

TEXAS COUNTY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM

2025 ANNUAL REPORT: OUR BIG YEAR OF GROWTH



Texas County Emergency Response Team (TCERT)
and Medical Reserve Corps (MRC)
2025 Annual Report: Our Big Year of Growth

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Executive Summary

In 2025, the Texas County Emergency Response Team (TCERT) and its integrated Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) demonstrated unwavering commitment to enhancing community resilience and safety in Texas County, Missouri. As a 100% volunteer-run organization funded entirely through donations, TCERT/MRC mobilized 24 active volunteers to respond to emergencies, provide essential training, and support local initiatives.

Key achievements include:

- Deploying 17 times for emergencies and community support, contributing 634 volunteer hours.
- Conducting 10 in-house trainings, totaling 708 volunteer hours, and completing 60 FEMA Incident Command System (ICS) courses.
- Training 105 community members in Stop the Bleed, empowering residents with life-saving skills.
- Securing \$7,560 in donations to equip volunteers and sustain operations.
- Achieving federal approval as a Medical Reserve Corps unit under the Administration for Strategic Preparedness and Response (ASPR) within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.
- Became one of only two organizations in south central Missouri to acquire an educational licensee contract with the Department of Defense to teach Stop the Bleed.

Through these efforts, TCERT/MRC not only addressed immediate crises but also built long-term community preparedness, delivering measurable value in safety, resource efficiency, and volunteer engagement. This report highlights our accomplishments, financial stewardship, and vision for continued impact.

Introduction

TCERT was established to train and mobilize residents in Texas County for effective emergency and disaster response with a goal of increasing community resilience while saving and improving lives throughout our region. In 2025, we expanded our scope by integrating the Texas County Medical Reserve Corps, focusing on emergency medical and public health and well as behavioral health support during disasters.

Our mission is to foster community resilience through volunteer-led preparedness, response, and recovery efforts. Operating in a rural area with limited resources, TCERT/MRC serves as a vital supplement to local government agencies, such as the Texas County Office of Emergency Management (OEM), the Texas County Health Department, the Texas County Sheriff's Department and many other local agencies. By leveraging partnerships, we ensure coordinated, efficient operations that save lives and reduce costs for taxpayers.

2025 Accomplishments

TCERT/MRC's activities in 2025 showcased our ability to respond swiftly to needs while investing in proactive community building. Below are highlights of our deployments, trainings, and initiatives:

Emergency Deployments and Community Support

- Total Deployments: 17, totaling 634 volunteer hours.

These efforts provided direct aid during crises and supported ongoing community needs, demonstrating TCERT/MRC's agility and value as a force multiplier for local authorities.

Key highlights:

- Distributed 3 pallets of bottled water to the Success community during a public water outage, ensuring access to safe drinking water for affected residents.
- Responded to destructive tornadoes in Rolla by deploying teams for debris removal and assisting in operations at the Emergency Operations Command Center (EOC), aiding recovery in a neighboring area.
- Assisted in a community blood drive, facilitating life-saving donations and promoting health awareness.
- Deployed our Search and Rescue (SAR) team to assist the Texas County Sheriff's Office and other agencies in locating a lost person.
- Set up first aid booths at county festivals, providing immediate medical support and educating attendees on basic emergency care.
- Supported the Missouri Highway Patrol in a neighboring county with SAR operations, extending our reach beyond Texas County borders.
- Deployed the SAR team to New Madrid County at the request of the local sheriff, contributing to multi-agency search efforts.
- Collected 70 bags of groceries during a food drive, bolstering local food pantries and addressing food insecurity.
- Responding to house fires to assist the family with contacting Red Cross services and bringing them blankets and personal care packages on scene immediately after the fire.

These deployments not only resolved immediate challenges but also strengthened inter-agency relationships, enhancing overall emergency preparedness in the region.

Training and Capacity Building

- In-House Trainings: Held 10 sessions, totaling 708 volunteer hours.

These included hands-on drills in search and rescue, medical triage, and crisis response, ensuring volunteers are equipped to handle diverse scenarios.

- FEMA ICS Certifications: Volunteers completed 60 courses, building expertise in incident management and coordination.
- Conducting 4 Mass Casualty Drills focused on Rapid Triage and life saving Trauma First Aid.
- Conducting two 24-hour CERT Basic Training courses.

- Community Outreach and Education:

- Hosted free Stop the Bleed classes in 6 Texas County communities, training 105 residents in hemorrhage control techniques. This initiative directly empowers individuals to act in emergencies, potentially saving lives before professional help arrives.

- Developing a Behavioral Health and Crisis Response Unit, offering psychological first aid and peer support during traumatic events, with volunteers trained through programs like Intentional Peer Support.

By focusing on training, TCERT/MRC has created a ripple effect: Volunteers are better prepared, and community members gain skills that foster self-reliance, reducing the burden on strained public services.

