

Emergency Operations Plan

Emergency Support Function – 8

**Public Health**

**I. PURPOSE**

This Emergency Support Function (ESF) Annex describes mission execution for the preparedness and response phases and identifies the responsibilities assigned to its members. This Annex is utilized in conjunction with the Emergency Operations Plan which provides an overview of Horry County's approach to emergency operations and the emergency management organization.

To coordinate emergency provision of county's government resources for health services, medical and personal care and to facilitate and/or coordinate the provision of private resources for medical and personal care for disaster victims.

**II. MISSION**

To supplement and support disrupted or over burdened local medical service personnel and facilities; to ensure continued provision of safe food and water supplies; to perform deceased identification and mortuary services operations; and to relieve personal suffering and trauma, with a recognition of special medical populations and the unique services they may require.

**III. SITUATION AND ASSUMPTIONS**

Horry County is susceptible to a multitude of natural and man-made disasters. These disasters, depending on their magnitude, have the ability to damage structures and lifelines that will rapidly overwhelm the capacity of Horry County to assess the disaster and respond effectively to the basic and emergency human needs.

Resources within the affected disaster area will be inadequate to clear casualties from the scene or treat them in local hospitals. Additional mobilized Federal capabilities will be urgently needed to assist local government to triage and treat casualties in the disaster area and then transport them to the closest appropriate hospital or other health care facility. Additionally, medical resupply will be needed throughout the disaster area. In a major disaster, operational necessity may require the further transportation by air of patients to the nearest metropolitan areas. With sufficient concentrations of available hospital beds, where patient needs can be matched with the necessary definitive medical care.

**IV. PARTICIPATION COUNTY DEPARTMENTS AND SUPPORT AGENCIES:**

**A. Primary:** Horry County Fire Rescue

**B. Support:**

1. Horry County Coroner
2. DHEC
3. Hospital Representatives

## **V. NATIONAL INCIDENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (NIMS) REQUIREMENTS**

All ESF personnel will be trained on the principals of the National Incident Management System in accordance with current guidance from the Department of Homeland Security. Please refer to the website <http://training.fema.gov/IS/crslist.asp> for more information. The minimum requirements are as follows:

- A.** IS-100.a Introduction to the Incident Command System
- B.** IS-200.a ICS for a Single Resource and Initial Action Incidents
- C.** IS-700.a NIMS, an Introduction
- D.** IS-800.b National Response Framework, an Introduction

## **VI. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS**

- A.** When the EOC is activated, the Logistic Services Branch Director will confirm that the ESF-8 Coordinator position has been staffed.
- B.** The ESF-8 Coordinator will establish and maintain lines of communication to facilitate coordination of activities and resources with all Horry County EOC ESFs, the South Carolina EOC and other agencies/representatives who may provide assistance during major response operations.
- C.** Agencies and representatives assigned to ESF-2 will be alerted according to EOC Activation procedures in the EOP.
- D.** All ESF-8 personnel will report to their pre-designated locations unless otherwise directed by their supervisor at the time they are notified of the emergency. Pre-designation of duties and responsibilities will facilitate a reduction in response time.
- E.** Public Health (ESF-8) functions may be utilized singularly or in conjunction with the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) activation.
- F.** Communication procedures will be managed with DHEC's WebEOC, 800MHZ radios, and Ham radios.
- G.** Coordinate Hazardous Material incidents with ESF-10 – Hazardous Materials.
- H.** Environmental Health
  1. Coordinate air, food and water quality advisories with PIO to release to public.
- I.** Pre-hospital and Healthcare Facilities
  1. Coordinate with area healthcare facilities to expand their hospital's external medical surge capacity as needed.
  2. Horry County Fire/Rescue capabilities in a 12-hour period are limited to the transport of seventy-five people. Anything above and beyond, ESF-8 will have to coordinate with ESF-1 and ESF-4 for additional resources.

