The Medical Reserve Corps Program

MRC Volunteers in Disaster Response
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Jeannette M Tandez, MPH
Melissa Watt-Henderson, MS
Region V MRC Coordinators
Objectives

- Provide a broad overview of the Medical Reserve Corps program.

- Describe the role of volunteers during natural or man-made disasters.

- Encourage volunteerism to improve the strength of units.

- Give instructions on how to find a local MRC unit.
Who We Are:

DCVMRC

Engaging volunteers to strengthen public health, emergency response, and community resiliency
DCVMRC Organization

US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)
Secretary Kathleen Sebelius

Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health (OASH)
Assistant Secretary for Health Howard Koh

Office of the Surgeon General (OSG)
Acting Surgeon General, RADM Boris Lushniak, MD, MPH

Division of the Civilian Volunteer Medical Reserve Corps (DCVMRC)
DCVMRC Director, Captain Robert Tosatto

Engaging volunteers to strengthen public health, emergency response, and community resiliency
The MRC is a national network of medical, non-medical and public health professionals interested in improving the health and safety of their communities.

MRC units identify, screen, train and organize volunteers, and utilize them to support routine public health activities and augment preparedness and response efforts.

We encourage MRC unit leaders and members to serve as “Ambassadors” of the U.S. Surgeon General.
MRC Mission/Vision

**MRC Mission:** Engage volunteers to strengthen public health, emergency response and community resiliency.

**DCVMRC Mission:** Support local efforts to establish, implement, and sustain MRC units nationwide.

**DCVMRC/MRC Vision:** Dedicated Volunteers & Strong, Active Units...Building Resiliency and Reducing Vulnerability.
MRC History in Brief

- **September 11, 2001**
  - World Trade Center Disaster

- **October – November, 2001**
  - Anthrax Events

- **January 2002**
  - USA Freedom Corps and Citizen Corps (national network of volunteers) established

- **July 2002**
  - Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) launched

- **February 2003**
  - Re-emergence of H5N1 in isolated cases of human deaths

- **March 2003**
  - The SNS Program was returned to HHS for oversight & guidance

*Engaging volunteers to strengthen public health, emergency response, and community resiliency*
MRC Network:
987 MRC Units
208,136 volunteers
Number of MRC Units by Region

MRC Units By Region

Engaging volunteers to strengthen public health, emergency response, and community resiliency
Number of MRC Volunteers by Region

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Volunteer Type – Nation

Volunteer Type Distribution

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Emergency Response

MRC IN ACTION

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MRC in Emergency Response

- Depends on the actual incident and severity of incident
- Potential role of volunteers:
  - Support/Admin
  - Public Health
  - Communication
  - Coordination
  - Medical Response
  - Logistical (ex. transportation, food, evacuation, etc.)
  - Care giving
  - Disaster Behavioral Health
Disaster Behavioral Health

Union County MRC during Hurricane Sandy response

MN Behavioral Health MRC - June 2012 Northeast MN Flood response

Dane County, WI, MRC-Mental Health Response Team (MHRT) and the ARC Training

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South-Central Missouri MRC volunteers responded to the 2011 EF5 tornado in Joplin, MO by providing tetanus vaccinations to volunteers clearing debris.

United Way of the Midlands MRC (NE) 2005 Hurricane Evacuee Shelter.

In response to hurricanes in Fall 2008, Gateway to Care MRC (TX) volunteers loaded trucks to assist with providing food to fragile home bound patients.

Western Arkansas River Valley MRC volunteers helped run a medical clinic for 2005 Hurricane Katrina evacuees at Fort Chaffee.
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Everybody Has a Story…

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Volunteer Response to Floods

- Registration of flood victims
- Donations management
- Direct flood victims at site
- Phone calls/admin
- Database
- Driver
- Disaster Behavioral Health
Hurricane Sandy, better known as “Superstorm Sandy”, struck the Region on October 29, 2012, causing vast damage to coastal areas, and widespread outages and disruptions across New York and New Jersey.
Hurricane Sandy

People walk near the remains of burned homes after Hurricane Sandy on October 31 in the Breezy Point neighborhood of the Queens, New York. Photo: Getty Images.

