ANNEX 6

ESF 6

PUBLIC HEALTH, MEDICAL & MORTUARY

Overview

Emergency protocol for multiple site disasters is an extension of responsibilities from single site emergency incidents that require a network to obtain medical resources and facilities, reduce catastrophic health problems, and control contamination of the environment.

Responsible Department(s)

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Purpose

The purpose of this annex is to outline the organization and mobilization of health, medical and mortuary services during emergency or disaster situations.

Functions that may be undertaken in response to this annex are:

- Prevention of food and water contamination
- Maintaining public health through disease control including quarantine, evacuation and control
- Providing emergency medical services (EMS)
- Establishing and providing temporary morgues
- Providing mental health care to include critical incident stress management
- Public information

Situation

Natural or man-made disasters, resulting in a mass casualty incident, would be beyond the capability of local government to adequately respond. In addition to large numbers of injured, the situation may result in a large number of deaths which would pose additional problems in the process of identification, notification of next of kin, and burial of deceased. The State would be called upon in order to supplement the capabilities of the local jurisdiction in order to provide rapid quality care to the injured and appropriate disposition of the deceased.

Assumptions

This annex applies to large-scale emergency or disaster events that would overwhelm local medical, health and mortuary service capabilities, thus requiring maximum coordination and efficient use of these resources.

It may be necessary to relocate hospital facilities to contingency field facilities, or to buildings that will provide patients and medical staff adequate protection from the effects of the disaster.

Volunteers will come forward to help perform essential tasks; their efforts must be anticipated and coordinated. These volunteers must be credentialed by DOH. During aviation disaster operations, the American Red Cross (ARC) will credential mental health care providers.
Public Health and Medical

The Injury Prevention and Emergency Medical Services Bureau (IP & EMSB) is the Department of Health (DOH) designated lead for the coordination of DOH response to large-scale emergencies/disasters, or other events that may require DOH action. In the event of a disease outbreak, the Office of Epidemiology is the designated lead.

DOH coordinates and supervises the public health and medical response to an emergency/disaster. DOH coordinates with officials in the affected area who in turn will conduct a preliminary assessment and notify the DOH representative.

DOH assures the proper utilization of personnel, facilities, and resources for the care and treatment of the sick and injured and function as the public health advisor to the emergency management system.

Temporary and alternate sanitation services may be provided by the State Highway and Transportation Department (SHTD) and local governments with direction from DOH and the Environment Department (ED). The General Services Department (GSD) will assist with emergency procurement of temporary and/or alternative sanitation services.

DOH’s Scientific Laboratory Division (SLD) assists in the analysis of air, tissue, food and water to prevent the spread of disease.

During emergencies DOH and ED provides trained personnel and resources in accordance with their respective department policies and plans.

- DOH and ED representatives coordinate the use of personnel and resources with the Situation Analysis Team (SAT) or the Emergency Management Center (EMC). They will also coordinate with the NM State Police in accordance with the New Mexico Hazardous Materials Emergency Response (HMER) Plan.

- For the protection of the environment and/or public health other State agencies can request DOH and ED provide expertise in the areas of hazardous waste or radiation through the SAT or the EOC.
DOH coordinates with the ED and the Department of Agriculture for animal and vector control issues.

DOH’s IP & EMSB coordinates statewide emergency medical resources during emergencies/disasters.

DOH’s Behavioral Health Division coordinates mental health and crisis counseling needs. The ARC will coordinate mental health needs during aviation disasters.

Coordination of public health related information will be handled by the DOH Public Information Officer.

**Mortuary**

The Office of the Medical Investigator (OMI), University of New Mexico Health Services Center is the lead State organization regarding deaths as a result of a disaster or emergency, including recovery, examination, identification and disposition of remains. To carry out these responsibilities OMI may establish a disaster morgue activity. Once local capabilities are exceeded the OMI will contact the State EMC to provide assistance.

OMI coordinates with State Police and authorizes removal of remains. This is a primary consideration once the area has been stabilized and there is no further threat to life for those personnel designated to remove the deceased.

OMI establishes temporary disaster scene morgues and coordinates with other State organizations for transportation of the deceased to these morgues. If requested by local authorities, manages the disaster scene morgue activities.

OMI coordinates with appropriate State and national organizations for support in the identification, recovery, and preservation of remains.

OMI initiates the processing of death certificates, as appropriate.

