

Midlands Regional Medical Assistance Team

SC-RMAT-03

Hosted by Lexington County
Emergency Medical Services

RMAT NEEDS YOU!!



What is RMAT?

-RMAT stands for Regional Medical Assistance Team. Lexington County EMS is the host for the Midlands RMAT Team. This team is being developed in partnership with the South Carolina Department of Homeland Security to respond to all types of disasters, natural and man-made. When deployed, the RMAT team will provide medical assistance to disaster victims and will supplement and support overburdened local medical resources. The team will most often be deployed within our 15 county region, but may be deployed anywhere in the state. The team is expected to include members from all counties in the region.

How is the team deployed?

-RMAT teams are deployed through South Carolina Emergency Management Division (SCEMD) when a legitimate need is established. The team is expected to be in route to the incident within 2 hours and on scene within 6 hours.

What is my commitment?

-The Midlands RMAT team will be notified through a call down procedure or by radio device. Upon notification, team members will assemble at a local, pre-designated location and transportation will be provided to the incident. Team members are asked to commit to up to 3 days (72 hours) for each deployment. This should allow sufficient time for federal resources to arrive and assume control of medical operations. Team members are also expected to attend monthly meetings for training and update information.

How often will I be needed?

-There is currently no data to indicate or predict how often the team will be deployed, as there are no active teams ready for deployment at this time.

Who is on the team?

-RMAT teams are authorized to include:

- Physicians
- Registered Nurses
- Licensed Practical Nurses
- Respiratory Therapists
- Pharmacists
- Paramedics
- Emergency Medical Technicians
- Coroner's Office Representatives
- Law Enforcement Officers

- Communications Operators
- Chaplains
- Social Workers

-The Midlands RMAAT team currently includes paramedics, EMTs, physicians, RNs, respiratory therapists and others. Many of the current team members are on staff at Lexington Medical Center. The success of the team depends greatly on the support and membership of health and para-professionals.

What kind of equipment will be deployed with the team?

-A large assortment of medical equipment will be available during deployment. The RMAAT team maintains a 28' storage trailer and a panel truck to transport these supplies to the incident. The storage trailer will be customized to house disposable and durable medical equipment. The trailer can also act as an observation outpost or Command Post. Inflatable and canvas shelters with HVAC and portable lighting will be deployed with the equipment cache and utilized as needed for patient comfort and care. The shelters also include shower and restroom.

-The medical equipment cache includes:

- Ventilators
- Cardiac Monitors
- Wound Management Supplies
- Spinal Injury Equipment
- Oxygen Therapy Equipment
- OB Supplies
- Airway Management, including Suction and Intubation
- IV and Fluid Replacement, including "EZ-IO" devices
- Blood Glucose Monitoring
- Temperature Monitoring
- Pulse Oximetry
- End Tidal Co2
- Otoscope/Ophthalmoscope
- Suturing

-Large pharmaceutical cache, including antibiotics

Other equipment included in the deployment:

- MRE's
- Hand/power tools
- Triage tents
- Generators
- Personal Protective Equipment
- Sleeping Bags

When will the team be ready to deploy?

-The Midlands RMAT team will be ready to deploy by June 1, 2008. At that time all equipment should be in place and ready for deployment.

What if I can't go because of work or another commitment?

-The goal is to have a minimum of 35 team members. This number should allow for at least 15 to 20 members to be available to deploy at any given time. While it is certainly desirable to have all team members deploy for each incident, we would reasonable expect 50 to 60% of members to be able to deploy to an incident. Some members may be able to deploy later, affording relief for some of the "first in" responders.

I am interested in RMAT. How can I find out more?

-If you have any further questions, or would like an application, please contact:

Captain Jason Hentz – Midlands RMAT Team Leader, Lexington County EMS Shift Supervisor

803-785-8425
jhentz@lex-co.com