



Disaster Healthcare Volunteers DHV Journal



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Response Personnel Unit Message

National Mental Health Awareness Month, observed in May, is a month-long campaign that aims to promote awareness of mental health issues, reduce stigma, and increase access to resources and support for those affected.

Through this observance, individuals are encouraged to prioritize their mental health and well-being, to seek support, and to engage in open conversations about mental health. By reducing stigma and increasing access to resources and support, we can help individuals and communities affected by mental illness lead healthier, happier lives.

For more information and resources, visit the [National Alliance on Mental Illness](#).

Thank you for being an integral part of the Disaster Healthcare Volunteer (DHV) program and for your ongoing commitment to making a positive impact. Please remember to invite friends and colleagues to join your DHV county unit or Medical Reserve Corps by registering in the DHV system at [DHV of California](#).





MRC Corner

Lauran Molina



California Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) Coordinator

Happy Spring MRC! This quarter California has been hit by severe weather that has impacted local areas with heavy rain that has created landslides, mudslides, and flooding. In March, Monterey and Santa Cruz counties were heavily impacted and opened various shelters to support their communities. MRC Units were called into action and deployed their volunteers out of county to assist the impacted areas. The MRC Units that deployed their volunteers out of county to assist include Contra Costa MRC, Marin MRC, and Sonoma MRC. Santa Cruz MRC was also activated and deployed volunteers to local shelters to assist. A BIG THANK YOU to the MRC Coordinators that rostered their volunteers and a THANK YOU to all the volunteers that deployed, answered the availability poll, and offered their support.

Reported Quarterly Non-Emergency Activities:

COVID-19 testing clinics, Flu clinics, PPE Distribution, DHV System Drill, MRC Cache cleanup (disposing expired medical equipment and medications), General meetings, California CART Coalition Summit: Sidewalk CPR Booth, BLS/First Aid training, CPR AED training, Staffing First Aid stations at events, Preparedness Fairs. Etc.

Reported Quarterly Emergency Activities:

Contra Costa MRC provided support to the homeless by assembling and distributing donations. Polled/Deployed members for shelter support in Monterey/Santa Cruz County.

Long Beach MRC deployed volunteers to fill and distribute sandbags to areas affected by the severe weather conditions. Assisted in COVID-19 vaccines/boosters.

Napa MRC polled the DHV System for out of county deployment due to the winter storms.

Sacramento MRC provided warming center staffing, provided medical care at County and ARC shelters, donation sorting and distribution for the shelter guests due to the winter storms.

Ventura MRC supported Ventura County Human Services Agency to have medical staff on site to support a warming shelter.

Please encourage your friends, family and colleagues to register to volunteer at <https://healthcarevolunteers.ca.gov/> by selecting the nearest MRC Unit to where they reside. More MRC information can be found here: <https://aspr.hhs.gov/MRC>

MRC/DHV Unit Articles

Alameda County Medical Reserve Corps

The Alameda County Medical Reserve Corps (ALCO MRC) continues to stay active through ongoing disaster response training and by providing community preparedness classes on topics such as Stop the Bleed and Narcan/Epinephrine use. We are developing a train-the-trainer STB instructor program as a tool to get more instructors into our communities.

The ALCO MRC is also collaborating with several other Northern California MRC units to coordinate monthly regional meetings to share ideas and training opportunities. Past training topics included *Pill Drill Medication Management for Emergency Response*, *Earthquake Preparedness*, and *Animals in Disasters*, and we are excited to further enhance our regional preparedness and response capabilities.

The ALCO MRC conducted a Disaster Shelter Training back in November 2022 and had 28 attendees across 5 MRC units. This training focused on four station rotations – hands-on patient assessment skills using a manual blood pressure cuff, wound cleaning and steri-strip application, proper techniques and safety concerns when moving a patient to and from a low and wide medical cot, and Narcan/Epinephrine training and oxygen tank use with nebulizers. We plan to make this an annual training activity and to share the training materials with EMSA and other MRC units.



MRC/DHV Unit Articles cont.

Solano County California: A Community Comes Together to Save Lives.

