

EMERGENCY SUPPORT FUNCTION - EIGHT
HEALTH AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

PRIMARY AGENCIES: Kittitas County Health Officer
Kittitas County Health Department
Kittitas County Coroner
Kittitas Valley Community Hospital (KVCH)

SUPPORT AGENCIES: Emergency Medical Services Council
Kittitas County Emergency Management
Area Ambulance Services
Area Fire Services
American Red Cross

INTRODUCTION

A. PURPOSE

To provide for coordination of Health and Emergency Medical Services during times of emergency or disaster.

B. SCOPE

This ESF provides the concepts that the Health, Emergency Medical, Mental Health, and Mortuary services will function under. This ESF applies to all agencies performing Health and Emergency Medical functions.

POLICIES

Emergency Medical response to emergencies or disaster will follow accepted protocol and appropriate RCWs.

SITUATION

A. Emergency/Disaster Hazards and Conditions

Natural and/or Technological disaster could effect the Health and Emergency Medical response. This would come from damage to the infrastructure and roadways, limiting the ability of resources.

A mass causality event (i.e. Passenger train derailment) could also effect the ability of the response, due to the overwhelming of resources.

Medical Emergency (see Boiterriosm Assumptions)

B. Planning Assumptions

1. Local Emergency Medical resources will become overwhelmed in any large scale event.
2. There is only one trauma hospital in the area and this hospital could be affected by a disaster situation.
3. Kittitas County does not have large scale established mortuary storage capabilities.

CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

A. General

1. The primary objective of Emergency Medical Service is to provide plans and methodologies for prompt and continuous emergency life support to victims of emergencies and disasters.
2. Kittitas County Emergency Management will coordinate logistics support for Emergency Medical services upon request.
3. Kittitas Valley Community Hospital (KVCH) is the areas trauma center. In the event that KVCH is either unable to provide services or overwhelmed, then sites that can be used to assist are:
 - a. Kittitas Valley Clinic- Ellensburg
 - b. Cle Elum Emergency Medical Center, Cle Elum

All of the above are limited in their capabilities and depending upon the situation, request for support may have to be made to the State.

4. The local crisis incident stress team, in conjunction with the Red Cross will coordinate counseling activities to emergency workers and disaster victims.
5. Emergency Medical care at shelters will follow Red Crosses Shelter/Mass care plan. This includes ensuring appropriate Emergency Medical care at shelters.
6. The Kittitas Health District has responsibility for situations dealing with communicable diseases and all other issues dealing with public health. This includes,
 - a. Enforce through the local health officer the public health statutes of Washington State and rules promulgated by the board of health and the secretary of state.
 - b. Supervise the maintenance of all health and sanitary measures for the protection of the public health within it's jurisdiction .

- c. Enact such local rules and regulations as are necessary in order to preserve, promote and improve the public health and provide for the enforcement thereof.
 - d. Provide for the control and preservation of any dangerous, contagious or infectious disease within the jurisdiction of the local health department
 - e. provide for the prevention , control and abatement of nuisances detrimental to public health.
 - f. Make such reports to the state board of health through the local health officer or the administrative officer as the state board of health may require.
 - g. Coordinate programs for the mitigation of public health hazards.
 - h. Monitor and assure safe drinking water supply.
 - i. Acts as an advisor to the Hazardous materials incident command agencies on personnel protection, public health, situation assessment, environmental impacts and identification of unknown products.
 - j. Coordinates with the state department of health concerning monitoring of radiation.
 - k. Establishes and monitors emergency environmental health standards for public shelters and or congregate care facilities.
 - l. Coordinate emergency sanitation support.
 - m. Provides information for the public regarding food contamination, proper handling, distribution and conservation of safe drinking water.
 - n. Monitors food preparation at point of consumption and emergency water supplies for compliance with applicable standards.
 - o. Coordinates emergency health support specific to control of communicable diseases, emergency food service and sanitation needs and emergency medical services.
 - p. Provide for the identification and preservation of essential health department records.
7. The Kittitas County Coroner will be responsible for operations and coordination of temporary morgues. This can be done either by use of existing morgues or use of local cold storage warehouses, as appropriate. The Coroner will also coordinate with local funeral homes to handle mass fatalities. Provide death certificates and coordinate with the medical examiner and funeral homes to assure vital data is recorded and burial-transport permits are appropriately issued
8. The Mass Care Plan of the Red Cross establishes the coordination of religious crises counseling and other appropriate functions.

B. Organization:

The agencies are independent of each other, however they do coordinate issues together. They set the standards for coordinated response to an emergency or disaster for the response Emergency Medical organizations and hospitals. The concept of response follows the Incident Command System.

C. Procedures:

Each organization affected by this ESF will be responsible for developing and following their own internal Suggested Operation Procedures (SOP) dealing with response to an incident. Response to an incident will follow the concepts of the Incident Command System. When Appropriate, a representative from one of the primary agencies will be assigned to the EOC to coordinate Health and Emergency Medical related issues.

D. Mitigation Activities:

Other than facilities being fitted to withstand disasters, mitigation for this ESF will fall under preparedness.

