

Appendix J

Public Health Plan

PURPOSE

To provide the basic concepts, policies and procedures, and assign roles in providing a coordinated response to incidents within Eagle County that have a public health and/or medical impact.

SCOPE

This appendix serves as the unifying public health document for Eagle County. This plan is designed to prepare Eagle County, both public and private organizations, to respond to incidents that have a public health and medical impact. With the need for a coordinated system of response among all entities, this appendix builds upon and incorporates the use of the National Incident Management System (NIMS), the Incident Command System (ICS), and the development of Emergency Support Function-8 (ESF#8) Public Health and Medical Services Plan. As such, this document outlines the roles and responsibilities, procedures, and organizational relationships of government agencies and private organizations when responding to and recovering from the public health and medical consequences of an event.

AUTHORITY

Authorities and regulations relevant to this plan are found in Colorado Revised Statutes (C.R.S.) Title 25, Article 1.5 Powers and Duties of the Department of Public Health and Environment, Article 3.5 Emergency Medical and Trauma services, Article 4 Disease Control, Article 6.5 Environmental Control, Article 7 Air Quality Control, Article 8 Water Quality Control, and Article 15 Hazardous Waste.

SITUATIONS AND ASSUMPTIONS

Situations that could result in a public health or medical impact include:

- Large scale communicable disease outbreak
- HazMat incident
- Biohazard/Biochemical event/threat (Terrorist attack)
- Natural disasters (Floods, Wildfires, Blizzards, etc.)

Assumptions:

- The Public Health and Medical System includes both public and private organizations that respond to the public health and medical consequences of disasters.
- The phrase ‘medical needs’ includes those associated with mental health, behavioral health, and substance abuse considerations of incident victims and response workers.
- Public Health and Medical System services also include the medical needs of people with disabilities and other access and functional needs described in the Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Act and in the National Response Framework (NRF) Glossary, respectively. It includes a population whose members may have medical and other functional needs before, during, and after an incident.
- Emergencies or disasters may occur across County or State lines that would require collaboration in coordinating a response.

CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

The overall goal of emergency/disaster public health operations is to minimize loss of life and human suffering, prevent disease and promote optimum health for the population by controlling public health factors that affect human health, and by providing leadership and guidance in emergency/disaster public health-related activities.

The overall objectives of emergency/disaster public health operations are to:

- Provide preventive health services and control disease outbreaks.
- Conduct rapid disease surveillance activities.
- Issue public health advisories (water, air, food, soil).
- Respond to public health related incidents/events.
- Coordinate health-related activities among other local public and private response agencies or groups.
- Develop and execute recovery plan; assist in recovery planning.
- Establish procedures for activation and termination of this appendix.

In accordance with the principles of the ICS and NIMS, the response to an emergency or disaster is managed by Eagle County. Overall priorities, in order of importance, are to address: (1) life-threatening situations, (2) injury to persons; (3) protection of health and environment; and (4) safety of property.

DIRECTION, CONTROL, AND COORDINATION

Eagle County Public Health and Environment (PH) is the public health organization that serves all of Eagle County inclusive of each municipality. PH is responsible for providing public health services during the response and recovery phases of a public health emergency or disaster. PH works to prevent epidemics and the spread of disease, protect against environmental hazards, prevent injuries, promote and encourage healthy behaviors, respond to disasters and assist communities in recovery, and to assure the quality and accessibility of health services throughout Eagle County. Stakeholders are involved in a wide spectrum of activities involving public health, environmental health, emergency medical services (EMS), and health care providers. The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) is the lead state agency for ESF-#8

EMS are provided by the Eagle County Paramedic Services and various fire service agencies in the County in coordination with medical care facilities. In support of the large scale emergency response, PH, EMS, and medical facilities may send staff to assist at the County EOC and fill positions in the ESF #8 Function to provide a coordinated response effort.

ASSIGNMENT OF RESPONSIBILITIES

Public Health Agencies

- Designate Incident Commander (represented to Unified Command organization)
- Implement agency public health emergency operation plans and protocols
- Epidemiology and disease surveillance

- Mass prophylaxis and disease prevention
- Outbreak management and disease containment
- Pharmaceuticals and Strategic National Stockpile Reception and Distribution
- Coordinates the procurement, allocation and distribution of public health resources required to support emergency/disaster public health operations
- Disseminate information and guidance vital to the emergency response efforts of disasters (including bioterrorism) via Health Alert Network alerts to local health care and public safety professionals
- Vital statistics

Environmental Health Agencies

- Consumer Protection
- Hazardous materials relative to public health and safety
- Vector control
- Water and air advisories

Emergency Medical Services

- Emergency medical care and transport

Area Hospitals and Medical Providers

- Emergency and other medical care
- Surge capacity

Mental Health Agencies

- Mental health surveillance
- Mental health services

Coroner

- Fatality management

Emergency Management

- Activate EOC at the appropriate level
- Support incident with resource management
- Facilitate State and Federal assistance as necessary

COMMUNICATIONS

Inter-jurisdictional and inter-agency coordination will be conducted through the Incident Command Posts, EOCs, County, municipalities and special districts utilizing available communication equipment and infrastructure (e.g. WebEOC, EMResources).

Situational awareness will be supported through data-sharing systems to expedite the transfer of information regarding the status of the incident and provider operational capacities to meet demands of the event. Activation, coordination and use of the Joint Information Center (JIC) will be initiated as soon as possible following an incident.

The JIC will function to coordinate information to the media for public consumption. Information released to the public regarding the incident will be cleared by PH, EMS, and the Policy Group as appropriate.

Communications and Warning Systems

Eagle County participates in the Colorado Digital Trunked Radio System (DTRS) which is the primary radio system (800 MHz radio) for coordinating the emergency response to an emergency/disaster. DTRS is overseen by the Consolidated Communications Network of Colorado with resource in the Eagle County owned and operated by the Eagle County.

Eagle County is served by two Public Safety Answering Points (PSAP's), the Vail Public Safety Communications Center and the Pitkin County Regional Emergency Dispatch Center. Both PSAP's have the ability to access redundant warning systems as outlined in Appendix L of the Eagle County EOP.

Talk-groups

County agencies have been assigned their own talk groups. Mutual aid talk groups provide the ability for various agencies to talk to each other.

Back-Up Communications

- Telephones, faxes, and wireless systems will be utilized when available
- Amateur radio operators may be called upon for back-up communications at the scene(s), hospitals, clinics, field treatment sites, and other locations as necessary