

EMERGENCY SUPPORT FUNCTION # 8 Public Health and Medical Services Annex

PRIMARY AGENCY

Mohave County Public Health

SUPPORT AGENCIES

Mohave County Emergency Management
Volunteer: American Red Cross
United Blood Services
Mohave County Sheriff's Office Animal Control
City Animal Control
Mohave County Public Fiduciary
Mohave Mental Health
Kingman Regional Medical Center
Western Arizona Regional Medical Center
Lake Havasu Regional Medical Center
Valley View Medical Center
River Medical (American Medical Response)
Indian Health Service
Long Term Health Care Facilities
Exceptional Community Hospital

Available through the Department of Emergency and Military Affairs

Department of Emergency and Military Affairs
Arizona Department of Health Services
Arizona Department of Public Safety
Arizona Chapter of the American College of Emergency Physicians
Arizona Chapter of the Emergency Department Nurses
Arizona Hospital Association
Arizona Medical Association
Arizona Nurses Association
Arizona Osteopathic Medical Association
Arizona National Guard

I. Purpose, Scope, Situation, and Planning Assumptions

Purpose

- To aid in response to health and medical care needs following an emergency/disaster. Assistance provided under this Emergency Support Function

(ESF) is directed or coordinated by the Mohave County Public Health (MCDPH) Director.

- To assure continuance of medical care services and the availability of medical supplies.
- To support emergency medical treatment for disaster casualties.

Scope

- To provide supplemental assistance to local governments and hospitals within Mohave County in identifying and meeting the health and medical needs of disaster victims.

Situation

- Many casualties requiring emergency transportation and medical care may occur as the result of an emergency/disaster. Persons receiving medical care before the emergency/disaster will continue to require treatment. The systems and facilities that provide medical services may be impaired or totally disrupted by the impact of an emergency/disaster. In addition, it will require only a relatively small mass casualty event to overwhelm local hospitals and create a medical surge situation.
- In the aftermath of a major disaster, the public's health can be jeopardized in many ways. A major disaster can disrupt and halt public utilities, water supplies and wastewater treatment systems. Contaminants may enter water supply systems. Destruction or damage to housing units can dislocate people and require accommodation in mass care shelters. Spoilage of food and drugs can be widespread. Quarantine, isolation, or condemnation measures may become necessary to control the spread of communicable diseases.
- Medical care and public health services are essential elements of emergency/disaster response. County government must maintain the capabilities to provide support to emergency public health and medical care response and recovery.
- The county can augment local government and request state emergency medical assistance during an emergency/disaster (see ESF # 8 of the State Response Plan and Appendix 1 to this ESF).

- Mohave County Department of Public Health is the lead agency for medical surge and public health emergencies in the county.

Planning Assumptions

- Hospitals and long-term care facilities will maintain internal plans for medical surge emergencies.
- Emergency Medical Services (EMS) responders from fire departments and River Medical (American Medical Response) will conduct initial onsite triage and treatment in accordance with existing agency protocols under hospital supervision; coordination to acquire additional EMS assets and air evacuation platforms can be done from on scene Incident Command through local dispatch centers and River Medical/AMR communication to manage its regional assets.
- For mass casualty events, it may be necessary for Mohave County Department of Public Health (MCDPH) to coordinate the county response to health care and medical surge emergencies and act as liaison to Arizona Department of Health Services.
- MCDPH will coordinate with the Arizona Coalition for Healthcare Emergency Response (AzCHER) as part of the statewide hospital preparedness framework. Through its participation in the Western Region AzCHER network – including Mohave, La Paz, and Yuma counties – MCDPH supports mutual aid planning and integration of hospitals, long-term care providers, and other health facilities. These partnerships are governed by existing Intergovernmental Agreements (IGAs) and Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs), which provide mutual assistance based on operational capacity and need.
- MCDPH will coordinate with healthcare partners through AzCHER's Western Region – which includes Mohave, La Paz, and Yuma Counties – to support mutual aid, information sharing, and resource coordination for medical surge incidents. The previous regional medical surge plan is no longer in effect; collaboration now occurs through AzCHER's updated planning framework and associated MOUs, which guide inter-county response efforts based on capacity and need.

