

CELEBRATING 15 YEARS: A timeline of the MRC

2002 Office of the Surgeon General (OSG) announces the MRC as a demonstration project; MRC is defined as a program for medical, public health, and other volunteers interested in public health preparedness.

2002 42 MRC community-based units established to uphold the principles of the MRC project, as defined by OSG.

2005 More than 6,000 MRC volunteers from 150+ MRC units participate in Hurricane Katrina, Rita, and Wilma response and recovery efforts.



2006 500 MRC units established nationwide, including Washington, DC, Guam, Puerto Rico, and US Virgin Islands. MRC Program Office also joins forces with NACCHO through a cooperative agreement to promote, support, and build capacity within the MRC network.

2006 Congress passes the Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Act (PAHPA), which formally authorizes the MRC and its network to support emergency response at all levels, Local, State, Tribal, Territorial, and Federal.

2008 More than 1,500 MRC volunteers from 63 MRC units across 14 states volunteer over 30,000 hours in response to Hurricanes Ike and Gustav and Tropical Storm Hanna.

2009 Almost 50,000 MRC volunteers across 600 units respond to H1N1 outbreak. Over 2,500 separate immunization, flu prevention, and flu care activities reported.

2010 The MRC and the American National Red Cross issue a joint memorandum of understanding (MOU) to improve organizational coordination and cooperation to prepare communities for disasters.

TODAY Nearly 200,000 MRC volunteers among almost 1,000 units nationwide, including Washington, DC, Guam, US Virgin Islands, American Samoa, Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands, Federal States of Micronesia, and Puerto Rico.

1,000 UNITS

200,000 VOLUNTEERS

15 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

2016 MRC units prepare for and support Zika response. In Puerto Rico, which declared a public health emergency, over 140 MRC volunteers participate in community education and outreach efforts, reaching about 17,000 individuals.

2015 More than 300 MRC volunteers from 20 MRC units supported local efforts during the Papal Visit. These volunteers provided medical care and other assistance at aid stations, tents, and other venues in Washington, DC, New York City, Philadelphia, and Camden, NJ.

2017 Formal Letter of Agreement established between the American National Red Cross and the MRC Program, thereby reauthorizing the collaboration between the two organizations to better prepare communities to withstand and recover from disasters.

2014 During the domestic Ebola response, 169 MRC units donate more than 14,000 hours across 180 Ebola-related activities (e.g. suspect-case screening support, Ebola-related health education, staffing call centers, providing general surveillance support).

PAHPRA

2012 The Waldo Canyon Fire, one of the most destructive in Colorado history, burns for a month in late June 2012. The MRC of El Paso County responds by donating 1,644 hours of volunteer service.

2012 New York's and New Jersey's health department call on the MRC in the wake of Hurricane Sandy. MRC volunteers serve more than 36,000 hours in response.

2013 Congress passes the Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Reauthorization Act (PAHPRA), which continues authorization for MRC, but moves authority and responsibility to the Department of Health and Human Services' Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR). MOU allows for continuation of operations within OSG and strategic oversight by ASPR.