3. Coordinate with nursing home administrators in the county to pass along information to them regarding the emergency situation.
4. Each medical and mental health facility is required to have a DHEC approved emergency response plan that addresses evacuation and emergency transportation procedures; therefore each facility is responsible for conducting their evacuation.
5. Currently there are only out patient facilities for adult mental health patients in Horry County; however if needed a crisis center can be established utilizing mental health disaster teams.
6. Manage psychological first aid, crisis counseling and mental health assistance under the direction of the Department of Health and Environmental Control and the Department of Mental Health, and mental disaster teams, facilities and non-profits organizations.
7. Emergency Transportation of special medical need populations will be coordinated through ESF-8 (EMS transport) and ESF-1 – Transportation with Coastal Regional Transportation Authority.
8. All Horry County Fire/Rescue resources are maintained and tracked utilizing City Works; however state resources can be found utilizing WebEOC.

**J. Mortuary Services**

1. Coordinate temporary morgue sites and request DMORT if needed.
2. Deceased and Mortuary Services are described in the Horry County Mass Fatality Plan contained in Section 6 in the Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan.

**K.** In the event of a mass casualty event, assist with the implementation of the Mass Casualty Plan referenced in Section 6 of the Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan.

**L.** Existing mutual aid agreements may be able to augment and satisfy a temporary increase in local needs. If local capabilities are exceeded, support may be available from state and federal resources. These requests should be channeled through the Horry County EOC, ESF-7, Resource Support.

**M. Situation Reports (SITREP)**

1. A Situation Report (SITREP) will be produced for each Operational Period. The initial SITREP will be completed within the first hour after activation. The Situation Analysis Unit Leader will coordinate with Section Liaisons and Branch Directors to receive timely SITREPs to coincide with the EOC briefings and the Executive Group Planning Meetings.
  - i. Each EOC position will complete their part of the ESF SITREP, providing a comprehensive and accurate report, and turn it into their respective ESF Coordinator for completion by 06:00 and 16:00. The ESF Coordinator will then provide the completed ESF SITREP to the appropriate Branch Director no later than 06:30 and 16:30.
  - ii. The Branch Directors will collaborate and complete their portion of the Section SITREP while coordinating with the Section Liaison. The Section Liaison gives the final Logistics Section SITREP to the Situation Analysis Unit Leader at 7:30 and 17:30.

- iii. The Situation Analysis Unit Leader will generate the EOC SITREP and provide copies to the EOC Manager for approval at 08:30 and 18:30 in preparation of the Executive Group Planning Meetings.
- iv. Once the SITREP has been reviewed and approved by the EOC Manager or Assistant Manager, the Situation Unit Leader will send the SITREP to the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) by 09:00 and 19:00 each operational period.

#### N. EOC Action Plan

- i. When the EOC is activated the Planning Section, while coordinating with other sections, will prepare a written action plan. The EOC Action Plan will set forth objectives, based on the Executive Groups recommendations and tasks to be completed during the next operational period.
- ii. Essential to the development of each operational period action plan are the section and ESF SITREPs. The future operational period objectives are derived from the previous operational period SITREPs.
- iii. All ESF Coordinators will attend the appropriate action planning meetings, according to the EOC Action Plan and EOC Briefings and Meetings SOP, in support of the EOC Action planning process.

#### O. Information Display and Management

- 1. During the Horry County EOC activation, all agencies, departments and representatives will use WebEOC for systematic information sharing and documentation efforts. Reference the WebEOC User's Guide from more information on proper program operation.
- 2. To maintain documentation redundancy, hardcopy documents for all forms utilized in the perspective ESFs will be located in a file box or binder at each ESF position.
- 3. The successful development of the Action Plan will strongly depend on how involved and effective each agency/representative is in the planning process.
- 4. A local list of available infrastructure resources, to include assets and personnel, should be maintained in the EOC.
- 5. Coordination between public health agencies/representatives is necessary to ensure emergency operational readiness. Each department, agency and/or representative responsible should develop standard operational procedures, instructions and resource listings to support this plan.

