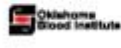




# BLOOD EMERGENCY READINESS CORPS



Blood Bank of Hawaii



# What is Blood Emergency Readiness Corps (BERC)?

BERC is a group of blood centers across the nation who have committed to joining together to be prepared for mass transfusion disasters that may strike.

These blood centers commit to collecting extra units on a rotating “on call” schedule to create an available supply of blood for emergency needs.



# Why is BERC needed?

In many disasters and critical-need scenarios – like a mass shooting, natural disaster or large-scale car crash – much blood is needed immediately.

Most blood centers don't have enough blood on their shelves to handle these types of disasters and are forced to request blood units from neighboring blood collectors.

In June 2021, 14 people were shot in Austin, TX. The local blood center needed support and the national response was atypical of previous similar situations, in that other blood centers were not able to help.

By creating BERC, blood will be ready and available if needed, without delays and uncertainty.



# How are BERC units stored?

- Participating blood centers commit to holding their allotted reserve onsite for a week to ship as needed.
- The rotation would be dependent upon number of participating centers (likely every 3 weeks)
- Qualifying disasters will be nationally noted mass trauma situations with multiple victims actively using blood products.





## **What if no disaster occurs and the blood isn't needed?**

Since blood is perishable, the units will return to the regular inventory of the blood center that collected them after one week, in order to be used for general patient needs. This will ensure that no units are wasted.

# What is different about being a BERC Partner?



**BLOOD EMERGENCY  
READINESS CORPS**



YOU are being asked to be a BERC partner because of your donor group's consistent history of strong donation rates



We ask that you either grow our drive goal(s) or host additional drive(s) to cover this need.



Your donor group is among the strongest partnerships in our organization and will be publicly recognized to show our appreciation.

# WHY BERC?

**“BERC is like insurance for our nation’s blood supply. You have house, car, boat, and LIFE insurance. Why? To protect your loved ones. BERC is our answer to the nation-wide issue of low blood supply. We collect blood to insure the protection of our neighbors. If your home was hit by a natural disaster, your monthly payments have proven their worth. When you are a part of BERC blood drives the units collected over goal will be like monthly payments, to ensure there is blood available for a possible natural disaster or mass shooting. Help our nation be INSURED for those unpredictable events.”**



# Service above Self



- Support Maternal and Infant Health
  - \* 1 in 83 deliveries need a transfusion
  - \* Pediatric patients account for 652,000 blood components annually
  - \* 1 in 13 AA babies are born with Sickle Cell Trait.
  - \* 1 in 3 AA blood donors are a match for a Sickle Cell patient
- Fighting Disease
  - \* 25% of blood supply is used by patients battling cancer
- Disaster Response
  - \* Every 2 seconds someone uses blood





# TEXAS BLOOD CENTERS



**7/10 Blood Centers  
participating**

**Over 1 million RBC's  
distributed annually**

**All major population  
centers represented**



**We Are Blood (Austin)**

512-206-1300  
blooddrives@weareblood.org



**Carter BloodCare**

800-366-2834  
bookablooddrive@carterbloodcare.org



**Coastal Bend (Corpus Christi)**

361-737-0417  
info@coastalbendbloodcenter.org



**Gulf Coast (Houston)**

713-791-6670  
hostablooddrive@giveblood.org



**South Texas (San Antonio)**

210-757-9505



**Texoma**

903-893-4314



**Texas Blood Institute**

877-340-8777



**Hendrick Blood Center**

325-670-2798



**LifeShare**

903-794-3173



**Vitalant**

877-25-VITAL



BLOOD EMERGENCY  
**READINESS**  
CORPS