

Background

In 2013, the National Emergency Management Association (NEMA) saw a gap in the availability of public health and medical based Mission Ready Packages (MRPs) that could be requested through the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC). NEMA reached out to ASTHO to begin work of creating MRPs in these areas.

Year 1

In 2014, ASTHO created an advisory group of representatives with expertise in public health, medical and emergency management to create a series of public health and medical MRP templates. Each template includes suggestions for mission capabilities, personnel, costs, identified Emergency Support Functions (ESFs), resource descriptions and more.

Year 1 of the project finished with the creation of 10 MRP templates and a companion document. The companion document walks jurisdictions through the process of using these templates to create MRPs that are applicable to their own assets and resources.

1. Bariatric Ambulance Team
2. Four Wheel Drive Ambulance Team
3. Patient Transport Team
4. Pre-Hospital Acute Care Team
5. Clinical Care team
6. Disaster Portable Morgue Unit
7. Morgue Processing Team
8. Morgue Triage Team
9. Medical Facility Emergency Water Supply Team
10. Behavioral Health Team

Year 2

In current year 2 work, the Advisory Group created six additional MRP templates:

1. Epidemiological Surveillance Team
2. Foodborne Disease Epidemiology Team
3. Household Pet and Service Animal Radiological Monitoring & Decontamination Team
4. Radiological Monitoring Team
5. Medical Support Team for Shelters
6. Medical and Public Health Technical Support Team

Next Steps

The six new MRP templates and updated companion document will be shared with NEMA and placed on the EMAC website for public use. Jurisdictions are encouraged to begin work on tailoring the templates based on their available assets and resources.

Bariatric Ambulance Team

The Bariatric Ambulance Team provides life support care and response to bariatric patients through the use of specialized bariatric vehicles. The team may augment existing EMS; support patient and medical facility evacuation; perform patient triage, treatment, and transport; and provide on-scene medical care.

Behavioral Health Team

The Behavioral Health Team delivers mental health services to those impacted by the incident; this may include survivors or first responders or others as requested by the requesting jurisdiction. The Behavioral Health Team will primarily provide community supportive services, including psychological first aid, assessment of psychological state, referral of survivors to local resources for ongoing psychiatric or psychological treatment, mediation in the event of disruptive behavior, crisis counseling, Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM), emotional and spiritual care, or other early psychological interventions.

Clinical Support Team

Medical supervision and services are for the general population of the shelter, which includes individuals requiring FNSS. This may include such tasks as ensuring prescriptions are filled, administering medication, treating minor wounds, and monitoring glucose levels. This team can also support oxygen oversight and monitoring. Furthermore, the team will evaluate/assess individuals with acute onset of signs and symptoms and help determine if EMS transportation is necessary.

Disaster Portable Morgue Unit

The DPMU provides equipment and commodities to support mass fatality operations. The unit has fully equipped mobile morgue equipment and a supply cache that supports specially trained teams and provides storage of deceased. Although the DPMU MRP does not include personnel or constitute a complete DPMU, it does include equipment and commodities found in a DPMU.

Epidemiological Surveillance Team

The Epidemiological Surveillance Team provides supplemental personnel to conduct contact tracing and case number tracking on a disease outbreak (including pandemic influenza) in a jurisdiction needing assistance. The team will engage in the following activities:

- Compile and analyze epidemiological data to aid in the identification and targeting of countermeasures to control disease spread.
- Monitor the health status of those exposed to a communicable disease but not yet ill.
- Actively monitor patients in isolation and in voluntary or involuntary quarantine.
- Supplement personnel conducting initial community surveys in prolonged incidents.
- Provide supplemental personnel to complete epidemiological surveys in the community, analyze data from the surveys, and create communications messages for distribution to local health and medical personnel.

Foodborne Disease Epidemiology Team

Within a defined geographic area, the Foodborne Disease Epidemiology Team provides surge personnel to characterize the outbreak, attempt to identify the source of the outbreak, and recommend protective actions to stop the spread of disease. The team may engage in the following activities:

- Collect data from those who became ill and those potentially exposed regarding the foods they ate, the locations where they ate, and any known preparation methods of the food eaten.
- Conduct food handling investigations in support of local response efforts.
- Conduct food facility evaluation investigations in support of local response efforts.
- Analyze data provided by healthcare providers and laboratories on case numbers, symptoms, and severity. Input data into the CDC software system(s) or other state/local system to determine a possible source for the outbreak). The team may work in concert with environmental health professionals.
- Collect clinical and environmental specimens as needed.

Four Wheel Drive Ambulance Team

The Four-wheel Drive Ambulance Team provides life support, care, and response to patients through the use of specialized four-wheel drive ambulances. The team may augment existing EMS; support patient and medical facility evacuation; perform patient triage, treatment, and transport; and provide on-scene medical care when transportation is hindered by air or by road during emergencies.

