Illinois Veterinary Emergency Response Team

More than 170 veterinarians from throughout Illinois are members of the Illinois Veterinary Emergency Response Team (IVERT). All have received training to respond to animal disease outbreaks. It is a program overseen by the Illinois Department of Agriculture, in coordination with the Illinois Emergency Management Agency. If Illinois has a serious animal disease outbreak, or an outbreak that can spread from animals to humans, veterinary experts of IVERT will play a key role. For more information about the program, visit www.agr.state.il.us or call 217-785-4740.

National Disaster Medical System

The National Disaster Medical System (NDMS) is comprised of volunteer teams that can respond to any national crisis that may occur. The National Response Plan utilizes the NDMS, as part of the Department of Health and Human Services, to support federal agencies in the medical response to major emergencies and federally declared disasters. For more information about this program, visit www.ndms.dhhs.gov.

Healthcare Disaster Volunteers

Healthcare Disaster Volunteers (HDV) is a statewide secure database of health care professionals to be first to respond to a significant disaster or public health emergency. The system establishes a standardized medical provider registry, pre-registers health care professionals, verifies credentials and ensures volunteers are matched with their competencies. To register to volunteer go to: www.mhc.com/HDV-program.

For more information:
www.ready.illinois.gov
www.ready.illinois.gov/volunteers
Illinois Medical Emergency Response Team

The Illinois Medical Emergency Response Team (IMERT) is trained to help with emergency medical treatment at mass casualty incidents. IMERT teams are activated by the Illinois Department of Public Health and are made up of physicians, nurses, emergency medical technicians and other medical professionals, and are on standby to assist with a response at a moment’s notice. For information, visit www.imert.org or call 630-495-6400.

Illinois Nurse Volunteer Emergency Needs Team

The Illinois Nurse Volunteer Emergency Needs Team (INVENT) is a volunteer group of registered nurses trained in providing nursing care during emergencies throughout Illinois. INVENT volunteers can fill a variety of roles, including phone bank triage, medication dispensing, or providing nursing care at field hospitals. Additionally, the team is looking to recruit people without a strong medical background that can assist in support roles. For more information about the program, visit www.inventrn.org or call 630-495-6403, ext. 203.

Medical Reserve Corps

Both non-medical and medical people can join the Medical Reserve Corps (MRC). The MRC is a national program consisting of community chapters. It’s designed for local volunteers who want to assist their community during a disaster. Visit www.medicalreservecorps.gov to find an MRC unit near you.

American Red Cross

The American Red Cross (ARC) is one of several community organizations using health care personnel to respond to disasters. There is a wide variety of volunteer opportunities at the Red Cross. The Red Cross matches knowledge, skills, interests and experience of an individual with opportunities to serve. For more information about the ARC, visit www.redcross.org.

Dental Emergency Responder

Dentists and dental hygienists can make a significant contribution as Dental Emergency Responders (DER). Be trained in providing help, such as “walking well” care, vaccination support, and triage. For more information about the DER or Disaster Emergency Medicine Readiness Training Center, visit www.demrt.org.