

## Volunteering for Disaster Preparedness



[www.mass.gov/msar](http://www.mass.gov/msar)

**MSAR** is a statewide, secure database of pre-credentialed health care professionals who are interested in volunteering their services in the event of a public health emergency. MRC units support "local" public health initiatives, while **MSAR** is designed to pre-credential and deploy individuals in a large-scale disaster. MRC members are encouraged to consider registering with **MSAR** to ensure that locally-based resources are available in the event of a declared public health emergency. **MSAR** members are also encouraged to register with an MRC to assist in smaller, local events that do not initiate an **MSAR** activation. For more information, please visit



<http://www.mamedicalreservecorps.org/index.asp>

The **Medical Reserve Corps** (MRC) was founded by the federal government shortly after 9/11. The national system brings together people who have skills related to health care as well as citizen volunteers. They serve as a team during times of emergency or need in their own community. **MRC** units are trained and prepared to respond to emergencies and they provide education, outreach and various health services throughout the year. They function as part of their local emergency preparedness teams. **MRC** units supplement existing emergency and public health resources and agencies such as Red Cross, local public health, fire, police, and ambulance services. The result is a collaborative effort that is prepared for large scale public health crises. Each **MRC** conducts its role in the way that best suits the unique challenges for its area. In addition members can also choose to support communities in need in another area of the state or country, as many did during hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

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