

# **EMERGENCY SUPPORT FUNCTION #8 EAGLE COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT AND MEDICAL SERVICES ANNEX**

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## **LEAD AGENCY**

Eagle County Public Health and Environment

## **SUPPORT AGENCIES**

Ambulance Providers  
American Red Cross  
Eagle County Animal Services  
Eagle County Coroner  
Eagle County Emergency Management  
Eagle County Human Resources  
Eagle County Human Services  
Hospitals (Vail Health & Valley View)  
Law Enforcement Agencies  
Mind Springs Health  
Public Works Agencies  
Fire Districts

## **INTRODUCTION**

### **PURPOSE**

The purpose of Emergency Support Function (ESF) –#8 is to provide a coordinated response for the protection of Eagle County’s public health, emergency medical care, and fatality and mortuary needs in an emergency situation. It provides a structure consistent with the National Response Framework and National Incident Management System from which to coordinate emergency activities to protect and provide essential life and health services, and to provide for the respectful and lawful handling of human remains. It recognizes the need for pre-event preparedness and coordination during developing potential health and medical situations.

### **SCOPE**

The scope of ESF-#8 is to provide direct assistance in identifying, and meeting public health and medical needs of victims of an emergency or disaster situation. This direct assistance is categorized in the following core functional areas:

- Assessment and monitoring of Eagle County Public Health/medical needs (including mental health);
- Continuity of water and sanitation services;
- Emergency medical services and care;
- Medical equipment and supplies;
- Fatality management; and
- Mortuary management.

### **Policies**

The policies guiding actions by the primary responsible agency under ESF-#8 are:

- The primary ESF agency will be dependant upon the current situation and the ESF-#8 Coordinator will be assigned by that primary agency. The Coordinator will make notifications and coordinate the appropriate personnel from ESF-#8 to respond and fulfill the responsibilities of the ESF.
- Eagle County Public Health and Environment will be the primary coordinating agency for this ESF in matters pertaining to public health.
- Eagle County ambulance providers will be the primary coordinating agencies for this ESF in matters pertaining to pre-hospital emergency medical care.
- The two Hospitals serving Eagle County will be the primary coordinating agencies for this ESF in matters pertaining to hospital Emergency Medical Care.
- The Eagle County Coroner’s Office will be the primary coordinating agency for this ESF in matters pertaining to Fatality Investigation and Mortuary Management.
- The adoption of this Annex to the Eagle County Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) does not alter or impede the existing authorities of any department or agency supporting ESF-#8.
- The EOC facilitates the coordination of the overall County response including ESF-#8 and all other Emergency Support Functions.
- As necessary, during the ESF-#8 activations, Eagle County Public Health and Environment will maintain frequent communications with the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) department operations center.
- The Joint Information Center (JIC), established in support of the County EOC, is authorized to release general medical and public health information to the public after consultation with all impacted agencies. To ensure patient confidentiality, the release of medical information by ESF-#8 will be in accordance with the Health Information Portability and Accountability Act.
- In the event of a zoonotic disease outbreak, or in coordination with ESF-11 (Agriculture and Natural Resources) during an animal disease outbreak, public information will be released after consultation with the Colorado Department of Agriculture and CDPHE.
- The ESF-#8 lead is responsible for consulting with and organizing state, federal and local, medical subject matter experts, disaster medical and mortuary subject-matter experts and teams, as needed.

## **SITUATION AND ASSUMPTIONS**

### **SITUATION**

- A comprehensive ESF-#8 system and support network is essential at any time, but becomes vital during emergency situations.
- Eagle County and its partners have sufficient ESF-#8 capability and capacity to handle routine health care, medical services, and mortuary requirements.

### **CAPABILITY ASSUMPTIONS**

- A large-scale emergency situation may significantly increase demand for public health, mental health, medical, and mortuary requirements in the County.

- The release of toxic or hazardous materials may result in human and environmental contamination.
- During severe weather conditions, County Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and rescue operations may be temporarily suspended to protect the responders from dangerous conditions.
- Disaster events involving multiple patients, mass care and/or fatalities will be managed according to the Eagle County Mass Casualty Incident Plan as coordinated by the on-scene Incident Command in coordination with the EOC.

## **CAPACITY ASSUMPTIONS**

- Any large-scale emergency or disaster will result in increased demands on all public health, medical services, and mental health services.
- Disruption of the County’s communication systems will severely impede the timely delivery of emergency medical response services and coordination with facilities.
- Many injuries, both minor and relatively severe, will be self-treated by the public.
- EMS has a limited capacity to handle mass casualty incidents and will require significant support from local fire districts and mutual aid from surrounding jurisdictions in order to treat and transport patients.
- Patients from a mass casualty incident will initially be transported to local facilities generating a need for those facilities to activate their surge plans and requiring coordination of transports to hospitals outside of Eagle County. EMResource will be the primary tool for identification of transportation locations.
- When local resources can no longer meet the demand of the situation, regional, state, and federal resources may be requested.
- An emergency situation involving large areas of the County may adversely affect local resource response capabilities and damage the existing medical infrastructure.
- Under certain circumstances, it may be necessary to relocate hospital functions and patients including the seriously ill (surge capacity).
- When local resources can no longer meet the demands of the emergency situation, additional resource requirements will be requested through agreement and/or mutual aid. The County Emergency Manager will request assistance from the State of Colorado ESF-#8 through the Colorado Office of Emergency Management or State EOC and specialized teams and assistance from FEMA.

