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1. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

What is the purpose of MI Volunteer Registry?

The purpose of the MI Volunteer Registry is to provide an electronic environment for volunteers to indicate their interests and contact information for helping to support a public health or medical emergency response. The Registry functions as a central location for volunteer information, which can be queried and appropriate volunteers contacted by e-mail.

Where does support come from for the MI Volunteer Registry?

Funding for the program is provided through a federal cooperative agreement with the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR), Hospital Preparedness Program (HPP); and the Emergency System for Advance Registration of Volunteer Health Professionals (ESAR-VHP) national program. Funds have been used to develop, implement, and sustain the Registry. Volunteers, along with designated local and regional preparedness partners, are able to use the system without direct cost to them.

What professions are being sought?

The MI Volunteer Registry seeks people with all skill levels and experiences. When registering to volunteer, you will be asked to select a volunteer organization(s) that is right for you!

The **Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)** program educates people about disaster preparedness and trains them in basic disaster response skills such as fire safety, light search and rescue, and disaster medical operations. Using their training, CERT members can assist others in their neighborhood or workplace following an event and can take a more active role in preparing their community. To register, you must have already completed the 20-hour CERT course.

Fire Corps promotes the use of citizen advocates to enhance the capacity of resource-constrained fire and rescue departments at all levels: volunteer, combination, and career. Citizen advocates can assist local fire departments in a range of activities including fire safety outreach, youth programs, and administrative support. To register, you must belong to a certified Fire Corps organization and have completed their required training.

County Affiliated Volunteers designation reflects all types of individuals that wish to volunteer, including both medical and non-medical professions. Affiliation with a specific team or organization is not required to become a member. Volunteers may select from one or more counties they wish to be eligible for deployment and to receive notification requests. It is recommended a volunteer's designated profile address (and surrounding counties) be the basis for their selection.

Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) strengthens communities by offering support throughout the year, as well as during local emergencies and other times of community need. Public health, medical, or other volunteers work in coordination with existing local emergency response programs and supplement public health initiatives. You must first belong to a local MRC unit, prior to registering on the MI Volunteer Registry. For more information visit <https://mrc.hhs.gov/homepage>

The **Michigan Mortuary Response Team (MI-MORT)** is a Mass Fatality Response Team made up of different professions all with the common goal of assisting county Medical Examiners, Emergency Management, and Public Health with Mass Fatality management. To register, you must be a member of the team. Visit www.mimort.org for more information or contact Jessica Gould at gouldj3@michigan.gov

The **Michigan State Animal Response Team (MI-SART)** is dedicated to preparing for, responding to, and recovering from disasters which affect animals in Michigan. MI-SART is a volunteer organization of trained and credentialed veterinarians, veterinary technicians, and others with animal care experience. To register, you must complete certain training requirements and submit documentation to verify completion. Visit <https://www.facebook.com/MI-State-Animal-Response-Team-MI-SART-146508548755388/> for more information.

The **Michigan Transportable Emergency Surge Assistance Medical Unit (MI-TESA)** is an all-weather 140 bed mobile field hospital that is supported by Mobile Medical Personnel and Tactical Support Teams to meet medical surge or healthcare infrastructure disruption. To register, you must be a member of the team. For more information on MI-TESA contact Loren Korte at kortel@michigan.gov.

An expanded **Neighborhood Watch Program (NWP)** incorporates terrorism awareness education into its existing crime prevention mission, while also serving as a way to bring residents together to focus on emergency preparedness and emergency response training. To register, you must belong to a certified NWP organization and have completed their required training.

The **Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS)** program provides support and resources for agencies interested in developing or enhancing a volunteer program and for citizens who wish to volunteer their time and skills with a community law enforcement agency. The program's ultimate goal is to enhance the capacity of state and local law enforcement to utilize volunteers. To register, you must belong to a certified VIPS organization and have completed their required training.

There are 12 **Tribal Response Teams** in the State of Michigan. Each sovereign tribe has an independent relationship with each other and with the state. The State of Michigan and Tribal governments share a responsibility to provide for and protect the health, safety, and welfare of our common constituents. Individuals may indicate interest or involvement in a Tribal Response Team. [Federally Recognized Tribes in Michigan](#)

VRTF the Victim Resource Task Force members have completed the National Organization for Victim Assistance Crisis Response Team Training and are a carefully selected group of victim advocates. These individuals have been trained to respond to incidents of mass violence. They serve under the direction of the Division of Victim Services (State of Michigan/Michigan Department of Health and Human Services) in collaboration with Emergency Preparedness officials and local law enforcement as necessary. For more information, please contact Jeremy Hagerman at hagermanj1@michigan.gov

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2. REGISTRATION INFORMATION



Who can register for MI Volunteer Registry?

MI Volunteer Registry was originally designed primarily for health care professionals. However, anyone over the age of 18 can register.

Where can I register to be a volunteer?

To register, go online to:

<http://www.mivolunteerregistry.org>. The registration process should take approximately 15-30 minutes for unlicensed professionals, but may take up to 60 minutes if you have multiple licenses or certifications to enter. If you have a medical license, medical specialty, or any health certifications, make sure to have them available, as you will need them for the registration process.

What do I have to do to qualify to register?

We are seeking people with health care backgrounds and experience, or a genuine interest in volunteering during an emergency. We are looking for people with all skill levels and experiences. Once you have filled out an on-line application, a Registry administrator will review and verify your information—including a criminal background check—to determine your qualification to assist with potential volunteer activities.

