

MI VOLUNTEER REGISTRY

What You Should Know About Being A Volunteer

WHO CAN BE A VOLUNTEER?



MI Volunteer Registry seeks people with health care backgrounds and experience, interested in volunteering during an emergency. We are looking for people with all skill levels and experiences. The initial focus will be on doctors, nurses, behavioral



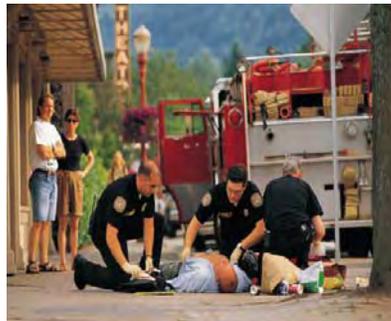
health, emergency medical services personnel and ancillary support staff. In addition, other persons are encouraged to register as well.

WHAT IS EXPECTED OF VOLUNTEERS?

Those who volunteer agree to be contacted, should their area of expertise be needed during a natural or public emergency.

Registering does not obligate you to volunteer during an emergency. Once notified, each volunteer will determine their current availability, based on the following:

- What kind of incident are you willing to respond to?
- What distance are you willing to travel?
- How long are you willing to be deployed?



WHERE CAN I REGISTER TO BE A VOLUNTEER?



To register, go online to:

<http://www.michigan.gov/ophp>

OR

<http://www.mivolunteerregistry.org>

HOW WILL YOU BE CONTACTED?

Volunteers may be contacted via email or text pager (if applicable) after an emergency if local, regional, or state responder resources are not sufficient to meet the need for response and recovery efforts resulting from the incident.

WHAT ARE THE LIABILITY PROTECTIONS FOR VOLUNTEERS?

Volunteers may be protected from civil liability through the following laws:

- Governmental Immunity Act (*MCL 691.140*)
- The Good Samaritan Act (*MCL 691.1501*)
- Emergency Management Act (*1976 PA 390*)
- Public Health Code (*1978 PA 368*)
- Volunteer Protection Act of 1997 (*42 USC Chapter 139*)

Why do we need Volunteers to register?

During an emergency or crisis, the services that volunteers provide can play a crucial role. Being able to efficiently utilize the capabilities of volunteers in a time of emergency often presents a major challenge.

Immediately after the attacks in New York City on September 11, 2001, thousands of people arrived at ground zero to volunteer their assistance. Many of those that arrived wanted to provide medical assistance to the victims of the attacks. In most cases, one could not distinguish qualified volunteers from unqualified. There was no mechanism for coordination; therefore, response effectiveness was reduced. Advanced registration of health care volunteers will provide hospitals, public health, and emergency authorities immediate access to personnel that may be needed in the event of an emergency.