MRC Activation Procedure

**Purpose:** To ensure clear lines of communication and provide an approved process for the activation of the Medical Reserve Corps (MRC).

**Policy:** This policy follows the intent of the Disaster Service Worker application and Disaster Healthcare Volunteer registration system.

**Procedure:** There are three principals for deploying the Santa Barbara County MRC:

1. The only approved way to request deployment is by contacting the **EMS On-Call Duty Officer**.
   - This individual may be contacted one of two ways:
     - Contact the EMS On-Call Duty Officer directly (681-5432)
     - OR
     - Contact 911 dispatch non-emergency number (683-2724) and request the EMS On-Call Duty Officer.
   - Pre-planned events **require** the completion of the Santa Barbara County MRC Request Form and approval by the EMS On-Call Duty Officer.

2. Members should never self-deploy. Doing so could be grounds for dismissal from the MRC.

3. It is crucial to work strictly within these guidelines for deployment requests, for several reasons. This method of having a single point of contact ensures that:
   - The call-out request is appropriate for the unit.
   - Notifications are made through the most effective channels.
   - Responses from members are tracked efficiently, with no duplication.
   - The appropriate number and type of volunteers are dispatched.
   - Members can be assigned at their optimum skill level and preferences.
   - Teams of various specialties can be allocated as needed.
   - Groups of members who trained together can offer maximum effectiveness.
   - Resources are allocated wisely in case of multiple requests.
   - Members are provided with the relevant background and directions.
   - Responders will arrive with the appropriate training and equipment.
   - Member safety is ensured to the greatest degree possible.
   - Activities of responders can be monitored, across multiple events.
   - After-action reporting and feedback mechanisms are maintained.
   - Follow-ups are initiated as appropriate.

Self-deployment, and the contacting of individual members apart from established channels, interferes with these desired outcomes.

**APPROVED:**

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