

Mission of the Medical Reserve Corps (MRC)

The mission of the Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) is to allow local volunteer medical, health, veterinarians, Pharmaceutical and non-medical professionals to contribute their skills and expertise throughout the year as well as during times of community need. Our MRC unit is made up of volunteers who can assist our community during emergencies, such as an earthquake, influenza pandemic, a chemical spill, or an act of terrorism.



Benefits to the Community:

Major local emergencies can overwhelm the capability of first responders, especially during the first 12-72 hours. Having citizens who are prepared to take care of themselves, their families and others during times of crisis will allow first-responders to focus their efforts on the most critical, life threatening situations.

What is Expected of MRC Volunteers?

Volunteers might be called on to fulfill any of several functions, such as: triage, patient education, medical evaluation, vaccination or distribution of medication. For instance, if we had to vaccinate all of the residents of Kitsap County, we would need to open Neighborhood Distribution Centers throughout the community. MRC volunteers would be critical to accomplishing this task and would be protected with the necessary medication or vaccine.

Kitsap County Coordinates the Corps for Region 2

Kitsap County Department of Emergency Management, along with their partners, Kitsap County Health District, Harrison Medical Center and Kitsap County Medical Society started the Kitsap County MRC in 2004. Clallam, Jefferson and Kitsap Counties comprise Homeland Security Region 2. It was a natural fit to expand the Kitsap County MRC into a Region 2 project. Kitsap County Department of Emergency Management, as the Homeland Security agent for Region 2, coordinates all Corps activities to include, training and registration of its members.

Who can volunteer?

Practicing and retired health care professionals, such as, but not limited to:

- Physicians/Physician Assistants
- Nurses—ARNP, RN, LPN
- Medical Assistants/CNA
- Dentists
- Pharmacists
- Veterinarians
- Paramedics/EMTs
- Mental Health Professionals
- Physical Therapists
- Respiratory Therapists
- Health Educators

Community members without medical training will also have vital roles in the Medical Reserve Corps, as:

- Registrars
- Translators/Sign Language
- Interpreters
- Administrative Assistants
- Managers
- Data Entry Clerks
- Greeters
- Facility Set-up Crew

All interested community members are welcome to participate.



MRC volunteers during the 2005 Regional Bio-Terrorism Exercise



How Do I Volunteer?

Those interested in volunteering for the MRC can obtain an application from Kitsap County Department of Emergency Management's website at www.kitsapdem.org or call the office at (360) 307-5870.

Once the application and background check are complete and medical licenses and/or certifications have been verified, the MRC member is ready to attend orientation. Orientations are held quarterly throughout the region.

In the event of a public health emergency or natural disaster, Kitsap County Department of Emergency Management would call out volunteers using the contact information provided during registration to let you know where to report.

What About Liability?

All Medical Reserve Corps volunteers will work under the direction of the Clallam/Jefferson and Kitsap County Health District's Medical Directors and are enrolled in the Washington State Emergency Worker program governed by RCW 38.52. This covers liability during a declared emergency, trainings and exercises.

Training

All MRC members are required to attend an Orientation, Blood Borne Pathogens Class and hold a current CPR/First Aid card.

Additional training will vary based on the position you hold within the MRC. Some training may include Incident Command Systems, local emergency management procedures, triage, Neighborhood Distribution Center management, crisis intervention, as well as, community health education. Training may be conducted in a classroom setting or in your own home through online webcasts.



Washington State Region 2
HOMELAND SECURITY COORDINATING COUNCIL

Washington State Region 2 Homeland Security Medical Reserve Corps

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What Health Care Professionals Can Do In Clallam, Jefferson and Kitsap Counties