

**OHIO EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN  
EMERGENCY SUPPORT FUNCTION #8**

**PUBLIC HEALTH and MEDICAL SERVICES**

**PRIMARY AGENCY:** Ohio Department of Health (ODH)

**SUPPORT AGENCIES:** American Red Cross (ARC)  
Ohio Adjutant General's Department,  
Ohio National Guard (ONG)  
Ohio Department of Administrative Services (DAS)  
Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA)  
Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services  
(ODADAS)  
Ohio Department of Commerce, Division of State Fire  
Marshal (SFM)  
Ohio Department of Mental Health (ODMH)  
Ohio Department of Mental Retardation and Developmental  
Disabilities (ODMR/DD)  
Division of Emergency Medical Services (OEMS)  
Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA)  
Ohio Funeral Directors Association (OFDA)  
Ohio Medical Transportation Board (OMTB)

**I. INTRODUCTION**

A. Purpose

Emergency Support Function #8 (ESF-8), Public Health and Medical Services, provides the mechanism for coordinated State assistance to supplement local resources in response to public health and medical care needs, to include veterinary and/or animal health issues when they impact human health, based on all hazards, both natural and intentional.

ESF-8 is coordinated by the Ohio Department of Health. State-level ESF-8 resources can be activated upon request of an impacted county when local resources have been exhausted.

ESF-8 addresses the following concerns for the State of Ohio during natural disasters:

1. Assessment of health and medical needs
2. Public health surveillance
3. Monitoring of the availability and utilization of health systems' assets
4. Provision of public health and medical –related services, supplies and personnel

5. Identification of areas where public health problems could occur
6. Provision of medical-related information releases and public health recommendations and related releases to the public
7. Research and consultation on potential health hazards and medical problems
8. Behavioral health assistance and care
9. Environmental sampling and analysis
10. Testing and confirming lab specimens
11. Testing of products for public consumption
12. Veterinary support
13. Assistance and support for mass casualty and mass fatality incidents
14. Coordination with local, state and federal partners

The current version of ESF-8 replaces a previous version that separated Public Health and Medical Services into ESF-8-A and ESF-8-B. This version combines those two ESFs components into a single ESF, covering both Public Health and Medical Services functions.

## **II. SITUATION**

- A. This plan is to serve the entire Ohio population across the life span. Resources and service coordination during an event will address not only the population in general, but also populations with special needs. These populations will include but will not be limited to senior citizens, people with disabilities, people with special medical or dietary needs, people with limited socio-economic resources, people who are non-English speaking, and pregnant women, children and infants.
- B. Disasters occurring in the State of Ohio typically impact community health standards and typically require a public health response. Waste water, solid waste, potable water, air quality, health supplies and public health services are commonly affected. This necessitates public health advisories and interventions including disease control measures. Communities may become overwhelmed addressing the medical needs of disaster victims.
- C. Disasters impact the provision of health services in community health settings and hospitals. Providers in these settings will be called upon to provide health services to the affected population in accordance with any advisories issued. In addition, providers will be tasked with providing general information to public health officials about the health status of the population they serve (i.e., disease reporting, syndromic surveillance and specimen submission).
- D. Disasters may lead to secondary events such as the release of chemical, biological or radiological materials that could seriously impact communities and overwhelm state and local public health response organizations.

- E. During an event involving hazardous materials, the lead agencies of ESF-8 and ESF-10 will ensure that response activities that overlap the two ESFs are coordinated and lead responsibilities are determined for all participating agencies.
- F. ODH provides statewide coordination and direct services for public health issues with a central office located in Columbus and four district offices. In addition there are 136 local health districts in Ohio.
- G. Local health districts have first-line responsibility for response to health-related emergencies, except for chemical and radiological events. If local health districts are overwhelmed during emergencies, they may request state support from ESF-8 through the State Emergency Operations Center (Ohio EOC).
- H. Ohio Emergency Medical Services (EMS) provides statewide coordination for emergency medical needs in Ohio and will coordinate requests for medical assistance from localities during emergencies.
- I. Local jurisdictions in Ohio have primary responsibility for delivering emergency medical and mass fatality services during an emergency. Local EMS units are primarily located in local fire departments. EMS units may also be privately or publicly owned, or operated by law enforcement or military organizations.
- J. ODH, in coordination with local health districts, will ensure access to public health and medical care for the affected population.
- K. In a large-scale Chemical, Biological, Nuclear (CBNRE) disaster which may overwhelm and deplete the Local and State medical resources and affect large populations in Ohio, the Director of the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) will recommend that the Governor request the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS). The Director of ODH, or his/her designee, is authorized to request the SNS from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). ODH is the lead agency for the request, deployment, receipt, stage, store and transportation of the SNS assets to local health districts and hospital/treatment facilities throughout Ohio. The SNS annex provides guidance on activation and deployment of the SNS.
- L. Local health districts are responsible to dispense/vaccinate identified populations.
- M. The Region V Disaster Mortuary Operational Response Team will be activated if an incident that results in Mass Fatalities and will provide support to county coroners regarding the identification and disposition of the deceased.

