

# VIPR Update

Mississippi State Department of Health

## Animal Emergencies are Human Emergencies

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The Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH) and the Mississippi Board of Animal Health (MBAH) are collaborating on a few projects that you might be interested in. The MBAH has an official coordination and response for disasters involving animals and agriculture called the Mississippi Animal Response Team or MART.

MART responders assisted the MSDH in sheltering animals of special medical needs individuals during Gustav in 2008. Because we recognize that this will happen again in the future, we have plans to enroll the MART responders in the Volunteers in Preparedness Registry (VIPR). This will certainly enhance the ability to call out and track MART volunteers. Another advantage of enrolling MART responders in VIPR is the ability to notify human and animal response volunteers about cross-training and response opportunities. This brings up the second project we thought you might be interested in.

The MSDH and the MBAH will be sponsoring joint training days on May 28<sup>th</sup> and May 30<sup>th</sup> that will cover general human shelter operations, animal handling and behavior, animal sheltering, psychological first aid, and VIPR. Be looking for more information on these training days!

Lastly, the MSDH VIPR staff will be speaking at the MART Summit on May 16-17, 2009. The Summit will be held at Eagle Ridge Conference Center. If you would like more information on becoming cross-trained to support animal evacuation, transportation, and sheltering or would like more information on MART, please visit the MBAH website at [www.mbah.state.ms.us](http://www.mbah.state.ms.us) or call Beth Adcock, the MART Coordinator at 769-798-3137.

*Contributed by guest writer, Brigid Elchos, Deputy State Veterinarian, Mississippi Board of Animal Health*

## Celebrating People in Action *National Volunteer Week 2009: April 19 - April 25*

Established in 1974 by former President, Richard Nixon, National Volunteer Week is about inspiring, recognizing and encouraging people to seek out imaginative ways to engage in their community. It's about demonstrating to the nation that by working together, we have the power to meet our challenges and accomplish our goals. Celebrating People in Action, captures the meaning of this signature week. National Volunteer Week 2009, Celebrating People in Action, presents an opportunity for us to celebrate the ordinary people who accomplish extraordinary things through service. This week embodies the energy and power volunteers evoke on a daily basis as they lead by example—not only encouraging the people they help, but motivating others to serve as well. The Mississippi State Department of Health would like to say thanks to the people who dedicate themselves to taking action and solving problems in their communities.

## NIMS Training Available On-Line

While this important informational tidbit is always mentioned in our volunteer trainings held across the state, it's worth a friendly reminder to those of you who wish to add to your knowledge about emergency preparedness from the convenience of your own computer. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) offers independent study program (ISP) courses online through their Emergency Management Institute (EMI). (EMI) offers self-paced courses designed for people who have emergency management responsibilities and the general public. All are offered free-of-charge to those who qualify for enrollment.

It serves as an alternative means to deliver valuable training to the professional and volunteer emergency management community, and an opportunity to improve public awareness and promote disaster preparedness nationally. Additionally, students are able to obtain continuing education units for all ISP courses and even college credit for many of them. Over 60 training courses are offered via the FEMA training website at <http://training.fema.gov/>.

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*\*\*The Volunteers in Preparedness Registry (VIPR) is a preparedness program sponsored by the Mississippi state Department of Health, Office of Emergency Planning and Response (OEPR). It is a secure database of pre-credentialed volunteers who are trained to provide a coordinated response to emergencies in support of our established public health and emergency response systems. The VIPR Update is a product of the public health emergency volunteer program. Visit the VIPR website at <http://volunteer.msdh.state.ms.us> to register and create your own secured personal profile.*

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# Training Opportunities

<u>Date</u>	<u>Venue</u>	<u>Target Audience</u>
May 13-14, 2009	Mass Fatality Conference Jackson, MS	Coroners, EMA Directors, Funeral Home Directors <b>only</b>
May 16-17, 2009	MART Workshop Eagle Ridge Conference Center, Raymond, MS	Animal Health Professionals, All Volunteers Contact: Beth Adcock (769) 798-3137 <a href="mailto:beth@mdac.state.ms.us">beth@mdac.state.ms.us</a>
May 19-20, 2009	Connect I Summit Jackson, MS	Disability Professionals, Volunteers Contact: Sadelle Sweet (601) 432-6377 <a href="http://www.mcvcs.org">www.mcvcs.org</a>
May 28-30, 2009	Cross Training for Volunteers	Volunteers (See MART article)
<b><u>Stay Tuned!</u></b>	MSDH Volunteer Training Levels I, II, and III (new)! Statewide	VIPR volunteers, general Public
	VIPR Volunteer and Psychological First Aid Training with MDMH Regional in state	Mental Health professionals, volunteers

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