

## ESF 8: Public Health and Medical Services

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### Primary Agency

Fire Agencies

Pacific County Public Health & Human Services

Pacific County Prosecutor's Office

Pacific County Department of Community Development and Environmental Health

### Support Agencies

Pacific County Emergency Management Agency

American Red Cross

Willapa Behavioral Health

Washington State Emergency Management Division

Washington State Department of Health

## I. Introduction

### A. Purpose

To coordinate the organization and mobilization of medical, health, ministerial, and mortuary services within Pacific County during an emergency/disaster.

### B. Scope

1. This ESF involves identifying and meeting the health, medical, and mortuary needs of victims of a major emergency or disaster. This may include the following:
  - a. Assessment of medical/health needs
  - b. Health surveillance
  - c. Medical care personnel
  - d. Medical/health equipment and supplies
  - e. Patient evacuation
  - f. In-hospital care

- g. Mental health
- h. Public health information
- i. Vector control
- j. Potable water
- k. Wastewater and sanitation
- l. Solid waste disposal
- m. Ministerial services
- n. Mortuary services and victim identification

#### C. Policies

1. Basic Life Support (BLS) and Advanced Life Support (ALS) will be provided by ambulance services within and from outside of the county.
2. All Pacific County mutual-aid emergency medical responders who provide emergency medical assistance in Pacific County will operate under one of the following: South Pacific County EMS Protocols and Standing Orders, Grays Harbor/North Pacific County Emergency Medical Protocols, and Washington State BLS Guidelines and/or Protocols.
3. Pacific County Public Health and Human Services and Pacific County DCD will provide guidance to the Pacific County Emergency Management Council (PCEMC), other agencies, and individuals on basic public health principles involving safe drinking water, food sanitation, personal hygiene, and proper disposal of human waste, garbage, and infectious or hazardous waste.

## **II. Situations and Assumptions**

### A. Situations

1. A disaster can pose public health threats to food, water, and personal health. Pacific County DCD has limited resources to assess and monitor water systems.
2. Pacific County relies heavily on State and Federal resources to assess environmental contamination and respond to hazardous materials spills.

### B. Assumptions

1. A significant natural or technological disaster could overwhelm Pacific County medical facilities and services requiring emergency coordination of casualties.
2. The Pacific County hospitals, clinics, nursing homes, pharmacies, and other medical and health care facilities may be severely structurally damaged, destroyed, or rendered unusable.
3. Damage to manufacturing facilities, waste processing and disposal facilities, sewer lines, and water distribution systems and secondary hazards such as fire could result in toxic environmental and public health hazards to the surviving population and response personnel.
4. The damage and destruction of a catastrophic natural disaster will produce urgent needs for mental health crisis counseling for disaster victims and response personnel.
5. Disruption of sanitation services and facilities, loss of power, and massing of people in shelters may increase the potential for disease and injury.

### **III. Concept of Operations**

#### **A. Emergency Medical Services**

1. The primary objective of Emergency Medical Services in an emergency/disaster is to insure that basic and advanced life support systems are organized and coordinated to provide prompt, adequate, and continuous emergency care to disaster victims. These will include, but are not limited to:
  - a. Identification and coordination of medical resources.
  - b. Identification of potential sites and support staff for temporary emergency clinics.
  - c. Emergency care at shelters and congregate care facilities.
  - d. Coordination of medical transportation resources.

2. Local Mass Casualty plans may detail operational concepts and responsibilities so that the Emergency Medical Services System existing in the area may be utilized in the most efficient means to provide mass casualty emergency medical services during an emergency/disaster.
3. Mutual aid between and among emergency medical service providers shall be utilized to make maximum efficient use of existing local, regional, or inter-regional assets, resources and services. Response requirements may exceed the capabilities of the local Emergency Medical Services System and can be augmented by services and assets provided under mutual aid if available.
4. If local resources and mutual aid are exceeded, the State and/or Federal Government may provide supplemental assistance. The Pacific Co. Health and Human Services Department may make a request for such assistance to the U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services Office of Emergency Preparedness through the Washington State Emergency Management Division.
5. Public Health and/or Coroner's Office representatives will jointly perform the EOC function of coordinating medical, health, and mortuary resources.
6. Hospitals will respond according to their established emergency response plans.

**B. Public Health and Human Services**

1. Coordination and prioritization of public health services shall be accomplished by the director of Pacific County's Public Health and Human Services Department or his/her designee. Decisions involving medical and technical expertise shall be the responsibility of the Public Health Officer.
2. Determination of critical priorities in the public health effort will be made in consultation with the Board of Health, local elected officials, and state and federal service agencies.
3. Pacific County Public Health and Human Services will provide and coordinate health and human services within the community, including:
  - a. Identification of health hazards.
  - b. Identification and control of communicable disease.
  - c. Mental health services, including stress management services for emergency responders.