Organizational Milestones

- Achieved federal approval as an MRC unit under ASPR/HHS, enabling access to national resources and validating our alignment with best practices in medical reserve operations.
- Establishing an agreement with Region G K9 search team. Our trained Ground Search and Rescue team now deploy along with their K9 teams.

Financial Summary

TCERT/MRC operates on a lean, transparent model, with all funding derived from community donations. In 2025:

- Total Donations Received: \$7,560.
- Expenditures: Allocated to essential needs, including:
 - Equipment for training and deployments.
 - T-shirts and personal protective equipment (PPE) for volunteers.
 - Medical supplies.
 - Printing materials for outreach and training.

No funds were used for salaries or overhead, maximizing donor impact. This efficient use of resources allowed us to deliver high-value services at no cost to the county, effectively multiplying public investments in emergency management.

We are grateful to our donors for enabling these outcomes and invite continued support to expand our reach.

Value Added to Texas County

In an era of unprecedented growth, TCERT/MRC has become an essential pillar of Texas County's emergency management and response strategy. According to the University of Missouri Extension's Missouri Economy Indicators Population Trends (2024), Texas County is one of Missouri's fastest-growing counties with an annual average population growth rate of 6%. If this trend continues, our county could see a compounded increase of approximately 33% over the next five years (2025–2030), adding 8,000–10,000 new residents to the current base of roughly 25,715. This dramatic expansion—driven largely by in-migration and far outpacing Missouri's statewide growth of just 1.5%—means more homes, more travelers on our roads, and significantly more lives at risk when floods, tornadoes, wildfires, or other emergencies strike.

Local government agencies cannot expand staffing, equipment, and infrastructure at the same pace. Fire districts, EMS, and law enforcement already operate near capacity in many parts of the county. TCERT/MRC fills this gap with a scalable, all-volunteer force that provides search and rescue, disaster cleanup, shelter management, mass-casualty triage, emergency medical response and first-responder rehabilitation—at virtually no cost to taxpayers. In 2025 alone, our 24 volunteers delivered the equivalent of thousands of dollars in professional services through

1,332 hours of deployment and training. As population continues to surge, TCERT/MRC is the only practical way to keep response capacity proportional to risk without massive new tax burdens.

Beyond immediate response, TCERT/MRC builds long-term resilience by training residents, strengthening inter-agency coordination, and earning federal MRC recognition—opening doors to future grants and resources. In short, every dollar and every volunteer hour invested in TCERT/MRC today yields exponential returns in public safety, fiscal responsibility, and community confidence tomorrow (University of Missouri Extension, 2024).

TCERT/MRC's contributions extend beyond immediate responses:

- Enhanced Safety and Resilience: By training community members and deploying skilled volunteers, we've reduced response times and mitigated risks in rural areas where resources are limited.
- Cost Savings for Local Government: Our volunteer efforts supplement official agencies, saving taxpayer dollars—estimated at thousands in equivalent paid services for deployments alone.
- Community Engagement: Initiatives like food drives and festivals foster unity and preparedness, building a stronger, more connected Texas County.
- Long-Term Impact: Federal MRC status opens doors to grants and partnerships, positioning us for sustainable growth and broader collaborations.

Looking Ahead: 2026 and Beyond

Building on 2025's foundation, TCERT/MRC aims to:

- Recruit and train additional volunteers to reach 50 active members.
- Expand the Behavioral Health Unit with more peer support training.
- Host additional community events, including bingo tournaments and raffles, to boost fundraising.
- Establish 4–5 localized CERT teams, complete with equipment and partnerships.
- Pursue grant opportunities to acquire advanced SAR tools, medical supplies and a rescue vehicle.

- Full establishment of the TCERT Rescue Squad, incorporating Search and Rescue, Medical First Response, Water Rescue, Technical Rescue and Rescue Task Force. The Rescue Squad is part of a collaborative effort between TCERT and other county agencies such as the Sheriff's Department and Houston Fire.

With continued donor and community support, we will further our mission of creating a resilient Texas County.

Conclusion

2025 was a transformative year for TCERT/MRC, marked by dedicated service, strategic growth, and tangible benefits for Texas County. Our 24 volunteers, fueled by passion and community donations, delivered 1,332 total hours of service (deployments plus trainings), making a profound difference in lives and livelihoods. Based on national averages¹our teams volunteer hours have a total value of a minimum of \$46,340 that is being contributed into Texas county to make our community safer and stronger.

We extend heartfelt thanks to our volunteers, partners, and donors. Together, we are building a safer future. For more information or to contribute, contact Travis Maddox at countydiretor@texascountycert.org.

Texas County Emergency Response Team

Strengthening Our Community, One Response at a Time.



¹ Value of volunteer time. Independent Sector. (2025, October <https://independentsector.org/research/value-of-volunteer-time/>)