



**What is a disaster?** A disaster is defined as “an event that demands substantial crisis response requiring the use of governmental powers and resources beyond the scope of one line agency or service”. G.D. Haddow and J.A. Bullock

Over the past seven years, in preparation for a possible disastrous event, Mountain Area Trauma Regional Advisory Committee (MATRAC) members have worked together to build a large cache of medical response supplies and equipment. In addition, our state partners at both the offices of North Carolina Emergency Medical Services and North Carolina Emergency Management have donated grant purchased items to our region in an effort to ensure standardization of equipment and increase our response capabilities. This cache of equipment is stored at the MATRAC Regional warehouse.

State Medical Assistance Team (SMAT) members are continuing to train and Regional Emergency Service Function (ESF)-8 plans are currently being developed, so should a catastrophic event occur regionally, coordination of a medical response would follow suit.

MATRAC strives to meet all disaster related educational and training needs; this includes disaster communication equipment upgrades and enhancements, and group purchasing for equipment standardization purposes. MATRAC staff includes:

- Debbie M. Gilbert- Regional Response & Recovery Coordinator (RERRC)
- Rieley Bennett - Warehouse and Logistics Specialist
- Mark Stepp- State Medical Assistance Team (SMAT) Commander
- David Danner- SMAT 600 Communications Specialist

We would like to take this opportunity to invite representatives from your agency/facility to the MATRAC warehouse for a presentation which includes a walking tour of the regional assets. Estimated time for this meeting is approximately 2 hours. In the past, agencies that have visited the warehouse have provided the following feed back:

*“I had no idea that we had this type of equipment available to us”-*

*“What an impressive concept, I will sleep better knowing that we have this asset in our back door”*

*“WOW, this is incredible!”*

Please come see for yourself what is available should your facility be faced with a surge of patients and resources begin to dwindle.

To arrange a date and time for presentation please contact **Debbie Gilbert 828-693-6212 or [debbie.gilbert@msj.org](mailto:debbie.gilbert@msj.org)**