



# VOLUNTEER NEWSLETTER

LAVA/MRC is a monthly publication of the  
Center for Community Preparedness - Volunteer Management Program

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## ABOUT US

Louisiana Volunteers in Action (LAVA) works to recruit, credential, train, manage and deploy volunteers (medical and non-medical) for emergencies and day-to-day activities. LAVA is Louisiana's approach to the federally mandated Emergency Systems for Advance Registration of Volunteer Health Professionals (ESAR-VHP). LAVA and

the Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) Program were designed on the federal level to work collaboratively together during response.

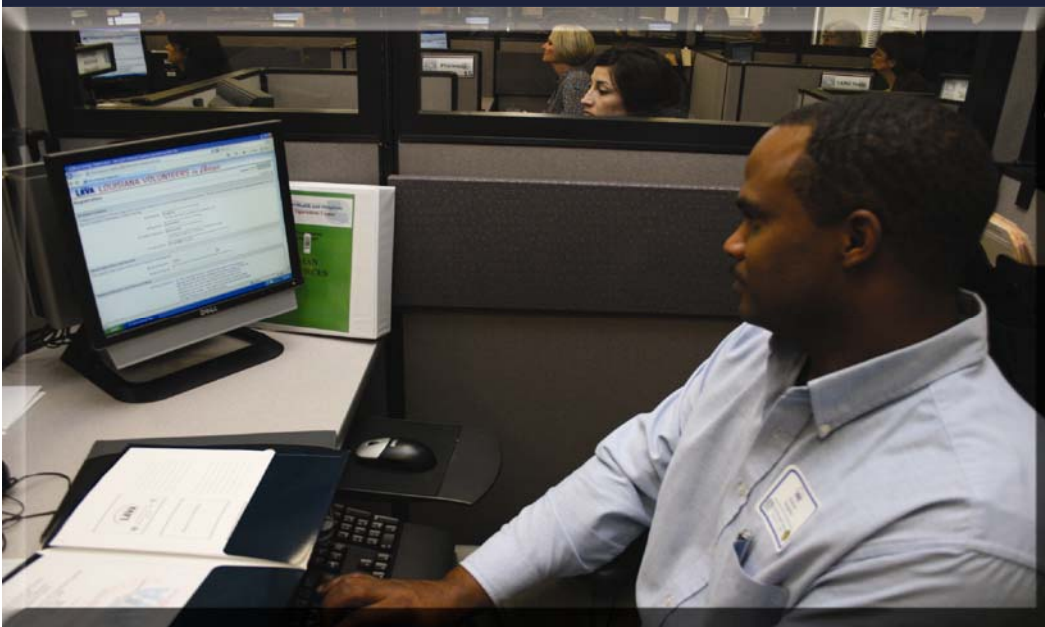
LAVA serves as a state-based registry of volunteers who have elected to serve primarily for disaster response. The MRC offers local day-to-day volunteer opportunities as well as local emergency response

opportunities. The MRC also allows volunteers to function as teams/units.

The unit approach to volunteering that the MRC offers proved to be invaluable during the 2005 Hurricane Season. Deploying self-sufficient teams that routinely "played" and trained together saved the state precious time and helped to sustain many lives.

## LAVA WEB SITE TRAINING

The LAVA Website Training was held on Monday, February 11, 2008, in the Department of Health and Hospitals (DHH) Emergency Operations Center (EOC). The new web site helps to recruit, train, credential and manage emergency volunteers. For medical professionals, the site is also able to handle all professional credentialing. The training updated regional staff on current Volunteer Management Program initiatives and provided prospective users with an overview of LAVA system administrative features.



Stephen Singleton, EMS Program Manager, participating in the LAVA Web site training at the Department of Health and Hospitals (DHH) Emergency Operation Center (EOC).

## Contact Us

For more information please visit the LAVA Web site at: [www.lava.dhh.louisiana.gov](http://www.lava.dhh.louisiana.gov) or you may call (225) 763-3965.

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## MRC NEWS



### DHH-OPH Hires a State Medical Reserve (MRC) Coordinator

It is with pleasure that we announce that Pamela Brue, MPA, has joined the Office of Public Health, Center for Community Preparedness as the state's Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) Coordinator. Pamela comes to us with a host of knowledge in program management and academia.

Pamela will assist/support the MRCs across the state, and help to develop new units in the state. There are

currently six registered MRC units in the State (Caddo/Bossier, Lake Charles, Lafayette, East Baton Rouge, New Orleans and Plaquemines).

