

CARING COMMUNITY NETWORK OF THE TWIN RIVERS GREATER FRANKLIN-BRISTOL CERT/MRC

The *RESPONDER*



Serving the Communities of
Andover, Alexandria, Bridgewater, Bristol, Danbury, Franklin, Groton,
Hebron, Hill, New Hampton, Northfield, Salisbury, Sanbornton, and Tilton



Acronym Alley

Ever wonder what all of the acronyms mean? Here is the code to figure some out. Look for new ones each month:

DBHRT: Disaster Behavioral Health Response Team

ARC: American Red Cross

AAR: After Action Report

MMRS: Metropolitan Medical Response System

PPE: Personal Protective Equipment

UPCOMING EVENTS

July 1-Radio Communication Training*

Dick Christopher will give a layman's training on radio communication from 6-8:30

July 11- Alexandria Old Home Day

Come see the logistics trailer and CERT /MRC display

July 18- Sanbornton Old Home Day

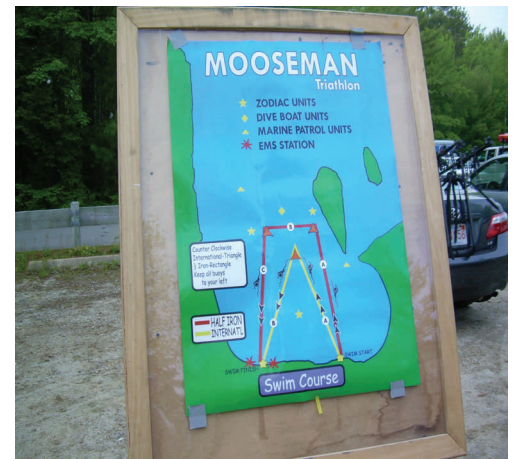
See our CERT and MRC display

August 5--Map & Compass

Training by David Stamps on basic map and compass skills everyone should know. 6pm-8:30pm

For more information on any of these trainings please call Donna Quinn at 934-0177 X 136 or dquinn@ccntr.org

CERT HELPS WITH THE MOOSEMAN TRIATHLON



On June 6 and 7th the Greater Franklin-Bristol CERT team along with several members of the Lakes Region CERT team had a presence at the Mooseman Triathlon in the Newfound Area. This is the second year that the CERT team has been requested to assist with this event. The team provided logistical support, and assisted with traffic control.

YOU CAN VISIT US ON THE WEB

You can now visit us on the web at www.gfbcertmrc.com. Newsletters and upcoming training dates, and photos will be posted there. This will provide a great resource for information and we encourage you to check it out.

NEW DATE FOR POINT OF DISPENSING EXERCISE

May 16th was to be the date that our region would take part in a State-wide exercise to test our ability to open a Point of Dispensing or a POD. The POD is a predetermined location where community members can come to receive medication in the event of public health emergency. Due to the concern over the H1N1 flu the date of the exercise was moved. The new date for this exercise is October 17, 2009. Any community members or volunteers who are interested in being a part of this Public Health exercise can contact Donna Quinn at 934-0177 X 136 or dquinn@ccntr.org

PETS AND EMERGENCIES

WRITTEN BY MICHELLE CUNHA
GREATER FRANKLIN-BRISTOL CERT/MRC

CERT
and
MRC

To assume one will not be affected by a disaster in one's community is naïve. Every community in every state in the United States is affected in some way. Disasters take many forms from hazardous material spills, airplane crashes, train derailments, and weather emergencies including floods, wildfires, droughts, tornadoes, and hurricanes to smaller disasters such as house fires or trees in the living room. Finding alternative shelter for your family quickly can be very trying in the best of time. What happens when animals need sheltering also?

Individuals may already know where to go in the event of a disaster. Some may stay with a relative, friend, or in a motel. In the plan you have made for you and your family, have you factored your pets and livestock in? Will friends and relatives be willing and able to shelter a family plus pets? What about area motels and hotels. Do you know if those in your area accept pets?

Disaster kits prepared beforehand make for an easier evacuation in a time of crisis especially when kept by the door. Kits should include pet and livestock medical records including vaccinations and rabies certificates; veterinarian contact information; photos of all animals from all sides and specifically any identifying markings; non-perishable food for three days; treats; manual can opener; water; first aid kit; medications; muzzle (even the nicest dog can bite when stressed); cat litter pan and scoop; plastic bags for feces pickup; paper towels; leash; spare collars; identification tags; toys; comfort items (something that smells like home); batteries; hand-crank radio; and flashlights.

Emergency managers, emergency personnel, and town officials need to factor animals into emergency plans. The first step is to generate an animal census in your town consider

- *63% of all US homes include animals
- *45% of all US homes have more than one pet
- *30-35% of all US homes have children
- *28% of pet owners would ignore nuclear attack evacuation orders if told to leave their pets
- *70% of dog owners and 62% of cat owners would risk their lives to save their pets.
- *44% chose not to evacuate for Hurricane Katrina because they were unwilling to leave their pets behind.

Other ways to gain knowledge on the number of animals in a community is to contact known farmers, breeders (livestock and companion animal), animal shelters, veterinarians, wildlife agencies and rehabilitators, pet supply and feed stores, animal and kennel clubs, dog and horse tracks, police and fire departments along with many other agencies and individuals.

Issues specific to animals include where to shelter, animal rescue, animal identification, medical care and first aid, feeding and watering, and exercising. Have a plan ready for when a disaster does occur in your community.

When considering human shelter locations search for one which will allow pets to stay with their families preferably in the same room. Keeping the two groups together reduces stress on the animal and family by allowing the family to care for pet needs. It takes a weight off shelter personnel shoulders knowing animal care is attended to by the pet owner and a load off the family because they know where their pet is and who is caring for it. If pets and people cannot be kept in the same building consider a second location within safe walking distance for companion animals including cats, dogs, iguanas, lizards, snakes, and "pocket pets" such as chinchillas, guinea pigs, hamsters, mice, and rats.

The old adage "leave behind with three days of food and water" has gone the way of the dodo. The new adage is "if it's not safe for you it's not safe for your pets. DO NOT LEAVE THEM BEHIND!"



Humane Society for the United States 2007 Disaster Animal Rescue Training p. 2-9
Same as above p. 5-7

If you are interested in becoming involved with animals and the sheltering of pets in our local communities please contact Michelle Cunha at cunha.michelle@gmail.com or at 934-3157