News from the Wyoming Department of Health

Tuesday, September 4, 2012

Volunteers Encouraged to Join Medical Reserve Corps Units September is National Preparedness Month

Potential volunteers who would like to donate time and expertise to help prepare for and respond to emergencies and promote healthy living are asked by the Wyoming Department of Health to consider joining a local Medical Reserve Corps unit.

"We are looking for individuals with medical training and experience as well as other interested people to serve as leaders and volunteers to either start or join local Medical Reserve Corps units," said Dr. Wendy Braund, state health officer and Public Health Division senior administrator with the Wyoming Department of Health.

Community-based Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) units are a specialized, health-related component of Citizen Corps, a national network of hometown security volunteers. The efforts of MRC volunteers supplement existing emergency and public health resources. MRC units help find local needs and support their communities throughout the year with various activities.

Braund offered some Wyoming examples of MRC activity:

- In Natrona County, the local MRC provides basic EMT support for the Special Olympics, Casper College athletic events and other events.
- The Albany County MRC has a strong presence with the University of Wyoming, and provides mental health first aid and fire rehabilitation.
- The Northeast Wyoming MRC helps with medical surge capacity for smaller hospital clinics during events.

Braund noted funding is available to start new local MRC units in Wyoming. "We'd love to see more active MRC units established across the state because they can help Wyoming be more prepared for potential health-related emergencies," she said.

Residents interested in joining an existing MRC or starting one in their area can contact Angelyn Mayes at 307-587-5366 or angelyn.mayes@wyo.gov for more information.

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