



## Mendocino County Health and Human Services Agency

*Healthy People, Healthy Communities*

### Press Release

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Date: November 17, 2009

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## WHEN DISASTER STRIKES, YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Volunteers make a positive difference in times of emergency and disaster. Various disaster events are an ongoing part of life, affecting society both locally and globally. Recruitment, development, and retention of volunteers who offer their knowledge and skills in the event of a disaster are essential to ensuring a functional workforce during disasters. These opportunities also address the inherent need for individuals to feel necessary and useful in times of crisis.

Medical and non-medical professional volunteers will have a significant role in disasters such as earthquakes, fires, floods and Public Health emergencies, which may include community H1N1 mass vaccination clinics. Expertise from many different fields is needed, including nurses, chiropractors, dentists, physicians, veterinarians, midwives, HAM operators, EMTs, CERT, truck drivers, secretaries, food service professionals and more.

It's easy to register as a volunteer. Simply visit the Disaster Healthcare Volunteers' website at [www.healthcarevolunteers.ca.gov](http://www.healthcarevolunteers.ca.gov). Individuals have the choice to register where and when they want to volunteer - in Mendocino County or as needed state or nation wide. Once you've registered, if you have a professional license, it will be verified with your licensing board and the Emergency Medical Services Authority. This

information will become a part of the secure Disaster Healthcare Volunteer registry. During a disaster, state or local officials will determine what kind of volunteers are needed, will search the database for available volunteers and send an alert to selected members via email, telephone and pager.

For local information or questions, please contact Tami Bartolomei, Volunteer Network of Mendocino County, at (462-2596), or Annie Robinson, Mendocino County Health and Human Services Agency, at (472-2750).

Registering now makes it easier to help when disaster strikes!

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