## **CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS**

During an emergency situation in Eagle County, public health, mental health, medical, and mortuary requirements and outside assistance for health and medical emergency operations will be under the control of the Incident Commander and/or an Incident Management Team and coordinated and prioritized in the County EOC.

Upon activation of the ESF-#8 function notification of all Primary ESF-#8 agencies are required.

## ORGANIZATION

- A significant disaster event may cause injuries to a considerable number of people resulting in physical, biological, or mental health impact throughout the affected area, and create a widespread need for medical care or public guidance.
- Emergency operations for health and mental health services will be an extension of normal agency and facility responsibilities.
- Existing emergency medical facilities:

### **Vail Health**

24/7 contact Phone: 970-471-9286 (Administrative Supervisor)

### **Valley View Hospital**

24/7 contact Phone: 970-618-6735 (House Supervisor)

### **Aspen Valley Hospital**

24/7 contact Phone: 970-544-1363 (House Supervisor)

### **Avon Urgent Care**

8AM-8PM contact Phone: 970-949-6100

### **Gypsum Urgent-Emergent Care**

9AM-9PM contact Phone: 970-777-2800

Pre-identified and established emergency mass casualty surge locations in Eagle County are:

#### **Dobson Ice Arena**

321 East Lionshead Circle, Vail, CO 80657

Day: 970-479-2279

After Hours: via Vail Com Center – 970-479-2201

#### **Donovan Pavilion**

1600 South Frontage Road, Vail, CO 81657

Day: 970-477-3699 / 970-376-3756

After Hours: via Vail Com Center – 970-479-2201

#### **Gypsum Recreation Center**

0052 Lundgren Blvd, Gypsum, CO 81637

Day: 970-777-5561 / 970-777-5555

After Hours: 970-688-0017

#### **Mountain Recreation**

0450 Miller Ranch Road, Edwards, CO 81632

Day: 970-777-5561 / 970-777-5555

After Hours: 970-688-0017

Eagle County and several surrounding counties own mass casualty and/or surge capacity trailers. The Eagle County [Emergency Resource Mobilization Plan Annex](#) should be utilized though ESF# 7 for mobilization of these resources when needed.

- Disaster Mortuary Response Team (DMORT) - A request for DMORT assistance must be made by the County Coroner or the Eagle County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC).
- Access and Functional Needs (AFN) populations may be defined as individuals with limited access to the necessary information and resources to be able to effectively respond in the event of an emergency. The individuals and resources may be different depending on the nature of the emergency. Some areas of access to consider include: communications, maintaining health, maintaining independence, access to safety/support/services, and transportation. Some targeted populations to consider include but are not limited to: non-English speaking individuals, transient workers and tourists unfamiliar with the area, houseless or house insecure individuals, people who are differently abled, the very young, and the very old, to name a few. AFN populations experience barriers to access due to elements in person, in the environment or in the task at hand.
- Information about injured people within Eagle County will be tracked by Ambulance Services and medical receiving facilities.

## INITIAL ACTIONS

### Eagle County Public Health

- To the best of its ability, Eagle County Public Health and Environment will provide timely and effective services, including but not limited to disease surveillance, health promotion, and mitigate the effects of an emergency or event based on the needs of the community.
- The Eagle County Public Health and Environment Director may order inspections of damaged housing, emergency shelters, and public facilities as necessary, to determine the need for emergency repairs, pest control, sanitation, or other health related protective procedures.
- If required, the Eagle County Public Health and Environment Director will establish mass medication sites to dispense needed medication or vaccinations to emergency workers and/or the general public in accordance with the Eagle County Point of Dispensing (POD) Plan.
- The Eagle County Public Health and Environment Director will identify the need for mental health services.
- Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) assets, if required, will be requested from CDPHE and Colorado Office of Emergency management via the County EOC. Local distribution of SNS assets is coordinated through the Eagle County Public Health and Environment Director according to the protocols established under the [Eagle County POD Plan](#).
- The Eagle County Public Health and Environment Director has the statutory authority to issue written orders for Quarantine and Isolation. The issuance and enforcement of such orders during a public health emergency will be coordinated through the BOCC and with law enforcement.

### **Environmental Health**

- Eagle County Public Health and Environment will be the lead agency in providing for food and water safety.

