

"The Medical Reserve Corps is one way that health professionals can volunteer during large-scale emergencies, such as an influenza epidemic, a chemical spill, or an act of terrorism. MRC volunteers also work to improve the overall health and well-being of their neighborhoods and communities."

Tommy G. Thompson
Former Secretary
U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services

The Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) program was officially launched as a national, community-based initiative in September 2003. The MRC was formed in response to President Bush's 2002 State of the Union Address, in which he asked all Americans to volunteer in support of their country. It is a partner program with Citizen Corps, a national network of volunteers dedicated to ensuring hometown security.

Other Citizen Corps programs include Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), Fire Corps, Neighborhood Watch, and Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS). Citizen Corps is part of the USA Freedom Corps which promotes volunteerism and service nationwide. Other USA Freedom Corps programs include Peace Corps, AmeriCorps, and Senior Corps.

Volunteers of the LLHD MRC are offered training opportunities specifically geared towards natural disasters, acts of terrorism, and field experience. Trainings include personal preparedness, Incident Command Structure, First Aid/CPR, Weather-Related Disasters and Sheltering, and Mass Vaccinations or Medical Dispensing.

Many lessons were learned after September 11, 2001 as well as after Hurricane Katrina. The response from the medical community was enormous. However, without any prior training in emergency response, and no mechanism for credentials to be checked on-site, many volunteers were turned away. The time for volunteers to become involved in emergency response is now - before an incident occurs.



Opsail 2012: MRC and the American Red Cross teamed up to provide over 51,000 cups of water to attendees



A MRC physician checking a shelter occupant during Superstorm Sandy

The first response to any disaster is a local response. Be prepared to help yourself, your family, your community- no prior experience is required!

**Volunteers Building Strong,
Healthy, and Prepared
Communities**

WHAT CAN MRC VOLUNTEERS DO?

Dispense medications during public health emergencies.

Participate in emergency exercises and community disaster drills.

Train with local emergency response partners.

Promote healthy living through education and health fairs.

Provide support to emergency shelters.

and more!

The primary mission of the **LLHD MRC** is to provide trained clinical and trained non-clinical volunteers who will respond during a public health emergency. The secondary mission is to assist in public health activities that promote the health and safety of our communities: *East Lyme, Waterford, New London, Ledyard, Groton, Lyme, Old Lyme, Stonington and North Stonington.*

For further information about LLHD MRC, go to our website at www.llhd.org

...or find us on Facebook under Ledge Light Health District MRC

...or contact: Kris Magnussen, MSN, RN, the LLHD Unit Director at 860-448-4882 ext. 331 or email at : kmagnussen@llhd.org

or Catherine Dragoo at 860-448-4882 ext.312 or email at: cdragoo@llhd.org

National MRC Website:
www.medicalreservecorp.gov



Mass Dispensing Training Day 2013

What is Needed to Volunteer?

You will need to fill out an application and have a background check. After you are approved, you will receive an orientation and information on how to complete two on-line Incident Command System (ICS) trainings.

Communication to volunteers is done through emails. As we can be asked to respond to emergencies, it is the only way to effectively contact volunteers for a quick response.



Who can volunteer for the MRC?

ANYONE!!

- ★ Medical professionals, such as doctors, nurses, EMTs, pharmacists, CNAs, and others, even if not currently practicing.
- ★ Public health professionals.
- ★ Community members without medical or health training are also urgently needed to assist with the many essential functions.

Benefits of Becoming a Volunteer

- ★ Serving your community and its citizens during times of need
- ★ Working with a great group of people
- ★ Develop new skills and interests
- ★ Social interaction and networking with different disaster response organizations
- ★ Being among the first (including family members) to receive vaccinations, antibiotics, or other treatment during a bioterrorism event or disease outbreak
- ★ Liability coverage when activated for events, exercises or drills

When a disaster or public health emergency occurs, local emergency response resources may be quickly overwhelmed. Experience has proven that volunteers who have been pre-identified, pre-credentialed, and pre-trained are much better able to participate in emergency response efforts.