## VII. ORGANIZATION AND ASSIGNMENT OF RESPONSIBILITIES

### A. Primary:

#### 1. Horry County Fire Rescue

- a. Serving as primary role in ESF-8, Horry County Fire Rescue Department representative will function as the ESF-8 Coordinator and has the following responsibilities:
  - i. Exercise overall responsibility for the coordination of ESF-8 activities.
  - ii. Serves as the ESF-8 coordinator in all EOC briefings and meetings.

iii. Coordinate and complete the ESF-8 SITREP and give to the Logistics Services Branch Director.

- b. The Horry County employee representing HCFR in ESF-8 will maintain the ESF-8 Coordinator Position. Specific tasks are included in the associated SOP.
- c. Coordinate comprehensive medical support to victims of all emergencies and disasters in Horry County.
- d. Coordinate emergency, “on-site” medical assistance following a disaster.
- e. Identify and monitor county medical facilities’ status and capabilities, as these relate to their ability to serve clients.
- f. Assist with coordinating the Mass Casualty Response Plan.

**B. Support:**

1.Horry County Coroner

- a. The Horry County employee representing the Horry County Coroner Office in ESF-8 will maintain the Coroner Coordinator Position. Specific tasks are included in the associated SOP.
- b. Coordinate coroner’s resources for the collection, identification and disposition of deceased persons and human remains.
- c. Establishment and operation of morgue facilities and maintenance of detailed records and facilities.
- d. Coordinate the activation of or requesting federal support (i.e., DMORT) to conduct identification, notification and release processes.

2.South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC)

- a. Those representing DHEC in ESF-8 will maintain the DHEC Coordinator Position. Specific tasks are included in the associated SOP.
- b. Coordinate food, water and sanitation safety efforts.
- c. Disseminate immediate and long-term recovery public health advisories.
- d. Coordinate with nursing home staff to establish current status and anticipated needs.
- e. Coordinate with hospitals in evacuation zone to establish current status and anticipated needs.
- f. Coordinate health and medical services with ESF-8 counterparts.

3.Hospital Representatives

- a. Those representing the Hospitals in ESF-8 will coordinate with lead agency, ESF-8 Fire Rescue.
- b. Determine the status of medical facilities within the affected area.
- c. Coordinate to determine patient numbers and hospital status.

## **VII. ANNEX MAINTENANCE**

The Logistics Section Liaison has responsibility for coordinating, developing and maintaining the section ESF Annexes with the associated Branch Directors and designated ESF Primary Departments. The Annex is updated in conjunction with the Response/EOP as stated in Section 6, Plan Development and Maintenance.

## **Emergency Support Function (ESF) 8 Public Health**

### **General ESF Actions**

Horry County Emergency Management takes a comprehensive approach to emergency planning; therefore, ESF actions for recovery and mitigation are included in those specific plans.

**Primary:**

- Horry County Fire Rescue

**Support:**

- Horry County Coroner
- SC Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC)
- Hospital Representatives

*\*Please refer to the EOP, IV, B, 8 for general preparedness and response actions.*

**Preparedness**

- Develop mutual support relationships with professional associations and other private services and volunteer organization that may assist during an emergency or disaster including special needs population service agencies and advocacy groups.
- Participate in county exercises and conduct, at least annually, an ESF-8 exercise to validate this annex and supporting SOPs.
- Ensure all ESF-8 personnel integrate NIMS principals in all planning. All ESF personnel must complete all required NIMS training, as outlined in the Department of Homeland Security (DHD) training guidance.
- Ensure procedures are in place to document costs for potential reimbursement.

**Response**

- Coordinate information releases to the public with the EOC PIO.
- Maintain records of expenditures and resources used for possible reimbursement.
- Assist the coordination of patient evacuation and relocations.
- Identify hospital and nursing home vacancies.