

# ***Hurricanes, Earthquakes and Pandemics, Oh My!***



Alisa Roberts DO FACEP FAEMS  
Team Medical Officer OH-1 DMAT  
National Disaster Medical System  
Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and  
Response  
U.S. Department of Health & Human Services



**Disasters are all  
around us.**

**We are currently in  
the middle of a  
Global pandemic.**





---

**Hurricanes,  
tornadoes and  
earthquakes are  
getting more  
frequent**

---





---

**Seems like we  
hear about  
disasters on  
the news on a  
regular basis**

---

***Ever wanted  
to help but not  
know how?***



---

**There are  
many ways to  
help!**

*Local/State  
Federal*

---

# Local/State

- Get Involved in your hospital or regional area committee on disaster preparedness
- MRC– Medical Reserve Corps
  - **national network of more than 200,000 volunteers, organized locally to improve the health and safety of their communities. MRC volunteers step up to keep their family, friends, and neighbors safe and healthy.**



---

# MRC Services Provided



- Emergency preparedness and response trainings and exercises
- Emergency shelter operations and medical care
- Disaster medical and behavioral health support
- Medical facility surge support
- Mass dispensing efforts (e.g., medication, water, other supplies)
- Disease testing and surveillance
- Community vaccination clinics
- Veterinary care
- Support services to disaster call centers, family assistance centers, and reception/evacuation centers
- Emergency operations center and communications support
- Patient movement support
- Search and rescue operations
- Disaster clean-up and recovery support
- First aid and medical support during large public gatherings
- Community education and outreach
- Emergency preparedness and response planning, logistical, and administrative support



---

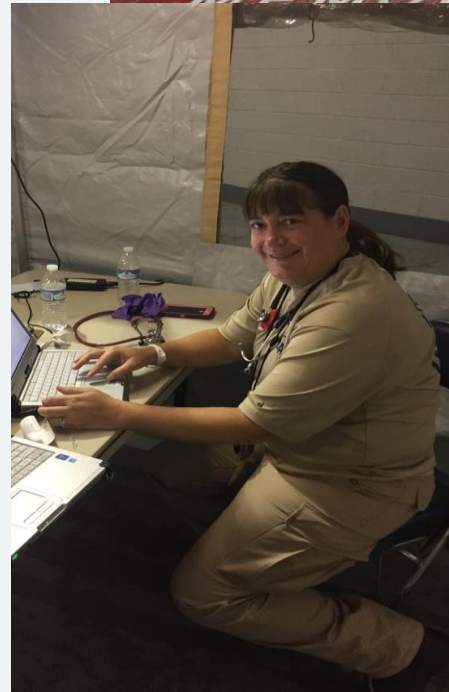
*Federal:*  
**National  
Disaster  
Medical  
System  
(NDMS)**





---

**High-quality rapid-response medical care when public health and medical emergencies overwhelm state, local, tribal, or territorial resources.**







---

NDMS teams are organized and trained groups of professionals who help devastated communities

- emergency medical care;
- staffing medical shelters or medical stations;
- augmenting hospital staff;
- providing veterinary care;
- conducting disaster mortuary operations;
- managing logistics;
- synthesizing data; and more.



# Disasters





**Hurricane Katrina**  
**August 28, 2005**





---

# Natural Disasters

Natural disasters affect 218 million people and claim 68,000 lives per year (Center for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters).

## Bleak Future

- Increasing population density in flood plains and seismic-/hurricane-prone areas
- Development of transportation of thousands of toxic and hazardous materials on the nations' roads
- Potential risks that can occur from incidents at fixed-site industrial facilities
- Catastrophic possibilities from nuclear, explosive, biological, and chemical terrorism



---

# Mass Disaster

-- defined as a disaster which is overwhelming to ones resources

Responses are always Local originally



For Federal Resources, A Federal Major Disaster Declaration from the President under the Stafford Act must be declared



# Emergency Support Functions



## 15 Emergency Support Functions (ESF)



1. **Transportation**  
Department of Transportation



2. **Communications**  
National Communications System



3. **Public Works and Engineering**  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers



4. **Firefighting**  
Department of Agriculture/Forest Service



5. **Emergency Management**  
Federal Emergency Management Agency



6. **Mass Care, Housing, Human Services**  
Department of Homeland Security  
American Red Cross



7. **Resource Support**  
General Services Administration



8. **Public Health and Medical Services**  
Department of Health and Human Services



9. **Urban Search and Rescue**  
Federal Emergency Management Agency



10. **Oil and Hazardous Materials Response**  
Environmental Protection Agency



11. **Agriculture and Natural Resource**  
US Department of Agriculture/Department of the Interior



12. **Energy**  
Department of Energy



13. **Public Safety and Security**  
Department of Homeland Security/Justice



14. **Community Recovery, Mitigation, and Economic Stabilization**  
U.S. Small Business Administration



15. **External Communications**  
Federal Emergency Management Agency







## National Disaster Medical System (NDMS)

### Disaster Medical Assistance Teams (DMATs)

- Physicians, nurses, medics, pharmacists, and logisticians
- Deploy in response to federally declared disasters and emergencies or Health emergencies

### Disaster Mortuary Operations Response Teams (DMORTs)

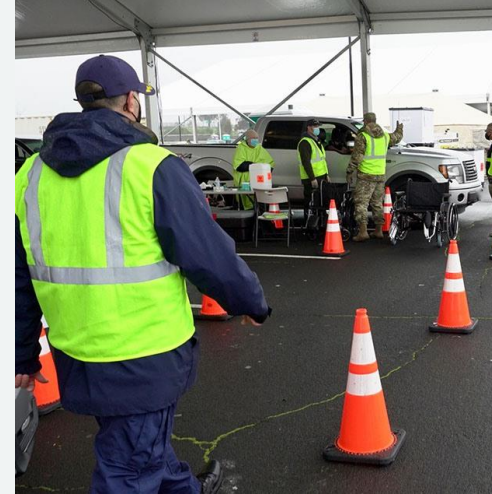
### National Veterinary Response Team

## Commissioned Corps Readiness Force (CCRF)



---

# Recent Deployments NDMS



- Hurricane Ida 2021
  - Afghan Repatriation 2021
  - Unaccompanied Minors 2020
  - Hurricane Delta 2020
  - Covid-19 Deployments 2019-2021
-



---

# COVID-19 Pandemic Response



- 
- Quarantine for those repatriating back to the U.S.
  - Quarantine for Princess Cruises
  - In-hospital support
  - ED/ICU decompression
  - Fatality management
  - Mass vaccination
  - Monoclonal antibody infusion clinics

---

# So Tell Me More about NDMS

- Divided into teams
  - Local team is OH-1 (Toledo)
  - Other Teams MI-1 and OH-5 (Dayton)
- Two week deployments
  - Paid time (on GS Scale)
  - Paid Travel including Per Diem
  - Free Training in Specialty, if qualified
  - License transfer from state to state
  - Medical malpractice for time deployed covered
- Experiences unique to NDMS
- Visit [www.phe.gov/ndms](http://www.phe.gov/ndms) for more information

# Questions?

To apply: [USAJobs.gov](https://USAJobs.gov)

Questions: [NDMSsupport@hhs.gov](mailto:NDMSsupport@hhs.gov)

Contact me at: [Alisa.Roberts@hhs.gov](mailto:Alisa.Roberts@hhs.gov)