### **III. ASSUMPTIONS**

- A. Local health districts will notify ODH of the status of local health emergencies and the need for assistance.
- B. Emergency events may render local health districts inoperable.
- C. Although a primary hazardous event may not initiate a public health emergency, secondary events stemming from the initial event may do so.
- D. County Emergency Management Agencies will notify local health districts of emergencies in their jurisdictions.
- E. Disruption of sanitation services and facilities, loss of power and massing of people in shelters may increase the potential for disease and injury.
- F. A disaster may exceed the resources of the local public health and medical community and state and federal emergency resources may be required.
- G. Requests for support will be coordinated through local, county and state Emergency Operations Centers (EOCs).
- H. Catastrophic disasters may require the relocation of hospital and medical facilities.
- I. Local emergency operation procedures and resource manuals describe the following medical resources in their jurisdictions: nursing homes, hospitals, emergency medical squads, ambulance services, morgue locations and mutual aid agreements for EMS and public health needs.

### **IV. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS**

- A. Overview – Public Health Functions
  - 1. The Ohio Emergency Management Agency (Ohio EMA) will notify Primary and Support organizations for ESF-8 when an event requires their presence in the Ohio EOC.
  - 2. The Ohio Department of Health (ODH) is the lead agency for ESF-8. ODH liaisons will be available to staff the Ohio EOC, coordinate with local health districts at the site of the emergency and work with ESF-8 support organizations in the Ohio EOC to answer the needs of affected communities. These needs may include the following.
    - a. Public health assessments of conditions at the site of the emergency to determine health needs and priorities.

- b. Population surveillance and investigations to determine disease patterns and potential disease outbreaks and implement prevention and control strategies.
  - c. Logistical support for state public health personnel in the field.
  - d. Coordination among various health organizations at the site of the emergency.
  - e. Supply, restocking, and prioritization of health-related equipment and supplies.
  - f. Assess and make recommendations concerning the public health needs of emergency responders.
  - g. Provision of behavioral health assistance to disaster victims and responders.
  - h. Provision of public health advisories and related information to the general public.
  - i. Assistance in assessing potable water and wastewater/solid waste disposal issues and coordination to provide potable water and wastewater/solid waste disposal equipment.
  - j. Assignment of missions to federal ESF-8.
3. Activities of emergency medical units in Ohio are directed by fire chiefs when the units are attached to fire departments and by the owners/operators of private or government-owned companies.
  4. First responders at the scene coordinate EMS and request state and federal assistance through the local Emergency Management Agencies.
  5. Local Emergency Management Agency reports requests for state and federal emergency assistance to the State Emergency Operations Center (Ohio EOC) where they are coordinated with ESF-8 representatives.
  6. The County Coroner has jurisdiction over the deceased and is responsible for setting up temporary morgues and coordinating with the Ohio Funeral Directors Association when necessary.
  7. Hospital and other medical care facilities requiring state and federal assistance coordinate their requests through the local Emergency Management Director of their jurisdiction.

8. The Governor may request National Disaster Medical System (NDMS) activation when state capabilities are overwhelmed.
9. Upon activation, NDMS will mobilize medical teams, equipment and supplies, assist in evacuating victims and provide medical care at hospitals that are part of NDMS.

B. Relationships among Levels of Government

1. Federal

- aa. During federally declared emergencies, the organizations that comprise federal

ESF-8 include the following:

- Department of Health and Human Services (Primary)
- Department of Agriculture
- Department of Defense
- Department of Energy
- Department of Homeland Security
- Department of Justice
- Department of Labor
- Department of State
- Department of Transportation
- Department of Veterans Affairs
- Agency for International Development
- Environmental Protection Agency
- General Services Administration
- U.S. Postal Service
- American Red Cross

2. State

- a. ESF-8 organizations maintain a working relationship throughout emergency response and recovery operations to ensure that emergency public health needs are identified, assessed, prioritized and addressed.
- b. ESF-8 organizations will coordinate with ESF-8 organizations from other states when required during emergencies. In particular, ODH will coordinate with adjacent states.

