Volunteer Appreciation Month

CONTRA COSTA MRC MEMBER RECEIVES NATIONAL OUTSTANDING MRC RESPONDER OF THE YEAR AWARD

Each year, ASPR solicits nominations for MRC Awards Recognition During Volunteer Appreciation month. While each and every day, we are grateful for the commitment and dedication of our MRC team members, we find it appropriate to submit nominations for our team members that have gone above and beyond. The Contra Costa MRC Office submitted three nominations this year. Of the 150 submissions, one of our volunteers received an award. Trust us, this is the hardest thing to do. All of you are deserving. While all of our nominees did not select, we still wanted to share our appreciation.

Dr. Al Tobias received the National Outstanding MRC Responder Award, announced Tuesday via webinar.

Dr. Tobias is one of the founders of the Contra Costa MRC. Since 2009, he helped develop the mission and capability sets of the MRC. When he was doing this, I am not sure he, as a retired physician would ever actually believe he would be around to respond to a real event as he envisoned the unit would do at some point. He remained a focused and dedicated volunteer always providing time when he could and offering mentorship to each new coordinator as they entered the position. For California, 2018 was an unprecedented year for wildfires. In late July, the River and Ranch Fire (Mendocino Complex) started in Mendocino and Lake County California. As many resources were committed to the Carr Fire response operations for this fire were challenging. Several MRC volunteers stood up to help with medical care in shelters, but the dedication of Dr. Tobias really stood out. He provided more than 50 volunteer hours to the response ensuring there was always a provider available. He showed
compassion to the unique needs of the population. Several times he had to think outside the box to make sure people were well cared for. But his dedication was not just to patient care. He provided the same guidance and mentorship to the fill-in coordinator as he has done for the past ten years. Without him there, I do not believe the fill-in Coordinator could have been as successful in such a challenging and chaotic response. Dr. Tobias is a strong advocate for the MRC and this shows it.

KURT BILSE RN WAS ALSO NOMINATED FOR OUTSTANDING MRC RESPONDER

Kurt volunteered 64 hours at the Mendocino Complex Fire, Lake County in August of 2018. As part of the Contra Costa County MRC, Kurt provided nursing care to shelter residence in Lake County. Kurt’s caring and compassion was evident in his treatment and interactions with all the shelter residence and his presence in the clinic made the long days bearable. Kurt provided exceptional nursing care to the most fragile of shelter residence and was always available for whoever may have questions or concerns about their health.

Kurt was also able to share his experience with many others through a newspaper article, carefully written to share his experience as a volunteer. This provided an insight that many do not have. His thoughtful essay captured the experience of an MRC volunteer and the disasters that we respond to. Kurt exemplifies the spirit of volunteerism.

DR. LES HATA WAS NOMINATED FOR OUTSTANDING PREPAREDNESS AND RESILIENCE RESPONDER

Dr Les Hata is an amazing volunteer and a truly valued asset to the unit. I refer to him as the unit’s swiss army knife”. He is the teams communications team lead, and co-leads the logistics team. He has been a member with the Contra Costa MRC since 2010. In 2018, he has participated in 11 community events and also responded to the Mendocino Complex Fires this year. The community events range from teaching hands-only CPR and AED use, Stop the Bleed training, Emergency Preparedness training and being a team lead at first aid events such as the Women’s March, and the Moraga Triathlon. He has great leadership skills and applies concepts of ICS and emergency management to each event. He advocates for the MRC when he is.
working with our Office of Emergency Services Partners such as CERT and SAR ensuring they understand our capabilities and roles in the community. As a co-lead for logistics he has been instrumental in helping the MRC unit move into its new warehouse space. He has dedicated several weekends helping organize and inventory the team resources. Lastly, he is a great mentor. As part of our MRC mission, he meets with local high school students providing career advice, discusses the MRC and what it means to volunteer.

DON'T FORGET
CCC MRC Operations & Deployment Training

On Saturday, April 13, 2019 0900 a.m.- 2:00 p.m. we will conduct an all member training. This training will focus on MRC operations during responses and deployment readiness. We want all MRC members to attend. Topics will include: Deployment Expectations, Equipment Cache and Logs, Pharmacy Coordination, Infection Control, and more.

Morning snacks, and lunch will be provided.

Register Here, few slots left!
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeBdR3HMyW36-500MmqD72sn7iWDQC2SxWYmZrhypV90sWtVQ/viewform?usp=sf_link

Welcome to the MRC
Robert Blu, Rheba Estante, Naomi Harada, Liz Isenberg, Lin Pszyk, Jenna Hawton-Calinasan
Grethel Leff, Michael Mendoza, Mikhail Karton

RECRUITMENT:
Please have new recruits contact Jae Grossi at jenna.grossi@cchealth.org or at ContraCostaMRC@gmail.com to start the application process. You can also contact her for recruitment material.

Upcoming MRC Events
Hazmat Drill | April 18, 2019 0900-1300 | 4900 Sand Creek Rd. Antioch, CA | We need 2-3 medical volunteers to do rehab for the Dozier students participating in a hazmat drill. You will watch them for safety and s/s of hypothermia.

https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0C4CAA72EA5F58-hazmat

MOFD Open House | May 4, 2019 1000-1300 | 33 Orinda Way, Orinda, CA | Hands Only CPR/AED/Stop the Bleed Demos | Both medical and non-medical are welcome to participate.

https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0C4CAA72EA5F58-mofd1

Rossmoor EPO Safety Fair | September 28, 2019, 0730-1300 | Hillside Clubhouse | EP education & Training

* Contact the MRC Coordinator for more details if you are interested in any of these events*