



## **Metro New York 2 Disaster Medical Assistance Team**

National Disaster Medical System • U.S. Dept. of Health & Human Services

### **WHAT IS A DISASTER MEDICAL ASSISTANCE TEAM (DMAT)?**

The National Disaster Medical System (NDMS), under the direction of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, fosters the development of volunteer teams, called Disaster Medical Assistance Teams (DMATs). A DMAT is a group of professional and paraprofessional medical personnel (supported by a cadre of logistical and administrative staff) designed to provide emergency medical care during a disaster or other event.

Each DMAT *in its state or local support role* has a sponsoring organization, such as a major medical center, public health or safety agency, non-profit, public or private organization, supporting the team's non-Federal activities. Our team is sponsored by the Westchester Medical Center in Valhalla, NY.

*DMATs, in their federal role, are not supported or sponsored by any private organization or state or local government.*

In addition to the standard DMATs, there are highly specialized DMATs that deal with specific medical conditions such as crush injury, burn, and mental health emergencies. Other specialty teams include Disaster Mortuary Operational Response Teams (DMORTs) that provide mortuary services, Veterinary Medical Assistance Teams (VMATs) that provide veterinary services, and National Medical Response Teams (NMRTs) that are equipped and trained to provide medical care for victims of weapons of mass destruction.

DMATs deploy to disaster sites with sufficient supplies and equipment to sustain themselves for a period of 72 hours while providing medical care at a fixed or temporary medical care site. In mass casualty incidents, their responsibilities include triaging patients, providing austere medical care, and preparing patients for evacuation. In other types of situations, DMATs may provide primary health care and/or may serve to augment overloaded local health care staffs. Under the rare circumstance that disaster victims are evacuated to a different locale to receive definitive medical care, DMATs may be activated to support patient reception and disposition of patients to hospitals. DMATs are designed to be a rapid-response element to supplement local medical care until other Federal or contract resources can be mobilized, or the situation is resolved.

DMAT members are required to maintain appropriate certifications and licensure within their discipline. When members are activated as Federal employees, licensure and certification is recognized by all States. Additionally, DMAT members are paid while serving as part-time federal employees and have the protection of the Federal Tort Claims Act in which the Federal Government becomes the defendant in the event of a malpractice claim.

DMATs are principally a community resource available to support local, regional, and State requirements. However, as a National resource they can be Federalized to provide interstate aid.

### **Metro New York 2 DMAT is sponsored by Westchester Medical Center**

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Metro NY-2 DMAT, P.O. Box 402, Elmsford, NY 10523

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More information can be obtained by visiting our Internet site at <http://www.ndms.dhhs.gov>  
If you do not have Internet access or have additional questions, call NDMS headquarters at 1-800-USA-NDMS and press the "\*" (star) key to leave a message requesting information. A staff member will return your call.

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