3. Local

- a. Local-level emergency requests for state public health resources and services communicated to the Ohio EOC will be directed to ESF-8 personnel for action.

b. Local requests for ESF-8 assistance will be referred to the appropriate state agency through the Ohio Department of Health.

4. The Comparison Chart for ESF-8 Organizations, below, lists the organizations in the federal ESF-8 Team as listed in the National Response Plan (NRP). When there are comparable organizations on the state and local level, they will be listed in the chart or special circumstances will be referenced in the footnotes. This is to ensure that all organizations have the proper interface when activated during Presidential declarations of emergencies.

<b>Comparison Chart for ESF-8 Organizations</b>		
<b><u>State Organizations</u></b>	<b><u>Federal Organizations</u> <u>NRP-Designated Agencies</u></b>	<b><u>Local Organizations</u></b>
Ohio Department of Health Div. of Emergency Medical Services Ohio Department of Mental Health Department of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services Ohio Medical Transportation Board	U.S. Department of Health And Human Services	Local Health Districts  Local EMS
Central Ohio Chapter, American Red Cross	American Red Cross	Local ARC Chapters
Ohio Adjutant General's Department, Ohio National Guard (ONG)	U.S. Department of Defense	*
Department of Administrative Services	General Services Administration	County Commissioners
Ohio Department of Agriculture	U.S. Department of Agriculture	*
Ohio Department of Commerce, State Fire Marshal's Office	U. S. Department of Homeland Security	Local Fire Departments
Ohio Environmental Protection Agency	U. S. Environmental Protection Agency	Local Fire Departments
Ohio Funeral Directors' Association	U.S. Department of Justice	County Coroners
*	U.S. Department of Energy	*
*	U.S. Department of the Interior	*

*	U.S. Department of Transportation	*
*	U.S. Department of Labor	*
*	U.S. Department of State	*
*	U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs	*
*	U.S. Agency for International Development	*
*	U.S. Postal Service	Local Post Office

\* There is no comparable organization at this level to coordinate with the organization(s) listed for other levels of government.

## V. ORGANIZATION AND ASSIGNMENT OF RESPONSIBILITIES

A. ESF-8 organizations will be activated by Ohio EMA for assessment, response, and recovery operations based on the needs of the emergency or disaster. Primary and Support Agencies for the state's public health and emergency medical services functions will coordinate with each other in the Ohio EOC and in the Disaster Field Office (DFO) to ensure the most effective use of personnel and equipment, to avoid redundant activities and to cooperate on emergency health and medical missions.

### B. Assignment of Responsibility

#### 1. Ohio Department of Health (ODH)

- a. Conduct health assessments of conditions in the communities affected by the emergency and, where possible, determine where health problems could occur.
- b. Maintain ongoing human health surveillance of affected communities in order to rapidly identify and address health-related problems.
- c. Support local health district emergency operations by providing health related services and supplies.
- d. Conduct food service sanitation programs and private water system and water hauling programs.
- e. Provide consultation for household sewage disposal, housing sanitation, vector control, and public health nuisances.
- f. Coordinate state response to health problems at the Ohio EOC throughout assessment and response.
- g. Coordinate health recovery efforts at the DFO as needed.

- h. Assist local health districts in their emergency inspection programs.
  - i. Support the delivery of non-emergency health care programs by local health districts throughout the emergency.
  - j. Assist with the placement of nursing home patients who must be evacuated.
  - k. Provide pharmaceuticals, medical equipment and supplies as needed during the emergency.
  - l. Provide health and medical advisories and press releases.
  - m. Perform examinations and analyses of possibly hazardous and contaminated substances throughout the emergency.
  - n. Assist in the identification of mass burial sites.
  - o. Provide medical-related information to the public.
2. American Red Cross (ARC)
- a. Coordinate with state agencies regarding health and mental health issues in shelters, Service Centers, Outreach Teams, Emergency Assistance Teams (EAS) and Integrated Care Teams (ICT).
  - b. Provide emergency first aid and preventative health services to people affected by disasters in shelters, Service Centers, Outreach Teams, Integrated Care Teams, and Emergency Aid Centers in designated safe zones.
  - c. Observe persons in shelters for signs/symptoms of possible exposure to any known contaminants during a Weapon of Mass Destruction (WMD) event and ensure they receive proper medical care.
  - d. Distribute public health/mental health information to persons affected by disasters.
  - e. Ensure the provision of blood and blood products to persons affected by disasters.
  - f. Provide health services and mental health support at Family Reception Centers and Respite Centers in designated safe zones.
  - g. Assist people affected by disasters by facilitating connections with public health, medical, and mental health agencies to coordinate services in

ARC shelters, service centers, emergency aid stations, and on outreach teams.

