

Concept of Operations	Emergency Support Function (ESF) # 8 Health and Medical
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Lead Agency	Franklin County Health Department (FCHD)
Support Agencies	Capital Area Chapter of the American Red Cross (CACARC) Franklin County Emergency Management Department (FCEMD) Franklin County Mosquito Control Department (FCMCD) George E Weems Memorial Hospital (Weems) George E Weems Memorial Hospital EMS (Weems-EMS) North Florida Medical Center (Eastpoint Location) (NFMC)

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### 1.0 – Introduction

#### 1.1 – Purpose

The purpose of this ESF is to coordinate the health and medical resources available in the county in response to disaster caused public health and medical care needs.

#### 1.2 – Scope



The scope of health and medical services required during the response and recovery phases of a disaster is broad, taking in a number of responsibilities. These responsibilities include:

- Providing health care services following a disaster.
- Assisting in staffing the Special Needs Shelter in Tallahassee.
- Ensuring the safety of food supplies in institutions: schools, hospitals, nursing home facilities and day care facilities following a disaster.
- Providing limited assistance testing potability of water and monitoring for the spread of disease following a disaster.

### **1.3 – Assumptions**

The existing medical needs of county residents will be exacerbated as a result of a disaster. In addition new medical needs will arise in the hours, days and weeks following a disaster.

Shelters may need to be opened creating a need for health care personnel to staff them.

Potability of water and food safety may be affected by disaster situations.

Local capabilities may be exceeded, necessitating assistance from resources outside the county.

## **2.0 – Concept of Operations**

### **2.1 – General**

When the county EOC<sup>1</sup> is activated, a representative from the FCHD will be assigned to the county EOC to coordinate various health and medical issues that may arise during the response and recovery phase of a disaster.

The FCHD Administrator or designee will be responsible for identifying personnel to ensure the 24-hour staffing of the health and medical function in the county EOC, if needed.

### **2.2 – Organization**

All personnel and equipment resources at the FCHD are under the direction and control of the FCHD Administrator or designee.

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<sup>1</sup> Emergency Operations Center



Local medical personnel from the community remain under the control and authority of their organization, but may be asked to assist in responding to a disaster.

This ESF is part of the Operations Section of the county's EOC. The county's EOC utilizes the ICS<sup>2</sup> structure during all activations.

## **2.3 – Primary Activities**

### **2.3.1 – Provide Health Care During and After a Disaster**

Coordinate the activities of public and private health care agencies / organizations to ensure health and medical care needs of the public are addressed.

Coordinate with the SEOC<sup>3</sup> to seek outside assistance when local capabilities are exceeded.

Provide information to the FCEMD to be distributed via mass media informing the public about the availability of health care services following the disaster.

### **2.3.2 – Provide Health Care in General Population Shelters**

Coordinate with the CACARC to determine the need for health care personnel at general population shelters.

Ensure that environmental health conditions at all shelters are conducive to maintaining the health, safety and welfare of evacuees.

### **2.3.3 – Provide Health Care in Special Needs Population Shelters**

In the event of a tropical storm or hurricane and the county's special needs population is evacuated to the Special Needs Shelter in Tallahassee the FCHD will deploy health care personnel to that facility.

If a localized event requires a Special Needs Shelter to be opened within the county, the FCHD will be responsible for overall management of that shelter as well as providing health care personnel and supplies to meet the medical needs of the evacuees.

### **2.3.4 – Ensure the Safety of Food Supplies at Institutional Facilities**

As soon as possible before, during and after a disaster, contact institutional facilities and notify them of the dangers associated with improperly refrigerated and handled foods.

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<sup>2</sup> Incident Command System

<sup>3</sup> State Emergency Operations Center



Coordinate inspections of institutional facilities to ensure the safety of food products.

Coordinate with the DOACS<sup>4</sup> to ensure the safety of food supplies at restaurants and other locations providing meals to the public.

### 2.3.5 – Ensure the Potability of Water Supplies

Provide information to the public describing the potential for public and private water supplies to become contaminated following a disaster.

Conduct water quality testing, as resources allow, determining if public and private water supplies are contaminated.

Refer the public to private labs for their water testing needs.

### 2.3.6 – Monitor the Spread of Disease After a Disaster

Provide information to the public describing the potential for the spread of disease following a disaster.

Maintain epidemiological surveillance in affected areas.

Respond to potential outbreaks of disease in affected areas.

Coordinate response with FCMCD to control potential vectors of pathogens such as mosquitoes and rats.

## 3.0 – Responsibilities – Lead and Support Agencies

### 3.1 – Lead Agency

**Franklin County Health Department** – Works closely with other health and medical providers, as well as support agencies, to ensure that emergency medical needs and public health concerns are addressed in a timely, efficient and coordinated manner.

### 3.2 – Support Agencies

**Capital Area Chapter of the American Red Cross** – Will provide limited health services assistance to evacuees housed in host shelters. In addition, CACARC will assist in the dissemination of public health safety material to county residents in the aftermath of a disaster via fixed and mobile feeding operations.

<sup>4</sup> Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services



**Franklin County Emergency Management Department** – Will provide assistance in requesting resources from outside the county to meet health and medical needs.

**Franklin County Mosquito Control Department** – Is responsible for providing control of potential vectors of pathogens such as mosquitoes and rats.

**George E Weems Memorial Hospital EMS** – Will assist with providing emergency medical care to victims of disasters and emergency workers.

**North Florida Medical Center (Eastpoint Location)** – Will assist with providing emergency medical care to victims of disasters and emergency workers to the greatest extent possible.

