

*The first response to any disaster is a local response.*



### **The Medical Reserve Corps:**

- ✓Allows experienced health professionals to volunteer their expertise in times of need.
- ✓Consists of locally based medical and health volunteers who can assist their communities during emergencies, such as an influenza epidemic, a chemical spill, or an act of terrorism.
- ✓Provides education, emergency preparedness outreach, and prevention services to improve the health and wellness of their communities.

### **Community Emergency Response Team:**

- ✓Educates members about disaster preparedness for hazards that may impact their area and trains them in basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations.
- ✓Using the training learned in the classroom and during exercises, members can assist others in their neighborhood or workplace following an event when professional responders are not immediately available to help or are overwhelmed.
- ✓Members also support partner emergency response agencies by taking a more active role in the emergency preparedness projects in the community.
- ✓A separate TEEN CERT program for youth age 16 and above complements the adult program.

In response to the outpouring of volunteer support in the days following September 11, 2001, President George W. Bush created the USA Freedom Corps, one component being the Citizen Corps. Citizen Corps volunteers work to make sure their families, homes and communities are prepared in the event of terrorism, crime and disasters of all kinds. Two specialized components of this effort are the Medical Reserve Corps and the Community Emergency Response programs.

Anyone over age 18 (16 for TEEN CERT) who lives or works in Manalapan is encouraged to contact the Health Department for more information. An application packet will be mailed to you, along with a request for a copy of your current professional licenses, certifications and resume so that we can best match your background, talents and interests to the needs of the MRC-CERT.

For more information,  
contact:

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## **MANALAPAN TOWNSHIP MEDICAL RESERVE CORPS- COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM**



Educating the community  
before the need.  
Serving the community at  
the time of need.



Your willingness to volunteer your skills and knowledge is what the Medical Reserve Corps and Community Emergency Response Team is all about. It starts with individuals like you- individuals who care enough to pool their resources when emergencies hit close to home. When your expertise is added to our local emergency planning effort, you become part of our local organizing effort. You can make a difference.



## What do MRC-CERT Volunteers do?

What we do know is that major emergencies overwhelm the capabilities of our first responders, especially during the first 12 to 72 hours. Medical and other health and community (non-medical) volunteers can provide an important “surge” capacity during the critical period, filling in the gaps in our emergency response plans to improve our overall response capabilities. In addition, Medical Reserve Corps and Community Emergency Response Team volunteers provide education and prevention services such as immunizations, screenings, and health seminars to improve the health and wellness of their neighborhoods and communities.

*Be ready to lend your medical skills and expertise.*

## What training will I need?

Emergency preparedness and response is a highly coordinated effort that allows us to maximize our capabilities at a time of extreme disorganization and stress. You may already know how to perform some of the medical, health, and other functions needed in an emergency. The most important part of your training will be learning to work as part of our team. Seminars and simulation training exercises will address:

- ❖ Manalapan’s local emergency plan
- ❖ Emergency response partner, system and health procedures
- ❖ Trauma response techniques
- ❖ Use of specialized equipment

## What is my liability as a volunteer?

In New Jersey, volunteers who provide direct medical services and assistance during a public health or other emergency are covered by provisions that provide general protection from liability during an emergency, except in cases of gross negligence.

## Who can volunteer for the MRC-CERT?

- ❖ Practicing, retired, or otherwise employed medical professionals, such as Physicians/Physician’s Assistants, Nurses & Nurse Assistants, Dental Care Providers, EMT & First Responders, Chiropractors, Mental Health Practitioners, Health Educators, Phlebotomists, Pharmacists, Health Interpreters/Translators, Health Technicians, Veterinarians, Public Health Professionals.
- ❖ Community members without medical training are needed to serve in an administrative support roll.
- ❖ YOU!

In an emergency, there is a natural tendency to ask “*What can I do to help?*”