



Volunteers Building Strong, Healthy, and Prepared Communities

Revised March 2026

HISTORY OF THE MRC DEVELOPMENT OF THE OKMRC



Volunteers Building Strong, Healthy, and
Prepared Communities

Events in 2001

- ★ September 11, 2001 – a day that changed America.
- ★ Anthrax attacks in 2001.
- ★ **The question - How could we identify and mobilize sufficient numbers of health care professionals to respond to an emergency?**



Development of the MRC

- ★ The George W. Bush administration developed the concept of an organization which **pre-identifies volunteers in order to prepare and respond to medical emergencies and public health initiatives.**
- ★ They launched a national, community-based movement in July 2002 and named this volunteer organization the Medical Reserve Corps.



Volunteers Building Strong, Healthy & Prepared Communities

- ★ The mission of the Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) is to improve the health and safety of communities across the country by organizing and utilizing public health, medical and other volunteers.



History of MRC In Oklahoma

- ★ Four Original MRC grantees:
 - 2003
 - Tulsa
 - 2004
 - Oklahoma City
 - Oklahoma Nurses Association
 - Lawton
- ★ 2005 - OKMRC joined under the Oklahoma State Department of Health



History of MRC In Oklahoma

- ★ Emergency System for Advance Registration of Volunteer Health Professionals (ESAR-VHP)
- ★ Oklahoma ESAR-VHP = Oklahoma MRC



OKMRC- Statewide System

- ★ Unique Features of a Statewide System:
 - One registration application
 - One orientation
 - One database
 - One website
 - One statewide recognized ID badge



Vision of the OKMRC

- ★ The vision of the OKMRC is to enhance emergency preparedness and response capabilities by supplementing existing response infrastructures in local communities across the state of Oklahoma.



OKMRC Mission Statement

- ★ The Medical Reserve Corps mission is to engage volunteers to strengthen public health, emergency response, and community resilience.

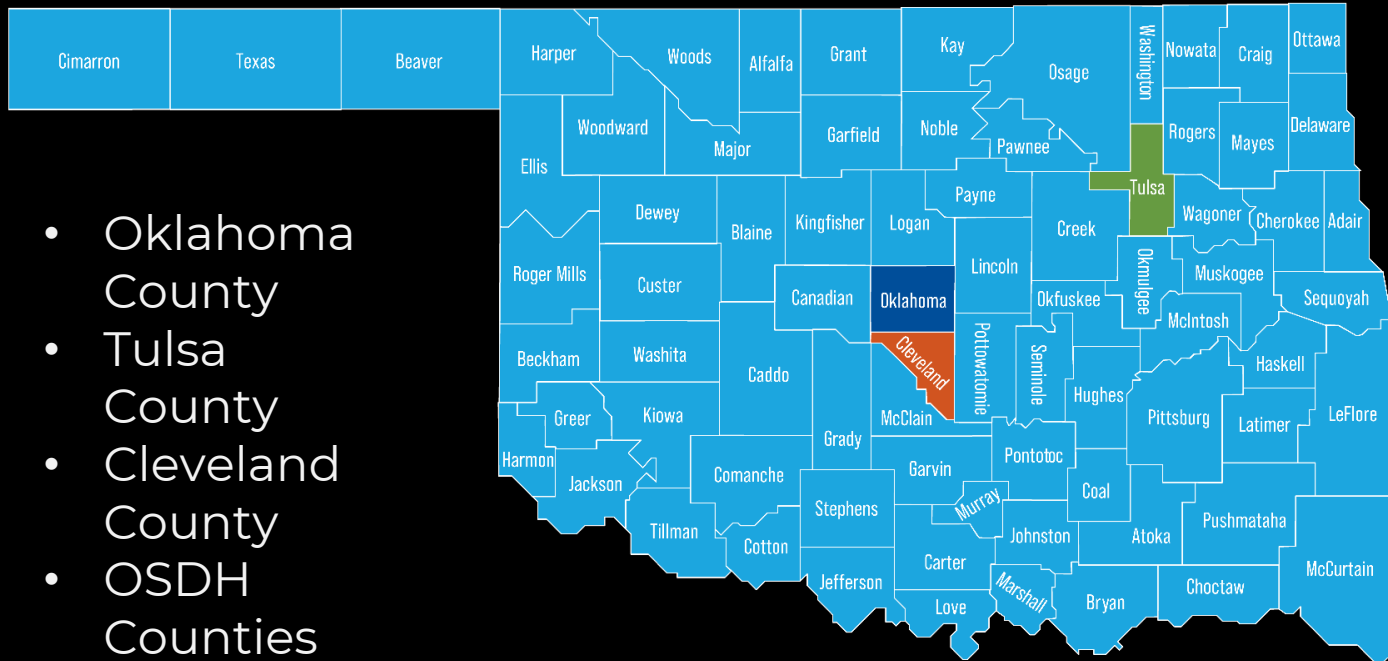


Local, State, & Federal

- ★ OKMRC volunteers are first utilized as local asset.
- ★ If there is not a local need then OKMRC volunteers may be requested to assist other communities across the state.
- ★ During a national disaster, the federal government may request volunteers to aid other states.



