

Texas Medical Reserve Corps Stories:



How MRCs are Serving Their Communities

July 2025 Edition

Harris County MRC Lends Critical Support to 18th Annual CERT Rodeo

The Harris County Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) and Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) have a decades long partnership. As members of the Harris County Citizen Corps, they routinely collaborate on exercises, training, and outreach events. Annually, MRC Unit 152 supports the CERT Rodeo, a hands-on disaster preparedness competition event.

CERT Rodeo invites teams from across Texas to participate in emergency simulations. Harris County MRC volunteers were on-site to provide first aid and assist with competition evaluations, ensuring a smooth and safe experience for all participants.

Preparation for the 18th Annual CERT Rodeo required six months of planning. MRC Planner, Jay Brenk, served on the committee, leading the first aid team and advising on volunteer management. Harris County MRC provided just-in-time training (JITT) sessions for volunteers. "Our JITT covers job duties, event rules, sign-in procedures, a safety briefing, and the full event schedule," said Brenk.

MRC volunteers staffed the first aid station, treated minor injuries, and served as exercise evaluators for the patient transport station, assessing how CERT members moved injured individuals during a simulation. Additionally, volunteers assisted at the fire suppression station. All volunteers receive additional JITT on the day of the event for their assigned job duties.

Harris County MRC, alongside their public health agency, hosted an outreach booth, focused on recruitment and providing community readiness resources.

The CERT Rodeo showcases the importance of volunteer engagement and coordination in emergency preparedness. Through events like this, the MRC build stronger, more resilient communities across Texas.

Special thanks to MRC Planner Jay Brenk with Harris County MRC for sharing this story.



Harris County MRC Volunteers staff the first aid station for the 18th Annual CERT Rodeo.