II. Concept of Operations

- Mohave County Department of Public Health (MCDPH) is the lead agency for the development and coordination of county plans and programs for public

health activities and medical surge response coordination during an emergency/disaster. MCDPH coordinates with other agencies to prepare interagency plans, checklists, or procedural guides necessary for public health operations.

- The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) will be followed in every aspect of this Plan. Emergency and disaster response services and activities will be accessible and usable to all individuals regardless of disability, access, or functional need. This Plan is committed to the principle that it takes the whole community - the full range of government, private, non-government, faith-based and volunteer groups - to successfully meet the public's needs during times of disaster. Persons with disabilities, access and functional needs will be included in the local emergency planning, training, and exercise processes.
- Hospitals and EMS providers will conduct initial stage response to large emergencies in accordance with their standard operating procedures, including coordination between hospitals for patient transport to other hospitals if primary hospital is overloaded.
- When a hospital anticipates going into its medical surge mode, the hospital will notify Mohave County Department of Public Health, which will activate its Emergency Response Team as needed in accordance with department protocol and prepare to assist the hospital.
- The MCDPH Director may contact the Arizona Department of Health Services Emergency Medical Services (DHS-EMS) to coordinate personnel, facilities, supplies, equipment, and other resources as appropriate to augment local government emergency medical services.
- If Mohave County Emergency Management becomes aware of a potential or actual mass casualty or other event that could result in a medical surge scenario in any part of the county, MCEM will notify MCDPH of the event and possible consequences.
- Local hospitals should request assistance from MCDPH for medical surge or public health emergencies as soon as possible.
- Mohave County Department of Public Health (MCDPH) coordinates medical surge support activities through the Arizona Coalition for Healthcare

Emergency Response (AzCHER), as part of the statewide healthcare preparedness framework. MCDPH participates in the Western Region of AzCHER – alongside La Paz and Yuma Counties – to support regional collaboration, mutual aid, and information sharing with hospitals and healthcare partners. Medical surge support plans are maintained within the AzCHER framework and distributed to participating facilities as needed.

- The County Medical Surge Support Plan was developed in coordination with the hospitals and long-term care providers in meetings of the Hospital Emergency Preparedness Committee organized by County Public Health.
- The Medical Surge Support Plan:
 - Defines MCDPH's framework for coordinating with healthcare partners during medical surge events that exceed normal system capacity.
 - Activates the MCDPH Health Department Operations Center (HDOC) and assigns liaisons to the Mohave County EOC when warranted.
 - Supports medical surge through coordinated communication, activation of support annexes (e.g., Strategic National Stockpile), and ongoing situational awareness via tools like EMResource and Facility Situational Awareness Forms.
 - Manages public information in coordination with the Joint Information System, ensuring culturally and linguistically appropriate messaging.
 - Facilitates resource and volunteer requests in partnership with AzCHER-WEST, ADHS, and other stakeholders.
 - Coordinates behavioral health support through Care 1st and Solari Crisis & Human Services, including Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) teams.
 - Guides demobilization efforts by scaling back staffing and resources, and returning or tracking shared assets.
- Mohave County Department of Public Health will provide public health assistance as authorized by the MCDPH Health Director, as follows:

