

# READY • SET • RESPOND!

To volunteer with MA Responds:

1. Visit [maresponds.org](http://maresponds.org)
2. Click on "Register Now"
3. Complete application

For more information, contact us:

MA Responds

Massachusetts Department of Public Health  
Emergency Preparedness Bureau  
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MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH  
EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS BUREAU  
250 WASHINGTON STREET  
BOSTON, MA 02108



## Become a volunteer during a public health emergency.

### Get ready to make a difference.

[maresponds.org](http://maresponds.org)



# Get ready to make a difference.

## MA RESPONDS

MA Responds is an online registration system for health volunteers. This system is a partnership between the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH), local Medical Reserve Corps units, and other volunteer organizations in Massachusetts. Registering with MA Responds will allow you to volunteer for a variety of public health events.

Volunteers may be needed to respond locally, regionally, or across the state by:

- **ASSISTING** neighbors during natural disasters such as floods, ice storms, or hurricanes
- **IMPROVING** community health by working to educate, prevent, and prepare
- **SUPPORTING** public health by helping in vaccination clinics when resources are strained by an event like a flu or other outbreak



## MA RESPONDS VOLUNTEERS ARE...

- Health care professionals such as nurses, doctors, pharmacists, dentists, veterinarians, and EMTs
- Non-health professionals from all backgrounds
- Behavioral health and social service professionals, including counselors, social workers, interpreters, and chaplains

Active professionals, students, retirees, and other volunteers are needed to join this network of people who are trained and ready to assist officials in an emergency. All volunteers will receive valuable training free of charge. **Choose when and where you want to volunteer.**



Photo courtesy of FEMA/Le Hall

## WAYS TO VOLUNTEER

There are four options to choose from when signing up as a volunteer.

- 1. Join the Medical Reserve Corps (MRC).** MRC units function as part of local emergency preparedness teams. They supplement existing resources such as the Red Cross and local public health, fire, police, and emergency management services. The result is a collaborative, local effort that is prepared for small and large public health events and emergencies. Each MRC is organized to best suit the unique characteristics of its area. Recruiting, training, and organizing medical and non-medical individuals to strengthen their communities through volunteerism are at the core of the MRC concept.
  - 2. Become a state-unaffiliated volunteer.** Volunteers include neighbors and citizens who are interested in helping out in the event of a statewide public health emergency but are not members of a local MRC unit.
  - 3. Become a Disaster Behavioral Health Responder,** a part of the MassSupport Network.
  - 4. Become a SMART volunteer** working as part of the State of Massachusetts Animal Response Team (SMART).
- New volunteer opportunities continue to become available. Go to [maresponds.org](http://maresponds.org) to learn more and sign up.**