[California Health Medical Reserve Corps \(CHMRC\)](#) is working with Solano County to build community resilience through whole-community engagement in public health initiatives at the Solano Health Hub. To kick off the Spring season, CHMRC partnered with the American Red Cross to host a blood drive to ensure they can continue to provide lifesaving blood and blood products to those who need it. The goal was to reach at least 25 units of blood donations, and the Solano community exceeded that goal with over 30 units of donated blood.


The event also included a partnership with OLE Health's Park-it Market, which provided over 120 bags of free fresh fruits and vegetables to those who attended. In addition, Drug Safe Solano offered free Narcan training and education services on site to those who were interested. Lastly, CHMRC volunteers trained 11 attendees in CPR and Basic Life Support at the event as well.

A well-connected community is a thriving community and as the year progresses, CHMRC's goal is to continue to build community resilience by convening resources and building partnerships with community-based organizations.



Online Disaster Training Opportunities

California is fortunate that over **104,000** volunteers are registered on the DHV System. Volunteers can be notified and given opportunities to serve in critical healthcare and non-healthcare positions when a disaster strikes in our State. As you are one of those who have made the commitment to register as a potential volunteer, you may want to take the next step and complete entry-level disaster training. There are on-line FEMA training opportunities you can complete on your own schedule.



FEMA | Emergency Management Institute

To learn more about training classes and many other training opportunities, visit FEMA's Emergency Management Institute's website: [FEMA - Emergency Management Institute \(EMI\) Home Page](#)

IS-244.B: Developing and Managing Volunteers (4 hours)

FEMA - Emergency Management Institute (EMI) Course | IS-244.B: Developing and Managing Volunteers

Course Objectives:

- Identify situations in which volunteers can be a useful addition to response and recovery operations.
 - Define skill and knowledge requirements for volunteers.
 - Develop a volunteer program that includes strategies for recruiting and managing volunteers within the whole community.
 - Develop a plan for setting up a Volunteer Reception Center.
 - Identify special issues involving the use of volunteers.
-

IS-100.C: Introduction to the Incident Command System, ICS 100 (2.0 hours)

FEMA - Emergency Management Institute (EMI) Course | IS-100.C: Introduction to the Incident Command System, ICS 100

Course Objectives:

- Explain the principles and basic structure of the Incident Command System (ICS).
- Describe the NIMS management characteristics that are the foundation of the ICS.
- Describe the ICS functional areas and the roles of the Incident Commander and Command Staff.
- Describe the General Staff roles within ICS.
- Identify how NIMS management characteristics apply to ICS for a variety of roles and discipline areas.

Prepare Your Pets for Disasters



Prepare Your Pets for Disasters

Your pets are important member of your family! This is why they should be included in your family's emergency plan.

To prepare for the unexpected, keep your pets in mind as you follow these tips:

1. Make a plan.
2. Build an emergency kit.
3. Stay informed.

Make a Plan

If you have a plan in place for you and your pets, you will likely encounter less difficulty, stress and worry when you need to make a decision during an emergency.

THINGS TO INCLUDE IN YOUR PLAN:



- Know what to do with your pet during an evacuation . Many public shelters and hotels do not allow pets inside. Know a safe place where you can take your pets before disasters and emergencies happen.
- Develop a buddy system. Plan with neighbors, friends or relatives to make sure that someone is available to care for or evacuate your pets if you are unable to do so.
- Have copies of your pet's vaccination record, and make sure your pet is microchipped. Keep your address and phone number up-to-date and include an emergency contact outside of your immediate area.
- Keep contact information for your local emergency management office or animal control office and shelters on hand in case you become separated from your pet.

Build a Kit for your Pet

Just as you do with your family's emergency supply kit, think first about the basics for survival.

Review your kit regularly to ensure that their contents are fresh.

HERE ARE SOME ITEMS TO INCLUDE IN AN EMERGENCY KIT FOR YOUR PET:




- Food and Water. Keep several days' supply of both.
- Keep food in an airtight, waterproof container, and have a water bowl to use.



Ready.

Prepare Your Pets for Disasters Cont.



