



Earlier this week, the Maryland State Fire Marshal announced “the start of Community Risk Reduction (CRR) Week, a grassroots effort by the nation's fire service to encourage fire prevention and life safety education.”<sup>1</sup>

MCFRS clinicians have a crucial role in risk reduction, particularly within the realm of suspected abuse or neglect. As mandated reporters, we are required to report suspected adult abuse or neglect to Adult Protective Services (APS).

Beginning today, posters are being distributed to our worksites as a general reminder of the types of calls that can be reported to APS, including how to reach them. Reports of suspected abuse or neglect can be placed, 24/7, through the Crisis Center intake line (240-777-3000). Please leave your contact information so an APS case worker can reach out to you in order to secure further case details.

APS is very responsive about investigating reports made by the MCFRS. However, they must speak to a clinician capable of relating specifics, prior to going out to conduct a follow up. APS case managers are aware of our career shiftwork schedule as well as the dynamic scheduling nature of our members who volunteer their time. They will call you back on your next scheduled shift, as long as you let them know when you are available.

MCFRS is the number one referral source to APS. Our Mobile Integrated Health (MIH) Community Health Nurse is an APS case manager and handles MCFRS-referred patients. Our Community Social Worker will do the same.

Working together, we can continue to connect our most vulnerable patients with the resources they need. If you have any questions or would like follow up on an APS referral, please reach out to the MIH office via [MCFRS.VulnerableAdults@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:MCFRS.VulnerableAdults@montgomerycountymd.gov).

Questions regarding MIH can be directed to the MIH Program Manager.

---

<sup>1</sup> Office of the State Fire Marshal. 2020. *State Fire Marshal kicks off community risk reduction week*. Retrieved from <https://www.thebaynet.com/articles/0120/state-fire-marshal-kicks-off-community-risk-reduction-week.html>