

**Responsibility**

**CDCR Agency Rep  
Tech Spec - Crews**

A Medical Emergency Response Team (MERT) is composed of CDCR medical personnel who have been trained and equipped to respond to emergency incidents throughout California where state offenders are assigned and injuries can be anticipated. When utilized, these teams have proven to be a very valuable asset in terms of the costs of treatment and supplies, the maintenance of crew strengths, and better utilization of incident assigned staff.

The MERT is responsible, primarily, for care and treatment of CDCR offenders and staff, if warranted their assistance can be requested by the Medical Unit Leader for care and treatment of other individuals employed on the incident.

The basic MERT is composed of two CDCR medical staff including a Registered Nurse and a Licensed Vocational Nurse. Depending on the level of expected activity and severity of injuries, the MERT may consist of additional medical personnel including a medical doctor.

The MERT is capable of providing definitive medical care for the bulk of injuries and illnesses encountered on emergency incidents. This includes heat related injuries, dehydration, poison oak, bee stings, sprains, strains, lacerations, and dislocations. They also provide custody for the offenders under their care. The team can provide stabilization of major injuries, triage, and medical supervision during transportation. They arrive at the incident with all appropriate medical supplies and equipment.

When an extended emergency operation is in progress which includes a significant number of fire crews and operations are such that injuries to offenders are occurring or are anticipated, the CDCR Agency Representative or the CAL FIRE Technical Specialist – Crews should consider requesting a MERT. Once it has been determined that a MERT is needed and the request has been made, the team will be ordered through normal incident channels to the institution within whose jurisdiction the incident is occurring. The California Correctional Center (CCC) is responsible for supplying a MERT for incidents in the Northern Region and Sierra Conservation Center (SCC) is responsible for supplying a MERT for incidents in the Southern Region. In most cases, the CDCR Agency Representative can assist in mobilizing the team.

Once the request has been made and confirmation has been received that a team will be dispatched, the team's work area should be identified. The MERT should be located in proximity to the offender bedding area. They should be provided with electricity, lighting, shelter, latrines, and potable water.

On demobilization of the MERT, a copy of the FC-33C for each member of the medical staff will be completed with anticipated return times and mileage. These documents, along with copies of Travel Expense Claims and a copy of the list and costs of expended medical supplies, are left with the CDCR Agency Representative or the Incident Time Unit.

For information regarding billing of CAL FIRE for costs associated with the Medical Emergency Response Team, see Chapter [6490](#).

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[\(see next section\)](#)

[\(see Table of Contents\)](#)