

Emergency Support Functions Annex  
**ESF-8 PUBLIC HEALTH AND MEDICAL**



**ESF Coordinator:**

Loudoun County Health Department

**Primary Agency:**

Loudoun County Health Department

**Section:**

Operations

**Support Agencies:**

Department of Mental Health, Substance Abuse and Developmental Services  
Inova Loudoun Hospital Center  
StoneSprings Hospital Center  
Virginia Department of Health  
*Office of the Chief Medical Examiner*

**Branch:**

Public Safety

**Group:**

Health and Medical

**Community Lifeline(s):**

Health and Medical

## INTRODUCTION

### Purpose

Emergency Support Function (ESF)-8 Public Health and Medical provides guidance and direction to designated agencies responsible for public health and wellness during a significant event.

### Scope

ESF-8 Public Health and Medical coordinates the resources necessary to provide public health and wellness during a significant event. Activities within the scope of ESF-8 functions include: coordinates fatality management; coordinates and manages special medical needs sheltering; coordinates infectious disease outbreak response; provides counseling and mental health services; manages hospital surge; and monitors critical health care facilities.

For the purpose of this document, a critical health care facility includes but is not limited to: hospital, nursing home, dialysis center, assisted living center, and group home.

### Relevant Laws, Statutes, Plans, and Policies

- ▶ Loudoun County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) Policies and Procedures Guide
- ▶ Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended
- ▶ Code of Virginia, Title 32.1 Health, Chapter 8 Postmortem Examinations and Services

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- ▶ Loudoun County Health Department All-Hazards Emergency Operations Plan
- ▶ Post-Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act of 2006
- ▶ Rehabilitation Act of 1973
- ▶ Local Government Agreement for Health Services

### ESF Planning Assumptions

- ▶ Individuals may experience stress or other mental health crises as a result of the significant event.
- ▶ Fatality management for naturally occurring events are the responsibility of the locality.
- ▶ Efforts will take into consideration Loudoun County's special needs and hard to reach populations.

## ORGANIZATION

### ESF Responsibilities

- ▶ Reports to and takes direction from the Public Safety Branch Director.
- ▶ Provides informational updates to the Planning Section.
- ▶ Develops plans, policies, and procedures necessary to resolve public health issues during the significant event.
- ▶ Documents information and actions related to public health and medical missions and assignments.
- ▶ Utilizes current methods and procedures to process requests for assistance.
- ▶ Submits a detailed record of costs and expenditures to the Finance and Administration Section.

### Agency Roles and Responsibilities

#### Loudoun County Health Department (LCHD)

- ▶ The agency recognized with ESF coordination. The Health Department is responsible for overall ESF leadership and coordination associated with public health and wellness during a significant event. Emergency operational policies and procedures developed by the Health Department provide the framework for carrying out these activities.

**Department of Mental Health, Substance Abuse and Developmental Services (MHSADS)**

- ▶ Serves as the department with primary responsibility for crisis counseling and emergency mental health services.

**Inova Loudoun Hospital Center**

- ▶ Serves as the primary liaison for Inova Health System. Provides an ongoing assessment of staff, facilities, and resources and reports operational readiness.

**StoneSprings Hospital Center**

- ▶ Serves as the primary liaison for HCA Virginia Health System. Provides an ongoing assessment of staff, facilities, and resources and reports operational readiness.

**Virginia Department of Health (VDH)  
Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME)**

- ▶ Serves as the agency with primary responsibility for fatalities identified in the Code of Virginia, Title 32.1 and provides support to the local health department for naturally occurring fatalities.

**MISSIONS AND ASSIGNMENTS**

**Mission 1:** Coordinates the resources necessary to provide public health and wellness during a significant event.

Assignment 1-1: Identifies, prioritizes, procures, and allocates available resources.

Assignment 1-2: Forecasts future (in the subsequent 12 to 24-hour period) resource requirements and conveys to EOC leadership.