OMI coordinates with the American Red Cross (ARC) and other State and national organizations to assist in notification of next of kin, and to provide support to relatives of the deceased.

OMI compiles lists of missing persons, when appropriate.
Primary Environment Department

The ED representative provides coordination with divisions, bureaus, and offices within ED in the following areas:

- Air Pollution
- Drinking Water
- Food Quality
- Liquid Waste
- Groundwater
- Hazardous and Radioactive Material
- Occupational Health and Safety
- Solid Waste
- Surface Water Quality

The ED representative informs and coordinates with State, Federal, or local departments in carrying out their responsibilities.

Department of Health

DOH is the single point of contact for all medical, mental health, and health related problems resulting from an emergency/disaster and in coordinating health service requirements for special populations. NTSB Federal Family Assistance Plan for Aviation Disasters designates the ARC as the lead agency for mental health for aviation disasters.

- Injury Prevention and Emergency Medical Services Bureau (IP & EMSB)
  Lead agency for emergency/disaster preparedness within DOH. Is responsible for preparation and update of DOH response plans for emergency operations as well as coordinating health related issues within DOH and with other State, Federal and local governments as necessary.

  Is the initial point of contact in the event of an actual or impending emergency/disaster situation that may require DOH expertise or resources. Maintains a roster of DOH personnel who will respond to the State EOC, SAT, or alternate location at the request of the EMC.

  Lead agency for emergency medical services statewide. Establishes and maintains emergency medical services capability statewide.
Lead agency for Critical Incident Stress Management Program. Coordinates and provides critical incident stress debriefings to responders and/or disaster victims to mitigate and resolve the psychological distress associated with critical incidents or traumatic events.

- **Office of Epidemiology**
  Lead agency for disease outbreaks. Responsible for coordinating health related matters within DOH with other State, Federal, or local governments as necessary during emergencies/disasters.

  Coordinates with appropriate agencies concerning large-scale radiological, biological, chemical, and HAZMAT incidents.

  Conducts investigations regarding public health conditions.

  Prepares reports and other documentation concerning the health effects of emergencies/disasters.

- **Long-Term Services Division**
  Responds to emergencies/disasters that directly affect residents served by DOH contractors. Residents of these facilities are normally frail, elderly, or disabled and require special care during or following a disaster.

  Assists in coordination of evacuation, transportation and placement of the residents of long term care facilities in the event that an evacuation is required.

- **Behavioral Health Services**
  Coordinates with other DOH divisions, other State, federal agencies, and behavioral health organizations during emergencies/disasters to ensure adequate support. Coordinates with other agencies crisis counseling for disaster victims and emergency response personnel. (see NTSB Federal Family Assistance Plan for Aviation Disasters)
• **Public Health Division**
  Provides education and mass immunization for the prevention of communicable disease.

  Coordinates with other public health agencies to ensure adequate support is available during emergency or disaster operations.

• **Scientific Laboratory Division (SLD)**
  Coordinates for analysis of biological and environmental samples that may be generated as a result of incidents that threaten public health or safety.

**Supporting American Red Cross**
  Assists with shelter for displaced persons.

  Maintains the capability to conduct mental health/stress debriefings.

  Assists in the location of family members through the Disaster Welfare Inquiry System.

  Provides emergency assistance to families who are disaster victims.

  Requests resources from the ARC National Headquarters if an emergency/disaster is beyond the scope of the local/state capacity.

  Lead agency for Family Care and Mental Health for aviation disasters in accordance with the NTSB Federal Family Assistance Plan for Aviation Disasters.

**Public Regulation Commission**

**Fire Marshal's Office**
  Assist Department of Health with coordinating fire service response services for injured and deceased persons.

  Coordinates urban search and rescue.
Department of Military Affairs
Provides assistance to several State organizations in law enforcement, search and rescue for the injured or deceased, and mass casualty assistance.

Department of Public Safety

Search and Rescue (SAR)
Directs and coordinates statewide volunteer teams to assist during an emergency/disaster situation.

State Police
Assists in the identification of the deceased.

New Mexico Department of Agriculture
Provides hazard analysis and vector control for crops and farm animals in a disaster.

Veterinary Diagnostic Services
Provides diagnostic services to prevent the spread of contamination of disease from animals.

New Mexico Livestock Board & State Veterinarian’s Office
Monitors safety of meat and meat products for human consumption.

