APRIL/ MAY 2025 ISSUE # 40





NEWSLETTER



MRC GEM receives the 2025 Public Health Award

On April 5th, MRC GEM received the Public Health Award during the 2025 Glam & Gratitude Gala hosted by Help for Healthcare Professionals, Inc. The event celebrates the leaders, visionaries, and innovators who work to shape the future of healthcare. A special thank you to Tony Varamo (pictured top right) for accepting the award on behalf of MRC GEM.



We are excited to welcome our new Editor-in-Chief for the MRC GEM Newsletter,

Dr. Stacia Wilson

For over 22 years, Anthony J. Varamo has been a cornerstone of MRC GEM. As a dedicated board member, Tony has provided strategic oversight of our all-volunteer team, expertly managing operations that directly support our core mission. His leadership has been instrumental in maintaining the high level of operational effectiveness essential for responding to both natural and man-made incidents. We are thrilled to recognize Tony not only as one of our longstanding volunteers and board members but also to announce his promotion to the new Executive Director of MRC GEM. Join us in celebrating Tony's remarkable contributions and this exciting new chapter in our organization's journey!

MRC-GEM is an all-volunteer nonprofit whose mission is to augment community health operations during large-scale emergencies, aid response to pressing health care needs, and improve community emergency preparedness. Our volunteers speak over 70 different languages and dialects, allowing us to serve Georgia's Gwinnett, Newton, and Rockdale Counties, a highly diverse population of well over 1.2 million people. COVID is a perfect example.

The Preparedness Pot: Insight & Inside MRC GEM

Where we stir together timely updates, expert insights, and must-know information to keep you ready and in the know.

During the recent Cobalt Magnet 25 exercise, international, federal, state, and local agencies joined forces to rigorously test and refine their response strategies for radiological emergencies. Our very own Sherwin Levinson, Radiological Operations Support Specialist (ROSS), played a pivotal role by assisting the CDC's Health Physics Cell in developing critical recommended actions, drawing on his expertise as a radiological/nuclear incident subject matter expert. Active on-site from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. throughout the week, Sherwin's intensive pre-exercise preparations and ongoing post-event evaluations have been central to shaping the forthcoming After Action Report. This collaborative effort, highlighted by insights from the NNSA exercise, continues to set a high standard for emergency response and preparedness in the face of radiological challenges.

To learn more about Colbalt Magnet 25, visit: <u>https://www.energy.gov/</u>

Interested in becoming a Radiological Operations Support Specialist (ROSS): <u>https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/documents/fema_emerging-threats-</u> <u>ross.pdf</u>

Submitted by Sherwin Levinson

Got a Story to Share?

We'd love to hear from you! If you would like to submit an article to be considered for the MRC GEM Newsletter, please email Stacia Wilson at stacia@mrcgem.com. Your contributions help keep our community informed, engaged, and prepared! #MRCGEM #StayConnected

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www.mrcgem.com

TRAINING CORNER: SHARPEN YOUR SKILLS

15th Annual MRC GEM Summit - Hazmat Training	
475 Technology Pkwy NW,	
Peachtree Corners, GA, 30092	May 17 - May 18, 2025
Evacuation Shelter Training_	June 21, 2025
ICS-100 & ICS-700 Training	July 19, 2025
<u>CSI</u>	August 16, 2025
<u>18th Annual Volunteer Appreciation Picnic</u> Medlock Corporate Pavilion 4758 S Old Peachtree Rd, Norcross, GA, 30071 Sept. 14, 2025	
WMD_	October 18, 2025
FEMA Training_	November 15, 2025
<u>Volunteer Recognition Holiday Luncheon (MEMBERS ONLY)</u> December 13, 2025	
Unless otherwise noted, programs are on the third Saturday of each month, from 9 AM to 12 noon, at GNR Public Health, 2570 Riverside Parkway, Lawrenceville, GA 30046. Members, quests, and prospective members are welcome to	

join us on a space-available basis for most programs.

To add events to your calendar or to find out more about upcoming member events, Click the link below:

MRC GEM Schedule

Mission Ready: MRC Volunteers in Action

The topic of March's training was Mass Casualty Triage and Bleeding Control. Members trained in triage and first aid using the ABC's of mass casualty response, including Stop The Bleed. MRC GEM members received a Stop The Bleed kit.



