

# Emergency Support Function (ESF) #8 Public Health and Medical Services

## Primary Agency/ESF Coordinator

Phelps County Health Department

## Support Agencies:

City of Rolla Emergency Management Agency  
City of Rolla Police Department  
City of Rolla Fire Department/District  
Phelps Health  
Phelps County Coroner/Medical Examiner  
Ministerial Alliance  
American Red Cross  
The Salvation Army  
Other Volunteer and Community Organizations

## I. **PURPOSE**

Emergency Support Function (ESF) #8 Public Health and Medical Services provides for coordinated medical, public health, mental health, and emergency medical services to save lives in the time of an emergency.

## II. **SCOPE**

Assistance provided by ESF #8 includes, but is not limited to:

- Public health/medical needs
- Medical surge support including patient movement
- Behavioral health services
- Mass fatality management

## III. **SITUATION AND PLANNING ASSUMPTIONS**

### A. **Situation**

1. The Phelps County Health Department serves the public health needs of the residents of the county.
2. The City of Rolla has Phelps Health Hospital located within its boundaries. This hospital has developed an emergency plan in accordance with State and Federal regulations and exercised regularly. Phelps Health maintains a lighted helicopter landing pad, which is used by the air ambulance services.

3. Emergency Medical Service is provided by the Phelps Health Ambulance Service. The ambulance service maintains mutual aid agreements with all surrounding ambulance services.
4. The Phelps County Coroner/Medical Examiner manages mass fatality incidents.

**B. Planning Assumptions**

1. Public health and medical services will be a major concern following any emergency and a major emergency could create problems beyond the capabilities of the health and medical system.
2. Public and private health and medical resources located in Phelps County will be available for use during disaster situations, but many of these resources (including human resources) may be affected by the disaster.
3. Should local hospitals become overburdened or inoperable, other nearby hospitals will be utilized (if available).
4. Outside assistance will be available and these agencies will respond when requested. However, in all likelihood, emergency measures to protect life and health during the first 12 to 24 hours after the disaster will be exclusively dependent upon local and area resources.

**IV. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS**

**A. General**

1. This ESF applies to all government, private sector, and volunteer agencies with assigned emergency responsibilities as described in Part V of this ESF. An important objective of this document is to facilitate coordination and effective working relationships between these agencies and organizations.
2. The Phelps County Health Department has developed a Public Health Emergency Response plan detailing the Health Department's response to public health and medical emergencies.
3. The Public Health Emergency Response Plan describes local response to biological incidents (such as mass prophylaxis dispensing operations) as well as the requesting and use of the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS). The actions described in ESF #8 are designed to integrate with and support the actions described in the Phelps County Public Health Emergency Response Plan.

4. Additionally, other agencies involved in public health and medical services activities (e.g., Emergency Medical Services, County Coroner/Medical Examiner, Hospitals) have existing emergency plans and procedures. ESF #8 is not designed to take the place of these plans, rather it is designed to complement and support existing plans and procedures.
5. State and Federal public health and medical resources will be requested by the EOC through the procedures described in ESF #5.

## **B. Actions by Operational Timeframe**

### **1. Preparedness**

- a. Develop agreements with other health and medical agencies to augment local resources.
- b. Develop and/or review procedures for crisis augmentation of health and medical personnel, as well as the identification of health care facilities that could be expanded into emergency treatment centers.
- c. Review departmental standard operating procedures, needs for materials, supplies, and necessary forms.
- d. Review protective action guides and self-support capabilities such as emergency electric power generators and communications capabilities.
- e. Participate in Emergency Management training and exercises.

### **2. Response**

- a. Coordinate the deployment of nurses and other medical personnel to provide mass inoculations if necessary.
- b. Issue protective action guidance.

### **3. Recovery**

- a. Conduct ongoing sampling and monitoring to ensure continued sanitation.
- b. Continue to perform tasks necessary to expedite recovery and cleanup operations.
- c. Gradually revert assignments and personnel requirements to normal.
- d. Evaluate response and make necessary changes in this ESF to improve future response activities.

### **4. Mitigation**

Perform ongoing disease surveillance and tracking activities.

## **V. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**



**A. Primary Agency/ESF #8 Coordinator**

Phelps County Health Department

1. Provide a representative to the EOC to coordinate ESF #8 activities.
2. Work with the other members of the EOC team to set priorities and assign resources.
3. Coordinate with the field to assess resource requirements.
4. Request outside assistance and activate mutual aid agreements.
5. Issue health and medical advisories to the public on such matters as emergency water supplies, waste disposal, vectors, immunizations, disinfecting, and other public health issues dictated by the event.
6. Coordinate the location, procurement, screening, and allocation of health and medical supplies and resources, including human resources, required to support health and medical operations.
7. Maintain a patient/casualty tracking system.
8. Establish preventive health services including the control of communicable diseases.
9. Organize the distribution of appropriate vaccines, drugs, and antidotes.
10. Conduct inspections of food, water, and medication supplies.
11. Ensure appropriate health and medical services situational information is available to the EOC.
12. Investigate sanitation conditions and coordinate immunization programs.
13. In the event the potable water supply is contaminated, coordinate with water supply vendors and assist with the development of a distribution system.
14. Work with neighboring community health and medical organizations, as well as with State and Federal officials, to augment local health and medical resources.
15. Ensure the protection of emergency response staff by taking actions to obtain necessary protective respiratory devices and clothing, detection and decontamination equipment, and antidotes for personnel assigned to perform tasks during response operations.
16. Screen and coordinate with incoming groups such as Disaster Medical Assistance Teams (DMAT) and medical volunteers and ensure positive identification and proof of licensure is made for all medical volunteers.
17. Work closely with EMS agencies, hospitals, behavioral health providers and if necessary, the County Coroner/Medical Examiner to accomplish all related public health and medical activities.