MRC volunteers may include medical/public health professionals such as physicians, nurses, pharmacists, dentists, veterinarians, and epidemiologists. Volunteers may include non-medical individuals such as interpreters, chaplains, office workers, legal advisors, and others. These individuals can serve in key support positions during an emergency. The MRC intends to supplement the resources of the local public health infrastructure in the event of a large-scale emergency or disaster. MRC units concentrate on the specific needs of

its community and builds upon the infrastructure.

### MRC Outreach: We need your help to get the word out about the MRC. Things You Can Do to Help the MRC:

#### 1. Spread the Word!

If every member invited at least one friend to join, or brought them to a training event, the MRC could meet their recruitment goals immediately! Please remind prospective members that their involvement can be as little or as much as they would like. Their willingness to be pre-credentialed and contacted in case of an emergency means we would have a greater pool of qualified

volunteers to call on in a disaster. In this way, they could save lives in their community.

**2. Share Information.** If you know of an event occurring in your community in which the MRC could have a presence, let us know!!! (These include health fairs, church events, and school functions).

**3. Keep in Touch.** Contact the state MRC Coordinator by e-mail ([pbruel@dhh.la.gov](mailto:pbruel@dhh.la.gov)) or phone (225) 763-5545 with ideas for your MRC and updates.

**4. Keep Your Loved Ones Safe.** Learn about personal and family preparedness, to protect those whom you care about in case of emergency. A good source is the Citizen Corps Web site:

[www.citizencorps.gov/ready](http://www.citizencorps.gov/ready).

## TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

The State of Louisiana Office of Public Health collaborates extensively with the South Central Public Health Partnership (SCPHP). This partnership is comprised of four states (Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi) and two schools of public health (Tulane University School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine and University of Alabama at

Birmingham School of Public Health). The SCPHP centers of excellence are the South Central Center for Public Health Preparedness (SCCPHP), the South Central Public Health Training Center (SCPHTC), and the South Central Public Health Leadership Institute (SCPHLI) and Advanced Crisis Leadership

Institute (ACLI).

The partnership recognizes the need for solid training programs designed to meet the ever-changing challenges that public health employees face on a daily basis. These challenges fuel the need for education and training to ensure that workers have the necessary knowledge,

skills and abilities to perform their jobs, as well as the opportunity to continue their education.

This prompted the implementation of the SABA learning management system that is maintained by the partnership. This system is designed to allow employees to create their own account and have

## TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES (Continued)

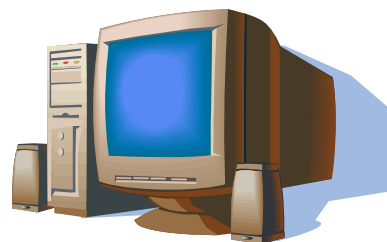
access to the numerous on-line courses hosted in the system.

The Office of Public Health and the South Central Public Health Partnership has once again collaborated on an initiative to allow volunteers to access and complete courses in the SABA learning management system at no cost to the volunteer. This serves a two-fold purpose as it reinforces the need for training course development that spans across all aspects of public health, and allows for volunteers to receive the training they need without cost to them. Links to the SABA learning management system are located in LAVA under the Profile Training section. You must log into LAVA to access these links.

## LAVA COURSE LISTING

The following courses are offered through the SABA learning management system. Please visit [www.lava.dhh.louisiana.gov](http://www.lava.dhh.louisiana.gov) to enroll in any of the Web-based courses:

- Applied Epidemiology of Terrorist Events
- Biological Response Preparedness for EMS
- Bioterrorism
- Bioterrorism Preparedness: Infectious Disease Control and Prevention
- Bioterrorism Preparedness: Infectious Disease Control and Prevention
- Bioterrorism Preparedness: Factors for the Emergence/Reemergence of Infectious Disease
- Bioterrorism Preparedness: Infectious Disease Epidemiology and Public Health Surveillance
- Bioterrorism Preparedness: Infectious Disease Transmission Dynamics
- Bioterrorism Preparedness: Principles of Emerging Infectious Diseases
- Bioterrorism: The Agents
- Bioterrorism: The Public Health Threat
- Chemical Terrorism
- Diversity and Cultural Competency in Public Health Settings-Basic Level
- Environmental Health Issues in a Disasters
- Environmental Health and Shelters
- Environmental Sampling and Monitoring in a Disaster
- Guidelines and Standards for a WMD Response
- Homeland Security: Defining Directives, Organization and Policies
- ICS-100: Introduction to the Incident Command System
- ICS-200: Basic Incident Command
- ICS-300: Intermediate Incident
- Command System
- ICS-400: Advanced Incident Command System
- ICS-700: An Introduction to National Incident Management System
- ICS-800: An Introduction to National Response Plan
- Implementing the National Strategy for Pandemic Influenza
- Mass Casualty Incident Triage
- Pediatric Issues in Disasters and Emergencies
- Planning and Execution for Disaster Response
- Using Risk Assessment in Chemical Emergencies to Protect Health
- Practice Based Scenarios for Recognition, Detection and Exposure Assessment of Chemical Terrorist Agents