- Response activities will include, but not be limited to, sanitation, vector control, disease surveillance, and immunizations.
- Recovery activities will include managing public health services, continuing health surveillance of affected populations, and assisting in recovery operations.
- MCEM will provide a liaison officer to the MCDPH emergency response team for coordination during medical surge or public health emergency events.
- MCDPH will determine as early as possible if a county disaster declaration for a health emergency should be declared, coordinate with MCEM to prepare such declaration, and request that MCEM recommend to the County Manager that the Chairperson of the Board of Supervisors approves the declaration;
- If county and local government resources are inadequate to meet medical needs, MCDPH will determine anticipated resource needs and inform MCEM or the county EOC (if activated) to request needed resources from Department of Emergency and Military Affairs (DEMA), ADHS, or the State EOC. This request may include access to the National Disaster Medical System (NDMS). The NDMS is a federally coordinated program which augments emergency medical response of county and local medical organizations (see Appendix 1 to this ESF). Requesting activation of the NDMS shall not preclude the Governor from requesting that the President of the United States declare an Emergency or Major Disaster.

III. Organization and Assignment of Responsibilities

Organization

- Mohave County Department of Public Health is NIMS compliant and is part of the county Incident Command System organization.
- The County EOC may be activated for specific large emergencies, and the Public Health Director or designee will serve in the EOC Operations Section.
- MCDPH has developed an ICS organization chart for its Emergency Response Team and Health Emergency Operations Center, which would be activated for medical/health emergencies or to provide support to county disasters with a significant medical/health response component.



Assignment of Responsibilities

- **County Government**

- **MCDPH Divisions** are tasked with response in the event of an emergency/disaster requiring medical and health care needs and will activate their response systems to:

- Provide leadership in identifying service needs and coordinating medical and health care providers.
- Monitor the emergency management system (EMResource) with current Information on statewide hospital bed status.
- Maintain accurate and timely lists and contact numbers for long term care facilities to communicate functional needs of long-term care residents to agencies in a lead position (Law enforcement, FEMA, National Guard, etc.). Long term care facilities should maintain resident rosters and files to be available 24/7 via on-call Case Management staff.
- Coordinate with all county home health care agencies and hospices, the Public Fiduciary, and other agencies providing care to functional needs populations to ensure medical and health care needs of individuals are maintained and provided.
- Maintain caches of medical surge supplies and procedures for utilizing caches in emergency situations.
- Coordinate with MCEM to identify and address public health concerns and needs.
- Provide Liaison Officer to the County EOC, if activated.
- Activate and operate a Public Health emergency call center.

- Coordinate health-related activities among county/local/public/private/state response agencies.
- Inspect and advise on general food handling and sanitation matters.
- Provide disaster-related public health information to the public, coordinating release of information with the county PIO and with approval of Incident Commander.
- Provide preventive health services.
- Maintain surveillance of health effects.
- Administer and coordinate county health programs, assist essential local service providers, coordinate information, and disseminate information to local health facilities and physicians on the scene and at evacuation sites.
- Coordinate with ADHS and ADEQ in determining the assessment of health hazards.
- Ensure observance of health regulations.

○ **Mohave County Emergency Management will:**

- Provide Liaison Officer to the MCDPH Department Operations Center.
- Request resources and/or activation of the NDMS through DEMA as needed.
- Coordinate state assistance, including National Guard, with DEMA or the State EOC.

○ **MCSO will:**

- Notify, through Animal Control, MCDPH of any animals displaying symptoms of rabies or other diseases potentially harmful to humans.

- **Other county/agencies will:**
 - Aid as requested with available resources and expertise.
- **Hospitals, EMS will:**
 - Hospitals will maintain medical surge plans for rapid implementation and coordinate with each other and Mohave County Public Health for patient placement and resource requests.
 - River Medical will maintain and implement protocols for bringing in additional company EMS assets and coordinating on scene ambulance operations.
 - Fire Department and River Medical EMS will coordinate triage and transport operations on scene using ICS protocols and mutual aid coordination.
- **State Government**
 - **Department of Emergency and Military Affairs will:**
 - Coordinate with Arizona Department of Health Services and other state agencies to expedite support to counties.
 - **The Department of Public Safety (DPS) will:**
 - Assist in providing transportation of sick or injured persons utilizing DPS air-ambulance units.
 - **The National Guard will be prepared to:**
 - Assist in providing transport of sick or injured persons.
 - Aid in casualty care; and
 - Transport or escort health-related materials and personnel.
 - **Arizona Department of Health Services will:**