OKMRC Local Units



- Oklahoma County
- Tulsa County
- Cleveland County
- OSDH Counties

OKMRC Specialty Units

- ★ Stress Response Team (Mental Health)
- ★ Small Animal Response Team (SmART)
- ★ Oklahoma Large Animal First Responders (OLAFR)



OKMRC PROGRAM POLICIES



Volunteers Building Strong, Healthy, and
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Confidentiality

- ★ The OKMRC is committed to respecting the privacy of volunteers and protecting the confidentiality of personal information.
- ★ Confidential information obtained by the OKMRC will not be used for furthering any private interest, or as a means of personal gain.



Equal Opportunity

- ★ The OKMRC extends equal opportunity to individuals who meet the membership requirements and complete the OKMRC orientation, regardless of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, or disability.



Background Checks

- ★ Criminal history investigations will be conducted upon application, and every 5 years thereafter. Volunteers are required to notify the OKMRC program office of any change in criminal history. The OKMRC reserves the right to examine a volunteer's background and criminal history at any time.



Licensure and Credentialing

★ Licensed medical professionals volunteering in a medical capacity must supply the OKMRC with all the following information:

- License numbers and expiration dates
- Name of the institution issuing the medical degree or credential
- Date of graduation
- Employment history



Liability

Oklahoma Statute §76-32 "Volunteer Professional Services Immunity Act"

★ *Any person participating in the Oklahoma Medical Reserve Corps and assisting with emergency management, emergency operations, or hazard mitigation in response to any emergency, man-made disaster, or natural disaster, or participating in public health initiatives, disaster drills, or other activities designed to strengthen emergency response that are endorsed by a city-county health department, county health department or the state health department in the State of Oklahoma, shall not be liable for civil damages on the basis of any act or omission, if:*

1. The person was acting in good faith and within the scope of the official duties and functions of the Oklahoma Medical Reserve Corps; and
2. The acts or omissions were not caused from gross, willful, or wanton acts of negligence.



Workers' Compensation

- ★ Volunteers are not protected by Oklahoma Workers' Compensation laws



Identification Badges

- ★ Approved OKMRC volunteers who have completed the OKMRC Orientation are eligible to receive a statewide identification badge, with a specified expiration date.
- ★ Before a badge is issued, the OKMRC will verify credentials.
- ★ Volunteers should contact their local unit coordinator for details.



Identification Badges

- ★ During deployment, OKMRC badges are to be worn clearly visible on the upper torso.
- ★ OKMRC IDs are the property of the OKMRC program and must be returned to the program office upon termination of the volunteer's relationship with the OKMRC.



Uniforms

- ★ The OKMRC provides volunteers with a statewide identification badge and shirt or vest identifying them as a verified member of the OKMRC.
- ★ Volunteers should present their OKMRC badge and wear their OKMRC response shirt when responding on behalf of the program.



Appreciation

- ★ The MRC values and appreciates the time and expertise of its volunteers.
 - Volunteers will be treated with respect and dignity.
 - Contributions of time will be valued & honored.
 - Input from members is encouraged & appreciated.



VOLUNTEER RESPONSIBILITIES



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Volunteer Responsibilities

- ★ Volunteers are responsible for maintaining the accuracy of their personal profile.
- ★ Updating contact information, licensure, and certifications is critical to maintaining a volunteer response.
- ★ OKMRC has an annual call down to test our ability to reach volunteers.
- ★ Volunteers are responsible for responding to the call down.



Volunteer Expectations

- ★ The MRC is a voluntary organization and response participation will vary.
- ★ Participation in planned drills, exercises and trainings keeps volunteers current in their response roles.
- ★ Volunteers are responsible for maintaining the accuracy of their training profile.



Participation Requirements

- ★ After completing OKMRC Orientation, you may contact your Unit Coordinator to meet, make an ID Badge, and receive an OKMRC uniform.
- ★ Complete required courses:
 - This OKMRC Orientation
 - Family First
 - FEMA IS-100
 - FEMA IS-700
- ★ Training may determine participation



Volunteer Code of Conduct

- ★ Members of the OKMRC represent the OKMRC program.
- ★ Volunteers should conduct themselves in a professional manner.
- ★ Examples of conduct unbecoming of an OKMRC volunteer are listed in the OKMRC Volunteer Handbook.