Household Pet and Service Animal Radiological Monitoring and Decontamination Team

The Household Pet and Service Animal Radiological Monitoring and Decontamination Team provides staffing and equipment to support the operation of a Community Reception Center (population monitoring) whose mission will be to provide radiological monitoring, triage, and decontamination for household pets and service animals (as defined in the Pets Act of 2006), especially for those who will be entering a shelter environment or transported to a care facility after the release of radiological material. Decontamination and wastewater storage capability is included in the package.

Medical and Public Health Support Team

Provide personnel to support the jurisdictions agency or department's emergency operations center (DEOC). Staff will be experienced in operating in a DEOC setting and will be experienced senior level staff in their designated specialty area the package provides staff to respond to a broad array of likely public health and medical emergencies. Not all of the subject matter experts will be needed to respond to a specific event. The selection of staff and subject matter expertise should be based upon the actual event type. The package provides personnel to support the following:

- EMS
- Crisis and risk communication
- Biological and infectious disease response and case tracking
- Chemical and radiological release
- Acute health care facility administration
- Behavioral health
- Pediatric care
- Medical ethics

- Patient care needs

Medical Facility Emergency Water Supply Unit

The Medical Facility Emergency Water Supply Unit provides emergency water or provides the resources needed by a facility to access and utilize alternate water sources. The Medical Facility Emergency Water Supply Unit includes a combination of equipment that could be used to: (1) haul, store, or provide water; (2) disinfect or purify water; (3) re-route water to a facility; and/or (4) conserve water. Water treatment and distribution requirements vary from state-to-state, so a full discussion of requirements and expectations should be conducted prior to the deployment of resources.

Medical Support Team for Shelters

The Medical Support Team for Shelters is a personnel-only unit that provides supplemental staff for clinical and functional needs support, which will augment operations at a general population shelter. This supports the overall medical community by working to ensure that individuals with access and functional needs requiring medical support are cared for during and after an emergency, especially when their home-based care is interrupted, with the aim of keeping persons with chronic conditions from becoming acute care patients. This support lends itself to keeping individuals who can normally be cared for in home or hospice settings from presenting to and impacting healthcare facilities. The team's composition will be based on the requesting jurisdiction's needs, which will be unique to the incident and which must be identified by the requesting jurisdiction. This team does not provide the medical equipment, pharmaceuticals, and supplies to support patient diagnostics and care. The team may also be called in as supplemental support in certain other situations (e.g., evacuation).

The team will evaluate/assess individuals with acute onset of signs and symptoms and help determine if EMS transportation is necessary. Focus areas for the team(s) to support may include chronic disease care, obstetrics, high-risk prenatal, pediatric, mental/behavioral health, and physical disability. These specialized needs may result in the customization of the team and/or the addition of other teams.

Morgue Processing Team

The Morgue Processing Team provides support to track human remains and personal effects at an incident morgue. The Morgue Processing Team is responsible for managing the documents used by morgue personnel and for ensuring that all human remain material entering into and processed through morgue operations is accounted for. The Morgue Processing Team is responsible for ensuring efficient progression through morgue stations, photography documentation, and release of human remains after completion of morgue processing.

Morgue Triage Team

The Morgue Triage Team performs the initial assessment of human remain material that arrives at the incident morgue, and prioritizes and screens human remain material. The Morgue Triage Team separates human tissue from non-associated and unidentifiable remains, directs potentially identifiable human remains to the appropriate morgue stations, and routes material evidence to the appropriate law enforcement agency.

Patient Transport Team

The Patient Transport Team provides life support response and supplements ground ambulances and EMS personnel in support of the requesting jurisdiction. The team may augment existing EMS personnel;

support patient and medical facility evacuation; perform patient triage, treatment, and transport; and provide on-scene medical care.

Pre-Hospital Acute Care Team

The Pre-hospital Acute Care Team provides advanced life support care and response to the requesting entity and stabilizes acute medical emergency and trauma patients in a pre-hospital care setting. The team may augment existing EMS, provide triage and treatment for acute patients, and provide pre-hospital stabilizing medical care.

Radiological Monitoring Team

The Radiological Monitoring Team is intended to augment staff assigned to a Community Reception Center (population monitoring). All personnel are experienced in radiation safety and decontamination techniques. Staff are trained and experienced in using radiation detection devices for detecting and measuring internal and external radiological contamination. The Radiological Monitoring Team provides radiological monitoring staff and radiological monitoring equipment. Although trained in decontamination techniques, the team does not have the equipment to conduct decontamination.