

# MRC VOLUNTEER CORE COMPETENCIES



The National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO), in collaboration with the Division of the Civilian Volunteer Medical Reserve Corps (DCVMRC), is pleased to announce that the Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) has adopted the Competencies for Disaster Medicine and Public Health (DMPH Competencies) as the new core competency set for MRC volunteers.



## What is the MRC?

The MRC is a national network of volunteers, organized locally to improve the health and safety of their communities.

The MRC network comprises

997 community-based units and over 200,000 volunteers located throughout the United States and its territories. MRC volunteers include both medical and public health professionals and community members without healthcare backgrounds. MRC units engage these volunteers to strengthen public health, improve emergency response capabilities, and build community resiliency. MRC volunteers prepare for and respond to disasters and emergencies affecting public health.

## What is NACCHO'S Relationship with the MRC?

NACCHO and the DCVMRC have a cooperative agreement to help enhance MRC units' ability to meet local, state, and national needs through collaboration and capacity-building. The cooperative agreement strengthens ties between the MRC program and the public health system. NACCHO facilitated the development of the core competency set in collaboration with federal partners and representatives from the MRC.

## What are the DMPH Competencies?

In general, competencies create the basis for standards that specify the level of knowledge, skills, and abilities required for success. The DMPH Competencies represent the baseline knowledge that healthcare professionals or first responders need to perform tasks safely and consistently. Using the DMPH Competencies as the foundational competency set for MRC volunteers facilitates collaboration between MRC units and partners.

## What are the MRC Performance Qualifications?

MRC performance qualifications break down the DMPH Competencies into specific, measurable actions that an MRC volunteer should be able to perform to be considered competent in an area. The following performance qualifications apply to MRC volunteers and correspond to specific competencies:

- Develop a personal and family preparedness plan;
- Demonstrate safe behaviors during MRC activities;
- Follow procedures to activate, report, and demobilize successfully;
- Follow policies and procedures related to professional and ethical representation of the MRC;
- Describe the chain of command during MRC activities;
- Describe members' communication responsibilities and procedures;
- Describe how the MRC serves the community;
- Identify the impact of an event on the behavioral health of MRC members and their family, team, and community;
- Describe how the MRC supports community resiliency;
- Demonstrate cultural humility during MRC activities; and
- Identify the role of public health in the community.

## PARTNERS

- » Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response—Division of the Civilian Volunteer Medical Reserve Corps (ASPR-DCVMRC)
- » National Center for Disaster Medicine and Public Health (NCDMPH)

## MRC Learning Paths and Volunteer Core Competencies

Volunteer Preparedness	Demonstrate personal and family preparedness for disasters and public health emergencies.	DMPH 1.0
	Demonstrate knowledge of personal safety measures that can be implemented in a disaster or public health emergency.	DMPH 5.0
Volunteer Response	Demonstrate knowledge of one's expected role(s) in organizational and community response plans activated during a disaster or public health emergency.	DMPH 2.0
	Communicate effectively with others in a disaster or public health emergency.	DMPH 4.0
	Demonstrate knowledge of surge capacity assets consistent with one's role in organizational, agency, and/or community response plans.	DMPH 6.0
Volunteer Leadership	Demonstrate knowledge of principles and practices for the clinical management of all ages and populations affected by disasters and public health emergencies, in accordance with professional scope of practice.	DMPH 7.0
	Demonstrate situational awareness of actual/potential health hazards before, during, and after a disaster or public health emergency.	DMPH 3.0
Volunteer Support for Community Resiliency	Demonstrate knowledge of public health principles and practices for the management of all ages and populations affected by disasters and public health emergencies.	DMPH 8.0
	Demonstrate knowledge of ethical principles to protect the health and safety of all ages, populations, and communities affected by a disaster or public health emergency.	DMPH 9.0
	Demonstrate knowledge of legal principles to protect the health and safety of all ages, populations, and communities affected by a disaster or public health emergency.	DMPH 10.0
	Demonstrate knowledge of short- and long-term considerations for recovery of all ages, populations, and communities affected by a disaster or public health emergency.	DMPH 11.0

### ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- » MRC Toolkit: NACCHO's Toolbox offers resources that illustrate the connections between the MRC competencies. These tools can supplement MRC volunteer orientations or be shared with partners and stakeholders.  
<http://www.naccho.org/toolbox>
- » Training Plan: NACCHO's training plan for the core competencies integrates with MRC-TRAIN, a learning management system with a centralized, searchable database of courses relevant to public health.  
<http://www.mrc.train.org>
- » Resources from the National Center for Disaster Medicine and Public Health:  
<http://ncdmph.usuhs.edu>

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For more information, please contact NACCHO at [mrc@naccho.org](mailto:mrc@naccho.org) or visit the MRC website at <http://www.medicalreservecorps.gov>.

**NACCHO**

National Association of County & City Health Officials

The National Connection for Local Public Health



The mission of the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) is to be a leader, partner, catalyst, and voice with local health departments.

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