



LIABILITY & DISABILITY
The Pursuit of Happiness

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Central Illinois MRC

The First 18 Months



- **One of the initial MRC Units**

Dec 2002 – Feb 2003

Structure – Red Cross

Mission – Three County Response

Recruiting and Training – Defined

?? Liability and Disability??

Liability???

No Problem!!???



- **March 2003**

Contacted State Representative:

**Will attach amendment to
legislation – No Problem!**

- **April 2003**

Trial Lawyer's PAC – Amendment

BIG PROBLEM!!!

Liability ? Disability??



- **June 2003**

First MRC meeting Chicago

Almost all of original grantees expressed concern for both liability and disability

Surgeon General: Best to look at state and local government for assistance

Liability / Disability Our Journey



- **August-October 2003**
County Boards Approached (3 Total)
Concern, mild support, NO ACTION
- **Nov 2003-Jan 2004**
Discussion with Congressman from
Central Illinois - ? If he would lead a
national effort for protection of MRC
volunteers ***We wrote the letter**

March 2004

The Letter Returns



- **Our Letter**

“ we recently contacted --- to see if he would be interested in leading an effort to seek support of other representatives with MRC’s”

“ We urge you to contact --- indicating your support for federal legislation that provides liability and Workmen’s Compensation for all MRC units.”

- **Return Letter**

“ we recently contacted --- to see if he would be interested in addressing these issues at the national level”

“ We urge you to support federal legislation”

April 2004

County Government Revisited



- **Health and Environmental Services Committee**
 - **Supportive Response**

County Administrator

- **Supportive Response**

State's Attorney

- **Supportive Response**

Our Goal: To be just like the volunteer Sheriff's Posse which when activated has liability and disability protection

