

ANNEX 8 (ESF-8)

HEALTH AND MEDICAL SERVICES

PRIMARY: Department of Health and Environmental Control

SUPPORT: Governor's Office, Office of Veterans' Affairs; Office of the Adjutant General, SC National Guard; Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation, Division of Professional and Occupational Licensing and Division of Fire and Life Safety; SC Law Enforcement Division; Department of Disabilities and Special Needs; Department of Mental Health; Vocational Rehabilitation Department; Department of Education, Office of Transportation; Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services; SC Department of Corrections; Department of Social Services; SC Department of Health and Human Services; SC Morticians Association; SC Funeral Directors Association; SC Coroners Association; SC Hospital Association; SC Medical Association; SC Pharmacy Association; American Red Cross; SC Health Care Association; SC Association of Non-Profit Homes for the Aging; SC Dental Association

I. INTRODUCTION

State assistance under this function consists of health and medical service resources (including transportation) temporarily realigned from established programs having coordination or direct service capability for medical care, public health and sanitation, behavioral health, and deceased identification and mortuary services.

- A. **MEDICAL CARE** refers to emergency medical services (including field operations and first responders), resident medical and dental care, doctors, nurses, technicians, pharmaceuticals, supplies, equipment, hospitals, clinics, planning and operation of facilities, and services.
- B. **PUBLIC HEALTH AND SANITATION** refers to the services, equipment, and staffing essential to protect the public from communicable diseases and contamination of food and water supplies; development and monitoring of health information; inspection and control of sanitation measures; inspection of individual water supplies; disease vector and epidemic control; immunization; laboratory testing.
- C. **BEHAVIORAL HEALTH**, to include crisis counseling and psychological first aid, refers to the professional personnel, services, and facilities to relieve mental health and/or substance abuse problems caused or aggravated by a disaster or its aftermath.
- D. **DECEASED IDENTIFICATION AND MORTUARY SERVICES** refers to the identification, registration, certification and disposition of human remains.

II. **PURPOSE**

To ensure emergency provision of the state's governmental resources for health and medical care; to facilitate and/or coordinate the provision of private resources for health and medical care for disaster victims; to supplement and support disrupted or overburdened local medical service personnel and facilities; to ensure continued provision of safe food and water supplies; to perform deceased identification and mortuary services operations; and to relieve personal suffering and trauma, with a recognition of special medical needs populations and the unique services they may require.

III. **CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS**

- A. DHEC is responsible for the coordination of all ESF-8 administrative, management, planning, training, preparedness/mitigation, response, and recovery activities to include developing, coordinating, and maintaining the ESF-8 SOP. All ESF-8 supporting agencies will assist DHEC in the planning and execution of the above. All ESF-8 personnel must be trained on the principles of the National Incident Management System (NIMS) and Incident Command and integrate those principles into all ESF-8 planning and response operations.
- B. Coordination with all supporting and other appropriate departments/agencies and organizations will be performed to ensure operational readiness in time of emergency.
- C. DHEC shall provide an Emergency Management Coordinator or Alternate, designated by the Commissioner, to represent him at the SEOC, who, on the behalf of, or in the Commissioner's absence from the SEOC, shall act to meet the public's health needs.
- D. In coordination with, and in support of, the State Assessment Team (SAT), ESF-8 will assess the situation (both pre- and post-event), and in coordination with local emergency management officials, develop strategies to respond to the emergency.
- E. Medical Care: Provide or coordinate emergency and resident medical and dental care, doctors, nurses, technicians, pharmacists, pharmaceuticals, supplies, equipment, licensed ambulance services, hospitals, clinics and medical units, planning and operation of facilities, and services. Stage medical assets and deploy as needed to affected areas. Assist with the coordination of patient relocation and establishment of emergency medical care centers.
- F. Public Health and Sanitation: Coordinates the services, equipment, and staffing essential to protect the public from communicable diseases and

contamination of food and water supplies; development and monitoring of health information; inspection and control of sanitation measures; inspection of individual water supplies; surveillance; disease vector and epidemic control; immunization; and laboratory testing.

