WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT of HEALTH SERVICES

Health Emergency Preparedness and Response: Disaster Volunteer Services

Health professional volunteers are an essential part of emergency response and can be deployed in the event of various emergencies around the state. Emergency volunteer organizations allow health professionals to contact qualified volunteers and incorporate their services into short-term or long-term response situations.

WEAVR

The Wisconsin Emergency Assistance Volunteer Registry (WEAVR) [https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/preparedness/weavr/index.htm] is a multipurpose registry. It allows medical, behavioral health, and animal health professionals, emergency medical responders, and health professional students and retirees to self-register their interest to volunteer as part of an official public health emergency response. Others with skills to help support a public health emergency response are invited to register in WEAVR and indicate their related training and/or skill. WEAVR members are contacted in the event of an emergency and can be deployed quickly and efficiently.

Medical Reserve Corps

The Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) [https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/preparedness/mrc/index.htm] works to improve the health and safety of communities in Wisconsin and across the country. MRC units are composed of medical and public health professionals such as physicians, nurses, pharmacists, dentists, veterinarians, and epidemiologists. Many community members--interpreters, chaplains, office workers, legal advisors, and others--can fill key support positions. For more information on MRC locations [https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/publications/p03487.pdf] (PDF) around the state or starting an MRC in your community, contact the state MRC coordinator. [https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/preparedness/mrc/index.htm]

Other resources

Wisconsin VOAD

Wisconsin Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (Wisconsin VOAD) [https://www.nvoad.org/member-portal/forum/profile/wisconsin-voad/] is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, membership-based organization that serves as the forum where organizations share knowledge and resources throughout the disaster cycle--mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery — to help disaster survivors and their communities. Wisconsin VOAD includes highly reputable organizations (faith-based, community-based, and other non-governmental groups) that have developed specialized capabilities to serve communities during emergencies and disasters.

Volunteer Wisconsin

Volunteer Wisconsin [https://www.volunteerwisconsin.org] provides a resource if you are looking for volunteer events in your area. It contains volunteer opportunities within the health care field and more.

Last revised August 11, 2023