HIPAA

- ★ All OKMRC volunteers are required to abide by the Health Information Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) of 1996, regardless of their volunteer role within the organization.



Individual & Family Safety

- ★ Develop a personal and family emergency preparedness plan.
- ★ Put together a disaster kit that meets your family's needs if directed to evacuate or to shelter in place.
- ★ Complete the OKMRC training Family First: Developing an Emergency Plan.



Safe Behaviors

- ★ **Do not self-deploy** – only respond when there is an official activation of the OKMRC, you have signed-up and been approved to activate.
- ★ Volunteers who self-deploy are not provided liability coverage.
- ★ Follow directions given to you by the requesting agency.



OKMRC Scene Safety

- ★ Show your OKMRC badge
 - No entry without proper authorization
- ★ Check in
- ★ Report to your assigned supervisor
- ★ Follow instructions
- ★ Wear Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)



Emotional Preparedness

- ★ Complete *Psychological First Aid* training to better understand the impact of an event on the behavioral health of MRC members and their family, team and community.



FIT FOR DUTY GUIDELINES



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Fit for Duty Guidelines

- ★ The Oklahoma Medical Reserve Corps position descriptions include a fitness category.
- ★ Volunteers are asked to evaluate their ability to perform tasks in the following categories:
 - **Arduous physical fitness**
 - **Moderate physical fitness**
 - **Light physical fitness**



Fit for Duty Guidelines

Emotional Fitness

- ★ OKMRC volunteers may witness disturbing or traumatic events, experience difficult situations, and/or austere conditions.
- ★ The OKMRC Stress Response Team (SRT) may evaluate volunteers' emotional fitness prior to deployment. The recommendation of the SRT will be final.



Fit for Duty Guidelines

Financial Fitness

- ★ OKMRC volunteers are not compensated for their time or travel expenses.
- ★ The OKMRC will not ask volunteers to disclose financial information, but encourages volunteers to consider the effect of long term deployment on their family's financial status.



OKMRC Communication

- ★ Email is the primary form of communication
- ★ Telephone & Text
 - Mass notification phone system
- ★ Website
- ★ Facebook & Twitter



Communication

- ★ Every year the OKMRC conducts a member Call-Down.
- ★ Volunteers receive a notification either by email or by telephone.
- ★ Volunteers are expected to follow the instructions and respond as directed.
- ★ It is essential that you keep your information current in the MRC database to receive our
- ★ communication.



VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES



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Disaster Responses

- ★ OKMRC provides support when local resources require assistance.
- ★ Activation of the OKMRC is driven by a public health or medical response and will depend upon the size, scope, and nature of an incident.
- ★ Local response remains a priority for local units and response needs are determined at the local level.



Medical Response



Mental Health Response



Animal Response



Mass Vaccination/ Mass Dispensing Clinics

- ★ The OKMRC will augment existing agencies to help staff a Mass Immunization/ Prophylaxis Strategy (MIPS) clinic.
- ★ The purpose of this clinic is to provide preventive medication to a large population in a short amount of time.



Non-Emergency Activities

★ Examples of non-emergency activities and public health initiatives include:

- Exercises (drills, tabletops, functional, or full-scale)
- First Aid stations for runs/races.
- Cooling stations & Heat Screening for summer events
- Vaccination clinics (flu, etc.)
- Public health & Weather related educational events
- OKMRC recruitment events
- Community sponsored events
- Administrative support



TRAINING



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Required Trainings- Completed in the first year

- ★ OKMRC Orientation
- ★ FEMA IS-ICS 100
- ★ FEMA IS- NIMS 700
- ★ Family First: Developing a Family Emergency Plan
 - All required courses are available on the OKMRC website



Recommended Trainings

- ★ Psychological First Aid
- ★ CPR/AED/First Aid
- ★ FEMA IS- ICS 200
- ★ Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)



Understanding NIMS

- ★ NIMS is an integrated system that establishes a uniform set of processes, protocols, and procedures that all emergency responders, at every level of government, will use to conduct response actions.
- ★ The OKMRC has adopted the NIMS guidelines, and responses will be managed under the organizational structure set forth in Incident Command System (ICS) protocols.