- d. Inform the County Commissioners, Emergency Management, and the public regarding health conditions, warnings, and advisement.
  4. If the threat to public health is of such magnitude that supplemental assistance is necessary, the State and Federal Government may provide such assistance. Requests may be made through normal Emergency Management channels. Local health officers may also obtain supplemental State/Federal assistance by direct request to the Secretary, Washington State Department of Health.
  5. Public Health and Human Services coordinates limited medical support and sanitation services (identifying health hazards and making recommendations) to mass care facilities when activated.
  6. Public Health and Human Services coordinates the medical support and mechanism for inoculating the public and emergency personnel if warranted by threat of disease. Various other vaccines may also be available in limited quantities.
- C. Pacific County Department of Community Development and Environmental Health
1. Pacific County DCD provides oversight of potable water supplies. Pacific County residents obtain their drinking water from either individual water sources or connection to one of the public water supplies. These public supplies may be either publicly or privately owned or operated. A water-testing laboratory is located in the courthouse annex and has the capacity to analyze water samples for bacterial contamination. (Laboratory results will normally take 24 hours to complete.) In addition, the Pacific County DCD has three chlorine test kits that can be used to determine the level of chlorine disinfectant in drinking water.
  2. Pacific County DCD and Environmental Health provides oversight to the following:
    - a. Vector control.
    - b. Examination of food for contamination.
    - c. Ensure compliance of emergency sanitation standards for disposal of garbage, sewage, and debris.
    - d. Air Quality issues
- D. Mortuary Services

1. The Coroner has jurisdiction over bodies of all deceased (RCW 68.08.010). (Procedures may vary if an incident falls under the jurisdiction of the FAA, State, or the military.)
2. The Coroner's Office will coordinate support to local mortuary services as needed. Local funeral directors may assist in the processing of human remains at the discretion of the Coroner.
3. If local resources for proper handling and disposition of the dead are exceeded, the State and/or Federal Government may provide supplemental assistance for identification, movement, storage, and disposition of the dead. The County Coroner may make a request for such assistance to the U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services Office of Emergency Preparedness through the Washington State Emergency Management Division.

E. Emergency Vital Statistics

1. The Sheriff's Office and municipal police departments compile information regarding missing persons in Pacific County.
2. The Coroner identifies deceased persons in all of Pacific County
3. The Chief Registrar in the Pacific County Dept. of Health & Human Services registers deaths.
4. Health and Human Services coordinates with Law Enforcement collecting information on missing persons as it relates to victim identification.

## **IV. Organization**

The Pacific County EOC operates under principles of the incident command system. Public Health and Medical services will be incorporated into the Operations Section of the EOC in coordination with an emergency relating to Public Health and Medical Services providing direction and support to emergency response field units upon request. If appropriate the Liaison position may be activated to coordinate between various agencies.

## **V. Actions**

A. Initial

1. Assign representatives to the Pacific County EOC as appropriate.

2. Coordinate ESF 8 within the Operations Section of the Pacific County EOC and/or at other locations as required.
  3. Coordinate needs and response actions with each public health agency and emergency medical agency.
  4. Establish and maintain of a system to support on-scene direction/control and coordination with the State EOC or other coordination entities as appropriate.
  5. Utilize evacuation, deployment, or demobilization routes to the extent possible.
  6. Coordinate with support agencies to develop, prioritize, and implement strategies for the initial response to EOC requests. Emergency Medical Services may provide transportation for medically critical or other special needs persons.
  7. Establish communications with appropriate field personnel to ensure readiness for timely response.
  8. Maintain situational awareness regarding transportation support for threatened and/or impacted areas to determine post-event effect on emergency services.
  9. Monitor and direct transportation resources and response activities to include pre-positioning for response/relocation due to the potential impact(s) of the emergency situation.
  10. Participate in EOC briefings, development of Incident Action Plans, and Situation Reports, and meetings.
  11. Coordinate with support agencies, as needed, to support emergency activities.
  12. Obtain other resources through state or regional Mutual Aid and Assistance Agreements.
  13. Upon request, coordinate all resources into the affected areas from designated staging areas.
  14. Relay all emergency traffic conditions/regulations to all affected personnel.
  15. Report to the EOC any traffic control signs/signals needed at locations for general navigation through and around the disaster area.
  16. Coordinate with ESF 3 (Public Works and Engineering) for equipment and manpower required to clear roads.
- B. Continuing
1. Assist the Pacific County EOC in coordination of planning and response.

