

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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VOLUNTEERS FROM ALL WALKS OF LIFE NEEDED TO HELP YOUR COMMUNITY
RESPOND TO PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCIES

Volunteers needed from all walks of life to help join the Bristol County Medical Reserve Corps in preparing to respond to disasters in your community and across the country. With hurricanes impacting the gulf coast and potentially coming this season to New England, we are in need of many more volunteers.

The Bristol County Medical Reserve Corps Collaborative was created in 2006 to assist local communities during public health emergencies. The Medical Reserve Corps is a nationwide program sponsored by the office of the Surgeon General and created in 2002 in response to the terrorist attacks of September 11, when there were no volunteer management systems in place. The program is part of the Citizen Corps, a group of volunteers formed to protect national security. There are 43 Medical Reserve Corps units in Massachusetts and 782 nationwide with over 167,000 volunteers. Bristol County has approximately 800 volunteers, with a need for over 3,000 region wide.

Training is provided free, and volunteers will be given opportunities to participate in drills and emergency exercises throughout the year. Orientation training is mandatory, but participation in additional activities is not required.

For more information or to register, visit www.bristolcountymrc.org or e-mail the planning team at bcmrc.coordinator@comcast.net. You can also pick up an application and training calendar in your local public health/Board of Health office or contact Cheryl Bushnell at 508-367-7519. Be Informed. Be Prepared. Be a Volunteer. Emergency Preparedness is Everyone's Responsibility.