3. Ohio Adjutant General's Department, Ohio National Guard (ONG)
  - a. When a Governor's declaration has been issued, ONG can provide general and unique services.
  - b. Coordinate with Department of Defense.
  - c. Assist in dispensing and administering medicines.
  - d. Provide delivery of medical supplies.
  - e. Provide other medical services during emergencies.
  - f. Support local EMS teams and health care operations by providing medical services and equipment.
  - g. Assist with patient movement as needed.
4. Ohio Department of Administrative Services (DAS)
  - a. Procure health care supplies and equipment for affected communities as required.
5. Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA)
  - a. Coordinate the inspection of retail food establishments with local health districts.
  - b. Ensure the safety and efficacy of regulated foods, and conduct inspections of food processing establishments (food, dairy, meat, etc.) and distributors during emergencies.
  - c. Coordinate and collect food samples.
  - d. Arrange for and oversee embargo, removal, disposal and/or destruction of contaminated products.
  - e. Conduct sample analysis at the Consumer Analytical Laboratory and/or the Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory; and provide laboratory support.
  - f. Conduct inspections, investigations, and surveillance in the event of zoonotic diseases.

6. Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services (ODADAS)
  - a. Coordinate the activities necessary to provide the staff, supplies and resources to provide alcohol and drug addiction services and treatments to victims suffering from disaster-related drug and alcohol abuse-related disorders.
  - b. Provide representatives to assist the local Mental Health and/or joint Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services Boards and Regional, County and Community Mental Health Centers in giving supportive services and treatment to disaster victims.
7. Department of Commerce, Division of State Fire Marshal (SFM)
  - a. Assist with the activation of the Ohio Fire Chiefs' Association Emergency Response Plan.
  - b. Assist in providing resources to local fire-based EMS.
8. Ohio Department of Mental Health (ODMH)
  - a. Coordinate the activities necessary to provide the staff, supplies and resources to treat victims suffering from disaster-related mental disorders.
  - b. Coordinate and monitor the state behavioral health activities to address victim needs and to provide appropriate interventions.
  - c. Provide behavioral health clinical consultation services to state EOC staff.
  - d. Provide representatives to assist local Mental Health and/or joint Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services Boards and Regional, County and Community Mental Health Centers in giving supportive services and treatment to disaster victims.
9. Department of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities (ODMR/DD)
  - a. Provide services to assist local organizations in providing for the emergency needs of mentally retarded and/or developmentally disabled emergency victims.
10. Ohio Emergency Medical Services (OEMS)
  - a. Provide representatives in the Ohio EOC to coordinate local requests for EMS assistance during emergencies.

- b. Maintain ongoing medical surveillance of affected communities in order to rapidly identify and address emergency medical problems.
- c. Support local EMS teams by providing medical services and supplies.
- d. Coordinate with FEMA ESF #8 when federal medical assistance is activated for Ohio.
- e. Coordinate with NDMS when activated in Ohio.
- f. Provide briefing information in the Ohio EOC on statewide emergency medical activities.
- g. Provide assessments of medical needs in the affected communities.
- h. Support mass fatality efforts in affected communities.
- i. Provide medical-related information to the public.
- j. Provide research and consultation on emergency medical problems as needed.
- k. Assist in the identification, purchase and delivery of needed medicines, medical supplies and services during emergencies.

11. Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA)

- a. Coordinate drinking water, waste disposal and environmental safety information with local and state health departments.
- b. Provide a listing of laboratories offering microbiological, organic and inorganic analysis.

12. Ohio Medical Transportation Board (OMTB)

- a. Assist in the Mobilization of Private EMS.
- b. Assist in Coordination and Training of Private EMS.

13. Ohio Funeral Directors Association (OFDA)

- a. Supply personnel and materials to support mass fatality response and expanded mortuary services in affected jurisdictions.

## **VI. RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS**

- A. ESF-8 organizations maintain organizational Standard Operating Procedures and Resource Listings that document the equipment, supplies, and services available to them during emergencies.