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1. **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

What is the purpose of the MI Volunteer Registry (MVR)?

The purpose of the MVR is to provide an electronic database for volunteers to indicate their interests and contact information for supporting public health or medical emergencies, exercises, and everyday events. The MVR functions as a central location for volunteer information to be queried and used to contact the appropriate individuals for assistance.

What professions are being sought?

The MVR seeks Michigan residents and individuals who work in Michigan with all skill levels and experiences! When registering to volunteer, applicants are asked to select any affiliated volunteer organizations that may interest them. If they do not have one in mind, they are asked to choose their current county of residence. The following organizations are affiliated with the MVR:

The **Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)** program educates members about disaster preparedness and trains them in basic disaster response skills such as fire safety, light search and rescue, and disaster medical operations. Using their training, CERT members assist others in their neighborhood or workplace following an event and take an active role in preparing their community. To register, applicants must complete a 20-hour CERT course.

County Affiliation designation reflects all types of individuals that wish to volunteer, including both medical and non-medical professionals. Volunteers may select from one or more counties for deployment and to receive notification requests. Volunteers are asked to use their home address (and surrounding counties) as the basis for their county affiliation selection(s).

The **Division of Victim Services Mass Violence Response** program is comprised of victim advocates who support victims of mass violence. All members must complete the NOVA (National Organization for Victim Assistance) Basic Crisis Response Team training.

The **Fire Corps** program promotes the use of citizen advocates to enhance the capacity of resource-constrained fire and rescue departments at all levels: volunteer, combination, and career. Citizen advocates can assist local fire departments in a range of activities including fire safety outreach, youth programs, and administrative support. To register, applicants must belong to a certified Fire Corps organization and have completed all required training.

The **Medical Reserve Corps (MRC)** program strengthens communities by offering support throughout the year, as well as during local emergencies and other times of community need. Public health, medical, and non-professional volunteers work in coordination with existing local emergency response programs and supplement public health initiatives. For more information visit <https://aspr.hhs.gov/MRC/Pages/index.aspx>.

The **Michigan Mortuary Response Team (MI-MORT)** is a Mass Fatality Response Team made up of different professions with the common goal of assisting county Medical Examiners, Emergency Management, and Public Health with mass fatality management. Visit <https://mimort.org> for more information or contact Stephanie Steele at steeles7@michigan.gov.

The **Michigan Transportable Emergency Surge Assistance (MI-TESA)** program is an all-weather 100 bed mobile field hospital that is supported by Emergency Care Task Force teams to meet clinical needs for a medical surge or healthcare infrastructure disruption. The project is also supported by Technical Support Teams who set-up, maintain and tear down the structure for a deployment. Both clinical and non-clinical individuals are invited to apply to the appropriate team. To register or for more information on MI-TESA, contact Stephanie Steele at steeles7@michigan.gov.

The **National Ski Patrol (NSP)** is a federally chartered nonprofit membership association dedicated to serving the public by helping keep people safe on the mountain and during other outdoor activities. The National Ski Patrol encompasses nearly 2,200 Ski and Bike Patrollers, Ski Hosts, and Bike Hosts at over 35 ski, snowboard, cross country, and bike recreation venues across the state of Michigan.

The **Neighborhood Watch Program (NWP)** incorporates terrorism awareness education into its existing crime prevention mission, while also serving to bring residents together to focus on emergency preparedness and emergency response training. To register, applicants must belong to a certified NWP unit and have completed all required training.

There are 12 **Tribal Response Teams** in the State of Michigan. Each sovereign tribe has an independent relationship with each other and with the state. The State of Michigan and Tribal governments share a responsibility to provide for and protect the health, safety, and welfare of our common constituents. Applicants may indicate interest or involvement in a Tribal Response Team. For more information visit <https://www.michigan.gov/mde/resources/indigenous-education/indigenous-communities-in-michigan/tribal-nations-in-michigan>

The **Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS)** program provides support and resources for agencies interested in developing or enhancing a volunteer program and for citizens who wish to volunteer their time and skills with a community law enforcement agency. The program's goal is to enhance the capacity of state and local law enforcement to utilize volunteers. To register, applicants must belong to a certified VIPS unit and have completed all required training.

2. REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Who can register for the MVR?

The MVR was originally designed for healthcare professionals. However, any MI resident or individual who works in Michigan over the age of 18 years old is welcome to register as a volunteer.

Where can I register to be a volunteer?

To register, visit our website at <http://www.mivolunteerregistry.org>. The registration process takes approximately 15-60 minutes, depending on whether applicants have licenses or certificates to upload into their volunteer profile. Please ensure you have all applicable documents scanned and accessible in JPEG or PDF format before you begin completing the online application. Your ability to deploy to an event or training may be affected if all required information is not uploaded into your profile.

How do I qualify for registration?

The MVR is looking for:

- Michigan residents with healthcare backgrounds and experience
- Michigan residents with a genuine interest in volunteering during an emergency, with all skill levels and experiences.
- Individuals who work in Michigan and are able to respond to a public health or medical emergency in Michigan

Once you fill out the online application, an MVR Administrator will review and verify your information to determine your qualification to assist with future volunteer deployments, exercises, trainings, and activities. Verification includes a state background check and review of any professional licenses through the Accela and ImageTrend websites.

Can I register if I am not currently a licensed health professional?

Yes, there is a need for both licensed and non-licensed health professionals in the MVR.

If I am not currently employed but keep my license(s) current, can I register?

Yes, if you are retired, a student, or not currently working in a healthcare field, you can still register to volunteer.

Does registering obligate me to volunteer in an emergency?

No. At the time of an emergency, you may be notified of a request to volunteer via email. Volunteers are encouraged to respond to email requests regarding their availability and may change their availability preferences in their volunteer profile at any time.

May I volunteer for the MVR as well as for other organizations?

Yes, the MVR stores all organization affiliations and other commitments as identified by the volunteer. Due to the nature of emergency response, most volunteer opportunities with the MVR occur at the local level on an as-needed basis. This means there may be long periods of time when you are not utilized or deployed. We strongly encourage applicants who are interested in regular or reoccurring volunteer opportunities to visit the Michigan Community Service Commission at <https://www.michigan.gov/leo/boards-comms-councils/mcsc/vol-opps> to identify additional volunteer programs.

What if I am in the military?

If you have other emergency response commitments like military deployment, please indicate this in the appropriate area on your application.

How many volunteers are needed for the MVR?

We would like to register as many Michigan residents or people who work in Michigan as possible, so all communities will have immediate access to volunteers in the event of an emergency or disaster.

How do I update my information in the MVR?

Once you register, you will create a secure password that will allow you to re-enter and modify your volunteer profile information at any time. You will receive periodic email reminders to check the accuracy of your volunteer profile. Volunteers are also asked to upload a current photo (headshot preferred) into the Settings section of their profile for identification and badging purposes.

Is it required that I register now, or may I decide if and when a crisis occurs?

Advanced registration of volunteers provides hospitals, public health, and emergency authorities immediate access to personnel that may be needed in the event of an emergency requiring quick deployment. We strongly recommend registration prior to an emergency; however, it is not required.

3. LEGAL ISSUES

Where can I find updated information on volunteer legal and regulatory issues?

Frequently asked questions about volunteer legal and regulatory issues can be found on the left side of the MVR homepage via the blue *Legal and Regulatory* button. The Emergency Law Inventory at <https://eli.temple.edu/> also compiles over 1,800 laws from all 50 states, Washington D.C., eight U.S. territories, and the federal government. These laws cover five key areas: licensure, workers' benefits, liability, scope of practice, and protections from threats.

How is Michigan protecting personal information disclosed by volunteers in the MVR?

