



Christian County Medical Reserve Corps (MRC)
Welcome Packet



Welcome Letter

Dear Future MRC Volunteer,

Welcome—and thank you for your interest in the Medical Reserve Corps!

We are thrilled that you are considering joining a dedicated network of volunteers committed to strengthening public health, emergency preparedness, and community resilience. Whether you're a seasoned medical professional, a student exploring ways to serve, or someone with non-medical skills and a heart for helping others, there is a meaningful place for you in the MRC.

The Medical Reserve Corps was established to provide communities with a flexible, trained group of volunteers ready to respond in times of need. From supporting public health outreach and emergency shelters to assisting during vaccination clinics or natural disasters, volunteers make a real impact.

Joining the MRC is not just about being ready for emergencies. It's also about being part of the Citizen Corps community – a community that values connection, service, and learning.

As you review this welcome packet, you'll find more information about the MRC history and how to get involved. We are here to support you every step of the way and are happy to answer any questions you might have.

Thank you again for your willingness to serve. We can't wait to welcome you to our team! Please send any questions you have to mrc@christiancountymo.gov.

Warm regards,

Jamie Orlando

Assistant Director

Christian County Emergency Management

Introduction to the MRC

Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) volunteers are trained to operate as part of a coordinated team within their community's public health, preparedness, and emergency response systems. They play a vital role in supporting local medical and public health needs during disasters and public health emergencies. Beyond crisis response, MRC volunteers actively promote health preparedness and resilience in their communities, contributing to the reduction of public health risks and disparities.

MRC members engage in ongoing training—both individually and as part of their unit—to enhance their skills, knowledge, and readiness. Training formats vary and may include formal coursework, hands-on drills, or full-scale exercises conducted in collaboration with partner agencies. Many of these educational opportunities offer continuing education units (CEUs) or professional development credits.

In addition to emergency preparedness, many volunteers participate in community-based health initiatives. These may include promoting health literacy, supporting disease prevention efforts, and addressing health inequities.

In an emergency, local responders are often the first called upon, sometimes with little or no advance notice. As an MRC volunteer, you will be part of a trained, organized team ready to support emergency response operations and bolster local capacity. Your specific role will be determined by your professional background, competencies, and interests, in alignment with the needs of the MRC unit and the community it serves.

The MRC program welcomes licensed medical and public health professionals to lead and support emergency response efforts. However, non-medical volunteers are equally critical to mission success. Community members without clinical training can provide essential administrative, logistical, and operational support.

All volunteers, including those in administrative or support roles, participate in orientation that introduces them to the MRC structure and the broader public health and emergency management systems. Additional role-specific training may include communication protocols, support operations, and the Incident Command System (ICS) or other applicable local command structures. When appropriate, support volunteers also participate in drills and exercises to ensure seamless integration with front-line response efforts.

MRC History

The Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) was established in the aftermath of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, as part of President George W. Bush's broader initiative to strengthen civic engagement through the USA Freedom Corps. Designed to promote service in three key areas—crisis response, community rebuilding, and global compassion—the Freedom Corps included the MRC as a key component for improving the nation's emergency preparedness and public health infrastructure. Initially launched as a demonstration project under the Office of the U.S. Surgeon General, the MRC was envisioned as a network of community-based units composed of medical, public health, and other qualified volunteers who could be rapidly mobilized in times of crisis.

From its modest beginnings with 42 pilot units, the MRC grew steadily in both scope and capacity. In 2006, the U.S. Congress formally authorized the MRC through the Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Act (PAHPA), affirming its role as a national asset capable of supporting emergency response efforts across local, state, tribal, territorial, and federal levels. This commitment was further reinforced by the 2013 Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Reauthorization Act (PAHPRA), which transferred MRC oversight to the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR) within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Over the years, MRC volunteers have responded to a wide array of emergencies, including natural disasters, infectious disease outbreaks, and complex public health crises. Notable deployments include the response to Hurricane Katrina, the H1N1 influenza pandemic, Hurricane Sandy, the domestic Ebola response, Zika virus education efforts in Puerto Rico, and the opioid epidemic. During the COVID-19 pandemic alone, MRC volunteers contributed over 650,000 hours to vaccination, testing, and logistical operations. More recently, MRC units have been essential in wildfire response, psychological first aid, and community resilience-building initiatives.

