

PORTAGE COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

ANNEX H (HEALTH AND MEDICAL)

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PURPOSE

This annex describes how the county will provide health, medical and mortuary services in a disaster. Attachment 2 of this plan describes operations in support of an animal disease emergency.

CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

The county shall support municipal government with providing and coordinating health, medical and mortuary services to all people during disaster situations. The county will also support municipal operations to the extent possible during an animal disease outbreak.

Health and medical concerns following an incident range from decontamination of victims to arresting the spread of infectious diseases to the long-term effects on first responders and the population.

Health and medical issues may include:

- Reducing risk to first responders
- Early identification of agent(s)
- Decontamination of victims
- Containing the spread of disease
- Dealing with contaminated mass fatalities
- Reducing long-term health problems

If the Governor declares a state of emergency related to public health and designates the Department of Health Services (DHS) as the lead state agency to respond to that emergency, DHS shall act as the public health authority during the period of the state of emergency. During the period of the state of emergency, the secretary may designate a local health department as an agent of the department and confer upon the local health department, acting under that agency, the powers and duties of the public health authority.

During the recovery phase, all agencies are expected to support continuing operations with equipment and staff.

RESPONSIBILITIES AND TASKS

A. Portage County HHS Division of Public Health Department

Response

1. Report to or send a representative to the EOC, if activated.
2. Inspect food, water, drugs and other consumables that were exposed to the hazard for purity, usability and quality.
3. Support the activities of laboratory services, immunizations programs and quarantine procedures.
4. Ensure that adequate sanitary facilities are provided in emergency shelters and for response personnel.
5. Provide public health nurse(s) to assist with medical care at shelters, as requested.
6. Request environmental agencies to monitor and evaluate the risks and hazards associated with the incident as needed.
7. Provide services to people with special needs.
8. Analyze and conduct investigations to determine cause, origin and scope of epidemics and other suspicious illnesses.
9. Coordinate the notification, investigation and response to public health emergencies with the WI DHS, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Center for Disease Control and Prevention, local hospitals and clinics and county responders.
10. Seek mutual aid assistance from the regional public health consortium as needed.
11. Coordinate with WI DHS to request and distribute medical supplies from the Strategic National Stockpile, if utilized.
12. Utilize state and federal experts who can provide detailed information about specific agents, their short-and long-term effects and protective actions that can be taken to reduce the risk of injury or illness.
13. Coordinate with County Emergency Management to include the following plans (when completed) into appropriate Individual Agency Plans: Strategic National Stockpile (SNS); Regional Hospital Bio-Terrorism; Public Health Consortium and Smallpox Plans.
14. Provide technical health-related information to responders. Distribute health-related information to the general public through the County Public Information Officer.

Recovery

1. Ensure that appropriate mental health services are available to disaster victims, survivors, bystanders, responders and their families and other community caregivers.

2. Coordinate the location, collection and disposal of dead animals and contaminated food items with the Agricultural Extension Agent and WI Department of Natural Resources.
3. Ensure the quality and safety of septic systems and well water.
4. Coordinate a re-entry plan for evacuees with the Emergency Operations Center.
5. Provide emergency information on health issues to victims through the County Public Information Officer.
6. Identify and implement appropriate protective actions and studies to address the long-term health effects.

B. Emergency Medical Services

Response

1. Report to or send a representative to the EOC.
2. Assess the health, medical and mortuary needs of the situation; mobilize and coordinate resources as necessary.
3. Maintain communications with the ICS, EOC, EMS, hospitals and other health care facilities to provide for and/or seek support and assistance.
4. Provide pertinent information to the EOC or Joint Public Information Center, if established.
5. Maintain a patient casualty tracking system.
6. Coordinate the location, procurement, screening and allocation of health and medical supplies and resources.
7. Perform triage and appropriate on-scene medical care to victims and responding personnel.
8. Assist with evacuation efforts as directed by the ICS or EOC.
9. Provide transportation of patients as designated by the ICS or the EOC.
10. Assist hospitals with transfer of patients under the Regional Hospital Bioterrorism Plan (See Attachment 4).

C. County Coroner's Office

Response

1. Provide for the collection, identification and care of human remains, including conducting autopsy's, collecting personal effects and locating and notifying the next of kin.

2. Establish and maintain a comprehensive record keeping system.
3. Maintain close liaison with on-site command post and county EOC.
4. Request security support from law enforcement for the protection of temporary morgue and personal effects of the deceased.
5. Coordinate with funeral home directors for mortuary services as necessary.
6. Establish temporary morgue as may be needed.

D. Agricultural Extension Agent

Response

1. Coordinate with veterinarians, animal hospitals, WI Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection and WI Department of Natural Resources as necessary to provide for the needs of companion animals, livestock and wildlife.
2. Coordinate with the WI Department of Natural Resources and Public Health Department regarding location, collection and disposal of deceased animals.

E. American Red Cross

Response

1. Provide food for emergency medical workers, volunteers and patients in coordination with other volunteer agencies when requested and as appropriate.
2. Provide follow-up services to the injured or relatives of the deceased after proper authorities make initial notification.
3. Provide emergency first aid and health services to supplement local emergency medical and health services through coordination with local health authorities.
4. Provide a 24-hour telephone number for disaster welfare inquiries.
5. Provide emergency and preventive health services to disaster victims at emergency aid stations and mass care sites (e.g., reception center, shelter.)

Recovery

1. Provide support to people with disaster related or disaster-related health needs and assist people with finding resources to meet health-related financial obligations.

2. Obtain and distribute blood and blood products.
3. Create a list of health resources when time and situation allows.
4. Coordinate with local mental health agencies to provide community services.

F. Hospitals and Medical Facilities

Response

1. Advise the EOC of the facility's condition, available resources and number and type of beds available.
2. Establish and maintain communications with the EOC, ICS and field EMS personnel.
3. Provide advice and medical guidance to Emergency Medical Services.
4. Coordinate with appropriate agencies and on-scene personnel to ensure that casualties are transported to the correct medical facility.
5. Coordinate with emergency responders to isolate and decontaminate incoming patients if needed.
6. Activate facility disaster plans to manage victims, concerned individuals and the media.
7. Work with hospital bioterrorism planning region to utilize regional resources most effectively.
8. Maintain contact with regional public health consortium to coordinate the management of casualties.
9. Coordinate public information efforts with the EOC or Joint Public Information Center, if established.