

WALTHAM MEDICAL RESERVE CORPS

Why a Medical Reserve Corps

Having a Medical Reserve Corps is useful in serving two purposes

- Helping in Public Emergencies
- Helping in Mass Casualty Incidents

Using a Medical Reserve Corp does not replace City services we already have in place (like our Fire Police and EMT services) but rather it offers surge capacity to supplement the services we already have in place, in times of exceptional need.

When we have an emergency, it is better to have trained organized volunteers, as opposed to well meaning people just showing up to help. Having trained volunteers protects our citizens and puts the medical skills to much better use. Our volunteers need to be trained ahead of time in:

- Incident Command
- Staying out of the hot zone
- Applying their medical skills in a disaster situation.

Some examples of how volunteers can help in an emergency situation.

- Administer immune globulin during a Hepatitis A outbreak
- Administer City wide small pox vaccine
- Administer City wide Flu vaccine in a flu pandemic

Examples in which Medical volunteers can help in a mass casualty incident:

- Help victims in a large scale disaster such a flood or a fire.
- Help victims and citizens after a terrorism attack.

Each Medical Reserve Corps is local; by joining the Waltham Corps you would be helping your friends and neighbors in our community. However the training you receive could also allow you to help your family or assist in national disasters.

Since we are just starting the Waltham Medical Reserve Corps we do not have specific times and dates for training. We do know that we want to provide training in first aid, CPR, the Health Department's emergency plans for dispensing vaccines, and Incident Command. This is a great opportunity to network with other Health Care providers and help our community at the same time

If you have questions or need more information, access the Health Department Web site at www.city.waltham.ma.us or contact the Region 4A MRC Coordinator for the Waltham area, Catherine Corkery at (508) 755-6897 or ccorkery@region4A-MA.org.