

FAQ's



What is a DMAT?

DMAT stands for Disaster Medical Assistance Team. These local volunteer teams are made up of clinical and non-clinical professionals, and are located throughout the United States. They are credentialed, trained, equipped and ready for rapid deployment to areas of federal disaster where local resources are overwhelmed. The composition of a deployed team varies, depending on the nature of the disaster. If it is a field response, the team will have many EMS providers. If it is a facility response, the team will have many hospital personnel. To assure that we are deployable, we will need a pool of approximately 150 volunteers from which to pull. Currently there are only 29 deployable teams in the US.

Is participation totally volunteer?

DMAT members volunteer their time for credentialing and training. When deployed, team members become employees of the Public Health Service, which provides for federalization of all professional licenses, federal worker's compensation coverage, and federal liability coverage. Compensation is based on federal employee rates, depending on the person's position on the team. All transportation, food, clothing and lodging are provided during the deployment.

When are DMATs used?

Federal activation is required to deploy a DMAT. There are two types of deployment. The first is during a federal disaster, such as earthquakes, hurricanes, floods, or acts of terror such as the attacks on the World Trade Towers and Pentagon. In times of federal disaster, teams usually have 12 - 24 hours notice to have their equipment and personnel ready for transportation. Deployment is usually for a two-week period of time. The second type of activation is pre-deployment to events that have the potential to need medical

personnel available quickly. Examples of these have been presidential inaugurations and the Olympic Games. Teams in these cases are given greater notice of their deployment.

What is the typical composition of a deployed team?

A level 1 team that is deployed for a field response assignment generally consists of 35 deploying personnel. These include:

9 Non-Clinical Positions

- 2 DMAT Leaders
- 1 Safety Officer
- 1 Administrative / Finance Chief
- 1 Administrative Assistant
- 1 Logistics Chief
- 1 Equipment Specialist
- 2 Communications Officers

21 Clinical Positions

- 3 Medical Officers
- 1 Pharmacist
- 1 Pharmacy Assistant
- 2 Supervisory Nurse Specialists
- 6 Staff Nurses
- 4 Nurse Practitioners or Physician Assistants
- 4 Paramedics

6 Other Positions

- 5 other positions, determined by DMAT
 - 1 Home Base Support Person (activated, not deployed)
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Why should other organizations encourage their employees to get involved?

After September 11, the country saw an overwhelming response from corporations across our nation, as we did locally. People everywhere were looking for a way to help. Having a DMAT gives our region an official way to become part of the solution in times of national need. The maximum

deployment is for two weeks. The employees will be paid salaries while they are away, and if employers have additional expenses necessary for replacing the employees, they will be able to collect these expenses.

Why is this of benefit to the Erie region?

The primary role of this team will be to supplement local medical communities in other parts of the country in time of federal disaster or need. All team members must complete federal training programs, and the team is stocked with nearly \$500,000 worth of equipment and supplies that will be stored here. This will be a great addition to the system that is already in place locally and will add a level of expertise and preparedness that is only available in less than 30 communities in our nation.

Where can I get more information?

If you are interested in learning more about joining DMAT PA-3, please see our [How to help](#) page. If you would like to find out more about the DMAT program, please see the [NDMS website](#).