**B. Support Agencies**

1. Emergency Medical Services
  - a. Respond to the disaster scene with emergency medical personnel and equipment.
  - b. Upon arrival at the scene, assume an appropriate role in the Incident Command System (ICS).
  - c. If necessary, establish a medical command post at the disaster site(s) to

- coordinate health and medical response team efforts.
- d. Provide triage, medical care, and transport for the injured.
- e. As requested, deploy personnel to the EOC to assist the Public Health and Medical Services Coordinator.
- f. Establish and maintain field communications and coordination with other responding emergency teams (police, public works, etc.) and radio or telephone communications with hospitals.
- g. Assist with the evacuation of patients from affected hospitals.
- h. Assist with the evacuation of nursing patients who require emergent care.

2. Phelps County Coroner/Medical Examiner

- a. Manage the disposition and tracking of the deceased.
- b. Work closely with the City of Rolla EOC to identify and use all available resources to support mortuary operations.
- c. Provide situational information and resource needs to the City of Rolla EOC.
- d. Assist with identification, transportation, and disposition of the deceased.

3. City of Rolla Police Department

- a. Provide security at or around health and medical facilities or at mass casualty sites.
- b. Provide security assistance to medical facilities and to health and medical field personnel upon request.
- c. Maintain emergency health services at correctional facilities, if appropriate.
- d. Provide communications support for health and medical activities.
- e. If necessary, provide traffic flow and parking assistance around health and medical facilities.

4. City of Rolla Fire & Rescue Department

Support EMS operations and other ESF #8 activities as needed.

5. City of Rolla Emergency Management Agency

Support ESF #8 activities as required by the event.

6. Hospitals

- a. Implement hospital disaster plans and procedures.
- b. Advise the ESF #8 Public Health and Medical Services Coordinator in the EOC of conditions at the hospital and number and type of available beds.
- c. Establish and maintain field and inter-hospital medical

communication.

- d. Report patient/casualty tracking information to the primary agency/ESF # 8 Coordinator as requested.

- e. Provide a representative to the EOC when requested.
- f. Provide medical guidance as needed to EMS agencies.
- g. Coordinate with EMS, other hospitals, and any medical response personnel at the scene to ensure that casualties are transported to the appropriate medical facility.
- h. If necessary, work with the EOC to distribute patients to hospitals outside the City based on severity and types of injuries, time and mode of transport, capability to treat, bed capacity, and special designations such as trauma and burn centers.
- i. If necessary, coordinate the use of clinics to treat less than acute illnesses and injuries.
- j. Coordinate with local emergency responders to isolate and decontaminate incoming patients to avoid the spread of chemical or bacterial agents to other patients and staff.
- k. Coordinate with other hospitals and EMS on the evacuation of patients and specify where patients are to be taken.
- l. Depending on the situation, deploy medical personnel, supplies, and equipment to the disaster site(s) or retain them at the hospital for incoming patients.
- m. Establish and staff a reception and support center at each hospital for the relatives and friends of disaster victims who may converge there in search of their loved ones.
- n. Provide patient identification information to the American Red Cross.

7. Ministerial Alliance

Assist in providing behavioral health services to disaster victims and emergency workers.

8. American Red Cross, Salvation Army, Other Volunteer and Community Organizations

- a. Assist in providing behavioral health services to disaster victims and emergency workers.
- b. Provide food for emergency medical workers, volunteers, and patients, if requested.
- c. Maintain a Disaster Welfare Information (DWI) system in coordination with hospitals, aid stations, and field triage units to collect, receive, and report information about the status of victims.
- d. Assist in the notification of the next of kin of the injured and deceased.
- e. Assist with the reunification of the injured with their families.
- f. Provide first aid and other related medical support (within capabilities) at temporary treatment centers.
- g. Provide supplementary medical and nursing aid and other health services, when requested and within capabilities.
- h. Provide assistance for the special needs of disabled, elderly, and children separated from their parents.
- 1. Assist with family reunification and family.

## **VI. CONTINUITY OF GOVERNMENT**

Lines of Succession for ESF #8 Public Health and Medical Services:

1. Director, Phelps County Health Department
2. Public Health Emergency Preparedness
3. Coordinator, Phelps County Health Department
4. Deputy Director, Phelps County Health Department

### **Suggested Appendices**

Appendix 2 - County/Regional Mass Fatality Plan