- G. Behavioral Health: Manages psychological first aid, crisis counseling and mental health assistance under the direction of the Department of Health and Environmental Control, and the Department of Mental Health, and in coordination with the Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services, Vocational Rehabilitation Department, Department of Disabilities and Special Needs, American Red Cross, local clergy, and other private resources.
- H. Deceased Identification and Mortuary Services.
1. The county coroner has overall responsibility for care, identification, and disposition of human remains within their jurisdiction. The state will provide assistance at the request of the county government.
 2. ESF-8 shall contact authoritative organizations, local government entities and county health officials to assess the magnitude of need, determine appropriate location for mortuary and temporary facilities and specify equipment or materials deemed necessary. ESF-8 will coordinate security issues with ESF-13 (Law Enforcement).
 3. ESF-8 will assure the procurement of supplies and equipment (e.g. refrigeration units, body bags, stretchers, embalming supplies, transportation, etc.), as required to maintain appropriate condition of the deceased until proper identification, notification and disposition can be determined. Use of existing morgues and forensic personnel will be coordinated with state personnel and with dental/medical school personnel, as necessary.
 4. In the event a deceased victim has no surviving family or next-of-kin, the state through the appropriate county coroner, shall assure that a dignified burial is provided by the local government with jurisdictional responsibility. Burial assistance to families of deceased veterans will be provided through the SC Office of Veterans Affairs. SC Funeral Directors Association and SC Morticians Association will assist with family counseling.

IV. ESF ACTIONS

The emergency operations necessary for the performance of this function include but are not limited to:

A. Preparedness

1. General.

- a. Develop mutual support relationships with professional associations and other private services and volunteer organizations that may assist during an emergency or disaster including special medical needs population service agencies and advocacy groups.
- b. Participate in state exercises and conduct, at least annually, an ESF-8 exercise to validate this annex and supporting SOPs.
- c. Ensure all ESF-8 personnel integrate NIMS principles in all planning. All ESF personnel must complete all required NIMS training, as outlined in the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) training guidance.
- d. Ensure procedures are in place to document costs for any potential reimbursement.
- e. Support the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) by ensuring ESF personnel are trained on EMAC responsibilities and by pre-identifying resources that may be allocated to support other states.
- f. Provide an ESF-8 representative to the Recovery Task Force.

2. Medical Care.

- a. Coordinate the provision of medical and dental care.
- b. Identify and coordinate the deployment of doctors, nurses, technicians and other medical personnel to disaster areas.

- c. Maintain inventory lists of medical supplies, equipment, licensed ambulance services, hospitals, and other licensed health care facilities.
 - d. Plan for establishment of staging areas for medical personnel, equipment, and supplies.
 - e. Develop and maintain plans to implement Strategic National Stockpile operations in South Carolina (See SC Mass Casualty Plan).
 - f. When traditional health care facilities are not available, plan for establishment of alternate care sites.
 - g. Develop protocols and maintain liaison with elements of the National Disaster Medical System (NDMS), to include Federal Coordinating Centers (FCC) in South Carolina, Disaster Medical Assistance Teams (DMAT), the National Pharmacy Response Teams (NPRT), the National Nurse Response Teams (NNRT), and the National Veterinary Response Teams (NVRT).
 - h. Assist in the organization of a SC disaster medical capability, which can be deployed to a disaster area on short notice and provide emergency medical care in either a fixed facility or field environment.
 - i. Plan for requesting federal medical assistance teams and coordinate for their support while operating in South Carolina.
 - j. Assure that health care facilities (e.g. hospitals, nursing homes, youth and adult medical care facilities) develop patient reduction, evacuation, and relocation procedures.
 - k. Identify agencies, organizations, and individuals capable of providing support services or assistance such as the South Carolina Hospital Association, and the South Carolina Medical Association.
3. Public Health and Sanitation.
- a. Develop procedures to protect the public from communicable diseases and contamination of food, water, and drug supplies (including veterinary drugs).

- b. Develop procedures to monitor public health information.
 - c. Develop sanitation inspection procedures and protocols to control unsanitary conditions.
 - d. Develop procedures for inspection of individual water supplies.
 - e. Develop procedures for identification of disease, vector, and epidemic control.
 - f. Develop emergency immunization procedures.
 - g. Identify laboratory testing facilities.
4. Behavioral Health.
- a. Develop procedures for rapidly providing assistance to individuals and families, to include organizing and training rapidly deployable crisis counseling and other behavioral health teams.
 - b. Develop support relationships with government agencies, professional associations, private services, and volunteer organizations to provide behavioral health and substance abuse assistance during and after disasters.
5. Deceased Identification and Mortuary Services.
- a. Develop plans for location, identification, registration, certification, removal and disposition of the deceased.
 - b. Establish a system for collecting and disseminating information regarding victims and have the operational capability to deliver the information in a field environment in coordination with ESF-15 (Public Information).
 - c. Develop protocols and maintain liaison with Disaster Mortuary Operational Readiness Teams (DMORT) of the National Disaster Medical System (NDMS).
 - d. Identify agencies, organizations, and individuals capable of providing support services for deceased identification including South Carolina Funeral Directors Disaster Committee, SC Morticians Association, and South Carolina Coroners Association.

