

LEGAL & REGULATORY ISSUES: EMERGENCY RESPONSE VOLUNTEERS



Education is key

It is vital for everyone involved in the management of emergency response volunteers in Michigan to understand the legal and regulatory issues associated with their service. Several acts, laws, and codes exist that may provide workers compensation and liability protection to volunteers who respond to, support, or assist in the preparation of an emergency.

Registration is required

To be eligible for workers compensation and liability protection, **all volunteers must be registered and verified (background check, credentials/licenses) in the Michigan Volunteer Registry (MVR)**. The State of Michigan will refuse to use any volunteer who is not registered and verified in the MVR, and volunteers may be denied coverage if they aid in an emergency capacity without first being properly registered and vetted in the MVR.

Volunteers' responsibilities

Regardless of the current acts, laws, and codes, volunteers are legally responsible for their own acts or omissions and can face civil tort liability and criminal penalty for intentional, grossly negligent, or unlawful acts or allegations thereof and for providing false and/or inaccurate information on their MVR volunteer application.

Acts, Laws & Codes

- [Federal Volunteer Act](#)
- [Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness \(PREP\) Act](#)
- [Michigan act providing for governmental immunity](#)
- [Michigan act providing immunity from liability](#)
- [Liability of Certain Persons for Emergency Care Act 17 of 1963, Section 691.1501](#)
- Michigan Public Health Codes ([333.20965](#), [333.2228](#), [333.2465](#), [333.20965](#), [333.9203](#), [333.16277](#))
- [Michigan Emergency Management Act](#)

For additional information, visit [Qs About Legal & Regulatory Issues Pertaining to the MI Volunteer Registry](#).