### **Mental Health**

- Eagle Valley Behavioral Health, in conjunction with other community mental health agencies, providers and resources, will provide support to agencies and people impacted by an emergency situation or incident

### **Medical Services**

- During emergency medical situations, on-scene incident command functions will be performed by.
- Medical transport may also be provided by other ambulance providers, fire district personnel, mass transit vehicles such as buses, or aviation medical services.
- During an Eagle County declared emergency, ambulance licensing requirements may be suspended at the discretion of the Eagle County Policy Group.
- Vail Health, Valley View Hospital and local emergency clinics, when opened, will receive patients during emergency situations.
- Emergency Management Resource will be used by the hospitals and/or the EOC to assist with patient assignment and medical transport routing if the needed medical service is not available at the hospital, or there are no bed spaces available.
- Vail Health may also provide for secondary decontamination of contaminated patients on hospital grounds, if required but will require assistance from outside agencies.
- Coordinators from regional support agencies including: Central Mountain Regional Emergency Trauma Advisory Committee, Northwest Region Healthcare Coalition, and Regional EPR/Epi Staff may be called upon to provide technical assistance to ESF- #8

### **Fatality and Mortuary**

- The Eagle County Coroner will identify and take charge of the proper recovery of the deceased and any human remains as well as coordinating the Family Assistance Center and Ante-Mortem Data Collection. The Coroner's office may be assisted by law enforcement officials and Eagle County Public Health and Environment.
- In the event of a mass fatality incident, additional support services may be required, and will be requested by the County Coroner directly or through the County Emergency Manager from the State EOC via the County EOC.

## **ASSIGNMENT OF RESPONSIBILITIES**

### **GENERAL ORGANIZATION RESPONSIBILITIES**

The primary agency for this ESF will be established based upon the specific needs of the preparedness planning or incident and will be responsible to organize, coordinate and support

emergency Eagle County Public Health and Environment, medical service operations, fatality and mortuary management.

## **PRIMARY AGENCY ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

### **Eagle County Public Health and Environment**

- Coordinate through the Eagle County Joint Information System and County Emergency Manager in the development and implementation of appropriate emergency health awareness and public information.
- Identify access and functional needs populations and assure information for these populations is distributed.
- Implement plans to coordinate POD sites, distribute medical countermeasures and non pharmaceutical interventions, State lab services, SNS asset distribution, disease surveillance, etc.
- Coordinate environmental health activities for wildfire smoke, waste and refuse disposal, food, water, and sanitation and vector/vermin control.
- Provide for the monitoring and evaluation of environmental health hazards and arrange for corrective measures.

### **Eagle Valley Behavioral Health**

- Be the supporting agency to ESF-#8 in matters pertaining to mental health assessment and services provision.
- Organize and deploy mental health teams to support emergency operations in Eagle County.
- Provide for 24/7 mental health care services during emergency operations to include but are not limited to: critical incident stress debriefings for evacuees in emergency shelters, disaster victims, and all personnel that support emergency operations in Eagle County, including first responders, hospital/medical services personnel, and volunteers.
- Provide sites, as available, for temporary mental health clinics, or coordinate transfers for patients with mental health concerns.

### **Emergency Medical Services**

- Prepare or assist in the preparation of plans and SOPs in support of County EMS operations during emergencies and provide for coordination with other emergency services (e.g., fire, law enforcement, hospital, etc.) including private support groups.
- Coordinate emergency medical services with Vail Health, Valley View Hospital, Aspen Valley Hospital, Castle Peak Senior Living Center and outside agencies and representatives, as appropriate.
- Provide a tracking system for injured patients.

### **Eagle County Coroner**

- Develop procedures for the recovery, identification, registration and disposition of the deceased.
- Be prepared to recruit other professionals and volunteers to assist with sorting, documenting, and identifying human remains, and establishing temporary morgues, as required.
- During a mass fatality incident, coordinate medical examiner and mortuary operations with law enforcement, ambulance services, pathologists, the American Red Cross, dentists, X-ray technicians, county funeral home director, DMORT and others as required.
- Coordinate notification of next of kin and or DNA collection, release of remains, and deceased person's personal effects, with local law enforcement, the American Red Cross, clergy services, and mental health services.
- Coordinate with the County Emergency Manager if State or Federal assistance is required for resource ordering, equipment and supplies (e.g., refrigerated trucks; body bags).
- Provide a tracking system and procedures for handling human remains.

### **Vail Health Hospital**

- Implement plans to provide medical services for a mass casualty or mass fatality incident in the County or the surrounding municipalities.
- Track patients that come and go from the hospital. Communicate and coordinate with EMS for all patient transfers.
- Coordinate with the County Emergency Manager.
- Designate liaison to the EOC/JIC.

## **PUBLIC HEALTH LAWS & AUTHORITIES**

State and Local Public Health Authorities are outlined in the Eagle County Public Health Emergency Operations Plan (PHEOP). The PHEOP is For Official Use Only. Public safety partners can access the PHEOP on a need-to-know basis by contacting Eagle County Public Health and Environment.