**Mission 2:** Manages mass fatality incidents and coordinates with partner agencies.

Assignment 2-1: Manages response to mass fatality events whether naturally occurring (Health Department) or a death that falls under OCME’s jurisdiction.

Assignment 2-2: Coordinates with the logistics section to identify, assess, acquire, and maintain the facilities, supplies, and other resources necessary to manage a mass fatality event.

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Assignment 2-3: Identifies and assesses the need for regional, state, or federal resources and coordinates with the Resource Unit and Management and Control Group to initiate requests.

**Mission 3:** Coordinates the operation of Special Medical Needs shelters for those impacted by a significant event.

Assignment 3-1: Assesses the medical and mental health needs of individuals to determine if the level of care exceeds the capability of a general population shelter.

Assignment 3-2: Establishes, operates, and maintains Special Medical Needs shelters and/or identifies existing acute care facilities that can accommodate impacted individuals with special medical needs.

Assignment 3-3: Provides timely updates to the EOC regarding the status and current capacity of Special Medical Needs shelters.

**Mission 4:** Manages the response to a potential or actual infectious disease outbreak that constitutes a public health emergency and other events that may require emergency medical countermeasures.

Assignment 4-1: Conducts surveillance to monitor the status and progress of infectious disease outbreaks and other public health threats.

Assignment 4-2: Establishes Points of Dispensing (PODs) to ensure delivery and distribution of medicines and/or vaccines.

Assignment 4-3: Collaborates with ESF-15 External Affairs to develop factual, timely, and consistent message delivery.

Assignment 4-4: Coordinates with responsible agencies and healthcare providers to effect quarantine and isolation measures.

Assignment 4-5: Collaborates with responsible agencies and healthcare providers to identify, establish, and maintain alternate care facilities.

**Mission 5:** Provides counseling and mental health services.

Assignment 5-1: Assesses and provides crisis counseling and emergency mental health services during a significant event.

**Mission 6:** Coordinates efforts to manage hospital and other acute care surge during a significant event.

Assignment 6-1: Provides timely updates to the EOC regarding the status and current capacity of hospitals and other acute care

facilities.

Assignment 6-2: Coordinates and communicates with the Regional Hospital Coordination Center (RHCC) to identify and assess available facility resources.

**Mission 7:** Monitors and reports status of critical health care facilities during a significant event.

Assignment 7-1: Provides regular and frequent updates to the EOC regarding the status and current capacity of critical health care facilities.

Assignment 7-2: Develops alternative strategies necessary to deliver programmatic services when critical health care facilities are overwhelmed, damaged, or are otherwise in a diminished capacity.

## COMMUNITY LIFELINE(S)

### Health and Medical

1. Medical Care (Hospitals, Dialysis, Pharmacies, Long-term care, Home care)
  - ▶ Identify the status of medical care facilities.
  - ▶ Determine impact to response operations and how they will improve if component is stabilized.
  - ▶ Identify actions that must be taken to improve medical care facilities.
  - ▶ Evaluate factors that may limit the ability to make improvements.
  - ▶ Establish restoration timeline for medical care facilities.
2. Fatality Management (Mortuary and Post-Mortuary Services)
  - ▶ Identify the status of mortuary and post-mortuary services.
  - ▶ Determine impact to response operations and how they will improve if component is stabilized.
  - ▶ Identify actions that must be taken to improve mortuary and post-mortuary services.
  - ▶ Evaluate factors that may limit the ability to make improvements.
  - ▶ Establish restoration timeline for medical care facilities.
3. Public Health (Epidemiological surveillance, laboratory, clinical guidance, behavioral health)
  - ▶ Identify the status of these public health components.
  - ▶ Determine impact to response operations and how they will improve if component is stabilized.
  - ▶ Identify actions that must be taken to improve public health components.
  - ▶ Evaluate factors that may limit the ability to make improvements.
  - ▶ Establish restoration timeline for public health components.

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