

Local Mass Fatality Planning and Response Partners

Planning for response to a mass fatality incident requires coordination of many key agency and partners. The following list of agencies is intended to help identify who some of those organizations are and what some of their responsibilities may be. This is not intended to be an exhaustive list of agencies or roles and responsibilities, but rather is a tool to help begin organizing your local planning process.

AGENCY/ ORGANIZATION	POSSIBLE ROLES/RESPONSIBILITIES	LOCAL CONTACT	IDENTIFIED AGENCY ROLES/RESPONSIBILITIES
Coroner/ Medical Examiner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Overall responsibility for managing mass fatality response ▪ Has jurisdiction of all human remains, associated personal effects ▪ Is responsible for identification and certification of death ▪ Is responsible for notification of next of kin regarding deaths (may delegate this to other authorities) 		
Fire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Evaluates the incident site (s) ▪ May advise on scene safety (e.g. structural hazards) ▪ May assist in search, rescue and transport of injured survivors on scene ▪ May help with recovery of human remains 		
HAZMAT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ May advise on scene safety ▪ May assist with decontamination of human remains 		
Emergency Medical Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provides recovery and transport of injured survivors ▪ In charge of patient/victim triage on 		

	scene		
Local Law Enforcement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Evaluates incident/scene safety ▪ Provides security for mass fatality operations, including Family Assistance Center ▪ Assists Medical Examiner/Coroner with scene investigation and identification of the deceased ▪ May be involved in notifying next of kin regarding death(s) 		
State Forensic Lab	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provides support and assistance to crime scene/evidence processing ▪ Provides support for DNA collection and processing ▪ Assesses need for outsourcing DNA testing, assists in arranging this if necessary 		
Emergency Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Coordinates and supports overall emergency response ▪ Operates the Emergency Operations Center ▪ Manages resource requests for other local (mutual aid), state or federal resources 		
Mortuary Service Providers: (e.g. funeral homes and crematories)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Manages final disposition of victims ▪ May assist Medical Examiner/Coroner operations with personnel, transportation resources and morgue storage ▪ Personnel may assist in Family Assistance Center operations including collecting antemortem information 		

<p>Hospitals/ Healthcare agencies</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provide care to injured survivors ▪ May assist Medical Examiner/Coroner by providing medical records on deceased (who have died at or been in their facility) ▪ May store human remains from deaths that occur in their facility in morgue until Coroner/Medical Examiner or funeral home can recover the decedents ▪ May be a point of information and assistance for family members of possible victims who arrive at the hospitals ▪ May have interpreters or translators to assist in mass fatality operations 		
<p>Public Health</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lead agency for ESF 8 health and medical response ▪ May provide organizational support to mass fatality response ▪ May assist Coroner/Medical Examiner in coordinating with other agencies ▪ Provides leadership and expertise during biological, chemical, radiological incidents ▪ Assists in assessing health hazards and compliance with health regulations during mass fatality operations ▪ Manages vital records/vital statistics; responsible for processing death certificates and handling disposition forms/permits (for 		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> cremation or burial) ▪ Provides environmental health assistance/expertise ▪ Conducts surveillance ▪ Provides public information about health risks, hazards, public safety messages ▪ May have personnel or expertise to assist with call centers operations ▪ May help coordinate needs related to vulnerable populations ▪ Local health officer authority to waive or change requirements for handling of human remains during an emergency 		
<p>Mental Health and Human/Social Services</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ May provide family assistance including mental health, crisis counseling support and human service support ▪ May assist with providing support/information on vulnerable populations ▪ May have interpreters or translators that can assist during mass fatality operations ▪ May have personnel or expertise to assist with call centers operations ▪ May provide mental health support for responders and staff 		
<p>Communications/ Public Information</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provide expertise and support for messaging related to mass fatality response ▪ May serve as primary spokesperson 		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> for mass fatality response ▪ May have personnel or expertise to assist with call centers operations ▪ Participates in Joint Information Center 		
Faith/Spiritual Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ May provide comfort and support to victims' families and friends ▪ May provide religious services/care ▪ May provide consultation on cultural/religious considerations ▪ May provide support to first responders/mass fatality response staff 		
Nongovernmental or community based organizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ May provide family support services ▪ May assist with translation or interpretation services ▪ May advise on cultural and religious considerations 		
Volunteers <i>*mass fatality response is a highly sensitive and potentially highly traumatic environment. Every effort should be taken to ensure proper credentialing, monitoring and training of volunteers</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ May assist in providing support to various operational areas including scene response, morgue operations and Family Assistance Center operations 		
General Services, Fleets and Facilities or Similar Agencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ May help identify and arrange sites for temporary morgue storage, morgue operations and family assistance center operations 		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ May help coordinate transportation for staff/responders▪ May help identify and arrange additional temporary transportation and storage of human remains		
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