- e. Maintain a description of capabilities and procedures for alert, assembly and deployment of state mortuary assistance assets.

B. Response

1. General.

- a. Coordinate information releases to the public with the public information officer in ESF-15 (Public Information).
- b. Coordinate with federal agencies as required.
- c. Through all phases of emergency management, maintain records of expenditures and resources used for possible later reimbursement.
- d. Identify and provide a liaison officer for each EMAC request, to facilitate arrival and onward movement of EMAC support at appropriate staging area.

2. Medical Care.

- a. Coordinate the delivery of health and medical services as outlined in paragraph IV.A.2 above.
- b. Arrange for the provision of medical personnel, equipment, pharmaceuticals, and supplies.
- c. Assist the coordination of patient evacuation and relocation.
- d. Implement Strategic National Stockpile operations, as needed.
- e. Arrange for National Disaster Medical System (NDMS) services, to include patient evacuation assistance, Disaster Medical Assistance Teams (DMAT), National Pharmacy Response Teams (NPRT), National Nurse Response Teams (NNRT), and the National Veterinary Response Teams (NVRT), as needed.
- f. In conjunction with SC Hospital Association and other appropriate organizations, identify hospital and nursing home vacancies statewide.

- b. Assist with restoration of permanent medical facilities to operational status.
 - c. Assist with restoration of pharmacy services to operational status.
 - d. Support emergency services infrastructure until local system is self-supporting.
 - e. Assist with emergency pharmacy and laboratory services.
3. Public Health and Sanitation.
- a. Maintain environmental and epidemiological surveillance.
 - b. Continue long-term emergency environmental activities.
4. Behavioral Health: Coordinate the management of continuous mental health, crisis counseling and recovery services, and substance abuse assistance to individuals, families, and communities.
5. Deceased Identification and Mortuary Services.
- a. Continue the operations necessary for the identification, registration, certification, and disposition of the deceased and their personal effects.
 - b. Receive the required death reports throughout the incident. |
 - c. Provide a final fatality report.
- D. Mitigation
- 1. Support and plan for mitigation measures including monitoring and updating mitigation actions in the State Hazard Mitigation Plan.
 - 2. Review, evaluate and comment on proposed State Hazard Mitigation Plan amendments upon initiation and within the review period.
 - 3. Support requests and directives from the Governor and/or federal agencies concerning mitigation and/or re-development activities. |

4. Document matters that may be needed for inclusion in agency or state/federal briefings, situation reports and action plans.

V. **RESPONSIBILITIES**

A. General:

State agencies under ESF-8 will train personnel on EMAC procedures to include:

1. identifying agency resources to sustain emergency operations;
2. pre-scripting anticipated needs on specific EMAC messages; and
3. listing agency resources available for interstate mutual aid missions.

B. Department of Health and Environmental Control

1. Identify, train, and assign DHEC personnel to staff ESF-8 in the SEOC.
2. Notify all ESF-8 supporting agencies upon activation.
3. Develop mutual support relationships with professional associations and other private services and volunteer organizations that may assist during emergencies or disasters including special medical needs population service agencies and advocacy groups.
4. Coordinate and direct the activation and deployment of state agencies, volunteer health/medical personnel, supplies, equipment and provide certain direct resources under the control of DHEC.
5. Develop and conduct drills and exercises which test the medical and behavioral health response to disaster situations.
6. Assure that licensed health care facilities develop patient reduction, evacuation, and relocation plans and procedures.
7. Manage the medical care for standard and special medical needs shelters to include providing interim nursing support to all shelters.
8. Manage the medical care of the special medical needs shelters to include reimbursing the facility for replacement of medical supplies (when necessary); ensure sufficient medical staff are available to open shelters and approve admissions; maintain and ensure confidentiality of medical records; assist sheltered

individuals in making arrangements for essential medical equipment, as the situation allows (patients should bring medicine and equipment with them if possible); evaluate and arrange for special medical diets.

