



Volunteer Service Group

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MARICOPA COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC
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PUBLIC HEALTH
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MANAGEMENT

PHEM

www.maricopa.gov/public_health/
PHEM

ONLINE REGISTRATION - MOVING FORWARD!

(Brenda Hope, Volunteer Coordinator)

It's finally here. After months of customization, the new online VSG registration system is operational. Well . . . somewhat operational.

By visiting www.AZVolunteers.com and selecting the Maricopa County logo, new volunteers can register to join the VSG. If you have already registered as a VSG member, you can go to the site and update your volunteer profile.



In order to login to the system, volunteers need a "user ID" and "password". **Current volunteers with a valid email address should have received their login information via an email message. If you have email access and have not received this information, please let me know via email.** Volunteers are encouraged to change their user ID and password to make them more memorable; but remember . . . if you forget your login information, we must contact the system administrators to reset your access codes.

Volunteers who do not have email access will continue to get information via US mail.

Some people have had problems accessing the registration system, and we are working on the problem. If you have received your user ID and password but still cannot get onto the system, please let me know.

Another feature of the online VSG registration system is the ability to register for a particular POD location. Unfortunately, we have a few glitches in this part of the system and it is not functioning properly. We are working on the problem, and will let you know when this feature is operational.

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THANKS FOR YOUR HELP!

A special "thank you" is sent to all volunteers who have shared information about the VSG with others. In the event of an emergency, the more trained volunteers we have, the better off we will all be.

Over the past months, several VSG members have come forward and have helped organize and promote volunteer orientation sessions around the valley. To these volunteers, we offer the priceless gift of:

"Honorable Mention":

- Charlie Anson (Anthem)
- Kay Cosner (Marcos de Niza HS)
- Doug Daley (Gilbert HS)
- Bernie Korczyk (Chandler CERT)
- Tricia Toy (Marcos de Niza HS)
- Patricia Wagner (Paradise Valley)





VOLUNTEER SERVICE GROUP

SEASONAL INFLUENZA

(Robert French, MD, MPH - PHEM Medical Specialist)

Influenza season is officially here. I am sure that most of you have had your flu shot. However, I am also sure that there are a few of you who have not.

For those of you who fall into that second group, I would like to take this opportunity to point out some reasons to get immunized.



First, get immunized to prevent getting influenza this year. Seasonal influenza is most lethal to those who are very young, those who are very old and those with chronic underlying medical problems. Even if you do not consider yourself to be in one of these groups, influenza is a common reason for days off work and lost productivity. Furthermore, many of you are likely to come in contact with someone who is in a high risk group; this leads me to my second reason to get immunized . . .

Get immunized to prevent spreading influenza. For the most part, the very young, the very old and those with chronic underlying medical problems do not catch the virus from each other; they get it from those around them. If you don't get influenza, you will not give it to those around you.

On Thursday, December 21st from 12:00 noon to 4:00 pm we are conducting a small exercise of the immunization capabilities and emergency communication strategies at three public health sites:

East Valley Clinic

6118 E. Main St., Suite B 1-01
Mesa, 85205

Roosevelt Clinic

1645 E. Roosevelt St.
Phoenix, 85006

West Valley Clinic

6666 W. Peoria Ave., #113
Glendale, 85032

All VSG members and their family members who need a flu shot are invited to come to one of these sites for a FREE influenza vaccination! Your participation will help us test the number of people who can be served at a clinic location. You do not need to register in advance to get a flu shot – just show up during clinic hours. See you there!

SITES TO SEE 00

Homeland Responder is a web-based video information network that delivers real stories and lessons of preparedness, response, and recovery to responders (including volunteer responders) across the nation.



Visit www.homelandresponder.org, and click on "Homeland Responder" (on the blue bar at the top of the page). You can view "video briefs" on topics ranging from "Hurricane Katrina Lessons Learned" to "NIMS/ICS 100: Introduction to the Incident Command System". And it's free!



The **Arizona Center for Public Health Preparedness** offers a course named "Introduction to Public Health Preparedness". This online course provides an overview of public health, emergency preparedness, planning and response. The ten essential services of public health, public health planning at the federal, state, and county level, the National Incident Management System, Incident Command System and its integration into public health emergency response will be introduced. To register, visit http://azcphp.publichealth.arizona.edu/Training_Center.



Holiday Cooking: Keeping it Safe!

(from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention - <http://www.cdc.gov/foodsafety/holidaycook.htm>)

As the holidays approach we like to celebrate by entertaining friends and family, throwing parties, and preparing feasts. From the buffet table to the office party, food moves center stage throughout the holiday season. Be sure to keep food safe by following basic food safety steps...

