

CHOICE POINTS FOR DISASTER MENTAL HEALTH VOLUNTEERING

Clinicians cannot self-deploy to volunteer their professional services in disaster recovery efforts during disasters. This is a list of local chapters of national or statewide organizations that offer training and or credentialing for mental health professionals who wish to be of service in disaster recovery efforts.



Purpose: Provision of pro bono counseling services to at risk populations, including veterans, troops and family members, in order to address barriers to mental health treatment

Credentialing/Training: None additional; utilizes licensed mental health professionals

Procedure for Volunteering: Register on line

Volunteer Commitment: Minimum one year of service

Time Commitment: One hour per week at most

Benefits: Free MCEPs to volunteers; clinician determines level of activity beyond minimum service requirement as well as availability



Purpose: To educate members of the community about disaster preparedness and basic disaster response skills for the hazards that may affect their region. CERT is a FEMA program that trains citizens to respond to natural and man-made disasters in their neighborhoods and in the workplace through regular training drills that include hands-on practice and realistic exercises.

Credentialing/Training: Training academies through your local fire department typically are offered twice a year; classes are scheduled in evenings and on weekends. Every CERT member must take a comprehensive on line class and pass a test as well. A credential is valid for two years; in order to recertify, members must participate in an academy or

countywide drill every year. Local CERT groups typically hold monthly meetings and quarterly trainings on various related topics.

Procedure for Volunteering: Members must be trained, credentialed and activated by local first responders or CERT team leaders in order to provide services.

Volunteer Commitment: Varies; credentialing is valid for two years.

Time Commitment: Monthly meetings and biannual drills.

Benefits: Free skills training in disaster preparation and relief and dissemination of critical information about safety at home and in the workplace. Members are provided with a starter Go-Bag of supplies for disaster readiness, including helmet and vest. MCEPs to volunteers; clinician determines level of activity beyond minimum service requirement as well as availability



Purpose: The mission of the American Red Cross is to prevent and alleviate human suffering in the face of emergencies by mobilizing the power of volunteers and the generosity of donors. Through our strong network of volunteers, donors and partners, we are always there in times of need. We aspire to turn compassion into action so that all people affected by disaster across the country and around the world receive care, shelter and hope; our communities are ready and prepared for disasters; everyone in our country has access to safe, lifesaving blood and blood products; all members of our armed services and their families find support and comfort whenever needed; and in an emergency, there are always trained individuals nearby, ready to use their Red Cross skills to save lives.

Volunteer Positions Needed: Disaster Mental Health Volunteer

Responsibilities:

- Complete all necessary Training Requirements on line and in person
- Be on call for necessary shifts throughout the year
- Support Volunteers and Clients during disasters locally via phone or in person when needed
- Attend 2 DMH meetings a year via phone or in person

Credentialing/Training: All volunteers participate in online classes, in-person classes, drills, and exercises. These classes and drills are based upon and required for your activity interest. They give all responders the necessary skills to represent the American Red Cross in times of need. If you are interested in supporting/ working with our Disaster Mental Health Team we require a current and active mental health license.

Procedure for Volunteering: To become an American Red Cross Volunteer please go to www.redcross.org/volunteer to learn more about opportunities as well as to complete your application today.

Volunteer Commitment: Varies and flexible. The most important thing to know about volunteering for the American Red Cross is that the more you put into your volunteer experience the more you will receive from your volunteer experience.

Time Commitment: Varies and flexible on a monthly basis.

Benefits: Learn about Disaster response, Mass Casualty response, and give back to your community and country when it is needed most. The Red Cross indemnifies its volunteers who deploy and practice under the scope of their license.



Purpose: The Mission of the San Diego County Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) is to enhance San Diego County's ability to respond to public health emergencies or disasters with prepared volunteer health professionals. The San Diego MRC will accomplish this mission by:

1. Recruiting, pre-credentialing, and managing health care professionals
2. Involving volunteers in response drills and exercises
3. Linking MRC members with local public health initiatives and education campaigns for ongoing community engagement

The goal of the MRC in San Diego is to provide competent and certified clinical volunteers for use at mass prophylaxis/vaccination sites, disaster shelters, alternate care sites, and offset surge capacity issues of the community. The MRC's priority is to increase the number of clinical volunteer providers who are trained and ready to respond during a disaster or other large-scale public health emergency.

Credentialing/Training: Various training opportunities offered throughout the year and volunteers are able to participate in at least two full scale exercises per year.

Procedure for Volunteering:

- 1) Complete your profile on the Disaster Healthcare Volunteer website at <https://www.healthcarevolunteers.ca.gov> – select San Diego County MRC and ensure your profile is 100% complete
- 2) Complete the FEMA ICS 100 and ICS 700 Courses at: <http://training.fema.gov/IS/crslist.asp>

You will have to register for a FEMA SID # if you have not taken any previous FEMA courses.

- a. **IS-100.B Introduction to the Incident Command System**
<https://training.fema.gov/is/courseoverview.aspx?code=IS-100.b>
 - b. **IS-700.A National Management System (NIMS), An Introduction**
<https://training.fema.gov/is/courseoverview.aspx?code=IS-700.a>
 - c. Upload the completed certificates to your DHV profile under the Training Tab
- 3) Orientation: contact Lorraine Calzone at Lorraine.Calzone@sdcounty.ca.gov to schedule a 30 minute orientation/MRC program overview. At orientation you can also register as a California Disaster Service Worker Volunteer, take Loyalty and sign the Disaster Service Worker (DSW) Oath.

San Diego MRC participates in the California Emergency Medical Services Authority (EMSA) Disaster Healthcare Volunteers (DHV) system. This system verifies licenses and credentials and allows us to communicate with volunteers when needed.

Volunteer and Time Commitment: Varies and flexible. Once initial requirements are met all trainings, exercises and deployments are all voluntary.

Benefits: Volunteers are able to learn about disasters and public health emergencies through trainings and exercises and are pre-credentialed to respond to disasters when officially deployed.



The California Psychological Association's (CPA) Disaster Response Network (DRN) is making this a priority: Please register at <https://www.healthcarevolunteers.ca.gov/>

Here you will find the online registration system for medical and healthcare volunteers.

If you're a healthcare provider with an active license, a public health professional, or a member of a medical disaster response team in California who would like to volunteer for disaster service, you've come to the right place!

What does it take to register for disaster service?

1. During the on-line registration process, you will be asked to enter information regarding your license (if applicable).
2. Enter information about the best way to contact you, and other relevant background information.

3. Once you've registered, your credentials will be validated - before an emergency - so that you can be deployed quickly and efficiently. Your information will only be viewed by authorized system managers.

Once I'm registered, what happens next?

1. During a State or national disaster, (e.g., an earthquake severe weather event, or public health emergency), this system will be accessed by authorized medical/health officials at the State Emergency Operations Center or your county.
2. If a decision is made to request your service, you will be contacted using the information you enter on the site. If you agree to deploy, your information will be forwarded to the appropriate field operational officials.