

RIPLEY COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY DISASTER VOLUNTEER GUIDANCE

Please remember after an incident (tornado, etc.) it will take Ripley County Emergency Management and the local jurisdiction **48 hours** to implement a volunteer management plan. This 48 hour time window is just for planning purposes and may be announced sooner depending on the situation. Please do not “spontaneous volunteer” and show up to the scene till activated or a public announcement is made soliciting volunteers.

During the Emergency Response Phase “spontaneous volunteers” interfere with emergency agencies by blocking traffic and have the potential to become victims due to the unsafe situation. In the past “spontaneous volunteers” have placed them in danger and contributed to the confusion. In a tornado event Citizens personal property is scatter and a “spontaneous volunteer” may/could be confused as a looter.

An organized volunteer force that is under an organization umbrella helps accountability. By signing in and out of the area the volunteers can be notified in the event there is a weather alert. There are also many “predatory individuals” that target disaster victims and an organized response can help identify these people.

VOLUNTEER:

Citizens who wish to volunteer.

- The local jurisdiction will announce a volunteer registration site. Please wait for the announcement. (Radio, Social Media, and Print). This is very important for the local jurisdiction since it helps in having an organized response.
- Ripley County Medical Reserve Corps: County organization for medical and non-medical personnel for more information please contacts Holley Rose @ (812) 689-5751 or hrose@ripleycounty.com. This unit has been deployed to assist in H1N1, March 2, 2002 Tornadoes, and Public Events.
- Serve-IN – State managed website where a volunteer can register to volunteer. This includes outside of Ripley County. Upon registration the individual can upload their qualifications and trainings, and availability. <http://www.serv-in.org>

Questions: please contact Ripley County Emergency Management at **(812) 689-0505** or **rcema@ripleycounty.com**