Hospitals
Provides personnel and facilities during and after a disaster for emergency and inpatient medical services for the public, and mental health services as appropriate.

Provides appropriate trauma care through the University of New Mexico Hospital (UNMH) as a designated Level I Trauma Center and Lovelace Medical Center as a designated Level II Trauma Center.

Regulation and Licensing Department

Medical Examiner's Board
Provides a database for additional expertise for an emergency/disaster situation.
**Nursing Board**  
Provides a database for personnel resources who are willing to assist in emergency medical services during a disaster.

**NM State Medical Society – Nursing Board**  
Provides a database for personnel resources who are willing to assist in emergency medical services during emergencies/disasters.

**University of New Mexico – School of Medicine**

**Department of Emergency Medicine**  
Provides emergency medical trained personnel, medical supplies, and equipment by activating their Disaster Medical Assistance Team(s) (DMAT) if requested.

Provides helicopter and fixed-wing patient air transport system.

**Office of The Medical Investigator (Primary)**  
Provides a program for the management of mass fatality disasters.

Provides for the processing of all fatalities resulting from any event in any part of the state.

Assists the IC as a primary responder for removal and disposition of human remains after living casualties are removed from the area and further life threats are contained.

**Poison Center**  
Assists in disseminating information through the New Mexico Poison Center.

Assists in the development of a population risk assessment and response for potential mass poisoning exposure.

Provides a computerized database for clinical effects of potential HAZMAT emergencies/disasters.

Assists in tracking the clinical course of patients exposed to HAZMAT materials and assists physicians with evaluating treatment options.
Federal

The Public Health Service (PHS) in its primary agency role, directs the provision of United States government-provided health and medical assistance to fulfill the requirements identified by the affected State/local authorities having jurisdictions. The National Transportation Safety Board, Federal Family Assistance Plan for Aviation Disasters, April 9, 1997, assigns responsibilities and describes the airline and federal response to an aviation disaster involving a significant number of passenger fatalities and/or injuries. The plan pertains to any domestic or foreign aviation crash that occurs within the United States, its territories and possessions of the United States, and territorial seas.

The plan defines responsibilities of federal agencies and integrates the resources of the federal Government and other organizations to support the efforts of the local and State governments and the airlines to meet the needs of aviation disaster victims and their families.

Attachments: None

Appendices: None

References:
The Environment Department was created under the authority of Section 9-7A-1, et seq., NMSA 1978.

Statutes and Laws for the Environment Department

Environmental Improvement Act, Section 74-1-1, et seq., NMSA 1978
Air Quality Control Act, Section 74-2-1, et seq., NMSA 1978
Radiation Protection Act, Section 74-3-1, et seq., NMSA 1978
Medical Radiation Health and Safety Act, Section 61-14E-1, et seq., NMSA 1978
Hazardous Waste Act, Section 74-4-1, et seq., NMSA 1978
Water Quality Act, Section 74-6-1, et seq., NMSA 1978

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Occupational Health and Safety Act, Section 50-9-1, et seq., NMSA 1978
New Mexico Food Act, Section 25-2-1, et seq., NMSA 1978
Rural Infrastructure Act, Section 75-1-1, et seq., NMSA 1978
Solid Waste Act, Section 74-9-1, et seq., NMSA 1978
Ground Water Protection Act, Section 74-6B-1, et seq., NMSA 1978
Wastewater Facility Construction Loans Act, Section 74-6A-1, et seq., NMSA 1978
Radioactive and Hazardous Materials Act, Section 74-4A-1, et seq., NMSA 1978

Statutes and Laws for the Department of Health

Department of Health Act, Section 9-7-1, et seq., NMSA 1978
Public Health Act, Section 24-1-1, et seq., NMSA 1978
Emergency Management Act, Section 74-4B-1, et seq., NMSA 1978
Emergency Medical Services System Improvement Projects, Section 24-10A-4.1, NMSA 1978
Emergency Medical Services Mutual Aid Agreements, Section 24-10A-4.2, NMSA 1978
Emergency Medical Services Act, Section 24-10B-1 et seq., NMSA 1978

Statutes and Laws for the Office of the Medical Investigator

Policy Manual, Office of the Medical Investigator, State of New Mexico, Update on Statutes, 1994, Sections 24-11-1 to 24-11-10, NMSA 1978, Sections 24-12-1 to 24-12-1, NMSA 1978, and Sections 24-13-1 to 24-13-8, NMSA 1078.