Oct. 31, 2012 file photo- Seaside Heights, N.J., amusement park that fell in the Atlantic Ocean during Superstorm Sandy. (AP Photo/Mike Groll, File)

Flood waters from Hurricane Sandy cover the street, Dewey Beach, Delaware. Photo: AP
Hurricane Sandy

Cars floating in a flooded basement garage on Oct. 30 in New York’s Financial District.

The aftermath of flooding following Hurricane Sandy in New York’s Financial District. Photo: Andrew Burton | Getty Images

Elaine Belviso, 72, was rescued from her flooded home by police after being trapped there overnight in Babylon, N.Y. Photo: Jason DeCrow/Associated Press

Engaging volunteers to improve health, resilience, and community resiliency
Hurricane Sandy

People try to keep warm by a fire during near-freezing temperatures in the Rockaway, N.Y., neighborhood of the Queens borough of New York City. Allison Joyce, Getty Images

In the aftermath of Superstorm Sandy, patrons wait in line to fill gas containers on Nov. 2 in Seaford, New York. This station had one line for cars and one for walkers with containers. Bruce Bennett, Getty Images

A man pedals a bicycle to generate electricity so residents can charge their cell phones in New York’s east Village neighborhood Oct. 30.
Hurricane Sandy

The Rhode Island MRC/DMAT medical strike teams deployed in advance of Sandy and provided occupational health and screening for members of the Urban Search and Rescue team tasked with search and rescue in South County, the area of the state hardest hit by Hurricane Sandy.
Hurricane Sandy

Upper Merrimack Valley MRC helping two vulnerable residents back to their car.

Hilltown MRC/DART Team MRC members await pets at the Smith Vocational School during Hurricane Sandy.
In the wake of Hurricane Sandy, 28 units in Region II activated to directly support response operations in their localities. Additional area units provided supplemental support by directing volunteers to much needed areas.

In NJ, 20 out of 25 units activated. Regionally, a handful of units were activated for over a month.

A number of MRC volunteers in New York State were deployed via the state’s ESAR-VHP system to support response operations in New York City, Nassau County and Suffolk County.
RII MRC In Action - Sandy

Reported Response Activities:
Special/Medical Needs Shelter Assistance*
Call Center/Hotline Support
Patient Tracking
Mental Health Support
EOC Support
Alternate Care Site Staffing
Warming Center Staffing
Ice Distribution
Charging Station Support
Wellness Checks for Response Workers
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In July 2013, MRC of Southern Nevada volunteers responding to a request from the local ARC to assist with food preparation for volunteers, evacuees, and firefighters due to wildfires in the community.

From Colorado Vet MRC and PetAid Colorado, USAR Exam and other animal rescue pics.
Aftermath

- What are some of the disaster response concerns and issues after an incident?
  - Food/water safety
  - Sanitation
  - Debris
  - Shelter
  - Vulnerable populations
  - Mental health
  - Life safety! (that includes animals)
  - Reunification
  - Information
Serve Your Community:

FINDING AN MRC UNIT

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Why Volunteer?

- Service to your community
- Sense of pride/ personal growth
- Personal benefit
- Mechanism for preparedness for self, family and community
- Additional training
- Be part of a field you may be interested in
- Sense of accomplishment
- To have fun!
- Be PREPARED

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How to Find an MRC Unit in Your Area

Got to: www.medicalreservecorps.gov, then click on the “Volunteer” tab. Then enter your zip code.
How to Find an MRC Unit in Your Area

The closest three units to your zip code will be shown to you in red. You can click on each red marker to get more info. You may also send your contact information to the Unit Coordinator for follow up.
A healthier and prepared community is better equipped to respond to any emergency.

YOU can make a difference!
Thank You!

Jeannette Tandez, MPH
Region V MRC Coordinator, West (IL-MN-WI)
jeannette.tandez@hhs.gov

Melissa Watt-Henderson, MS
Region V MRC Coordinator, East (IN-OH-MI)
melissa.watt@hhs.gov

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