

The Center for Threat Preparedness: WVREDI Program

The framework for threat preparedness and volunteer coordination was redefined following the tragic events of September 11, 2001. Countless numbers of caring individuals with a medical background of one type or another voluntarily filtered onto the scene with the hope of lending a helping hand. Despite their good intentions, the presence of these unexpected volunteers led to more confusion, highlighting the need for volunteer databases to verify and allocate credentialed health and medical professionals.

Many people have a strong desire to provide assistance during disasters; however, limited or delayed access to credentialing information can prevent volunteers from being able to do so. This is where the West Virginia Responder Emergency Deployment Identification (WV REDI) system comes into play. WV REDI is the volunteer database maintained by the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources' Center for Threat Preparedness

to facilitate rapid deployment of medical and non-medical volunteers.

WV REDI is a web-based system that facilitates health and medical response through identification, notification, credentialing and deployment of West Virginians willing to serve in a public health emergency. The WV REDI system is linked to professional licensing boards across West Virginia, enabling rapid confirmation of valid state licenses to practice medicine, nursing, pharmacy and other health professions. If you are willing to volunteer your time and service to help in a public health response, advance registration in WV REDI can help ensure that you will be identified, cleared and able to quickly assist.

Currently, WV REDI maintains profiles for approximately 4,200 registered medical and non-medical volunteers across the state and multiple disciplines. However, greater numbers are needed to ensure coverage of all shifts, roles and responsibilities throughout an entire response. In today's disaster situations, we experience

widespread emergencies that require increased levels of assistance. This is a perfect opportunity for you (and your staff) to build a resume and gain meaningful hands-on experience in the field, as well as give back to your state and community.

Registration in the WV REDI system is open to West Virginia's health and medical professionals and others who are willing to help during a health-related emergency or event. For more information about WV REDI, contact your local health department or Sebie Jenkins, Nurse Consultant for Responder Health and Safety and Volunteer Management, at Sebra.S.Jenkins@wv.gov or by calling (304) 558-6900, or log onto www.wvredi.org to register.

Everyone can participate in National Preparedness Month in September so now is a good time to think of ways your staff and family could join the effort. Visit the Center for Threat Preparedness' website at <http://www.dhhr.wv.gov/healthprep> for more information and ideas.

Drug or Alcohol Problem? Mental Illness?

If you have a drug or alcohol problem, or are suffering from a mental illness you can get help by contacting the West Virginia Medical Professionals Health Program. Information about a practitioner's participation in the program is confidential. Practitioners entering the program as self-referrals without a complaint filed against them are not reported to their licensing board.

ALL CALLS ARE CONFIDENTIAL

