



ASPR

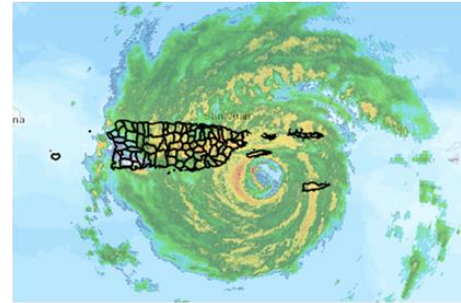
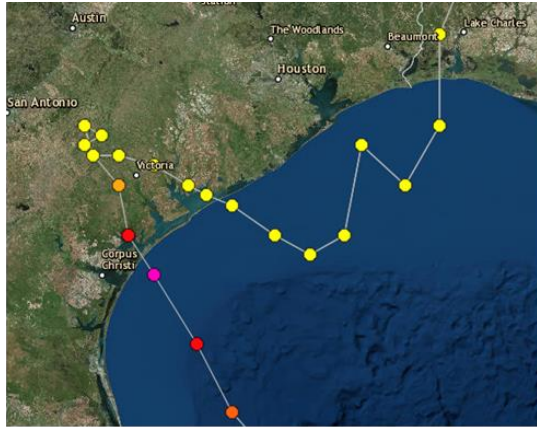
Blindfolded and Pedaling Backwards Through Wind, Rain, and Rising Waters: Medical Reserve Corps Activations During the Catastrophic 2017 Hurricane Season

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2017 Hurricane Timeline



September 6, 2017
Hurricane Irma impacts the USVI.

September 20, 2017
Hurricane Maria makes
landfall in Puerto Rico.

August 26, 2017
Hurricane Harvey makes landfall
30 miles northeast of the city of
Corpus Christi.

September 10, 2017
Hurricane Irma makes
landfall in Florida.

August 2017

September 2017

October 2017

MRC Units Activate

2017 Atlantic Hurricane Season

- The season produced 17 named storms. Ten storms became hurricanes. Six of these ten were major hurricanes (Category 3, 4, or 5).
- Three major hurricanes made landfall in the U.S.: 1) Harvey in Texas, 2) Irma in the Caribbean and southeastern U.S., and 3) Maria in the Caribbean and Puerto Rico.
- In the U.S., over 25 million people were impacted by Harvey, Irma, and Maria.
 - These hurricanes produced significant and unique challenges to the health, safety, and well-being of residents in a widespread geographic area.

MRC Response Efforts

- Approximately 100 MRC units, spread out across the nation, supported hurricane-related efforts.
- Units supported a vast range of preparedness and response activities.
 - MRC units continue to provide support to recovery missions.
- Based on reported data, MRC volunteers provided over 100,000 hours of service, and in excess of \$3,750,000 of in-kind support during the 2017 hurricane season.

Session Objectives

- Identify how lessons learned from community-level responses can contribute to resiliency from events that impact the state, regional, or national levels.
- Identify potential obstacles and solutions to response dilemmas when volunteers have been impacted by the disaster that they are supporting.
- Identify proactive ways to train MRC programs to assist in the wake of a catastrophic disaster.

Region VI Overview

- Texas, Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, and New Mexico (TALON)
- Currently 96 MRC units
- Over 30,000 volunteers
- Large teams in metropolitan areas
- MRCs play pivotal role in region

Texas Evacuation Process

- State routinely evacuates citizens
- GPS tracking system on buses
- Reception centers in designated cities
- Evacuated citizens dispersed statewide

Region VI Response History

- Region VI MRC units activated 36 times in 2016 & 46 times in 2017
- Reasons for activation
 - Public Health threats
 - Weather (floods, tornadoes, hurricanes, extreme temps)
 - Wildfires, earthquakes

Before the Storm

- August 21st – August 24th : Status update calls/emails
- August 22nd – August 24th : Most MRCs on standby
- August 25th : Email...“This is bad, REAL bad...!”

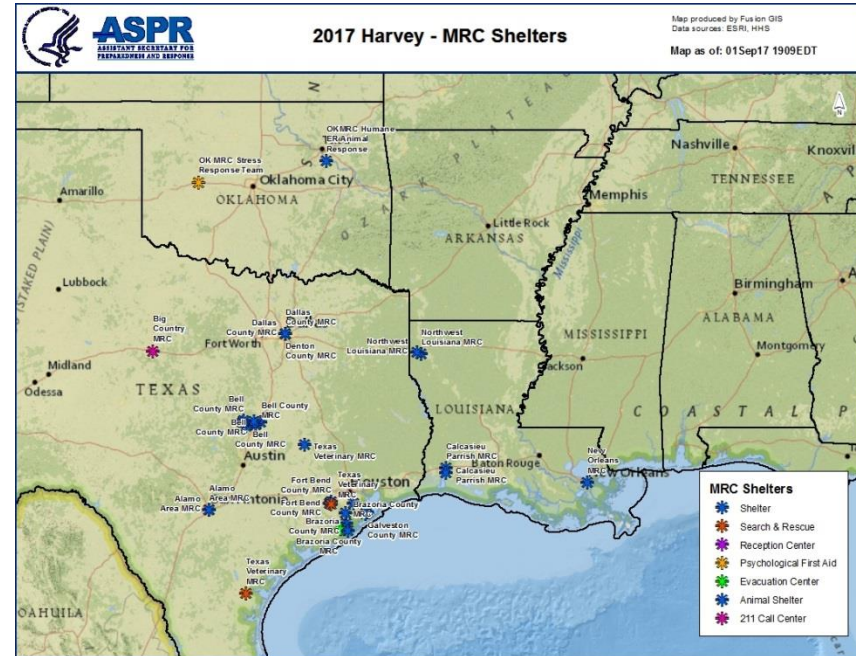
Houston, TX After the Storm



Photos: Courtesy of Google Images

Hurricane Harvey MRC Response

- 23 MRC units in Texas, Louisiana, and Oklahoma activated:
 - 28 shelters
 - 2 call centers
 - 3 reception/evacuation centers



MRC Veterinary Units



Dr. Amy Hilburn, TX
Vet, MRC Director



Puppies delivered in Texas

- Deployed to rescue animals (domestic animals and livestock)
- Emergency medical care
- Shelter services

Challenges & Opportunities

Challenges

- Unprecedented rain with hurricane
- Housing shortage prior to storm
- Skilled contractor shortage
- Funding for MRC units biggest challenge

Opportunities

- Exponential growth of units during Harvey
- Volunteers remain engaged
- Some units added hundreds of new volunteers
- Units continue to add new skill sets

Recovery Efforts

- Staffing charity clinics
- Disaster case management
- ASPR Recovery Community Landscape Assessment (Helped to identify barriers)
- Well water testing
- Tire collection

Lesson Learned

Personal preparedness is still the BIGGEST predictor of a volunteer's willingness to respond.



Calcasieu Parish MRC

Meets President & First Lady