- **Medicine.** Keep an extra supply of the medicine your pet takes on a regular basis in a waterproof container.
- **First aid kit.** Include items appropriate for your pet's emergency medical needs.
- **Backup collar with ID tag and a harness or leash.** Have copies of your pet's registration information in a waterproof container and available electronically. 
- **Traveling bag, crate or sturdy carrier** for each pet.
- **Grooming items.** Pet shampoo and other items, in case your pet needs some cleaning up. 
- **A picture of you and your pet together.** If you become separated from your pet, a picture will help you document ownership and allow others to assist you in identifying your pet.
- **Sanitation needs.** Include pet litter and litter box, trash bags and other items to provide for your pet's sanitation needs.
- **Familiar items.** Put favorite toys, treats or bedding in your kit to reduce stress for your pets. 

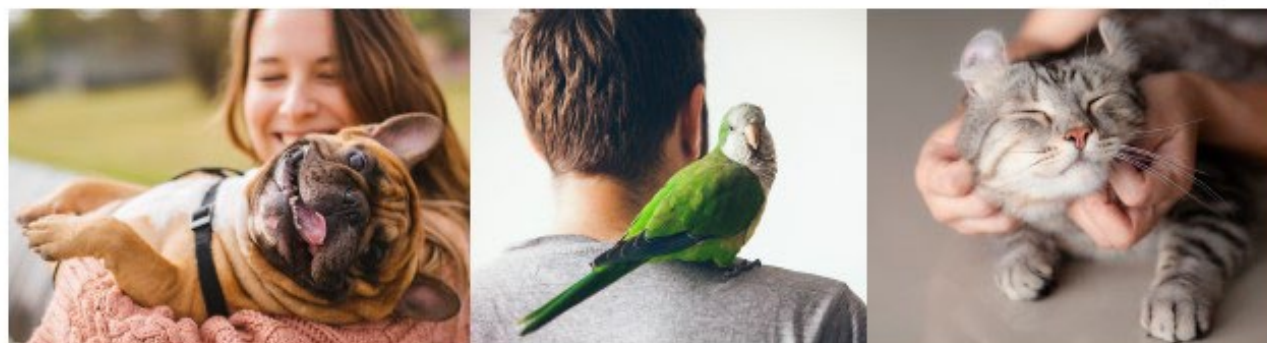
Stay Informed

Stay informed of current conditions and know how you will receive emergency alerts and warnings.

Download the FEMA app to get weather alerts for up to five different locations anywhere in the United States.

Always bring your pets indoors at the first sign or warning of a storm. For more information about how to prepare your pets, visit [Ready.gov/pets](https://www.ready.gov/pets).


Ready.



DHV User Tips

Updating Deployment Preferences



- Navigate to “My Profile”, “Deployment Prefs”, and click on “Edit Information”

The screenshot displays the DHV (Disaster Healthcare Volunteers) user interface. At the top, the logo for CA.GOV DISASTER HEALTHCARE VOLUNTEERS is visible, along with a user profile for 'Jim Test' and a 'Log Out' link. Below the header, a navigation bar contains links for 'Home', 'My Profile', 'Missions', 'Messages' (with a red notification badge showing '2'), and 'Organizations'. The 'My Profile' link is circled in red. Under 'My Profile', a sub-menu is shown with options: 'Summary', 'Identity', 'Deployment Prefs', 'Contact', 'Occupations', 'Training', 'Skills & Certifications', and 'Medical History'. The 'Deployment Prefs' link is circled in red. Below this, a large orange banner reads 'Deployment Prefs'. Underneath the banner, there is a button labeled 'Edit Information', which is also circled in red. The main content area is divided into three sections: 'Willingness and Availability', 'Prior Emergency Response Commitments', and 'Responder Activity Preferences'. Each section currently displays the text 'No information provided.' At the bottom of the page, there is a link labeled '► History of Changes'.

DHV User Tips Cont.

Updating Deployment Preferences

- Complete all the applicable questions and click “Save Changes”

**DISASTER HEALTHCARE VOLUNTEERS**

Jim Test | [Log Out](#)

[Contact Us](#)

[Home](#) | [My Profile](#) | [Missions](#) | [Messages](#) **2** | [Organizations](#)

[Summary](#) | [Identity](#) | [Deployment Prefs](#) | [Contact](#) | [Occupations](#) | [Training](#) | [Skills & Certifications](#) | [Medical History](#) | [Settings](#)

Deployment Prefs

Willingness and Availability

Deployment preferences are used to help match responders to potential emergency deployments.

★ Where are you willing to travel for deployment? ☐ Local
☐ In-State
☐ Out-Of-State
Check all that apply.