Can I register if I am not currently a licensed health professional?

Yes, there is a need for all types of volunteers.

If I am not currently employed, but keep my license current, can I register?

Yes, if you are retired, a student, or are not working in a health care field, please register.

May I volunteer for the MI Volunteer Registry as well as for other organizations?

Yes, the MI Volunteer Registry captures volunteer affiliations and other commitments, as identified by the applicant.

What if I am in the Military?

If you have other emergency response commitments, please indicate that in the appropriate area on the registration form.

How many people are needed for the registry?

We would like to register as many people as possible so that communities will have immediate access to the volunteers needed to support a public health or medical emergency.

How will I be able to update my information?

Once you register, you will have a secure password that will allow you to re-enter and modify your record at any time. You will also receive periodic reminders to check the accuracy of your profile.

Is it required that I register now, or may I decide if and when a crisis occurs?

We strongly recommend registration prior to an event, however it is not required. Advanced registration of volunteers will provide hospitals, public health, and emergency authorities immediate access to personnel that may be needed in the event of an emergency.

Does registering obligate me to volunteer in an emergency?

No. At the time of an event, you may be notified with a request to volunteer. Volunteers are encouraged to respond to availability requests and may change their response/availability at any time.

3. LEGAL ISSUES

Where can I find up to date information on Legal and Regulatory issues?

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) About Legal and Regulatory Issues may be found on the MI Volunteer Registry home page via the Legal and Regulatory button located on the left side of the page.

What precautions are being taken by the State to protect health volunteers against disclosure of personal information contained in the MI Volunteer Registry?

Authorized Registry system administrators are the only individuals to have access to your information. Registry volunteer profile information is not open to the public. The system is designed to provide unique privileged access for specific professions and qualifications following an emergency incident. This includes the ability to limit administrator access rights to local teams and certain program affiliations (i.e., Medical Reserve Corps).

What other legal resources are available?

Before deployment, health volunteers are advised to consult with their own legal counsel, employers, or sponsors. More information is available at the following websites:

- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) (<http://www.phe.gov/preparedness/Pages/default.aspx>)
- Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR) (<http://www.phe.gov/about/aspr/Pages/default.aspx>)
- Emergency System for Preparedness and Response (ESAR-VHP) Employer page (<http://www.phe.gov/esarvhp/pages/employers.aspx>)
- Medical Reserve Corps (<https://mrc.hhs.gov/homepage>)
- American Red Cross (<http://www.redcross.org>)
- University of Pittsburgh Emergency Law Inventory (eli) (<https://legalinventory.pitt.edu>)

4. COMMITMENTS

What is the level or length of volunteer commitment in an emergency?

Once notified of the emergency or crisis, each volunteer will determine their current availability, based on the following (*Note: Volunteers are able to communicate their level of commitment through the Deployment Preferences section of their volunteer profile*):

- What kind of incident are you willing to respond to?
- What distance are you willing to travel?
- How long are you willing to be deployed?

What kind of tasks may I be assigned?

The type of tasks assigned may depend upon the situation or event.

Can I be asked to volunteer out of state?

Yes, you may be asked but are under no obligation to volunteer out of state.

Under what conditions will I be contacted to provide emergency services?

You will be contacted in an emergency if local, regional, and/or state responder resources are not sufficient to meet the need for response and recovery efforts resulting from that incident.

Will I be paid to volunteer?

No. All volunteer work is unpaid. However, being a volunteer is important!

5. TRAINING AND EDUCATION

What kind of training or additional responsibilities will I receive dealing with emergencies?

There are no trainings or additional responsibilities required prior to an emergency for most registrants, however, disaster training and participation in local and regional exercises is encouraged. Training opportunities will be posted from time to time to the *Training & Events* section of the MI Volunteer Registry. Volunteers are encouraged to check this page frequently.

Registered volunteers may also reference the *Volunteer Training Matrix*, posted to the Document Library (Training, Volunteer Resources), which offers recommendations and at a minimum an understanding in the Incident Command Structure (ICS). Opportunities are available on-line through MI-TRAIN or through local, regional, or State events.

What kind of risks may I be exposed to in an emergency?

You may be requested on your interest or availability for responding to different types of emergencies; including floods, tornados, large fires, and events that may be chemical, biological, radiological, or nuclear. You will be offered training on how to help in an emergency, as well as how to protect yourself.

How can I get information about local or regional preparedness efforts, contact information, training, and events?

Additional information may be found in the [MI Volunteer Registry](#), the [Bureau of EMS, Trauma and Preparedness](#), or [MI-TRAIN](#).

6. CONTACT INFORMATION

How will I be contacted in an emergency?

You will be contacted via e-mail. The e-mail message will provide all of the information about where to report, credentials to bring, and other necessary information relative to the situation.

If I have questions or concerns once I have registered, whom do I contact?

If you have general or technical assistance questions regarding MI Volunteer Registry, please contact a Registry administrator at help-mivolunteerregistry@michigan.gov.

If I volunteer, will there be help available to take care of my family?

No, this is a personal responsibility and whether you chose to volunteer or not, it is important to develop an emergency plan for your family. Learn more about [creating a plan at michigan.gov/prepares](#).

***Disclaimer:** This FAQ is for informational purposes only. Nothing within this FAQ is meant to provide specific legal guidance or advice to any person. Rather, this FAQ is meant to serve as an assessment tool for individuals who are considering participation in the MI Volunteer Registry. Readers should consult with their own attorneys about these laws and their applicability to particular situations or organization.*

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