

Texas Medical Reserve Corps Stories:

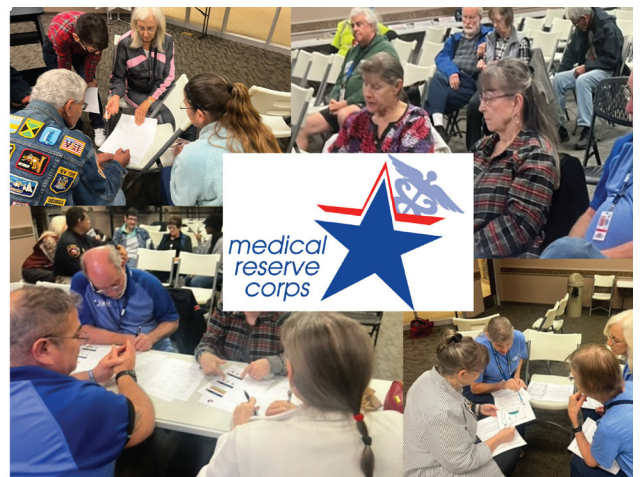


How MRCs are Serving Their Communities

February 2025 Edition

MRC Volunteers Train for Winter Weather Response to Support Medically Vulnerable Residents

The Galveston County Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) conducted a critical training and exercise session focused on winter weather preparedness in November 2024. The session specifically addressed power outages and their impact on medically vulnerable residents. The training at the Galveston County Health District in Texas City provided MRC volunteers with hands-on experience establishing emergency resiliency locations to support individuals dependent on electricity for medical needs.



MRC volunteers participated in a “just-in-time” training session to help them understand emergency response objectives during extreme weather events. The training emphasized the importance of ensuring accessibility and compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA),

engaging the community, and developing mission-ready response teams. Volunteers were encouraged to problem-solve, leveraging their experiences to enhance emergency planning.

A key training component involved reviewing potential resiliency locations, such as churches, community centers, and high school gyms. Volunteers analyzed floor plans and determined the most suitable sites for accommodating individuals requiring electricity for medical devices. They also identified logistical needs, such as power strips, extension cords, first aid supplies, and security measures to maintain safety at these locations.

In addition to training, MRC volunteers participated in a tabletop exercise to simulate real-world emergency scenarios. Volunteers worked in small teams to assess shelter needs and develop checklists for setting up effective resiliency locations. The exercise provided an opportunity to validate existing emergency response plans and refine strategies for future implementation.

“We’re using these exercises not only to train our volunteers but also to improve our plans,” said Laura Norman, Emergency Management Coordinator with the Galveston County Health District. “By incorporating feedback from our volunteers, we ensure that our plans are practical, effective, and ready to be activated when needed.”

The November training and exercises provided invaluable insights into emergency sheltering, medical support, and community engagement. Moving forward, the MRC will continue working with local jurisdictions to ensure that medically vulnerable residents receive the assistance they need during power outages and other emergencies.

With dedicated volunteers and ongoing preparedness efforts, Galveston County MRC stands ready to serve as a vital resource for the community. It demonstrates that resilience begins with training, collaboration, and a commitment to those in need.

Special thanks to Laura Norman, Emergency Management Coordinator with the Galveston County Health District for sharing her story.