

## Health Department Exercise a Success Due to You!

Our local **Frederick County Health Department** has many emergency responsibilities in addition to its day to day mission and activities. Being prepared to manage biological threats is one of those ancillary jobs it must manage. The recent **mock anthrax event** exercise at Monocacy Valley Church was one of the ways they are becoming better prepared to carry out those duties.

Many thanks to the many EVC/MRC members who assisted at this exercise by playing victims of exposure and participating in clinic management roles!

Due to your efforts, the clinic was not only able to train nurses for response, but correctly dispensed medications to two hundred mock victims and improved response times per patient.

*“The Medical Reserve Corps volunteers made it possible for us to simulate 200 persons receiving a medical screening, education, and medications from a medication distribution clinic. They also contributed through their roles as greeters, line monitors, registrars, and medication distribution assistants. The volunteers were great and helped to make the exercise a success. The continued interest of volunteers will enable future larger exercises to be conducted.” - Dr. Barbara Brookmyer, Frederick County Health Officer*

**Family Preparedness Tip:** Have a 3-4 day supply of water at home for drinking, ( 1 gallon per person per day), and washing and food prep.

## Frederick Memorial Hospital Preparedness Drill

Drills, like real emergency events, are never perfect. But on a beautiful May day, over 60 Emergency Corps volunteers participated in a realistic and dramatic **mock helicopter crash** to test the response systems at Frederick Memorial Hospital. Our team included not only adults, but children, disabled individuals, non-native speakers and a contingent of the deaf community. We can be proud of the realistic microcosm of our local community that were involved, and the realistic challenges we posed for the responders.

As our makeup expert, **Amy Martin** of the MET said, we were ‘given use of all their facilities.’ You may recall that Amy was our hysterical woman who managed to play her role all the way to the seclusion room! There appeared to be several great actors born that day, which was a wonderful part of the realism at the scenes.

Patients were triaged on site of the disaster, transported to the hospital and treated according to their scenario wounds. **Inside the facility, every department was monitored** and prepared to respond according to emergency plans. Plus, a bomb threat was managed within the hospital at the same time!

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*“The tools for successfully planning for unexpected events are our shared values and the support of the community. The Emergency Volunteer Corps, Frederick County Fire and Rescue, Frederick City Police and Frederick Memorial Hospital staff and Physicians came together to test our resolve to be prepared for such events and that test was successful. We were pleased to see the support of the community, and especially the support of the Emergency Volunteer Corps, at our recent Disaster Preparedness Drill.” - John Veltri, FMH Drill Commander*