



## An All Volunteer - Nonprofit Organization

*Heroes aren't born. They volunteer!*

### DID YOU KNOW?

When disasters strike, donating money is the preferred method. A \$1 can of goods can cost up to \$10 by the time it gets to the recipients' hands.

### QUICK LINKS:

- [2021 Preparedness plans](#)
- [GNR Health](#)
- [Emergency Planning for family](#)
- [Alerts and Warnings](#)



Meet the Georgia Emergency Management & Homeland Security Agency (GEMA/HS) staff! They work across the state to help ensure Georgia is prepared to respond, recover, and mitigate disasters!

### In the know:

September 19 - Volunteer Appreciation Picnic (Immediate Family invited)

October 16 - Telehealth & Telemedicine

November 13 - Morgan Falls Dam Tour

December 11 - Annual Holiday Party

## SEPTEMBER

### National Preparedness Month



By Mark Reiswig, CHEP, GA-CEM, Director of Emergency Management Gwinnett, Newton, and Rockdale County Health Department

September is preparedness month, and I would like to share a few links that can be useful for ensuring that you and your family are better prepared to handle the various kinds of disasters that can befall us at any time. Take a few minutes to go through these pages, and see if there a few things you can do to beef up your preparedness:

<https://www.ready.gov/plan> | <https://www.ready.gov/kit> | <https://www.ready.gov/kids>  
<https://www.ready.gov/disability> | <https://www.ready.gov/seniors>  
<https://www.ready.gov/pets> | <https://www.ready.gov/financial-preparedness>

I would also like to extend my deepest gratitude to the over 600 MRC volunteers that have contributed over 16,000 hours of time to our COVID-19 response. Those numbers absolutely blow me away; they are staggering. We truly could not have had such an incredible COVID-19 response without you. You have contributed to administering over 210,000 vaccinations; 120,000 COVID tests; countless contact tracings, case investigations, and outbreak investigations, and so much more. Some of you have come to work with us permanently, and for that we are grateful as well. While our need for volunteers has greatly diminished over the past couple of months, this response is not over. In fact, with the CDC announcement that booster shots will become available on September 20 (to be administered at least 8 months after the date you became fully vaccinated), we expect a surge in demand at our Sears vaccination clinic. How much of a surge and how long it will last is very hard to predict. However, it is far better to be over prepared than under prepared, so we are planning to staff Sears back up to handle up to 1,500 vaccinations per day. That is well below our peak of 2,500 per day a few months ago, but way up from our current 100 - 300 per day. So, we expect to have more requests for MRC GEM volunteers again in September, and I know you will step up just as you have in the past. We have particular needs for Spanish speakers, clinical or non-clinical. Again, thank you for all you have done, are doing, and will continue to do.

### BASIC DISASTER SUPPLY LIST

- Water (1 gallon/person/per day for several days)
- Food (at least 3-day supply non-perishable foods)
- Battery-powered or hand crank radio & NOAA radio
- Flashlight
- First aid kit
- Extra batteries
- Whistle (signal for help)
- Dust Mask (contaminated air)
- Plastic sheeting & duct tape
- Moist Towelettes, garbage bags with plastic ties
- Wrench or pliers
- Manual can Opener
- Local maps
- Cell phone with charger

## Gwinnett Emergency Management

A small agency with a big mission, the Gwinnett County Office of Emergency Management works with all Gwinnett city and county agencies, along with other local, state, and federal agencies to save lives, protect property, and safeguard the environment. Office of Emergency Management (OEM) does this by planning for emergencies and disasters, responding to incidents as a coordinating agency, directing mitigation against hazards, and assisting Gwinnett County Government and its residents in recovery after an incident.

September is National Preparedness Month, and this year's theme is **Prepare to Protect**. Preparing for disasters is all about protecting everyone you love, and there are simple steps we can all take to help build a more resilient community. Make a plan with your friends and family about how you will communicate before, during, and after a disaster. Build a disaster kit for your home - and don't forget to provide for your pets. Teach your children and your neighbors about preparedness. Good preparation reduces stress and fear!

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### Our Executive Director



As an MRC GEM member, we thought you might like to know a bit about what our **Executive Director, Mr. Sherwin Levinson**, does "in real life", and how he came to be involved with organizing volunteers.

Sherwin is president of a consulting firm he founded over 40 years ago, specializing in telework, organizational auditing, and disaster planning. While continuing his career as a consultant, Sherwin has been Executive Director of a 501(c)(3) nonprofit volunteer Medical Reserve Corps for nearly fourteen years. During this time, he and his MRC unit, MRC GEM, have worked closely with CDC personnel in developing the CDC's program for training radiation response volunteers.

Sherwin first became involved in emergency management after his home and neighborhood were severely damaged by the 1998 DeKalb/Gwinnett tornado. Finding his city had no emergency response plan or personnel, Sherwin became the first emergency manager for the City of Berkeley Lake, GA, and has been involved in emergency management and response ever since.

A native of Chicago, Sherwin studied physics at MIT and the University of Chicago before achieving an MBA in math methods and computers, also at U of C. He became a Georgia Emergency Management Agency Certified Emergency Manager in 2017.

Sherwin and his wife of 50 years are the parents of two and grandparents of four.

## Annual Volunteer Picnic

(Your immediate family is invited)



**A MUST ATTEND**.... especially by all those that have volunteered during the COVID-19 response. Our District Health Director, Dr. Audrey Arona and Gwinnett County Commission Chairwoman, Nicole Hendrickson will be attending to thank everyone personally. The picnic will include a catered lunch, networking, and fellowship.

This is an event for our deployable members (valid healthcare license or background check) and your immediate families. Join us on September 19, 2021 in Norcross. (email: [membership@mrcgem.com](mailto:membership@mrcgem.com) if you qualify and haven't received an invitation)

*We will be paying a special tribute to our members who volunteered as part of the COVID-19 response.*

### DONATE

**2 ways** to help at no cost to you. A portion of your purchase will go towards MRC GEM.



Shop at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com)

Link your Kroger card  
[kroger.com](https://www.kroger.com)

On June 26 & 27, 2021 MRC GEM had an in-depth **Training Weekend Summit** to help prepare its members for possible deployment to volunteer at a shelter in assisting hurricane evacuees. Both clinical and non-clinical attended the weekend Summit.

### Stop the Bleed.....held August 21

Over 1.5 million people have now been trained to STOP THE BLEED®. The goal is to train 200 million. Why? Because the purpose of the STOP THE BLEED® campaign is to make our nation more resilient by better preparing the public to save lives if people nearby are severely bleeding. This preparation is being done by raising awareness and teaching people how to learn three quick actions to control serious bleeding.

*This Bleeding Control Kit was distributed by MRC GEM to all participants during the training this past month. BE PREPARED!*

