



STATE OF UTAH

EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN



ESF #8, Appendix #1

National Disaster Medical System Activation Procedures

State Agencies: Utah Department of Health

Federal Agencies: Department of Health and Human Services
Federal Emergency Management Agency

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Purpose

Provide direction in requesting the activation of the National Disaster Medical System (NDMS). The purpose of NDMS is to establish a single, integrated medical response capability to provide assistance to local, tribal, and State authorities in dealing with the medical and health effects of a major incident. NDMS supports the military and the Veterans Health Administration (VA) medical systems in caring for casualties evacuated from affected regions or back to the U.S. from overseas.

B. Scope

NDMS is within the Utah Department of Health (UDOH) and Human Services (HHS), Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR), HHS Office of Emergency Management (OEM) and has the responsibility for managing and coordinating public health and medical response assets to major incidents including:

1. Natural Disasters
2. Technological Disasters
3. Major Transportation Accidents
4. Acts of Terrorism including Weapons of Mass Destruction Events

II. SITUATION AND ASSUMPTIONS

- A. It is conceivable that a major incident and terrorist related event could produce a large concentration of specialized injuries and problems that could overwhelm the local, tribal, and State public health and medical care systems.
- B. It is also conceivable that an incident could result in significant mortalities as well. The National Response Framework (NRF) assigns the NDMS under Emergency Support Function (ESF) #8 - Health and Medical Services to provide victim identification and mortuary services through the Disaster Mortuary Operational Response Teams (DMORT). These responsibilities include:

1. Temporary morgue facilities
 2. Victim identification
 3. Forensic dental pathology
 4. Forensic anthropology methods
 5. Processing
 6. Preparation
 7. Disposition of remains
- C. NDMS has authority to provide assistance to ESF #8 - Health and Medical Services in assessing the need for veterinary services through the National Veterinary Response Teams (NVRT) following a major incident. These responsibilities include:
1. Assessing the medical needs of animals
 2. Medical treatment and stabilization of animals
 3. Animal disease surveillance
 4. Zoonotic disease surveillance and public health assessments
 5. Technical assistance to assure food and water quality
 6. Hazard mitigation
 7. Animal decontamination
 8. Biological and chemical terrorism surveillance

III. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

A. Activation

In a major incident requiring federal health and medical assistance, the DEM Director or designee in consultation with the UDOH Executive Director or designee, and after obtaining concurrence from the Governor, may request activation of the NDMS.

B. Activation Request Procedures

All requests for NDMS activation will be made by the DEM Director or designee of DEM to FEMA's 24/7 National Response Coordination Center.

C. Information Requirement for System Activation

Before an official request for assistance and activation of the NDMS, local government will provide DEM, in coordination with the UDOH, the following information:

1. The location of the incident where assistance is being requested
2. A description of the incident and the resultant public health and medical problems
3. A description of the assistance required (e.g. medical assistance teams, medical supplies/equipment, aero-medical evacuation, acute hospital care, etc.)

D. Actions Taken Following Initial Request

All requests for NDMS assistance will be immediately transmitted to a NDMS Duty Officer, who will take action to validate the request and arrange for activation of the appropriate elements. Confirmation of the activation of the NDMS will be made by telephone to the requesting official or his/her designee. Instructions regarding direct communications with the NDMS operation support will be provided at the time of confirmation of NDMS activation.

E. Federal Coordinating Centers

The VA Salt Lake City Medical Center has been identified as a Federal Coordinating Center (FCC) for the NDMS. The VA SLC Medical Center maintains NDMS FCC Standard Operating Guidelines.