



SERV SD **Statewide Emergency Registry of Volunteers** ***in South Dakota***

Recent catastrophic events in the U.S. have demonstrated the need for a “surge” of additional health care workers and other volunteers to assist public health agencies, emergency management organizations, first responders, and health care facilities with disaster response and recovery efforts. The federal program that was created from this need is titled ESAR-VHP, the Emergency System for the Advanced Registration of Volunteer Health Professionals. This is a state owned system however, and South Dakota has titled their system SERV SD, Statewide Emergency Registry of Volunteers in South Dakota.

The goal of the SERV SD program is to create a database that will enable health professionals to be mobilized immediately in response to a mass casualty. When disaster strikes, health care facilities near to the event often experience an influx of health professional volunteers willing to help; however, at such a time these facilities are not able to maximize the potential of the volunteers due to the inability to verify identities, credentialing, and competencies of the volunteers. SERV SD is a pre-registration “system that allows for advance registration and credentialing of clinicians needed to augment a hospital or other medical facility to meet increased patient/victim care needs during a declared emergency.” SERV SD collects information regarding the volunteer’s identity, licensing, credentialing, accreditation, and privileging in hospitals or other medical facilities. By collecting this information prior to the occurrence of the next large scale emergency, volunteers can be used more effectively and more lives can be saved.

If you are interested in volunteering or have any questions, please go to <https://sdhan.sd.gov/volunteermobilizer/> or you may contact Rick Labrie at rick.labrie@state.sd.us or Courtney Leonard at courtney.leonard@state.sd.us. Please consider volunteering, your expertise and skills will be invaluable in our efforts to manage the aftermath of a large scale disaster.