While April's showers help usher in the beauty of May flowers, they can also bring hazardous weather conditions. Thunderstorms may produce dangerous phenomena like damaging winds, tornadoes, heavy hail, and even flooding or flash floods, while winter storms might deliver freezing rain, sleet, snow, and strong winds. It's essential to understand the necessary precautions to take before, during, and after these severe weather events.

How to Prepare for Severe Weather

Develop a family communications strategy ahead of severe weather. Assemble emergency supplies for your home, workplace, and car, and review your insurance policies to ensure you have sufficient coverage.

For more information on how you can prepare yourself, your family, and your home for severe weather, visit :

https://www.ready.gov/severe-weather

May Preparedness Tip

Don't Fry Day—observed the Friday before Memorial Day by the National Council on Skin Cancer Prevention—promotes sun safety and urges everyone to protect their skin outdoors, every day. https://www.epa.gov/sunsafety/dont-fry-day

May is recognized as <u>National Wildfire</u> <u>Awareness</u> Month. <u>https://www.ready.gov/wildfires</u>

<u>National Hurricane Preparedness Week</u> <u>May 4- May 10, 2025</u> <u>https://www.noaa.gov/hurricane-prep</u>

PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCIES Call 1-866-PUB-HLTH anytime, 24/7.

Stronger Together: MRC & Partners in Preparedness COMMUNITY & CORPORATE PARTNERSHIPS



Your Kroger Plus Card can help support our programs at no cost to you. Go to <u>Community</u> <u>Rewards</u> to enroll your card in support of MRC GEM.After registering your Kroger Plus Card, search for MRC GEM (org. #JI419) and select us as your supported organization. Once you do, Kroger will donate a percentage of what you spend to MRC GEM.



Click each logo to learn more !





Support MRC GEM every time you shop. Donate spare change by automatically rounding up your orders to the nearest dollar at checkout. Go to <u>Walmart Spark Good</u> for more information and to enroll in the program.



"Empower our community's emergency preparedness—your donation today helps build a safer, more resilient tomorrow."

https://mrcgem.com/donate

We are pleased to recognize our valued donors in these ways:

For a donation of \$ 1000 or more, the donor's name and logo will be displayed as a Principal Sponsor at all meetings as well as on the donor web page. Your donation will provide a weekend of in-depth training for 4 or more volunteers.

For a donation of \$ 500 - \$ 999, the donor's name and logo will be displayed as Sustaining Sponsor at one monthly meeting and on our donor web page. Your donation will provide a weekend of in-depth training for 2 - 4 volunteers.

Supporting (\$ 250 – \$ 499) and Preparedness (up to \$ 249) donors will be recognized on our donor web page. Your donation will help us provide regular monthly training sessions for our volunteers.

To verify us directly with the IRS, click the link below: <u>https://apps.irs.gov/app/eos/</u>

Search for EIN 26-1280067.

Donate

If you prefer to mail a check, please make it out to "MRC GEM" and mail to: MRC GEM 2700 Braselton Hwy, Ste 10-193 Dacula, GA 30019-3262 Platinum Transparency 2025 Candid.

Stronger Together

MRC GEM (East Metro Health District Medical Reserve Corps, Inc.) is a Georgia non-profit corporation with IRS 501(c)(3) approval. Donations are tax-deductible as provided by the Federal and State tax codes.

Your gift, no matter how large or small, helps us make our community a safer place for all of us. Since we are an independent nonprofit with no paid staff, we depend entirely on the generosity of donors like you. Every penny you donate goes directly to fulfilling our mission.

You can donate cash directly and conveniently through the PayPal giving fund using your credit card or PayPal account. The full donation amount comes to us; PayPal charges no fee for this service.



https://www.paypal.com/fundraiser/charity/63682

If you have any questions about donating, please email us at donations@mrcgem.com We appreciate your interest and support.

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www.mrcgem.com

An All **VOLUNTEER**

Organization

Visit our website to find out more about becoming a MRC GEM volunteer. Become an MRC GEM HERO TODAY!

<u>mrcgem.com/join</u>



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