9. Coordinate waivers of rules and regulations regarding licensed health care facilities.
10. Maintain and provide a listing of licensed health care facilities including names of Administrators and 24 hour phone numbers, as appropriate.
11. Identify and provide bed capacity and availability status of all hospitals throughout the state.
12. In conjunction with SC Hospital Association, determine operational status of hospitals.
13. Provide nursing personnel to assist in shelters, tent cities, public health clinics, as available.
14. Provide staff and services for monitoring public health conditions.
15. Notify the public of recommendations to restrict consumption of water supplies in the event of contamination and assist in inspection of water supplies.
16. Implement quarantine procedures, as appropriate.
17. Coordinate deployment of volunteer doctors, nurses, behavioral health professionals, technicians and other medical personnel to disaster areas.
18. Maintain current inventory lists of medical supplies, pharmaceuticals, equipment, licensed ambulance services, hospitals, and other licensed health care facilities.
19. Develop protocols and maintain liaison with elements of the National Disaster Medical System (NDMS), to include Federal Coordinating Centers (FCC) in South Carolina, Disaster Medical Assistance Teams (DMAT), Disaster Mortuary Operational Response Teams (DMORT), National Pharmacy Response Teams (NPRT), National Nurse Response Teams (NNRT), and the National Veterinary Response Teams (NVRT).
20. Develop rapidly deployable behavioral health teams.

21. Implement Strategic National Stockpile operations as needed.
22. Plan for the deployment of Federal Medical Stations in SC, as needed.
23. Implement CHEMPACK operations as needed.
24. Provide food inspectors to assist in the inspection of restaurants and provide technical advice to mass feeding sites.
25. Arrange for National Disaster Medical System (NDMS) services, to include patient evacuation assistance, Disaster Medical Assistance Teams (DMAT), Disaster Mortuary Operational Response Teams (DMORT), National Pharmacy Response Teams (NPRT), National Nurse Response Teams (NNRT), and the National Veterinary Response Teams (NVRT) as needed.

C. Governor's Office, Office of Veterans Affairs

1. Identify, train, and assign SC Office of Veterans Affairs personnel to maintain contact with and prepare to execute missions in support of ESF-8 during periods of activation.
2. Assist with deceased identification of veterans through medical and dental records and provide liaison to US Veterans Affairs, as required.
3. Assist with burial arrangements for families of deceased veterans.

D. Office of the Adjutant General, SC National Guard

1. Identify, train, and assign SCNG personnel to maintain contact with and prepare to execute missions in support of ESF-8 during periods of activation.
2. Identify and provide a list of SC military medical resources to the DHEC Emergency Management Coordinator.
3. Assist with patient evacuation (ground and air).
4. Identify potential temporary non-refrigerated morgue facilities.
5. Assist with security, equipment, facilities, and personnel to implement Strategic National Stockpile operations.

- E. Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation
 - 1. Division of Professional and Occupational Licensing
 - a. Assist with temporary licensing of health care workers, including but not limited to crisis counselors.
 - b. Provide lists of medical personnel including but not limited to doctors, nurses, and pharmacists.
 - c. Coordinate waivers of rules and regulations regarding licensed health care workers.
 - 2. Division of Fire and Life Safety
 - a. Identify, train, and assign personnel to maintain contact with and prepare to execute missions in support of ESF-8 during periods of activation.
 - b. Identify potential temporary morgue facilities at the SC Fire Academy.
- F. SC Law Enforcement Division
 - 1. Identify, train, and assign SLED personnel to maintain contact with and prepare to execute missions in support of ESF-8 during periods of activation.
 - 2. Provide assistance for the collection or rapid transportation of samples for analysis.
 - 3. Provide technical assistance, equipment, laboratory, and body location documentation services for deceased identification and mortuary services.
 - 4. Provide chaplains to assist county coroners, as requested, for death notification services and crisis intervention services, primarily for law enforcement agencies within the state.
 - 5. Assist with security to implement Strategic National Stockpile operations.

G. Department of Disabilities and Special Needs

1. Identify, train, and assign personnel to maintain contact with and prepare to execute missions in support of ESF-8 during periods of activation.
2. When available, provide dental and other disabilities and special needs personnel.
3. Provide accessible transportation assets.

H. Department of Mental Health

1. Identify, train, and assign DMH personnel to staff ESF-8 operations during periods of activation.
2. In coordination with DHEC, manage disaster mental health assistance support within ESF-8.
3. Provide crisis and behavioral health counselors to facilitate recovery.
4. Provide nurses and other medical professionals as available.
5. Provide medical facilities, as available.
6. Identify resources to secure psychiatric medication, as needed.