2. Contact each public health agency for initial damage assessment of personnel, equipment, and supplies.
3. Maintain documentation of all reported damage by public health and medical service agencies.
4. Continue to provide support as required until response activities are concluded or until they can be managed and staffed by the primary incident agency or Jurisdictions.
5. Initiate financial reimbursement process for recovery activities when such support is available.
6. Assist in recovery operations of the EOC.
7. Support agencies will continue to provide necessary emergency transportation, transportation of persons with special needs, transportation of emergency personnel, and transportation of emergency goods and services.
8. Coordinate with the All Hazards Mitigation Committee to identify potential hazards and their impacts, include in the All Hazards Mitigation Plan and seek funding.
9. Provide personnel with the appropriate expertise to participate in activities designed to reduce or minimize the impact of future disasters.
10. Conduct planning with ESF 8 support agencies and other emergency support functions to refine transportation operations.
11. Provide rapid damage assessment reports per field surveys.
12. Prepare and maintain emergency operating procedures, resource inventories, personnel rosters, and resource mobilization information necessary for implementation of the responsibilities of the lead agency.
13. Manage inventory of equipment and other pre-designated assets that are essential to meet transportation of special needs groups.
14. Maintain a list of ESF 8 assets that can be deployed during an emergency; refer to the NIMS Resource Typing in organizing these resources.
15. Assign and schedule sufficient personnel to implement ESF 8 tasks for an extended period of time.
16. Ensure lead agency personnel are trained in their responsibilities and duties.

17. Develop and implement emergency response and transportation strategies.
18. Maintain liaison with support agencies, conduct All Hazards training and exercises involving the Operations Section.

## **VI. Responsibilities**

### A. Primary Agency

#### 1. Pacific County Public Health & Human Services

Provide or coordinate the provision of health services including:

- i. Preventive medical and health services.
- ii. Control of communicable diseases.
- iii. Staff the EOC for coordination of medical and health services.
- iv. Provide for the coordination of health and sanitation services at mass care facilities.
- v. Coordinate with the EOC Public Information Officer to provide information to the public.
- vi. Request and coordinate support services from State and Federal agencies.
- vii. Document department and county costs.
- viii. Will attempt to comply with FEMA record keeping requirements for recovery of disaster funds.

#### 2. Pacific County DCD and Environmental Health

- i. Establish standards for emergency sanitation and disposal of garbage, sewage, and debris.
- ii. Provide or coordinate the provision of sanitation services including:
- iii. Detection and identification of possible sources of contamination dangerous to the general public health of the community.
- iv. Staff the EOC for coordination of sanitation services.
- v. Request and coordinate support services from State and Federal agencies.
- vi. Coordinate with the EOC Public Information Officer to provide information to the public.
- vii. Document department and county costs.
- viii. Will attempt to comply with FEMA record keeping requirements for recovery of disaster funds.

### 3. Fire Agencies

- ix. Fire agencies are responsible to:
  - a. Evaluate the situation or circumstances
  - b. Activate the Mass Casualty Incident Plan as appropriate
  - c. Serve as the on-scene commander
  - d. Establish a staging area
  - e. Establish communications links

f. Provide advance and basic life support

4. Pacific County Prosecutor's Office

- i. Assumes overall responsibility for the care, identification, and disposition of the dead and notification of next-of-kin during and after disasters.
- ii. Determines the manner and cause of death and provides for issuance of the death certificate.
- iii. Maintains a current list of mortuaries, morgues, and other facilities for the care of the dead and coordinates with these agencies.
- iv. Selects suitable facilities for emergency morgues and ensures that qualified personnel operate them.
- v. Periodically furnishes the Public Information Officer with statistics of missing, injured, and deceased.
- vi. Establishes and maintains Standard Operating Procedures for disaster responsibilities.
- vii. Obtains additional supplies, as needed. Includes: body bags, tags, special manpower, etc. Additional requests should be made through normal emergency management channels.
- viii. Request and coordinate State and Federal assistance.

B. Support Agencies

1. Pacific County Emergency Management

- i. Provides logistical and other support to local agencies upon request.

- ii. Serves as liaison between local agencies and State Emergency Management. If additional resources are needed, coordinates volunteer, state and federal support.
  
- 2. State Emergency Management
  - i. Coordinate supplemental emergency medical and logistics support as requested by the Pacific County Emergency Operations Center.
  
  - ii. Alert State and federal agencies of possible need for emergency medical, health, and mortuary services.
  
  - iii. In conjunction with the WA State Department of Health, coordinates supplemental assistance to support local mortuary services.
  
- 3. Willapa Behavioral Health
  - a. Coordinate mental health services and/or critical incident stress debriefing as needed.
  
  - b. Staff Public Health alternate care facilities as requested to provide mental health first aid
  
- 4. American Red Cross
  - a. Under its charter, provides supplementary medical, emergency aid, and other health services upon request and within capabilities.

## **VII. References**

- 1. The National Response Framework, ESF #8 Public Health and Medical Services
- 2. Washington State Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan
- 3. Pacific County Mass Casualty Incident Plan
- 4. Pandemic Influenza Vaccination Plan

5. Public Health Emergency Communication and Public Information Plan
6. Strategic National Stockpile Plan
7. Pandemic Influenza Plan
8. Public Health Emergency Response Plan
9. Public Information Call Center Plan

## **VIII. Attachments**

None