

Giving Your Best When Your Community Is In Greatest Need

- ★ The *Medical Reserve Corps* enables **health professionals and others** to volunteer in times of need.
- ★ *Medical Reserve Corps* Units consist of **trained local volunteers (with and without prior medical or health experience) who can assist their communities during emergencies**, such as an influenza epidemic, a chemical spill, or an act of terrorism.
- ★ *Medical Reserve Corps* volunteers also provide **education and prevention** services to improve the health and well-being of their neighborhoods and communities.

Benefits of Becoming a Volunteer

- ★ Being among the first group (including family members) to receive vaccinations, antibiotics, or other treatment during a bioterrorism event or disease outbreak.
- ★ Serving the community and its citizens during times of need.
- ★ Receiving free continuing education.
- ★ Working with a great group of people.

Help us be smart about emergency preparedness and response.

Think about the difference you could make.

Become part of the solution.



How to join our team:

Complete Georgia's online volunteer application at <https://servga.gov> (be sure to designate "East Metro Health District Medical Reserve Corps" as the unit you are joining).

Complete either FEMA's IS-22 course at <http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/is22.asp> or the American Red Cross "Intro to Disaster" course at http://www.redcross.org/flash/course01_v01/.

Download and print the background check information and permission form at http://mrcgem.com/forms/background_check.pdf and follow the included instructions.

For more information, links to joining requirements, and updated information, please visit us on the web at <http://mrcgem.com>

If you do not have access to the Internet or would rather not sign up online, we'd be happy to work out alternatives. Just call us at 770-492-4781 or e-mail us at operations@mrcgem.com

MRC GEM



GA East Metro Health District

Serving Gwinnett, Newton, and Rockdale counties.

We are an IRS-registered non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation. Contributions are tax-deductible as permitted by law.

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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 serving their community's medical and health requirements in times of need

Building from the Ground Up

Your willingness to volunteer your skills and knowledge is what the Medical Reserve Corps is all about. It starts with individuals like you—individuals who care enough to pool their abilities when large-scale emergencies hit close to home. As an MRC volunteer, you become a vital part of our community's emergency response. Each community's needs are unique. Those of us who live here have both the greatest knowledge of what we need and the greatest incentive to make the best use of our local resources.

Each of us can make a difference.

A National Community of Shared Vision and Support

We are not working alone. Hundreds of other communities are organizing similar efforts, each in its own way. Many are willing to share what they've learned from their mistakes and their successes. We are part of a growing movement. The Program Office of the Medical Reserve Corps, headquartered in the Office of the Surgeon General, functions as a clearinghouse for community information and "best practices." It links us to technical expertise and educational resources. Its role is to help us achieve our local visions for community health and emergency preparedness and response. For more information, visit: www.medicalreservecorps.gov.

Who can volunteer for the Medical Reserve Corps?



- ★ **Medical professionals**, such as doctors, nurses, emergency medical technicians, pharmacists, nurses' assistants, 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 not requiring prior training.

United States citizenship is not required to be part of the Medical Reserve Corps. Any legal U.S. resident is welcome to join our MRC unit.

What do Medical Reserve Corps volunteers do?

It varies, depending on the nature of the emergency and the ongoing need for community health outreach and education. Major emergencies can overwhelm the capabilities of our first responders, especially during the first 12 to 72 hours. Volunteers can provide important "surge" capacity during that critical period. They can also augment medical staff shortages at local medical and emergency facilities. In short, we often need trained individuals to fill in the gaps in our emergency response plans and to improve our response capabilities overall.

What training will I need?

Emergency preparedness and response is a highly-coordinated effort that allows us to maximize our capabilities at a time of extreme disorganization and stress. You may already know how to perform some of the medical and health functions we so desperately need. However, there are numerous non-medical functions that are also vitally important in times of disaster. Your training as an MRC volunteer will teach you about our local emergency systems and health procedures, trauma response techniques, use of specialized equipment, and other methods to enhance your effectiveness as a volunteer. CPR/AED and first aid training are also available. Perhaps the most important part of your training will be learning to work as part of our team. An organized, well-trained MRC unit will be familiar with its community's response plan, will know what materials and equipment are available for use, will know its response partners, and will know where its skills can be best utilized in a coordinated manner.

