

VIPR Update

Mississippi State Department of Health

The value of volunteer time!

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The estimated dollar value of volunteer time is \$19.51 per hour for 2007. This estimate helps acknowledge the millions of individuals who dedicate their time, talents, and energy to making a difference. Charitable organizations can use this estimate to quantify the enormous value volunteers provide.

It is very difficult to put a dollar value on volunteer time. Volunteers provide many intangibles that can not be easily quantified. For example, volunteers demonstrate the amount of support an organization has within a community, provide work for short periods of time, and provide support on a wide range of projects.

The value of volunteer time presented here is the average wage of non-management, non-agricultural workers. This is only a tool and only one way to show the immense value volunteers provide to an organization. The Bureau of Labor Statistics has hourly wages by occupation that can be used to determine the value of a specialized skill.

It is important to remember that when a doctor, lawyer, craftsman, or anyone with a specialized skill volunteers, the value of his or her work is based on his or her volunteer work, not his or her earning power. Volunteers don't always perform in their specialized skill when volunteering during a disaster. If a doctor is painting a fence or a lawyer is sorting groceries, he or she is not performing his or her specialized skill and their volunteer hour value would not be higher.

For more information on the value of volunteer time, please visit:

http://www.independentsector.org/programs/research/volunteer_time.html

Pets and Disasters

Make arrangements for your pets as part of your household disaster planning. If you must evacuate your home, it's always best to take your pets with you. For health and space reasons, pets are only allowed in selected public emergency shelters. The key to preparedness is to plan ahead to ensure their care.

Before a disaster or emergency

Contact your local animal shelter, humane society, veterinarian or emergency management office for information on shelters available and other resources for pets or livestock in an emergency. Find out the locations of shelters for pets and livestock in emergencies. Also, see if your veterinarian will board or care for animals in an emergency.

If planning to travel with your pet, purchase a pet kennel or carrier that allows your pet room to stand up and turn around inside.

- Train your pet to become comfortable with the carrier.
- Use a variety of training methods such as feeding it in the carrier or placing a favorite toy or blanket inside.

If your pet is on medication or a special diet, make sure to check with your veterinarian for instructions for emergencies:

- Stock an extra supply of medications
- Place an identification tag with your name, address, and phone number on each animal
- If your dog normally wears a chain link "choker" collar, change this for a leather or nylon collar
- Keep your pet's shots current and have the records in your emergency kit
- Most kennels require proof of current rabies and distemper vaccinations before accepting a pet. Contact motels and hotels in communities outside of your area and find out if they will accept pets in an emergency

When assembling emergency supplies for the household, include items for pets:

- Extra food (dry or canned), store the food in sturdy containers.)
- Kitty litter
- Large capacity self-feeder and water dispenser
- Extra medications

If you evacuate and have to leave your pet at home, prepare a safe location for it and arrange for a caretaker or neighbor to provide food and water after the event.

For more information on disaster planning, please visit:

www.HealthyMS.com



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***The Volunteers in Preparedness Registry (VIPR) is a preparedness program sponsored by the Mississippi state Department of Health, Office of Emergency Planning and Response (OEPR). It is a secure database of pre-credentialed volunteers who are trained to provide a coordinated response to emergencies in support of our established public health and emergency response systems. The VIPR Update is a product of the public health emergency volunteer program. Visit the VIPR website at <http://volunteer.msdh.state.ms.us> to register and create your own secured personal profile.*

Training Opportunities

Emergency Preparedness Volunteer Training has been scheduled throughout the nine public health districts. Volunteer training is free of charge and offers free CEUs and SWUs.

Volunteer Training Calendar (as of publication date)

August 9 –	Delta Hills Public Health District III	Greenwood, MS
August 16 –	Tombigbee Public Health District IV	Starkville, MS
August 23 --	East Central Public Health District	Meridian, MS
August 28 --	Southwest Public health District VII	Summit, MS
September 4 –	West Central Public Health District V	Jackson, MS
September 10 -	Northeast Public Health District II	Tupelo, MS

Please contact Laveta Thomas at (601) 576-7680 for more information regarding training and becoming a public health emergency volunteer.