★ How many days are you willing to be deployed? days

★ In the event of a declared national emergency, would you consider volunteering to work under the authority of the Federal Government?
☐ Yes ☐ No
Selecting yes may result in your information being provided to the Federal Government upon its request.

Have you received the COVID-19 vaccine: ☐ Yes ☐ No

Do you have a medical or religious exemption: ☐ Yes ☐ No
Medical or Religious Exemptions need to be verified

Prior Emergency Response Commitments

Please indicate any existing commitments to other emergency response agencies and organizations which may limit your ability to volunteer your services during a potential deployment.

★ Do you have any other commitments that might pose a conflict in the event of an emergency?
☐ Yes ☐ No
Selecting yes allows you to select from a list of organizations which you might have a commitment to during an emergency.

Responder Activity Preferences

Indicate responder activities for which you want to be contacted.

Select all that apply:

Agricultural

Biological

Chemical

Environmental

→

←

[Cancel](#) [Save Changes](#)





DHV is California's ESAR-VHP Program

The Emergency System for Advance Registration of Volunteer Health Professionals (ESAR-VHP) is a federal program created to support states and territories in establishing standardized volunteer registration programs for disasters, public health, and medical emergencies.

Disaster Healthcare Volunteers (DHV), California's ESAR-VHP program, administered at the state level, verifies health professionals' identification and credentials so that they can respond more quickly when disaster strikes. By registering through ESAR-VHP, volunteers' identities, licenses, credentials, and accreditations are verified in advance, saving valuable time in emergency situations.

Why Do We Need ESAR-VHP?

In the wake of disasters and public health and medical emergencies, many of our nation's health professionals are eager and willing to volunteer their services. In these times of crisis, hospitals, clinics, and temporary shelters depend on health professional volunteers' services. However, on such short notice, taking advantage of volunteers' time and capabilities presents a major challenge to hospitals, public health, and emergency response officials. For example, immediately after the attacks on September 11, 2001, tens of thousands of people traveled to ground zero in New York City to volunteer and provide medical assistance. In most cases, authorities were unable to distinguish those who were qualified from those who were not - no matter how well-intentioned.

There are significant problems associated with registering and verifying the credentials of health professional volunteers immediately following major disasters or emergencies. Specifically, hospitals and other facilities may be unable to verify basic licensing or credentialing information, including training, skills, competencies, and employment. Further, the loss of telecommunications may prevent contact with sources that provide credential or privilege information. The goal of the ESAR-VHP program is to eliminate a number of the problems that arise when mobilizing health professional volunteers in an emergency response.

Disaster Healthcare Volunteers (DHV)

In accordance with federal mandate, California has developed the Disaster Healthcare Volunteers (DHV) Program to facilitate and manage the registration, credentialing, and deployment of volunteer healthcare professionals (VHPs) in California. DHV uses a software system for the management of volunteers, including the registration, notification, communication, and credentialing needs associated with volunteer management. The DHV Program is the single source system operated and administered by local, regional, State, public health, and emergency medical services agencies.

DHV is administered by all system stakeholders and managed by the California EMS Authority in partnership with the California Department of Public Health (CDPH). DHV volunteers include healthcare professionals (medical, public health, mental health, EMS, and other personnel) who are willing to be called upon in the event of an emergency or disaster. DHV volunteers are pre-registered and pre-credentialed. Deployment of volunteers will follow Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS) procedures.

To register on the DHV system or get more information, visit our website, [DHV of California](#)



DHV

Have You Updated Your DHV Registration Information Lately?

We depend upon each of you to update your DHV profile with your correct information. It is important that you take a moment to update your DHV System information when your information changes. Have you moved? Do you have a new occupation or a new employer? Have your email or phone numbers changed?

Please take a moment to update your file. Just log into [DHV of California](https://dhvofcalifornia.org) and click on the "Profile" tab. From there, you can navigate through your information. Click on "Edit Information" to make your changes, and then be sure to click on "Save Changes" when you have completed your edits.

The DHV Journal is published and distributed via email.

News and information for participants in the Disaster Healthcare Volunteers Program administered by EMSA and operated by System Administrators in local communities and Medical Reserve Corps Coordinators throughout California. This Journal is published and distributed periodically to the partners of the DHV Program.



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