ICS Functions

- ★ ICS divides emergency response into five manageable functions:
 - Command
 - Operations
 - Planning
 - Logistics
 - Finance and Administration



How ICS Applies to You

- ★ Sign in and out of the scene (ICS-211)
- ★ Report to only one person
- ★ Stay within assigned role
- ★ All media requests must be coordinated through the designated Public Information Officer (PIO). OKMRC volunteers do not speak to the media.
- ★ Accurately document all response activity on an Activity Log (ICS-214)



Training Profile

- ★ Training profiles are maintained within OKMRC website.
- ★ Trainings completed with the OKMRC will be verified and displayed within the training profile.
- ★ Additional trainings may be uploaded to your profile via the Upload Tool.



Just in Time Training

- ★ Just-in-time (JIT) training is streamlined on-scene training.
- ★ JIT training is offered to volunteers just prior to deployment. It is job specific, and conducted to train personnel to immediately perform and function within a response.
- ★ Should a volunteer assignment require training specific to the requesting agency, the requesting agency is required to provide volunteers with such training.




Finding Training

- ★ Many online trainings are available on the OKMRC website.
- ★ Classroom training opportunities are posted on the website Events Calendar.
- ★ Classroom trainings may be sponsored by the OKMRC or by a partner organization and OKMRC volunteers are invited to join.



OKMRC Events Calendar

[Calendar](#) | [News & Events](#) | [Online Training](#)

Contact Us
Email OKMRC 

[JOIN MRC](#) | [LEARN MORE](#)

[Photo Gallery](#)
[The MRC Monitor Newsletter](#)

[Request an OKMRC Rep to Speak](#)

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Drag this link to the browser's home page button on the top left.

Calendar

Come see what's happening today! Training opportunities, drills, and other community events are featured on the Medical Reserve Corps Calendar each month.

07/27 - Practical Approaches for Zika Preparedness & Resp.

07/28 - Haskell County Back-2-School Round Up - Medical Aid / Cooling Station

07/30 - OKC Star Spencer HS Back to School Bash

08/01 to 08/31 - Tulsa County Back to School Immunizations Event: 51st & 129th Street Location

08/01 to 08/31 - Tulsa County Back to School Immunizations Event: 3rd & Utica Location

08/05 - 2016 OKMRC Volunteer Training Workshop

08/05 to 08/06 - Volunteer Workshop Badging

08/06 - Pottawatomie County CERT training

08/06 - 2016 OKMRC Volunteer Training Workshop

08/06 - Volunteer Workshop-Mass Fatalities Planning & Response (Class Full)

08/09 - Tulsa County Community Garden Senior Brunch/Wellness Event

08/14 - Enid's Feed the Neighborhood

08/19 - Oklahoma County Stress Response Team Leader Training

08/20 - Canadian County MRC Meeting -- First Aid/CPR

[View Calendar](#) ▶



OKMRC Events Calendar

- Home
- Orientation Overview
- What is MRC?
- Our Oklahoma MRC
- Services
- National Leadership
- OKMRC Stress Response Team
- Nursing Student Externships
- Oklahoma Nurses Association
- Strategic National Stockpile
- Mass Immunization Prophylaxis Strategy
- Events Calendar
- Volunteer Appreciation
- MRC & Homeland Security
- Volunteer Requirements
- Accountability of MRC
- Establishment of New Units
- Vision, Mission & Goals
- Online Training Resources
- OKMRC statewide video

MRC Calendar

March 2026

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Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
1 Animal Emerg Sheltering Train the Trainer Level 3	2	3 VIRTUAL - National Weather Service (NWS) Storm Spotter Training	4	5 OK County: Sleep Deprivation, Fatigue, and Fitness for Duty and Ear Safety	6 OK County: Mobile Market	7 OK County: Fight for Air Climb
8	9 2026 National Weather Service (NWS) Storm Spotter Training- Watonga	10 2026 National Weather Service (NWS) Storm Spotter Training- Fairview VIRTUAL - National Weather Service (NWS) Storm Spotter Training	11	12	13 OK County: Mobile Market	14 Logan: Mid South 100 Mile Bike Ride Basic First Aid OK County Storm Safety Day
15	16	17 Tulsa County National Weather Service (NWS) Storm Spotter Training	18	19 Tulsa County Food Security/Community Garden: Where Does Your Garden Grow Training	20 Rogers: Shamrockin' Family Fun Day	21



Volunteer Handbook

- ★ A copy of the Volunteer Handbook is available on the OKMRC website.
- ★ The Volunteer Handbook includes information found in the OKMRC Orientation and more!



Thank you for volunteering with the OKMRC!

For more information:

★ www.okmrc.org

★ www.facebook.com (search OKMRC)

★ www.x.com/OKMRC