I. Vocational Rehabilitation Department

1. Identify, train, and assign personnel to maintain contact with and prepare to execute missions in support of ESF-8 in the SEOC.
2. Provide crisis counseling personnel to facilitate recovery.
3. Provide accessible transportation assets.
4. Provide warehouse space for temporary storage of medical supplies.
5. Provide temporary alcohol and drug treatment bed space.

J. Department of Education, Office of Transportation

1. Identify, train, and assign personnel to maintain contact with and prepare to execute missions in support of ESF-8 during periods of activation.

2. Provide ambulatory and non-ambulatory transportation for health and medical services as outlined in Annex 1-Transportation.

K. Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services

1. Identify and train personnel who will maintain contact with and prepare to execute missions in support of ESF-8 during periods of activation.
2. Provide behavioral health counseling personnel.

L. Department of Corrections

Provide refrigerated trucks in support of mortuary operations.

M. SC Morticians Association

Provide mortuary services including personnel, supplies, equipment, transportation, and obtaining information from the families of deceased.

N. SC Funeral Directors Association

Provide mortuary services including personnel, supplies, equipment, transportation, and obtaining information from the families of deceased.

O. SC Coroners Association

Provide mortuary services including personnel, supplies, equipment, transportation, and obtaining information from the families of deceased.

P. SC Hospital Association

1. Assist with identification of hospital bed information.
2. Assist with determining operational status of hospitals.
3. Assist in facilitating communications with hospitals. |

Q. SC Medical Association

Assist with acquisition of physicians for emergency operations.

R. SC Pharmacy Association

1. Assist with acquisition of pharmacists for emergency operations.

2. Assist with acquisition and distribution of pharmaceuticals for emergency operations.

3. Coordinate appropriate storage of pharmaceuticals.

S. American Red Cross

1. Identify, train, and assign personnel to maintain contact with and prepare to execute missions in support of ESF-8 during periods of activation.

2. Provide disaster health services personnel.

3. Provide disaster mental health personnel.

4. Manage the mental health response during an aviation disaster.

T. Department of Social Services

Prepare for and conduct operations in support of ESF-8 as coordinated.

U. SC Department of Health and Human Services

Prepare for and conduct operations in support of ESF-8 as coordinated.

V. SC Health Care Association

Prepare for and conduct operations in support of ESF-8 as coordinated.

W. SC Association of Non-Profit Homes for the Aging

Prepare for and conduct operations in support of ESF-8 as coordinated.

X. SC Dental Association

Prepare for and conduct operations in support of ESF-8 as coordinated.

VI. FEDERAL ASSISTANCE

A. This annex is supported by the National Response Framework for ESF-8, Public Health and Medical Services. The US Department of Health and Human Services is responsible for directing ESF-8 operations. ESF-8 representatives will deploy with the Incident Management Assistance Team (IMAT) to the SEOC or other designated location.

- B. Federal health and medical assistance provided by ESF-8 includes:
1. Assessment of Public Health and Medical Needs
 2. Health Surveillance
 3. Medical Care Personnel
 4. Health/Medical/Veterinary Equipment and Supplies
 5. Patient Evacuation
 6. Patient Care
 7. Safety and Security of Human Drugs, Biologics, Medical Devices, and Veterinary Drugs
 8. Blood and Blood Products
 9. Food Safety and Security
 10. Agriculture Safety and Security
 11. Mass Fatality Management, Victim Identification, and Decontamination of Remains
 12. All Hazard Public Health and Medical Consultation, Technical Assistance, and Support
 13. Behavioral Health Care
 14. Public Health and Medical Information
 15. Vector Control
 16. Potable Water and Wastewater and Solid Waste Disposal
 17. Victim Identification and Mortuary Services
 18. Veterinary Medical Support
- C. All state ESF-8 personnel will be familiar with the National Response Framework and the corresponding annex with Federal counterpart concepts, actions and responsibilities. This familiarization will include but not be limited to the make up, functions and responsibilities of the

Incident Management Assistance Teams (IMAT) and the Joint Field Office (JFO).

- D. State ESF-8 will coordinate with Federal ESF-8 to obtain federal assistance as required. However, under current SC ESF responsibilities, selected Federal ESF-8 responsibilities listed above are not the responsibility of State ESF-8.