Clean: Wash hands and food-contact surfaces often. Bacteria can spread throughout the kitchen and get onto cutting boards, knives, sponges, and counter tops.

Separate: Don't cross-contaminate--don't let bacteria spread from one food product to another. This is especially true for raw meat, poultry and seafood. Keep these foods and their juices away from ready-to-eat foods.

Cook: Cook to proper temperatures. Foods are properly cooked when they are heated for a long enough time and at a high enough temperature to kill the harmful bacteria that cause foodborne illness.

Chill: Refrigerate promptly. Refrigerate foods quickly keeps most harmful bacteria from growing and multiplying. Refrigerators should be set at 40 F and the freezer at 0 F, and the accuracy of the settings should be checked occasionally with a thermometer.



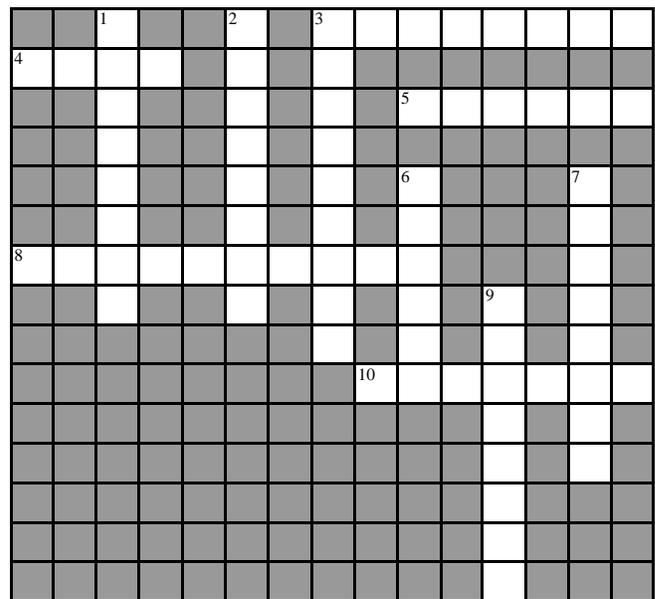
TRAINING CORNER

(Virgil Martinez - PHEM Training Specialist)

The Maricopa County Public Health Emergency Management Training Team has completed

Level I POD Orientation at many high schools throughout the county. We also completed ICS/NIMS training for more than 450 employees of the Public Health Department. Our next steps include developing and implementing Point of Dispensing (POD) Functional Area Training. This training will give VSG members a chance to learn about the various jobs at a POD; this includes POD set-up, operations, logistical support, communications, and demobilization. Our training modules are almost complete and we anticipate conducting six regional training sessions in early 2007. Additionally we are making plans to involve the VSG in functional exercises, which will be conducted later in 2007. Finally, we plan to showcase what we have learned by conducting a full scale drill in 2008, which will involve many of our partner agencies and responder groups. We will keep you informed of the latest training and exercise offerings as they develop.

PUZZLE TIME



ACROSS

- 3. _____ Command System
- 4. Get a flu _____.
- 5. _____ Health Preparedness
- 8. _____ Area Training
- 10. It's priceless: "Honorable _____"

DOWN

- 1. _____ Responder
- 2. A cause of foodborne illness
- 3. A seasonal illness
- 6. _____ registration system
- 7. Needed to access the registration system
- 9. _____ Incident Management System



VOLUNTEER SERVICE GROUP

VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION - LEVELS I & II

With the New Year comes new opportunities to attend VSG Orientation (Levels I & II)! These sessions are quick review of the basics of Public Health Emergency Management (Level I) and the latest information about our Emergency Response Plan; including volunteer deployment and an overview of the Incident Command System (Level II). In order to participate in future trainings and exercises, volunteers must complete Level II training. And don't forget . . . Level II training is where volunteers take pictures for their VSG ID Badges.

Upcoming Sessions (more to follow):

Monday, January 22, 2007

6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
Avondale Fire Station 172
1825 N. 107th Ave
Avondale, 85323

Thursday, January 25, 2007

6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Scottsdale Library - Mustang
10101 N. 90th St.
Scottsdale, 85258

Wednesday, January 31, 2007

10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Lakeview Recreation Center
10626 W. Thunderbird Blvd
Sun City, 85351

PLEASE RSVP!

Contact the Volunteer Coordinator, Brenda Hope, at BrendaHope@mail.maricopa.gov or by calling (602) 372-2662 to register for one of these sessions.

A reminder about VSG ID Badges . . . Photos are taken during Level II training, and badges will be distributed as part of Functional Area Training.



Maricopa County Department of Public Health
Public Health Emergency Management
Volunteer Coordinator
4041 N. Central Ave., #600
Phoenix, AZ 85012