



TARRANT COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH *PREPAREDNESS* NEWS

PREPAREDNESS	DISEASE SURVEILLANCE	LABORATORY ANALYSIS	VOLUNTEERS
PUBLIC HEALTH TRENDS	PUBLIC HEALTH EXPERTS	TRAINING	NEW INITIATIVES

Volunteer Appreciation Summit



MRC Coordinator Monica Tipton speaks to the group about personal preparedness.

Tarrant County Public Health (TCPH) held an Appreciation Summit for volunteers in Tarrant County. The event was held in coordination with the American Red Cross (Chisholm Trail Chapter), Northside Inter-Church Agency, Tarrant Area Community of Churches and the Volunteer Center of North Texas. The theme “Ready, Set, Prepare” was aimed at enhancing volunteers’ ability to be prepared for any type of man-made or natural disaster. Speakers from participating organizations presented topics ranging from how to create a personal preparedness plan to stress management. The event also allowed volunteers to gain insight on how various organizations work together when responding to emergencies, and it provided a venue for networking

**1,430 MRC
volunteers and
counting!**

with volunteers from across Tarrant County. The Tarrant County Medical Reserve Corps

(MRC) provided each participant with starter disaster supply kit. Volunteers were encouraged to create a disaster supply kit for their home, office and automobile. Participants were also treated to lunch and door prizes.

About 60 volunteers from various volunteer organizations attended the event, which included a special videotaped welcome by Tarrant County Judge B. Glen Whitley.



Another step toward safeguarding our community's health

Tarrant County Public Health's mission is safeguarding our community's health. To further the mission, the Public Health Preparedness program conducted a drive-thru exercise last November at Tarrant County College's Northeast campus. The exercise evaluated disease outbreak management capabilities and Strategic National Stockpile components.

Volunteers and public health staff braved high winds and cold temperatures and administered 89 free vaccinations to prevent hepatitis A in our community. The adult hepatitis A vaccine was provided through funds provided by a City Readiness Initiative grant. Hepatitis A virus (HAV), the causative agent of hepatitis A, is a major public health problem, and it causes considerable morbidity and economic losses on a global basis. It is the only reportable, foodborne viral pathogen in North America. It is the fifth most commonly reported infectious disease in the United States, and it ranks sixth among the top 10 foodborne pathogens. Hepatitis A also is the most frequently reported **vaccine-preventable** disease in the United States. Although this vaccine is not required for adults, public health recommends that people working in the professions/locations below get vaccinated:

- First responders
- Public safety
- Hospitals
- Health care
- Schools
- Child care center
- Food service
- Culinary workers
- Correctional facility



Exercises like this one provide the training and experience needed by volunteers that will assist public health with this task. The event was a collaborative effort involving Tarrant County Public Health, Tarrant County College Northeast Campus, the Tarrant County Constable's office, city of North Richland Hills and the city of Hurst.

If you are interested in becoming part of this continued effort please visit our volunteer Web site at www.bealocalhero.org/tarrantcounty.

NOTE: Tarrant County Public Health will offer **FREE** hepatitis A vaccinations in a second drive-thru exercise scheduled for late May or early June in the Hurst-Euless-Bedford area.

Hamfest '09 MRC Booth



Public Health Epidemiologist Investigator II Sandra Manning stands in the foreground at the Hamfest booth.

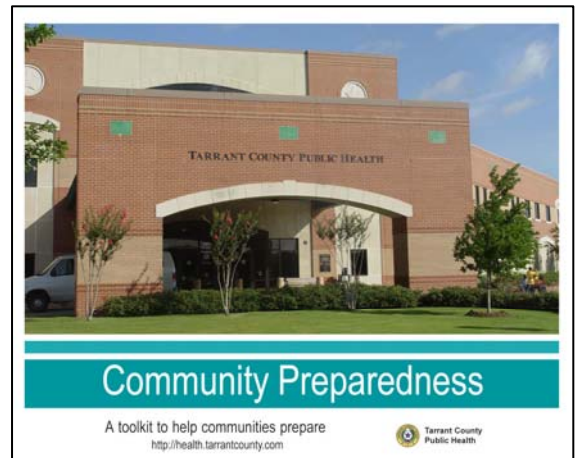
On Jan. 9 and 10, the second annual Cowtown Hamfest was held at the Lockheed Martin Recreation Center.

Frank Knox, Tarrant County Public Health's MRC communication lead, obtained a booth to help recruit other ham radio operators into the MRC. Ham radio operators support tactical and redundant (back-up) communications during an emergency public health response.

Several Tarrant County employees and MRC volunteers assisted with the information table, and 10 new applicants registered that weekend by using the "Be A Local Hero" Web site.

Toolkit for pandemic flu planning

Tarrant County emergency managers and city planners recently received a planning toolkit developed by TCPH. The toolkit includes a CD-ROM and seven workbooks with templates to help organizations like universities, child care centers, schools, individuals and families, faith-based groups, municipalities and businesses prepare for and respond to pandemic flu. To obtain a toolkit, contact the Public Health Preparedness at 817-321-4879.



Upcoming events & exercises

EVENT	DATE	LOCATION
ICS 400	April 23-24	TCPH
Corporate POD workshop	TBA	TCPH
Long-term Care Symposium	May 2009	TCPH
Hepatitis A Drive-Thru Exercise	TBD	TBD
Creating a Vigilant, Prepared and Resilient Community	June 29-30	TBD

NOTE: All events will be held at Tarrant County Public Health (TCPH), 1101 S. Main Street, Fort Worth, unless otherwise noted.

For more information about any event or exercise, call 817-321-4879.

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Is your volunteer profile current?

Remember to update your online profile regularly. Keeping your profile updated ensures that we have the most up-to-date contact information and that assignments can be matched appropriately to your skill level. To access your volunteer profile, log on to www.bealocalhero.org/tarrantcounty and click the “update my profile” link.



Upcoming training

MRC Orientation

Saturday, March 7, 2009

10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

1101 S. Main Street, Fort Worth

Congratulations ...

... to the following Local Heroes who have diligently worked to complete the minimum training requirements to earn their MRC badge:

- Julie Adcock
- Linda Agwu
- Ana Alsina
- Elizabeth Ballard
- Donelle Barnes
- David Bernheisel
- Anthony Bissell
- Jamie Bowling
- Linda Carey
- Sandra Carey
- Peggy Catt
- Richard Catt
- Alicia Cleaver
- Rebecca Cortez
- Lee Cumbie
- Michelle Dozer
- Jon Harland
- Angela Glenn
- Ana Guerrero
- Jill Howard
- Kelly Kohls
- Whitney Krupala
- Nicolette Lanier
- Suzanne Lathrop
- Wanda Leslie
- Raymond Lindsey
- Frank Lonergan
- Ventres Malinke
- Donna McDaniels
- Sydney McGyver
- Michael Neu
- Keisha Resto
- William Resto-Rivera
- Val Roach
- Rhonda Richardson
- Johnny Sanders
- Theresa Seigler
- Melina Skidmore
- Connie Smith
- Wayne Smith
- Jennifer St. Peters
- Teresa Tevis
- Kimberly Trickett
- Donna Vickers
- Melinda Wetsel
- John Willis
- Scott Winter
- Jessica Wright
- Carol Zuber-Mallison