Show-Me Response

Show-Me Response is Missouri's Emergency System for Advance Registration of Volunteer Health Professionals (ESAR-VHP) program. It is a secure, web-based format for the registration, credential verification, communication and management of general volunteers and health professionals willing to volunteer in the event of an emergency. Working with key partners such as the Medical Reserve Corps (MRC), local public health agencies (LPHA), Community Organizations Active in Disasters (COAD), hospitals, clinics and local communities, Show-Me Response supports the efficient registration, professional credentialing, management and activation of pre-registered volunteers as well as those who register at the time of an emergency.

A variety of volunteer credentials are verified through Show-Me Response including licensure and place of practice. More than 8,400 volunteers are currently registered in Show-Me Response, including over 400 physicians and 3,200 Registered Nurses. Nearly 800 of the RNs registered in Show-Me Response have a verified hospital-based practice.

Registering with Show-Me Response is done online at www.showmeresponse.org and includes contact information, education, training, licensure, place of practice, area of specialty and affiliation. Professional licensure is checked via an electronic interface between Show-Me Response and the Missouri State Board of Professional Registration. Place-of-practice information is verified annually via a letter or email sent by the program to the volunteer's employer.

Fifty percent of volunteers in Show-Me Response are affiliated with a local or specialty response unit including Medical Reserve Corps; local public health and emergency management agencies; community organizations active in disasters (COAD); and others.

A variety of entities may request volunteers through Show-Me Response including hospitals, Local Public Health Agencies, MRCs, long term care, home care, and others (e.g. AmeriCorps, American Red Cross). A request to activate volunteers through Show-Me Response may be made in the event of a gubernatorial or presidentially declared emergency.

Volunteers registered in Show-Me Response are under no obligation to respond to an emergency. If called regarding a mission, the volunteer simply logs a response of *available, unavailable* or *unsure*. Accepting deployment through Show-Me Response must be right for the individual and his or her household first; and right for the volunteers' place of practice or employer as well.

Show-Me Response was activated on May 31, 2011, in response to the Joplin tornado. AmeriCorps requested volunteer RNs to staff a first aid and triage station. RNs with an outpatient practice were called. The mission was 50 percent staffed within two hours of receiving the request. The mission was fully staffed within 24 hours.

For more information regarding Show-Me Response, visit www.showmeresponse.org. There you will find a link to the Show-Me Response newsletter, *The Call*, as well as answers to frequently asked questions as well as a link to contact the Show-Me Response team. You may also send an email to the Program Coordinator, Anne Kyle at anne.kyle@sema.dps.mo.gov.

Show-Me Response and Medical Reserve Corps in Missouri

Medical Reserve Corps

Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) units strengthen community health, preparedness and resiliency by bringing citizen volunteers from a wide variety of backgrounds together to support public health needs day-to-day and during a disaster. There are 36 MRC units in MO. Thirty of those units are sponsored by a local public health agency (LPHA) with missions that include disaster response as well as non-emergency public health activities. MRC units provide services to 68 counties in Missouri. Two MRC units provide state-wide coverage: the Missouri Volunteer Veterinary Corps and the MO State MRC. These units may be activated during large-scale disasters or to assist any other MRC unit with whom they have a mutual aid agreement.

Only one MRC unit has a full-time funded coordinator. At least three MRC coordinators are volunteers who have accepted the leadership role for their unit. The remaining MRC units have a MRC coordinator who is an employee of the unit's housing organization and has a small portion of position salary and time dedicated to MRC development and sustainment.

A Missouri State-wide MRC has formed under the Missouri Disaster Response System (MoDRS) umbrella. MRC units may enter into mutual aid with the State-wide MRC to enhance deployment options across jurisdictional lines. Individual volunteers may also affiliate with this unit. The primary mission of this MRC is the support of persons with access and functional needs within a shelter population.

The Missouri Volunteer Veterinary Corps is a MRC whose mission is to assist with a variety of veterinary needs during disasters including: agricultural animal assistance, pet sheltering, co-location of pet/human shelters, etc.

MRCs in Missouri are as unique as the counties and regions of the state and have formed to meet the needs of citizens in the various jurisdictions served. Several of the MRCs in Missouri have been recognized nationally for innovative planning, preparation, and response including MRCKC whose just-in-time video training series has been made available to other MRCs and the public at no cost. Visit www.mrckc.org for more information.

Missouri's Emergency System for Advance Registration of Volunteer Health Professionals (ESAR-VHP) *Show-Me Response* works hand-in-glove with MRCs in Missouri. The Show-Me Response database is available at no cost to MRCs for the management of volunteers. Thirty four of Missouri's 36 MRCs use *Show-Me Response* for volunteer management.

MRC volunteers donated $187,464.81 worth of time (based on 2012 volunteer/hour rate of $21.79) in Missouri during 2012 and reached out to nearly 90,000 citizens.

More information regarding MRC may be found at www.medicalreservecorps.gov. For information related to MRCs contact Brandy Halbert, Missouri MRC Coordinator at brandy.halbert@sema.dps.mo.gov.