September 13th is Nursing Skills Assessment Day: A Partnership Between Visiting Nurse Hospice Care, American Red Cross and Medical Reserve Corps of Santa Barbara County

Visiting Nurse Hospice Care (VNHC), American Red Cross (ARC) and the Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) of Santa Barbara County would like to announce their joint effort to provide a unique nursing skills assessment day on September 13th at the American Red Cross. This is the first time a collaborative skills assessment is being conducted and it will better prepare our community to respond to disasters by fostering collaboration between agencies.

Nurses participating in this skills assessment day are those that serve our community on a daily basis from the VNHC, and those from the American Red Cross and Medical Reserve Corps who form our core of volunteer nurses to provide care for people in our county during disasters.

We are now expecting over 75 nurses attendees at the skills day which will take place at the American Red Cross, 2702 State Street, from 8:00 am – 5:00 pm. Nurse assessors will observe and check skills to assure that nurses are ready to provide quality care for their daily patients and during disasters. Nurses will demonstrate their skills at 12 different stations. Many stations will be staffed by licensed nurse volunteers from the MRC, ARC, Sansum Clinic, and Cottage Health Systems.

Santa Barbara County American Red Cross and Medical Reserve Corps leaders will be present to provide information to all nurses who are interested in becoming disaster volunteers. “We need to increase membership in these organizations in order to better prepare our community to respond to disasters” said Takashi Wada, M.D., County Health Officer. “I urge all nurses to consider joining one or both of these organizations which provide excellent disaster training and exercise opportunities.”

The ARC, MRC, VNHC, and the Public Health Department coordinate to provide medical care at general population shelters, medical shelters, and other emergency response operations in Santa Barbara County during disasters.

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