

# BE A LOCAL HERO... VOLUNTEER TODAY!

When disaster strikes, there are those who need help and those who can provide help.



## If You Have:

- An urge to take action in your community
- The desire to make a difference when you are needed most by applying your skills where they are needed most
- A need to be prepared to help yourself, your family, your co-workers and your neighbors in the event of an emergency situation or natural disaster

**Then the Emergency Response Volunteer Collaborative of Central Ohio has a volunteer opportunity for you!**

See details on back.

I became a trained volunteer on a disaster team after I saw the devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina in 2005. As a member of a Disaster Action Team, I'm on call to respond to house fires and to provide victims with emergency food, clothing, shelter, medical care and supplies. I find it rewarding to know that I can help my neighbors through a crisis.

— T.J. from Hilliard

## Emergency Response Volunteer Collaborative Of Central Ohio



# VOLUNTEER TODAY: BE PREPARED FOR TOMORROW!

Trained volunteers play a vital role in preparing for, responding to and recovering from an emergency incident or community disaster. Local emergency management departments and response agencies have limited personnel available when incidents occur. Disasters can strike at any moment and can affect even the basic workings of our community. That's why, in these moments, everyone has a role to play.

Individuals who want to help others, counselors and medical personnel are critically needed as volunteers who are trained and prepared for local and national disaster response.

By planning ahead and working together, we can deal swiftly with the impacts of a disaster or emergency in our community.

## Who Can Volunteer?

Adults of all ages, skills and abilities are welcome. Both dedicated residents and medical professionals, 18 years of age and older, are encouraged to volunteer.

## Don't Wait for a Disaster. Take Action Today.

Join a volunteer group in the Emergency Response Volunteer Collaborative of Central Ohio today and get prepared for tomorrow:

### **American Red Cross of Greater Columbus (ARCGC)** – *Coordination of Volunteers for On-Scene Assistance*

Volunteers are trained to provide on-scene assistance in response to hurricanes, fires, storms, floods, tornados, explosions, etc. Through a variety of defined volunteer roles, individuals are able to assist the community during an emergency in specific ways.

### **Franklin County and Columbus Medical Reserve Corps (FC&CMRC)** – *Coordination of Medical and Public Health Volunteers*

Volunteer medical, public health and other professionals contribute their skills and expertise during disasters and public health emergencies, as well as throughout the year for community health promotion.

### **Franklin County Emergency Management & Homeland Security (FC EM&HS)** – *Development and Management of the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program*

The Franklin County CERT is a first-response force, filling the gap between a disaster situation and when other emergency response agencies are prepared to operate after a disaster. Emergency services personnel will not be able to help everyone immediately, and CERT volunteers make a difference by saving lives and protecting property.

### **HandsOn Central Ohio (HOCO)** – *Coordination of Volunteer Reception Centers and 2-1-1 Call Centers*

Volunteers needed for Volunteer Reception Centers (VRCs) and to provide emergency information to the public through a 2-1-1 call center. VRCs are operated by trained volunteers who greet, interview, place and maintain records of spontaneous volunteers who want to help during disasters. The 2-1-1 Emergency Volunteer Team answers calls in the call center in the event of a disaster to supplement the 2-1-1 staff and help handle the increased call volume.

For more information visit [liveunitedcentralohio.org/ercv](http://liveunitedcentralohio.org/ercv).

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