

1. What is the purpose of the Medical Reserve Corps?

The purpose of the Dallas County MRC is to assist the local community during a public health emergency by providing a rapid, coordinated and specific response using locally recruited medical, mental health, public health, and health support volunteers appropriately trained in the latest emergency response methods.

2. Who is responsible for the program?

The Office of the Surgeon General. After 9/11-01, President Bush created the US Freedom Corps. That national initiative is made up of several components, among them AmeriCorps, the Peace Corps and the Citizen Corps. Citizen Corps volunteers work to make sure their families, homes and communities are prepared in the event of terrorism, crime and disasters of all kinds. One specialized component of that effort is the Medical Reserve Corps.

3. Why is the Medical Reserve Corps needed in Dallas County?

There are twenty municipalities in Dallas County and a population of more than two million... often swelling to an even larger number with the addition of commuters from surrounding counties. In response to a mass casualty event, emergency service agencies and hospitals will require thousands of trained medical and non-medical volunteers to supplement and extend surge capacities.

4. What is the difference between MRC and other emergency support organizations, such as the American Red Cross or the Salvation Army?

All emergency support organizations have specific roles. The Medical Reserve Corps supports disaster medical response including dispensing medications and vaccinations to large populations.

5. How does the typical MRC operate?

Nationally, each Medical Reserve Corps unit organizes in response to the geographic area's specific needs. A region's hazard threats, health concerns, and the organization in which the unit is established (health department, hospital, faith-based organization, etc.), will dictate how an MRC unit operates. Despite these differences, all MRC units rely on committed volunteers who train for specific assignments during a public health emergency.

6. Do I have to live in Dallas County to be a MRC Volunteer?

No, there are Medical Reserve Corps units in Collin, Denton, and Tarrant counties as well as Dallas County. To register, go to www.metroplexvolunteers.com

7. What duties might MRC volunteers perform in response to a disaster?

There are many: Communications, Language Translation, Security, Facilities Management, Inventory, Screening & Dispensing / Vaccinating, Clinic Management, Mental Health Crisis Management, Social Work Community Resource Referral, and other medical and non-medical roles as required.

8. What duties might MRC volunteers perform outside disaster response?

A volunteer could be a member of a committee including but not limited to:

- Leadership & Planning
- Curriculum Development
- Training of other volunteers
- Administrative & Office Assistance
- Database Management
- Epidemiology Surge Assistance
- Volunteer Recruitment.

9. What are the training and education requirements for a MRC volunteer?

There are no specific educational pre-requisites to becoming a MRC volunteer. However, Medical Reserve Corps disaster response requires specific knowledge offered through the MRC training program. Mandated trainings consist of: new volunteer Orientation, Personal & Family Preparedness, and two National Incident Management System (NIMS) courses, IS-00100 and IS-00700. These courses should be completed within the first six-months of registration.

10. Will being a MRC volunteer interfere with my regular job?

You will have the flexibility to schedule activities in a way that does not conflict with normal job duties.

11. How can I become a Medical Reserve Corps volunteer?

Submit your application online at www.metroplexvolunteers.com. Click on Dallas County and begin the simple process. The website is secure and your file is password protected. You will be asked to provide 24/7 contact information, street address, date

of birth, skills you have to offer, driver's license information, any criminal history, and for medical professionals, license number(s) and expiration date(s).

12. Why should I volunteer with the MRC?

Some of the advantages of volunteering with the Medical Reserve Corps:

- You will be among the first to receive medication for yourself and your household following a bioterrorism attack.
- You can learn how to prepare yourself and your family for emergency response to a disaster
- You can offer your skills as part of an organized response effort
- You can provide significant benefits to the community by augmenting existing public health efforts or providing emergency backup that would otherwise be unavailable
- You can belong to a group that has a strong sense of mission and purpose
- You can receive a variety of training free of charge

13. If I register as a MRC volunteer, am I required to go if I am contacted?

All volunteers can accept or refuse a request to help. No matter what the extent of the need, Medical Reserve Corps deployments are VOLUNTARY and participants are not required to respond to a request.

14. What about liability exposure as a Medical Reserve Corps volunteer?

Under the federal Volunteer Protection Act of 1997, volunteers for governmental entities cannot be held liable for any harm that they may cause while engaged in that volunteer activity; except for a harm caused by operation of a motor vehicle or a harm caused by criminal conduct or gross or reckless misconduct. As a Dallas County MRC volunteer, you are not exposing yourself to additional legal liability. For additional information, use the following link:

www.texmed.org/template.aspx?id=2107

15. Is the MRC linked-in with the Dallas County Medical Society?

Yes. Every doctor who volunteers with the Dallas County Medical Reserve Corps is asked to also register with the County Medical Society in order to let their intent to volunteer be known. This cross-reference helps ensure that locally-based, pre-credentialed resources are available in the event of a declared public health emergency.

16. Are there tax deductions possible for volunteering?

Yes, volunteers in the United States may receive tax deductions from the federal government on many costs associated with volunteering, such as mileage, parking and other travel expenses. When volunteers drive their own vehicles to perform volunteer duties, the IRS permits a standard mileage deduction (keeping a mileage log is required). For more information and to review Publication #526, Charitable Contributions, go to www.irs.gov

17. What if multiple programs contact me to volunteer during a crisis?

All volunteers have responsibilities that must be met before they can respond to a deployment. Whether it is your family, your primary job, your local Red Cross, the Medical Reserve Corps, or other organization for which you volunteer, you will need to decide for yourself before committing to a deployment.

18. What is the difference between Medical Reserve Corps and Texas Medical Rangers?

Medical Reserve Corps is a local civilian volunteer local response. The Texas Medical Rangers is a state level MRC within the Texas State Guard and, as such, is a state resource.