and equipped volunteer corps in Arizona. Please take a few minutes to respond to the 10 survey questions.

The survey is open now. The average responder takes only 2 minutes to complete the survey. Please check your spam or junk mail file if you have not seen it in your in box.

Volunteer Readiness Workshop

Saturday, February 10
9:00 am - 1:00 pm
Abrams Public Health Center
3950 S. Country Club Road

- Volunteer Readiness Checklist
- Core Competencies
- Personal Safety
- Infection Control
- Immunizations
- “The Language of MRC”
- HIPAA in Emergencies
- ESAR-VHP
- Incident Command System
- Expected roles in a disaster or public health emergency.
- Preparing you to respond!

2017 In Review (2.0)

- Conducted the *Caring for Culturally Diverse Populations in a Disaster* roundtable
- Hosted a Meet and Greet for the *U.S. Public Health Service* in collaboration with the AZ Poison and Drug Information Center
- Conducted the *Superbugs-A World Wide Threat* workshop
- Conducted *Emergency Civilian Casualty Care* Training Sessions
- Participated in *Tucson Meet Yourself* in partnership with ICSAVE.

Mark your calendars for Friday, March 2.

Our partners in the NDMS (National Disaster Medical System) will be conducting a medical emergency evacuation exercise from 7:00 am to 12:00 noon. MRCSA has been asked to support the exercise by recruiting 50 volunteer victims to be transported to area hospitals.

If you are interested and available to participate, contact us at 520-445-7035.

A New Weapon in the Battle Against Super Bugs?

Since the widespread use of antibiotics began in the 1940s, we've tried to develop new drugs faster than bacteria can evolve -- but this strategy isn't working. Drug-resistant bacteria known as superbugs killed nearly 700,000 people last year, and by 2050 that number could be 10 million -- more than cancer kills each year.

Can physics help? In a talk from the frontiers of science, radiation scientist David Brenner shares his work studying a potentially life-saving weapon: a wavelength of ultraviolet light known as far-UVC, which can kill superbugs safely, without penetrating our skin.

Watch Brenner's TED presentation here:

[https://www.ted.com/talks/](https://www.ted.com/talks/david_brenner_a_new_weapon_in_the_fight_against_superbugs)

[david_brenner_a_new_weapon_in_the_fight_against_superbugs](https://www.ted.com/talks/david_brenner_a_new_weapon_in_the_fight_against_superbugs)

Saturday, January 8, 2011

Many of us remember this day.

On Saturday, 8 January 2011, at 10:10 a.m., a gunman opened fire on U.S. Representative Gabrielle Giffords and a group of “everyday citizens” attending her “Congress on Your Corner”. The gunman fired 31 rounds, killing six people and wounding Giffords herself and 12 other persons.

Pima County 911 operators received the first call from the incident scene at 10:11 a.m. A deputy from the Pima County Sheriff's Department (PCSD) arrived on site at 10:15 a.m. and detained the suspect. A second deputy arrived soon after and secured the shooter's weapon. While the incident site was being secured, PCSD deputies used *Individual First Aid Kits* (IFAKs) to administer first aid to survivors of the shooting in the six minutes before local EMS personnel also entered the incident scene.

The PCSD IFAKs, which are specifically “designed to enable deputies to treat blunt force and penetrating trauma usually associated with traumatic gunshot and stab wounds,” contain, among other equipment: one tactical black nylon **tourniquet**; two six-inch **emergency military bandages**; one **chest seal**; **Quick Clot combat gauze** (which coagulates blood on contact); and one pair of emergency medical technician shears that can be used to slice victims' clothing quickly and cleanly.

Our MRCSA created and sponsors EMERGENCY CIVILIAN CASUALTY CARE training to provide vital information on IFAKs and the proper use of tourniquets, combat gauze and much more.

Contact us at 520-445-7035 for information on scheduling ECCC training.