



## **SWIMRC FAQ's**

### **(frequently asked questions)**

#### **What will I be doing as an MRC volunteer?**

Volunteers are needed for both emergency and non-emergency purposes.

*During a public health emergency*, MRC volunteers would be needed to help staff an emergency vaccination clinic or pharmaceutical distribution clinic. Many functions will be needed to run a clinic. We will match volunteers' skill levels and interests to the need. Some functions will include: vaccinating or distributing pharmaceuticals to people, medical screening, running patient education sessions, directing people-flow, providing mental health consultation, registering patients, entering data from forms, and stocking supplies. Volunteers are also needed when a disaster occurs locally such as fire, flood, and earthquake. If a surge of patients occurs MRC volunteers can assist hospitals, alternate care sites, or emergency medical services.

*During times of non-emergency*, volunteers can be local "ambassadors" for public health. We will match volunteers' skill levels and interest to the need. Some activities might include: assisting with flu clinics, children's health screenings, providing education sessions or presentations on special health topics, assisting patients with specific health-related programs, helping with health fairs, promoting immunization campaigns, as well as other possibilities that may be presented.

#### **Do you have to have medical skills to volunteer for the Medical Reserve Corps?**

Not necessarily. We have a need for medical volunteers to perform specific medical functions. But non-medical volunteers can fulfill other important needs such as: translation assistance, computer assistance, clerical support, health education, stocking medical supplies, managing clinic flow, public information contact, supporting medical programs, logistics during an emergency, man phone banks. Everyone's skills are valued and needed.

#### **What about liability for MRC volunteers?**

The law relating to liability coverage varies from state to state. At this time a uniform policy of protection for MRC volunteers across the nation does not exist. A volunteer working under

SWDH direction has liability coverage through SWDH. If a federal disaster is declared, liability may be covered under the National Volunteer Act.

### **What kind of training will volunteers receive?**

Volunteers will be offered orientation, blood borne pathogen, confidentiality, points of dispensing, roles and responsibilities and more. Classes are offered at quarterly meetings, through online incident command and hazmat classes, the Idaho Learning Management System and other emergency preparedness organizations. We strongly suggest volunteers complete ICS 700 and 100. Preparing volunteers and their families to care for themselves and their neighbors is very important to SWIMRC.

### **How much time is needed to volunteer?**

The time you volunteer is always your decision. There is no required amount of time. You will need one hour of orientation either self learning or class. ICS classes may take 2-6 hours total but can be taken over your first year of participation. Training meetings are highly suggested and take place quarterly. Training exercises take 1-4 hours each and are your decision if you participate. Health fairs, health education and other public health activities are 1-4 hours generally. If an event of clinic occurs you will be given the available options and can choose to work or not. In the first year one hour is minimum but hopefully you can volunteer for 7 hours to get your orientation and ICS training completed.

### **How will you contact me and when?**

Whether the coordinator is sending announcements, newsletters, education or notification of an emergency, the first method of contact is always by e-mail. SWIMRC has a handful of volunteers who don't have email and are contacted by phone or snail mail. It is very important that you keep addresses and phone numbers in Volunteer Idaho current. Just go back into your application profile and make whatever changes you need to. Newsletters are sent approximately 2-3 weeks before quarterly meetings in January, April, July, and October. In an emergency event you will get an email alert through [Volunteer Idaho](#) with instructions. Emergencies evolve over time so if you don't open your email right away please answer when you do receive it. Most events are local with travel in the 6 county area of the Southwest District.