



News Release



Shelby County Health Department
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Shelby County Health Department Conducting Community Assessment Through Door-to-Door Exercise

MEMPHIS, TN – On Saturday, October 10th, the Shelby County Health Department's Public Health Emergency Preparedness Program (PHEPP), along with Medical Reserve Corps volunteers, will conduct the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's Community Assessment for Public Health Emergency Response (CASPER) survey. CASPER allows public health and emergency management officials to quickly and accurately determine the health status and basic needs of those affected by a disaster.

As part of this exercise, approximately 90 Medical Reserve Corps volunteers will be administering surveys door-to-door within neighborhoods across Shelby County. These neighborhoods have been pre-identified and those residents potentially affected have received advance postcard notification. Participation in the CASPER survey is strictly voluntary; however, survey answers provided will be kept anonymous and used to create future public health programs that will increase education and awareness, benefitting all Shelby County residents.

Saturday's effort is simply a test for health department officials to determine staff and volunteer's ability to complete a CASPER survey effectively during an emergency to provide the proper response needed by victims and other residents who may be affected. At this time, there is no public health emergency.

PHEPP strives to introduce new and proactive ways to efficiently serve the community during public health emergencies. The program's priority is the safety and well-being of the 1.3 million citizens in Shelby County and the Mid-South. If you would like to know more information about this exercise, or any other PHEPP activities, please call Heather Fortner, Risk Communication Coordinator, at (901) 270-7179.