**Citizen Emergency Medical Resource**

During a major disaster, there will not be enough emergency medical service personnel to handle the need. People will die without aid. First Response agencies need to utilize the public as a resource and not think of them as a liability.

1. Organizing Personnel
   1. Liability – dating from the Civil Defense days, most states have laws that allow emergency management to “employ any person considered necessary to assist with emergency management activities is deemed to be an employee of the State for purposes of immunity from liability.” Public Safety agencies should not be afraid to utilize volunteers for emergency medical services.
      1. CERT Volunteer Liability Guide
      2. Volunteer Liability Laws
      3. Maine Volunteer Liability Law
   2. Organize – augment existing medical services
      1. Emergency Medical Service (EMS) or Fire Department (FD) reserves
      2. Local Hospital reserves
      3. Medical Reserve Corps
      4. Local Medical Clinics or Public Health Offices
2. Training Volunteers – provide free basic medical training to your volunteers
   1. First Aid and CPR/AED
   2. Stop the Bleed
   3. Until Helps Arrives
   4. Mass Casualty Incident (MCI) Triage (START or SALT)
   5. Medical Lifts, Carries and Stretchers
   6. Ambulance Driving and transporting patients
   7. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) training
   8. Bloodborne Pathogens
   9. Train-the-Trainer courses so that your best students can become your next instructors
3. Supplying and Equipping
   1. Use a smart phone alerting app as a way of paging out and directing your volunteer First Aid Rescue Teams.
   2. Recommend that the volunteers download the American Red Cross First Aid app.
   3. Provide your volunteers with a basic first aid “jump kit”.
   4. Provide basic PPE (N95 mask, goggles, nitrile gloves)
   5. Provide N95 Mask Fit Testing
   6. Provide an inexpensive FRS walkie-talkie ($18-$25)
4. Disaster Response
   1. Utilize the smart phone Alerting App to activate your volunteers.
   2. If unable to communicate, once the volunteer realizes that a disaster has happened, they should have a pre-designated neighborhood, road or identifiable area that they will complete a Medical Recce.
   3. Have the volunteers assigned to an area team of at least 2 or more personnel.
   4. Utilize the FRS radios to communicate locally within the team and with the supporting medical service.
   5. Once encountering injured personnel, complete triage, assessment and stabilizing care. Then report the location and status of the patient(s) to the supporting medical service.
   6. Depending on the severity of the patient (red, yellow, green), determine whether a volunteer team member needs to stay with the patient, if a non-team member is available to stay, or if the patient needs immediate transport. Immediate transport may involve requesting an ambulance or transporting with an available vehicle.
   7. Once the volunteers complete their area recce, they should report the status of their area to the supporting medical agency.
5. Advantages
   1. Your volunteer First Aid Rescue Teams can find many more disaster casualties that will be provided with basic medical care very quickly.
   2. They can triage the patients and sort out all the “greens” and “yellows” and only request ambulances for the “red” patients.
   3. Or if ambulances just aren’t available, they will find other ways of getting the serious patients to a medical facility.

No public safety agency is staffed for disasters and area disasters will tie up mutual aid partners so that they can not assist your community. Trained and equipped first aid volunteers are low cost “force-multipliers” for your response agency.