## COURSE SPOTLIGHT

### Pediatric Issues in Disasters and Emergencies

The purpose of this introductory course is to provide an overview of pediatric issues that should be considered before, during, and after emergencies. In this course, the definition of disaster is all-hazards; some of the topics covered include: keeping children safe from violence after a disaster, basic preparatory

measures that caregivers should take in case of family separation due to disaster, and issue related to the pediatric health care system.

**Available for this course:**  
**Nursing: 7.9 CEUs and/or**  
**Social Work: 6 CEUs.**



# JOIN THE ACTION!

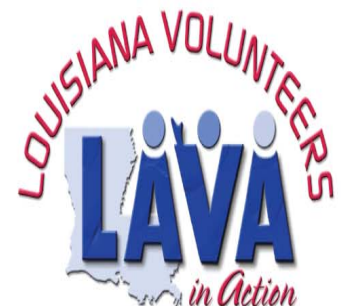
*Volunteer to help save lives!*

We've learned from Katrina and Rita that some emergencies can overpower a community. And, when local emergency responders become overwhelmed, volunteers are the next line of defense to save lives.

Today, more volunteers are needed than ever before . . . and it's easy to get involved.

Louisiana Volunteers in Action is a registry of people who are willing to help in times of emergencies. It doesn't matter if you have medical skills or office skills or if you can drive a truck or hand out supplies. Whatever your skills, all that is needed is the desire to help.

**Sign up today ... to help save a life tomorrow.**  
 Register at: [www.lava.dhh.louisiana.gov](http://www.lava.dhh.louisiana.gov)



Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals / Office of Public Health

## News From the Field

**T**he Texas State Animal Response Teams Disaster Summit was recently held in San Antonio Texas February 11-13, 2008. One of the major theme expressed from the Summit was that animal issues are people issues. By preparing all, both animal and human life can be saved. Some important tips to prepare animals are:

A. There are different laws pertaining to service animals. It is essential we become aware of the laws pertaining to animals in medical special needs shelters.

B. It is proven that pet owners are less likely to evacuate during orders than people without animals; the

more animals the less likely the household is to evacuate.

C. When Region 5 performs some kind of call down as such as SNAP or Operation Prepare we may want to ask if there will be a pet involved. This information could be passed on to the individuals who are dealing with the pet evacuation process.

D. When passing out information on supplies for future evacuees incorporate things a pet owner would need to include. Infection control is very important where animals and humans are together.

**Angela Jouett**  
**MRC Coordinator,**  
**DHH-OPH Region 5**

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We are on the WEB!

[www.lava.dhh.louisiana.gov](http://www.lava.dhh.louisiana.gov)

## SAVE-THE-DATE

### 2008 Medical Reserve Corps National Leadership and Training Conference

April 8-11, 2008

Portland, OR

### LPHA Pre-Summit Meeting

April 16, 2008

Baton Rouge, LA

### National Volunteer Week

April 27 - May 3, 2008

### Bus Triage Drill

June 2008

### Louisiana Volunteer Summit

Summer 2008

## PREPAREDNESS TIP OF THE MONTH



When preparing for a possible emergency situation, it's best to think first about the basics of survival: **fresh water, food, clean air and warmth.**

Recommended items to include in a Basic Emergency Supply Kit:

- **Water**, one gallon of water

per person per day for at least three days, for drinking and sanitation

- **Food**, at least a three-day supply of non-perishable food
- **Battery-powered** or **hand crank radio** and a NOAA Weather Radio with tone alert and extra batteries for both
- **Flashlight** and **extra batteries**
- **First aid kit**
- **Whistle** to signal for help
- **Dust mask**, to help filter contaminated air and plastic sheeting and duct tape to

shelter-in-place

- **Moist towelettes, garbage bags** and **plastic ties** for personal sanitation
- **Wrench** or **pliers** to turn off utilities
- **Can opener** for food (if kit contains canned food)
- **Local maps**

Source: <http://www.ready.gov/america/getakit/kit-print.html>