



Greater Fall River MRC serving:

Fall River, Somerset, Swansea, Westport

Press Release – For Immediate Release
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Greater Fall River Medical Reserve Corps Attends Annual Training

Duxbury, MA - Members of the Greater Fall River Medical Reserve Corps (GFRMRC) recently attended the **Region 5 Southeast Massachusetts Medical Reserve Corps 2nd Annual Training Day** held in Duxbury, Massachusetts. MRC volunteers participated in a full day of seminars such as Bioterrorism Training, Psychological First Aid, CPR/AED/Chokesaving, Social Media in Disaster and PPE/Blood Borne Pathogens.

Locally, the MRC wants citizens to be ready for disasters and major emergencies. Members of the community can prepare their families for the unexpected. Hurricanes, tornadoes, and flooding storms have devastated Massachusetts in recent years. Tammy Lamothe, R.N., Somerset Town Nurse attended the **Emergency Preparedness Begins at Home: Preparing for an Emergency Seminar**. Mrs. Lamothe stated that “it was an excellent training that will help me and my community prepare for an emergency.”

Attendees were handed a planning guide which included contact information forms, disaster kit contents and evacuation kit checklists, and an emergency contact list. The seminar stressed how important a family communication plan is during times of crisis. With the proliferation of wireless devices, it has become understood that “texting” may become the first form of communications in a disaster when voice communications may not be available.

JoAnne Breault, Somerset Resident, attended the **Small Animal Handling Awareness & Intro to Pet First Aid**. Ms. Breault stated “Most people would refuse to leave their homes during an emergency if it meant leaving their pets behind. I am proud to live in a community like Somerset that makes accommodations for pets at the local shelter.” Methods for taking a pulse, dressing wounds, and pet CPR were demonstrated by Amy Breton, CVT, VTS. Evaluating pet behavior and methods for safely handling animals were stressed.

Tracy Mayo, RS, Health Agent for the Town of Duxbury, also served as host agency for this training event held at the Duxbury Council on Aging. “We had 118 attendees from all over regions 4 & 5, nursing students, and EMT’s. It was a successful day with a great turnout. We had wonderful instructors with a wealth of knowledge. Jennifer Frenette, the Regional Coordinator, USDHHS Region I, Division of the Civilian Volunteer MRC, was able to attend and open up the day for us. It was a great way to celebrate our 10th Anniversary of MRC.”

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Alvin L. McMahon, GFRMRC Coordinator, stated "I can only add that this training day was very successful, from start to finish. The excellent attendance was contributed to months of planning and preparation, a large selection of courses offered, and a first class facility that could accommodate everything. A number of repeat attendees remembered how well this same type of training was conducted here for the two previous years."

MRC Region 5 is an emergency preparedness region designated by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. It consists of 71 local public health departments in Bristol County, Plymouth County, the Cape and Islands. These departments work together to prepare and respond to emergencies. Within Region 5, there are 12 Medical Reserve Corps Units recognized federally by the U.S. Surgeon General's Office who collaborate to offer training for and response emergencies.

The Greater Fall River Medical Reserve Corps is always looking for volunteers, both medical and non-medical personnel. Free training is provided. For more information about this event or the GFRMRC, contact the Coordinator, **Alvin L. McMahon at 401-864-1597 or send e-mail to ALMBlueSky@aol.com**. For publicity information and photos of the event, contact JoAnne Breault at JoAnne.Breault@GMail.com.

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