

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Academic Health Center

Office of Emergency Response

The University Of Minnesota MRC has six Strike Teams that have been formed to respond to very specific requests for assistance during an emergency or public health event. These teams can respond quickly and take best advantage of the particular knowledge and skills of our members.

U of M MRC Strike Teams are made up of MRC members who have self identified that they would like to participate in response in their area of interest and expertise. The development of Strike Teams also provides a structure for targeted training, operational planning, and exercises as well as offering an opportunity to get to know other members.

We are currently focusing our recruitment efforts on the three strike teams listed below. Team meetings for the three Strike Teams will occur in April with the specific meeting dates announced in the March newsletter. MRC members interested in learning more about these Strike Team are advised to contact the MRC Coordinator, Kathy Berlin at medicalreserve@umn.edu.

Behavioral Health Response Strike Team

The principal focus of this strike team is to minimize the harmful psychological effects of stress and trauma on surviving individuals and families immediately following a disaster. All team members receive specialized training, including Psychological First Aid training.

Pharmaceutical Response Strike Team

(Previously named the Metropolitan Pharmaceutical Cache Repacking Team)

This team is designed to respond to local and national public health emergencies that have a pharmaceutical response component. Some members of this team have been pre-trained to provide support for the rapid pharmaceutical repacking of a cache of oral antibiotics designed to serve essential personnel in the metropolitan region during a public health emergency.

MRC Logistics Strike Team

Members of this strike team are responsible for resource management before and during U of M MRC deployments. They are responsible for the physical set up of the deployment site. Pre-deployment physical set up includes setting up signage, queuing line Tensa barriers, tables, chairs, equipment and other supplies as needed. During MRC deployments team members assist with staff check-in, supply management, and the care and support of MRC members.

Volunteer Corner

Q. What is the time commitment expected of strike team members?

A. Members of the strike teams will meet with their perspective teams twice a year. Team meetings traditionally last approximately 1 hour. Specific face-to-face training events will be offered to strike team members once or twice a year. Strike team training events can last anywhere from 50 minutes to 3 hours in duration. Members of each strike team are also asked to view 2 to 3 online training modules during their first year of membership on the team.

AHC Office of Emergency Response

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