



## An All Volunteer - Nonprofit Organization

*Heroes aren't born. They volunteer!*

### FUN FACT

April is International Amateur Radio Month

### QUICK LINKS:

- [All Hazard Preparedness Guide](#)
- [GNR Health](#)
- [MRC GEM](#)
- [Emergency Planning for family](#)
- [Alerts and Warnings](#)
- [National MRC](#)



Left to right: Mark Reiswig, Sherwin Levinson, Patty Thumann, Roy Busby, Judee Levinson, Arnie Zwickel, Jim Newell (missing in photo: Dr. Audrey Arona, Anthony Varamo, Gerard Roets)

## MRC GEM RECEIVES THE PLATINUM CANDID AWARD

Platinum  
Transparency  
2022

Candid.

MRC GEM has received PLATINUM TRANSPARENCY SEAL from Candid. This is the highest level of recognition offered by Candid, the world's largest source of nonprofit information. To receive this we had to show strategic plan and goal highlights; metrics that demonstrate organization progress and results; financial reports; program information; organization mission; donation information; leadership information and more.

## PREPARING FOR RADIATION EMERGENCIES



NACCHO (National Association of County and City Health Officials) has put together [several resources](#) to help prepare for a radiation emergency.

Our current MRC GEM has a trained team to organize, establish, and engage a radiation issue within 48 hours after an accidental or intentional release of radioactive material into the environment. The CRC (Community

Reception Center) plays a vital role in radiological emergency response. Team members assess people potentially exposed to radiation or contaminated with radioactive material, effectively quell fears, isolate contamination cases and sources and minimize health risks. They also conduct & participate in periodic training and exercises to keep our skills honed for potential emergencies.

### In the know:

April 23 - CPR/AED Certification Class

May 21 - Advanced First Aid

June 25 - Radiation Response Basics

July 16-17 - Annual Training Summit

August 20 - Disaster Communication

### DID YOU KNOW?

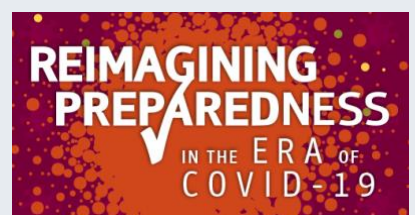
#### 9-1-1 Staffing Challenges

Nationwide Have Reached Staffing Shortage to A Crisis Stage. [Read full article](#)

#### FirstNet

Built with AT&T Now Covers More First Responders than Any Network in the Country. America's Public Safety Network Surpasses 2.81 million Square miles nationwide, Expands First Responder Access to 5G and Strengthens Commitment to Mission-Ready Infrastructure. [More info](#)

**Our MRC GEM Team** will be attending this Summit put on by NACCHO in April to come back with lots of great ideas.



## Why is the Medical Reserve Corps Needed?



The need for the Medical Reserves Corps (MRC) became apparent after the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, when medical and public health professionals, eager to volunteer in support of emergency relief activities, found that there was no organized approach to channel their efforts. As a result, the MRC was established to provide a way to recruit, train, and activate medical and public health professionals and other volunteers to respond to community health needs during disasters and other public health emergencies.

The Medical Reserve Corps Program Office is the national office of the MRC and is housed within the Readiness Division, Office of Emergency Management and Medical Operations, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). The MRC Program supports the MRC network by providing technical assistance, coordination, communications, strategy and policy development, grants and contract oversight, training, and other associated services. It provides information and best practices to help communities establish, implement, and maintain MRC units in order to achieve their local visions for public health and emergency preparedness.

There are 10 MRC regions and 10 regional liaisons across the United States and its territories. Regional liaisons collaborate with local MRC unit coordinators, state coordinators, medical and healthcare personnel as well as personnel at national, state, and local public health and emergency preparedness agencies. The MRC network comprises more than 200,000 volunteers in roughly 800 community-based units located throughout the United States and its territories.

## PUBLIC HEALTH AND PESTS



Our March speaker, Ron Harrison, Ph.D. an Entomologist spoke to us on how pests such as bed bugs, mosquitoes, ticks, cockroaches, rodents, etc. pose risks to your personal health. He brought samples and discussed how to handle during emergency responses such as working in evacuation shelters. We also watched a video on how yellow fever went around the globe, and how mosquitoes were finally proven to carry the disease, which tied in well with Dr Harrison's presentation.

## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

**Liza O'Neal** met Sherwin and Judee about eight years ago, when she was teaching a break-out session (triage) with the CERT program. She then joined MRC GEM soon after. Liza is the Lead for the Outreach Team, and organizes festivals throughout the year. She is a retired kindergarten teacher, and currently works with the city of Suwanee, on ways to engage children with nature.



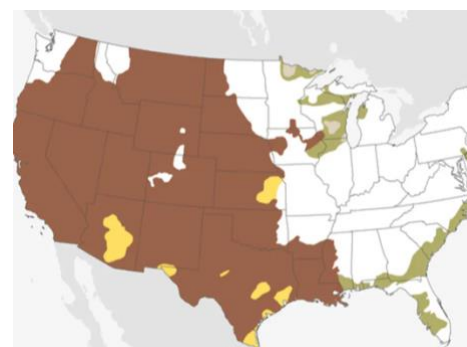
We would like to spotlight a member each month in our newsletter. [Tell us a little about yourself.](#)

## TECHNOLOGY



Virtual reality (VR) gaming technology is teaching us how people respond to emergencies. By investigating how certain factors influence people's decisions about the best course of action during disasters such as fire evacuation, earthquake evacuation and others. These insights can be used to further construct an array of [VR and AR experiments.](#)

## US Drought Predicted Spring 2022



(US National Weather Service)

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