



NEWS RELEASE

ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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Public Health Emergency Preparedness program holds volunteer symposium

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Alabama Department of Public Health's Emergency Preparedness program will hold a two-day Volunteer Symposium at the Outlaw Convention Center in Mobile on Nov. 8 and 9. The symposium introduces citizens of Alabama to the many aspects of public health's emergency preparedness programs and offers them an opportunity to register to become a Public Health volunteer.

"Public Health cannot respond to disasters alone. We need the help of concerned citizens throughout the state who are willing to give their time and energy during an emergency event," said Maury West, Emergency Preparedness social worker and Volunteer Symposium coordinator. "We hope that more people are willing to volunteer after attending this symposium."

Physicians, pharmacists, nurses, social workers and those working in other disciplines are encouraged to attend the symposium, which will feature topics such as Emergency Response 101, medical needs shelters, the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS), self care for volunteers, working with the deaf and blind population, and the incident command system. Participants will also receive field hospital training including learning how to set up field hospitals complete with cots, medical supplies and equipment, and other essentials.

"It really is an opportunity for potential volunteers to see what it entails to be a Public Health volunteer so that they can make an informed decision when deciding whether to volunteer," said West.

Continuing education units will be provided to all pharmacists, nurses and social workers who attend the symposium and no registration fee will be charged. For more information and to register for the symposium, please call Public Health's Center for Emergency Preparedness at 1-866-264-4073, or visit www.adph.org/cep.

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