

# The Medical Reserve Corps



*Creating prepared and resilient communities through service*



## Community Benefits

Communities benefit from having MRC volunteers ready to respond to emergencies.

- Bolsters local public health and emergency response infrastructures by providing supplemental personnel
- Enables communities to meet specific health needs
- Gives community members the opportunity to offer their skills and time to make their communities healthier and safer

## Learn More

Visit <https://mrc.hhs.gov> to learn more.



Saving Lives. Protecting Americans.

[mrc.hhs.gov](https://mrc.hhs.gov)



**ASPR**  
ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR  
PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

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## Who We Are

The Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) is a national network of approximately 185,000 volunteers who help make their communities stronger and healthier during disasters and every day. Volunteers are organized into community-based units that work to improve local emergency response capabilities, reduce potential public health risks and vulnerabilities, and build community preparedness and resilience. They prepare for and respond to natural disasters, such as wildfires, hurricanes, blizzards, and floods, as well as other emergencies affecting public health, such as disease outbreaks. MRC volunteers also regularly contribute to community preparedness—engaging in activities like CPR/AED training and assisting with community vaccination clinics.

## Why We're Needed

The need for the MRC became apparent after the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, when medical and public health professionals, eager to volunteer in support of emergency relief activities, found that there was no organized approach to channel their efforts. As a result, the MRC was established to provide a way to recruit, train, and activate medical and public health professionals and other volunteers to respond to community health needs during disasters and other public health emergencies.

The MRC network comprises approximately 185,000 volunteers in roughly 800 community-based units located throughout the United States and its territories. MRC units organize and utilize local volunteers who want to donate their time and expertise to prepare for and respond to emergencies and to support ongoing preparedness initiatives. MRC volunteers include medical and public health professionals as well as other community members without healthcare backgrounds who want to improve the health and safety of their communities.

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## MRC Activities

Examples of activities that MRC volunteers participate in and support include the following:

- Emergency preparedness and response trainings and exercises
- Emergency shelter operations and medical care
- Disaster medical and behavioral health support
- Medical facility surge support
- Mass dispensing efforts (e.g., medication, water, other supplies)
- Disease testing and surveillance
- Community vaccination clinics
- Veterinary care
- Support services to disaster call centers, family assistance centers, and reception/evacuation centers
- Emergency operations center and communications support
- Patient movement support
- Search and rescue operations
- Disaster clean-up and recovery support
- First aid and medical support during large public gatherings
- Community education and outreach
- Emergency preparedness and response planning, logistical, and administrative support
- And more...



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