Volunteer profile information is not accessible to the public. Authorized MVR Administrators are the only individuals who have access to volunteer information. The MVR is designed to provide unique, privileged access for specific professions and qualifications following an emergency event. This includes the ability to limit Administrator access rights to local teams and certain program affiliations (i.e., Medical Reserve Corps).

What other legal resources are available?

Before deployment, volunteers are advised to consult with their own legal counsel, employers, or sponsors. More information is available at the following websites:

- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) (<https://www.usa.gov/federal-agencies/u-s-department-of-health-and-human-services>)
- Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR) (<http://www.phe.gov/about/aspr/Pages/default.aspx>)
- Emergency System for Preparedness and Response (ESAR-VHP) Employer page (<http://www.phe.gov/esarvhp/pages/employers.aspx>)
- Medical Reserve Corps (<https://aspr.hhs.gov/MRC/Pages/index.aspx>)
- American Red Cross (<http://www.redcross.org>)
- University of Pittsburgh Emergency Law Inventory (<https://legalinventory.pitt.edu>)

4. COMMITMENTS

What is the level or length of volunteer commitment in a deployment?

Volunteers can communicate their level of commitment in the Deployment Preferences section of their volunteer profile. Once notified of a deployment, each volunteer will determine their current availability based on the following:

- What kind of incident are you willing to respond to?
- What distance are you willing to travel?
- How long are you willing to be deployed?

What kind of tasks may be assigned?

The type of tasks assigned will depend on the emergency or event.

Can I be asked to volunteer out of state?

Yes, you may be asked, but you are under no obligation to volunteer out of state. You can indicate your preference for in-state and out-of-state volunteer opportunities in the Deployment Preferences section of your volunteer profile.

Under what conditions will I be contacted to volunteer?

You will be contacted in an emergency if local, regional, and/or state responder resources are not sufficient to meet the need for response and recovery efforts resulting from that incident.

Will I be paid to volunteer? No. All volunteer work is unpaid. However, being a volunteer is important and rewarding!

5. TRAINING AND EDUCATION

What kind of training or additional education will I receive?

There are no trainings or additional education required prior for an emergency; however, disaster training and participation in local and regional education and exercises is strongly encouraged. All training opportunities are posted either in the Training & Events section on the MVR homepage or announced via email. Volunteers may also reference the *Volunteer Training Matrix* in the Document Library, which offers online training course recommendations. Opportunities are also available online through the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) at <https://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/safety-injury-prev/publicsafety/ophp/training>.

What kind of risks could I be exposed to in a deployment?

Depending on your interest and availability as indicated in your volunteer profile, you may be asked to respond to emergencies such as floods, power outages, large scale accidents, tornados, fires, or events of a chemical, biological, radiological, or nuclear nature. You will be offered training on how to help others and protect yourself in all types of emergencies.

How can I obtain information about local or regional preparedness efforts, contact information, training, and events?

Additional information can be found on the following websites:

- www.mivolunteerregistry.org
- <https://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/safety-injury-prev/publicsafety/betp>
- <https://mi.train.org/mi-train/welcome>

- <https://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/inside-mdhhs/county-offices/lhd>
- <https://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/safety-injury-prev/publicsafety/ophp/healthcareplanning/content/mi-volunteer-registry>

6. CONTACT INFORMATION

How will I be contacted in an emergency?

You will be contacted via email. The email message will provide information about where to report, credentials and supplies to bring, and other necessary information relative to the event. Since email is the primary form of contact for the MVR, it is vital that volunteers keep their email address updated in their volunteer profile.

If I have questions or concerns once I have registered, whom should I contact?

If you have general or technical assistance questions regarding the MVR, please contact an MVR Administrator at help-mivolunteerregistry@michigan.gov.

If I volunteer, will there be help available to take care of my family?

No, this is your responsibility. If you choose to volunteer, it is important to develop an emergency plan for your family prior to deployment. Learn more about creating an emergency plan at <https://www.michigan.gov/michiganprepares/plan>.