



“You’ll receive more than you give and in the process you’ll learn ways to assist in handling emergency situations in your community.”

– Trudy Cohen, member of the Brookline MRC

For More Information

For more information or to view a video about Massachusetts MRC units, please visit the website at: www.mamedicalreservecorps.org

For more details, please also contact the MA statewide coordinator:

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For information about starting an MRC unit in your community, please contact the Region I (New England) USDHHS MRC Coordinator:

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Massachusetts Medical Reserve Corps

www.mamedicalreservecorps.org





Purpose

The Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) system was founded by the federal government shortly after 9/11. The national system brings together people who have health care skills with citizen volunteers. MRC units are trained and prepared to respond as a team to emergencies in their communities. The members may provide education, outreach and various health services throughout the year.

Serving the Community

MRC units function as part of local emergency preparedness teams. They supplement existing public health resources and emergency agencies such as Red Cross, local public health, fire, police and ambulance services. The result: a collaborative, local effort prepared for large-scale public health crises. Each MRC unit is organized to best suit the unique challenges of its area. In addition, members can also choose to support communities in need in other areas of the state or country. Recruiting, training and organizing medical and public health professionals to strengthen their communities through volunteerism are at the core of the MRC concept.

“It was one of the most memorable experiences of my life and without the MRC I would not have had the opportunity. So I tip my hat and say thank you to the MRC.”

– *Judy Scarafile, member of the Cape Cod MRC, commenting on her work as part of the Mobile Medical Team in Louisiana in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina*

MRC volunteers offer their expertise throughout the year by supporting local public health initiatives, such as immunization and prevention activities. When there is an emergency in the community, MRC volunteers work in coordination with local emergency response programs. With an MRC unit in place, a formerly untapped community resource — medical and public health volunteers — is functioning and available. MRC units are located in all regions of Massachusetts. They are organized by cities and towns or regions. MRC units are housed in City and Town health offices, churches, hospitals, universities and emergency medical services locations. Most of the MRC units work with other local and regional emergency preparedness groups.

Who Can Join?

MRC units need medical and non-medical volunteers who are trained and ready to respond to an emergency when called to assist local health and safety officials. MRC volunteers include medical and public health professionals such as physicians, nurses, pharmacists, dentists, veterinarians and epidemiologists. MRC units also need non-medical personnel to fill key support positions, including interpreters, chaplains,

office workers and legal advisors. Volunteers are provided with free training, where they learn the valuable skills needed to prepare themselves and their families during an emergency.

How Can I Volunteer?

Visit the website at www.mamedicalreservecorps.org/volunteer.php to find an MRC unit in your area. You can call or e-mail the contact listed for each MRC unit to get more information about its activities and how to join.

MRC Training

MRC volunteers receive free training in personal and family preparedness and incident command. Other trainings include pandemic planning, behavioral health, CPR and basic first aid, skills known as core competencies. Many units offer CEU credits for professionals who complete these courses.

“Medical professionals need all the help they can get from great volunteers.”

– *Harriet “Belle” Dyer, member of the Franklin County MRC*

