



the Call *Fall 2017*

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Show-Me Response Coordinator Leaves SEMA

I don't often write this type of newsletter article in the first-person, but this is an exception. I have been with the Show-Me Response program for almost seven years, arriving in late 2010. Later this month I will leave the State Emergency Management Agency to pursue other opportunities. This has been an excellent experience for me and I have enjoyed the work tremendously. Public Health preparedness will remain a powerful part of who I am as a nurse. I offer my thanks to each of you who is a part of this registry as you help Missouri stand ready to respond to the needs of our citizens when disaster strikes. Stay safe and be well! Anne Kyle, BSN, RN

Show-Me Response Deployment Process

Volunteers often inquire about why they were not called or notified for deployment during exercises or actual disasters. Volunteers are deployed via *Show-Me Response* based on requests that have been approved by both a local emergency operations center (LEOC) and the State Emergency Operations Center. A request for volunteers may come from a variety of organizations, including local public health agencies, long-term care facilities, home care providers, long-term acute care (LTAC) centers, clinics and hospitals. Volunteer organizations such as AmeriCorps, the American Red Cross and local Medical Reserve Corps units may also request volunteers.

Each volunteer registered in *Show-Me Response* may set parameters regarding deployment preferences. These parameters include information related to when (for how long) and where the volunteer is willing to serve (locally, regionally, statewide or out of state). As always, volunteers who are affiliated with a local response organization, such as the Medical Reserve Corps (MRC), are much more likely to be called upon for deployment.

Responding: Differences between MAA and ESAR-VHP

Disasters may bring a surge of patients to hospitals, clinics and field sites in the affected zone. Because that can happen with very little notice, thorough planning – both personal and organizational – is essential to mounting a fast, effective response effort when disaster strikes. For volunteers, choosing the most prudent response path is a crucial first step toward providing emergency assistance to disaster survivors. Understandably, volunteers often feel compelled to respond directly to the disaster scene as quickly as possible, assuming their skills are needed right away. However, this is never the appropriate route for unaffiliated volunteers to follow, because it can put the volunteer and those affected by the disaster in danger.

Volunteers who are interested in rapid deployment are encouraged to seek local affiliation with a Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) unit or join a Disaster Medical Assistance Team (DMAT). Missouri's D-MAT team is listed as Mo Disaster Response System under the organizations tab of the Show-Me Response profile. Those with a hospital-based practice may be asked to participate in a mutual aid deployment to assist another hospital during a disaster related surge in patients. Those deployed under the mutual aid agreement (MAA) will receive the same salary and benefits as on a normal work day.

New Opportunities for Show-Me Response Affiliation

The Polk County Health Center and the St. Clair County Health Center are now using Show-Me Response to manage volunteers. Volunteers residing in these counties may choose to affiliate with these teams.

Show-Me Response volunteers are encouraged to affiliate with local emergency response organizations. A wide variety of local and regional Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) units, local public health agencies, and specialty organizations are using Show-Me Response to manage volunteers. A list of organizations may be found by choosing the *Organizations* tab in your profile, which provides a brief description of each organization.

Volunteers should consider the location and description of an organization in order to make a good choice; and may affiliate with more than one, if appropriate. The organization's leaders will reach out to the potential volunteer and accept or reject his or her affiliation application based on factors such as location, organizational mission and volunteer skill sets.

A volunteer may be rejected from an organization and returned to the state pool of unaffiliated volunteers. This is most often due to geographic location, qualifications, or lack of response to communication from the organization. As a volunteer, you can assist in this process by keeping your Show-Me Response profile current.

Licensed health professional volunteers who are not affiliated will remain in the state pool of unaffiliated volunteers called SMR State Coordinators. General volunteers (those who are not licensed health professionals) will only be maintained in Show-Me Response if they are affiliated with an organization.

Volunteers may choose an affiliation at any time. Affiliated volunteers are more likely to be put to work during an emergency and have opportunities to assist during non-emergency activities as well.

The Call is produced by the Missouri State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA).

If you have information you would like to share with the readership, contact the program at Showmeresponse@health.mo.gov.

Show-Me Response is Missouri's Emergency System for Advance Registration of Volunteer Health Professionals (ESAR-VHP) and is used by Medical Reserve Corps (MRC), Local Public Health Agencies (LPHAs) and other partners for the management of volunteers.

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