Through cooperative agreements with partners such as the American Red Cross and the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO), the MRC has evolved into a robust, coordinated system of nearly 1,000 units and hundreds of thousands of trained volunteers nationwide. These individuals—medical professionals and non-clinical personnel alike—serve as critical assets in enhancing community preparedness, strengthening public health infrastructure, and ensuring rapid and effective response to both routine and large-scale emergencies.

Let's Get Started! MRC Checklist

Over the next year, please work to complete this checklist. Helpful hints for completing this checklist are on following pages.

- Fill out MRC Application paperwork
- Register on ShowMeResponse.org
- Complete FEMA ICS Courses 100, 200, 700, and 800
- Pick up shirt and badge from office
- Attend monthly meetings, as able
- Complete Christian County's MRC Training
- Complete a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training, as able

Checklist - Helpful Hints

Fill out MRC application paperwork. These six forms are attached separately. If you are already part of the Citizens Corps or CERT program, you have already filled out these forms and can skip this step.

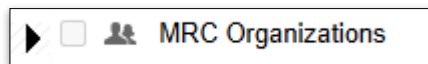
1. Medical Statement Form
2. Emergency Contact Information Form
3. Volunteer Application
4. Image Release Form
5. RAVE Form
6. Approval for Background Investigation OR a copy of a recent background check.

If you do not have a recent background check, we will need to run a background check on you. The cost of a background check is \$25, cash or check. Checks can be written to Christian County.

You may email them back to us or bring them into the Emergency Management office in Ozark, MO. Call or email us to find a time to come in: 417-582-5400 or mrc@christiancountymo.gov.

Register on showmeresponse.org. If you need help filling out your paperwork, contact us at mrc@christiancountymo.gov. Steps below for completing the paperwork at home:

1. Type in showmeresponse.org in your browser.
2. Click on “Register Today”.
3. Click on “Add Organizations”
4. Click the arrow next to “MRC Organizations:



5. Choose “Christian County MRC



6. Choose “Select”
7. Fill out the rest of the form with your contact information and select “Next”

Complete FEMA ICS 100, 200, 700, and 800. If you need help finding or completing your ICS classes, contact us at mrc@christiancountymo.gov. Steps below for completing the classes at home:

1. Visit cdp.dhs.gov/femasid
2. Choose “Register for a FEMA SID”
3. After registration, visit training.fema.gov
4. Search for each course and complete them on your own time.

Pick up shirt and badge from office. Our office is located at 110 W. Elm St., Ozark, MO. Please call (417-582-5400) or email (mrc@christiancountymo.gov) ahead of time to ensure we are able to get you a badge and t-shirt.

Attend monthly meetings, as able. Citizen Corps meetings encompass all of our volunteer subgroups – Fire Corps, Medical Reserve Corps, Disaster Animal Response Team, and Community Emergency Response Team. Each monthly meeting includes education and organizational updates. This is the best way to meet fellow volunteers and to know what trainings and volunteer opportunities are available.

Meeting Location: Planning and Development Building, 1106 W. Jackson St., Ozark, MO

Meeting Time: 6:30PM on the second Tuesday of the month. If we cancel a meeting, it will be by email. Always feel free to call or email to confirm meetings.

Complete Christian County’s MRC Training. If you need help finding or completing your MRC training classes, contact us at mrc@christiancountymo.gov. Steps for completing the classes at home are below.

1. Go to <https://www.train.org>
2. Create a new account or sign into the website.
3. Find the Training Plan called “MRC-Christian County Missouri”
4. Complete individual classes.

Note: While supplies last there are rewards for completing all of these steps! Once you have completed your checklist, contact us at

mrc@christiancountymo.gov to see if you are able to receive some complimentary disaster medical gear.

Complete a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training, as able. Local government prepares for everyday emergencies. However, there can be an emergency or disaster that can overwhelm the community's immediate response capability. While adjacent jurisdictions, State and Federal resources can activate to help, there may be a delay for them getting to those who need them. The primary reason for CERT training is to give people the decision-making, organizational, and practical skills to offer immediate assistance to family members, neighbors, and associates while waiting for help. While people will respond to others in need without the training, the goal of the CERT program is to help people do so effectively and efficiently without placing themselves in unnecessary danger. To learn more about CERT or to sign up for the next training, visit ema.christiancountymo.gov.