



**Public Health Division
Emergency Preparedness**

County of Santa Cruz

HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY

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Press Release

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MEDICAL RESERVE CORPS TURNS 16

Santa Cruz County, CA - On February 11th, the Santa Cruz County Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) celebrated 16 years since its founding in 2005. MRC units were established after the tragic terrorist events of 9/11, and the Anthrax attacks that followed. Medical and health professionals came together to organize, train and equip local volunteers to assist Public Health and the community in emergency preparedness and response to all-hazards incidents.

Santa Cruz County MRC volunteers have responded to numerous incidents including disease outbreaks catastrophic wildfires, floods, power outages and today's COVID-19 pandemic. Throughout the past year, MRC volunteers have supported Public Health with COVID-19 contact tracing, case investigations, infection prevention, sheltering of persons experiencing homelessness, and the CZU Complex wildfire evacuation and shelters. As vaccine has become available, MRC volunteers have been on the frontlines vaccinating disabled home-bound elders and supporting mass vaccination clinics.

Nancy Yellin, RN who joined the MRC as it was forming stated, "The MRC is a wonderful and rewarding experience both in serving our community and with the opportunity to serve with other dedicated medical volunteers."

Additionally, the contributions of medical volunteers have helped Public Health build the capacity of the community to be resilient and respond to historic disasters. "The community of Santa Cruz County has really rallied in response to COVID-19 with their volunteerism and commitment to practicing face-covering, physical distancing, and hand-washing. MRC volunteers are evidence of that caring spirit." Stated MRC Director, Kathleen Conley.

The MRC is currently closed to new applications as it has reached capacity, those interested in volunteering may do so through the [County's Volunteer Center](#).

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