- Maintain the Emergency Management System (EMS) with current information on statewide hospital bed status.
- Coordinate medical and hospital needs through MCDPH.
- Coordinate with the American College of Surgeons, the Arizona Chapter of the American College of Emergency Physicians, the Arizona Medical Association, the Arizona Osteopathic Medical Association, and state Dental Associations, for assistance with supplementary physician and dentist manpower.
- Obtain information on operating room status from the Arizona Hospital Association.
- Contact the Arizona Chapter of the Emergency Department Nurses Association and the Arizona Nurses Association to request assistance in providing additional nursing personnel.
- Contact the United Blood Services to provide coordination and delivery of blood products in their responsible areas.
- Provide rapid approval of hospital waivers requested through MCDPH.
- Provide information and availability status on ambulance units, EMS personnel, and air evacuation providers out of county.
- Provide health advisories to the public on the acquisition of disinfectants for emergency water supplies, vector control, and immunization; and
- Provide analytical laboratory services for food stuffs, water, drugs, and other consumables.
- Administer and coordinate disaster public health programs, assist essential service providers, coordinate information, and disseminate information to physicians on the scene and at evacuation sites.
- Assist local government in the assessment of health hazards.

- Provide health advisories to the public on the acquisition of disinfectants for emergency water supplies, vector control, and immunization.
- **Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) will:**
 - Certify emergency water supplies for human consumption.
 - Provide water quality control assistance; and
 - Provide advisories on solid and human waste collection and disposal.
- **Volunteer Organizations**
 - The American Red Cross (ARC) will:
 - Provide coordination of blood/blood products in their responsible areas.

IV. Direction, Control, and Coordination

- For medical/health emergencies that do not require county EOC activation, the MCPDH Emergency Response Team (ERT) and/or Health Department Operations Center will coordinate response activities and support in the medical community, determine resource needs, and work with MCEM in obtaining needed resources. The Public Health Director or designee has authority for directing and managing this effort.
- For medical/health emergencies or other emergencies with a medical/health response component, the county EOC may be activated to provide overall policy direction and resource support. The Public Health Director or designee will serve in the county EOC Operations Section, as advisor to the County Manager /MCEOC Director, and as liaison with the MCDPH Department Operations Center. The MCDPH Emergency Response Team and/or HDOC will continue with the medical sector tasks designated in the preceding paragraph.

V. Information Collection and Dissemination

- For medical/health emergencies, MCDPH will collect current information on the event via pre-established communication and coordination protocols with responding agencies.
- Medical/health Information will be disseminated by MCDPH to ADHS, hospitals, EMS, long term care centers, and other medical/health facilities via pre-established communication and coordination protocols with responding agencies.

VI. Communications

- The MCEOC and the Mohave County Sheriff's Office 911 Center is responsible for identifying, maintaining and operating primary, secondary and alternate county public safety communication systems which will allow local and state government to collect and disseminate information, receive request for assistance, and direct, control and coordinate disaster response and recovery operations through continuing communications with local jurisdictions, state agencies and the federal government. Emergency Communications is handled through ESF#2 Communications.

VII. Administration, Finance, and Logistics

- All organizations, agencies, and departments are responsible for administrative and logistics arrangements to support their individual medical/health emergency response activities and to track emergency related expenditures daily.
- County department emergency expenditures outside of approved budgets must receive approval from the County Manager, MCEOC Director, or the Board of Supervisors, depending on the scope and level of expenditure requiring authorization.
- All EOC's, DOC's, and response teams involved in the emergency will maintain appropriate logs, resource and personnel records, and daily situation updates for use during the event and which will be retained in files for future reference.
- MCEM will advise if notified that reimbursements for event expenditures may be forthcoming from federal or state sources.

ATTACHMENTS

- National Disaster Medical System Activation Procedures
- Mental Health