E. Preparedness Activities:

1. The Emergency Medical Program Director:
 - a. Ensure current training and certification program for EMS field personnel is within the guidelines of accepted protocols.
 - b. Ensure the appropriate training for mass causality response is carried out in an appropriate manner.
 - c. Ensure that appropriate EMS agencies develop and maintain Suggested Operating Procedures (SOP).
2. Emergency Medical Services Council:
 - a. Develop and maintain a current inventory listing of all EMS related equipment and coordinate this information with Emergency Management.
 - b. Assist in the delivery of mass causality training for EMS providers.
3. Kittitas County Coroner:
 - a. Develop and maintain liaison with local funeral directors.
 - b. Establish sites that can be used for temporary morgues for mass casualty incidents.
 - c. Develop and maintain Suggested Operation Procedures for action to take for a mass casualty episode.
4. Ambulance Services:

- a. Developing Suggested Operating Procedures for response to emergencies following the concepts of the Incident Command System as the on-scene Emergency Medical command during an emergency. This includes how crews will be alerted to respond to a disaster.
 - b. Coordination with the Emergency Medical program director regarding operations and training requirements for certification.
 - c. Inventorying equipment, communications capabilities and other resources and providing that to the EMS council and Emergency Management.
5. Kittitas Valley Community Hospital, Cle Elum EMS
- a. Develop and maintain a disaster plan and mass causality plan for the hospital and ensure staff is appropriately trained in individual responsibilities.
 - b. Participate in drills and exercises dealing with mass casualty scenarios, as appropriate.
6. Local Fire Services
- a. Develop and maintain departmental procedures dealing with emergency Medical response and ensure personnel are aware and trained in the procedures.
 - b. Ensure that all personnel have at least a current First Responder first aid certification.
 - c. Hold periodic mass causality drills / exercises.
7. Emergency Management
- a. Develop and maintain the Comprehensive Emergency Management plan for response to disasters.
 - b. Create and hold mass causality drills / exercises.
 - c. Assist Emergency Medical services in public preparedness education.
8. Kittitas County Health District
- a. Develops and maintain SOP's dealing with response to disasters for protection of the public health.
 - b. Ensures appropriate personnel are trained to respond to public health emergencies.
9. American Red Cross
- a. Develop and maintain mental health response programs to assist the victims of disasters and ensure appropriate staff and volunteers are trained in this response capabilities.

F. Response Activities

1. In an actual emergency, all responding Emergency Medical organizations are responsible for the following:
 - a. Documenting expenditures for all disaster or emergency related obligations for auditing and reimbursement purposes.
 - b. Document all actions taken and reason for those actions being taken.
 - c. Coordinate vital statistics, public information and technical assistance.
 - d. Providing resources and specialized support functions as agreed upon or provided for in mutual assistance agreements.
 - e. Alerting staff (by agency's procedures) and briefing them of the situation.
 - f. Reviewing plans and procedures and assuring personnel are informed of existing or revised procedures.
 - g. Coordinating needs for augmentation of resources with Kittitas County Emergency Management.
 - h. Conducting emergency operations.

In addition to the above, the below agencies have the additional actions.

2. Emergency Medical Program Director
 - a. Ensures local EMS responders cooperate in local response.
3. Kittitas Valley Community Hospital
 - a. Is the trauma center for the Kittitas County area.
 - b. Coordinates Mass Casualty incidents with field EMS personnel.
 - c. Locates and assigns overflow facilities, as appropriate.
 - d. Coordinates the movement of patients to other facilities, as appropriate.
 - e. Provides for patient care, to include mental health issues.
4. Area ambulance services
 - a. Follow the concepts of the Incident Command system on all responses to emergencies or disasters.
 - b. Mobilizing personnel and resources, as appropriate.
 - c. Utilize the Kittitas County Mass Casualty incident plan.
5. Area Fire Service departments
 - a. Follow the concepts of the Incident Command System.
 - b. Assist field Emergency Medical resources, as appropriate, within departmental qualifications.
 - c. Utilize the Kittitas county Mass Casualty incident plan.
6. Emergency Management
 - a. Coordinate resource request and obtain additional resources from state and other sources, as appropriate.
 - b. Coordinate information between agencies.

7. Health District
 - a. Responds when requested by incident command staff.
 - b. Monitors all conditions that may have an effect of the public health.
 - c. Performs field sampling and testing, as appropriate.
 - d. Warns command staff of potential health threats to responders.
 - e. Issues health advisories to the public, as appropriate.
 - f. Locates and assigns quarantine facility's as appropriate
 - g. Controls flow of medical information from the ICS to the public.
8. American Red Cross
 - a. Establishes mass care operations, when requested by incident command staff.
 - b. Establish mass care following the concepts of the Red Cross Disaster plan

G. Recovery Activities

1. All agencies: Support recovery activities consistent with their department's mission and capabilities.

RESPONSIBILITIES

A. Primary Agency

Coordinate the planning for, and provisions of, the local Emergency Medical and public health assistance to the local area after an emergency or disaster. And acts as the lead agency during a medical emergency

B. Support Agencies

Provide support to the primary agency in planning for, and providing resources in response to an emergency or disaster.