

# Somerset County Department of Health Medical Reserve Corps



Building Surge Capacity: “Innovative  
Community Partnerships Formed to Enhance  
Public Safety”

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# The Citizen Corps Initiative



- CERT
- Neighborhood Watch
- VIPS
- Medical Reserve Corps

# Somerset County Medical Reserve Corps Mission



- To assist essential personnel and first response professionals and facilities in the event of any large scale local public health or medical disaster.

# Goals

- To recruit a cadre of professional volunteers who will be trained to work safely and effectively during emergent situations.
- Improve overall health and well being of communities during and after a disaster.
- Increase surge capacity during emergent situations.
- Reduce or minimize physical or environmental damages as a result of disaster.

# Goals

- Provide an opportunity for community members to be prepared during emergencies at home first and then be able to help with local community response efforts.
- Respond to emergencies in an effective organized framework within a command and control structure

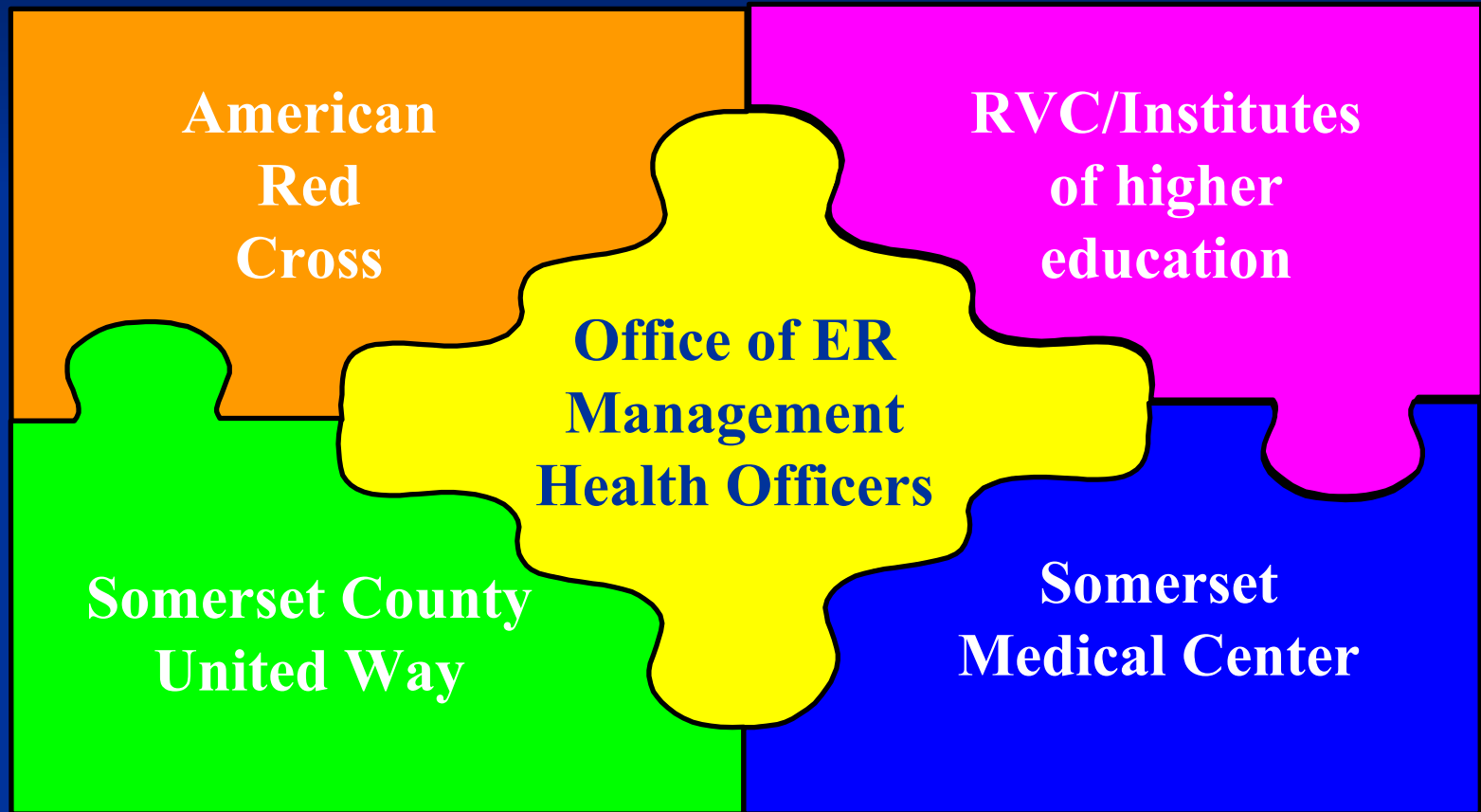


# Many pieces needed....



- Points of Distribution (PODs)
  - Supplies
  - VOLUNTEERS
  - Training

# Community Partners





# Somerset County Parish Nurse Association



# Parish Nurse Key Roles..

- Mass disease prevention efforts
  - Medication distribution – such as antibiotics during anthrax scare
  - Vaccination – in the event of a flu pandemic
  - Quarantine / isolation – should SARS / other disease affect community
- Liaison to community

■ MRC/RVCC  
Recruitment and  
Awareness Day  
4/2/04



# SC Pharmacists Association





# Basic Training

- Introduction To Disaster
- Biological Agents
- Home preparedness
- Overview of Blood Borne Pathogens
- Case Scenario
- Roles/Responsibilities



# Training continued

## Ancillary Issues

- Identification
- Liability Issues
- Licensure/security clearance
- Deployment/Facilities





# Basic Training Lessons Learned and Volunteer Feedback

- Need Detailed Volunteer Descriptions
- Create check Lists for Volunteers
- More training that includes Simulations/Case Scenarios
- Local focus vs. State focus
- Personal Identity to MRC
- Satisfied with liability issues
- 90% willing to volunteer out of town
- 26% willing to volunteer out of county
- Deployment and notification issues
- Medical vs. Non-Medical training

# Future Volunteer Recruitment Efforts

- United Way Corporation Volunteer projects
- Somerset County Patriots Baseball project
- Presentations to local community groups
- Newsletters to professional organizations
- Sustain and Increase Media Coverage
- Recruit County employees

# Volunteer Retention Efforts

- Respond to requests for additional training
- Utilize Volunteers to assist with educating community
- Invite Volunteers to provide training in areas of expertise
- Utilize Volunteers to assist with future projects
- Communication through **LISTSERVE**

# Ounce of Planning...

## Pound of Cure

Ensures:

- Rapid volunteer mobilization
- Prepared trained volunteers
- Stronger medical response capacity
- Improved surge capacity at the community level
- Rapid communication with residents
- Empowered volunteers to work effectively and safely during emergency situations