

Emergency Support Function #8

Eagle County Public Health and Environment and Medical Services Annex

ESF Coordinator:

Eagle County Public Health and Environment

Primary Agencies:

Ambulance Providers

Eagle County Coroner

Hospitals (Vail Health & Valley View)

Mind Springs Health

Support Agencies:

American Red Cross

Eagle County Animal Services

Eagle County Emergency Management

Eagle County Human Resources

Law Enforcement Agencies

Public Works Agencies

Fire Service

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 matter 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

A. Situation

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

B. Capability Assumptions

1. A large-scale emergency situation may significantly increase demand for public health, mental health, medical, and mortuary requirements in the County.
2. The release of toxic or hazardous materials may result in human and environmental contamination.
3. During severe weather conditions, County Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and rescue operations may be temporarily suspended to protect the responders from dangerous conditions.
4. 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.

C. Capacity Assumptions

1. Any large-scale emergency or disaster will result in increased demands on all public health, medical services, and mental health services.
2. Disruption of the County's communication systems will severely impede the timely delivery of emergency medical response services and coordination with facilities.
3. Many injuries, both minor and relatively severe, will be self-treated by the public.
4. 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.
5. 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.
6. When local resources can no longer meet the demand of the situation, regional, state, and federal resources may be requested.
7. An emergency situation involving large areas of the County may adversely affect local resource response capabilities and damage the existing medical infrastructure.
8. Under certain circumstances, it may be necessary to relocate hospital functions and patients including the seriously ill (surge capacity).

9. 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 is required.

Organization

1. 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.

2. Emergency operations for health and mental health services will be an extension of normal agency and facility responsibilities.

3. 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

4. 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

WECMRD Field House

0450 Miller Ranch Road, Edwards, CO 81632
Day: 970-777-5561 / 970-777-5555
After Hours: 970-688-0017

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

6. 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).

7. Special needs populations may be defined as people who have limited knowledge of an event or limited ability to relocate because of a special need. Special needs populations have barriers caused by but are not limited to; language, physical or mental disability, health problem, and age. Agencies that have information about or resources to reach special needs groups are:

- Eagle County Department of Human Services 970-328-8840
- Eagle County Sheriff's Office 970-328-8500
- Mind Springs Health 970-476-0930

13. Information about injured people within Eagle County will be tracked by ambulance providers and medical receiving facilities.

Actions: Initial Actions

Eagle County Public Health

a. 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, mitigate the effects of an emergency or event based on the needs of the community.

b. 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.

c. 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.

d. The Eagle County Public Health and Environment Director will identify the need for mental health services.

e. 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.

f. 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

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

Mental Health

a. Mind Springs Health agency, in conjunction with community resources, will provide support to agencies and people impacted by an emergency situation incident.

Medical Services

a. During emergency medical situations, on-scene incident command functions will be performed by ambulance providers.

b. Medical transport may also be provided by other ambulance providers, fire district personnel, mass transit vehicles such as buses, or aviation medical services.

c. During an Eagle County declared emergency, ambulance licensing requirements may be suspended at the discretion of the Eagle County Policy Group.

d. Vail Health, Valley View Hospital and local emergency clinics, when opened, will receive patients during emergency situations.

e. 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.

f. Vail Health may also provide for secondary decontamination of contaminated patients on hospital grounds, if required but will require assistance from outside agencies.

g. Central Mountain Regional Emergency Trauma Advisory Committee coordinator may be called upon to provide technical assistance to ESF-# 8.

Fatality and Mortuary

a. The Eagle County Coroner will identify and take charge of the proper recovery of the deceased and any human remains. The Coroner's office may be assisted by law enforcement officials and Eagle County Public Health and Environment.

b. 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

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 special needs populations and assure information for special needs populations is distributed.
- Implement plans to coordinate POD sites, pharmaceuticals, State lab services, SNS asset distribution, disease surveillance, etc.
- Coordinate environmental health activities for waste disposal, refuse, food, water, vector/vermin control, and sanitation.
- Provide for the monitoring and evaluation of environmental health hazards and arrange for corrective measures.

Mind Springs Health

- Be the supporting agency for ESF-#8 in matters pertaining to mental health care services and issues.

- Organize, train, and deploy mental health teams for support to emergency operations in the County.
- Provide for 24/7 mental health care services during emergency operations to include critical incident stress debriefings for evacuees in emergency shelters, disaster victims, and all personnel that support emergency operations in Eagle County, including hospital/medical services personnel, and volunteers.
- Provide sites, as available, for temporary mental health hospitals/ clinics for mentally ill patients.

Eagle County 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 and outside agencies and representatives, as appropriate.
- Provide tracking system for injured patients.

Eagle County Coroner

- Develop procedures for the recovery, identification, registration and disposition of the dead. These procedures should include use of professionals and volunteers to sort, document, and identify dead and the establishment of a morgue.
- 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 providers, pathologists, the ARC, dentists, X-ray technicians, county funeral home director, DMORT and others as required.
- Coordinate notification of next of kin, and release 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 outside assistance is required for State and Federal assistance, resource ordering, equipment and supplies (e.g., refrigerated trucks; body bags).
- Provide a tracking system/ procedures for human remains.

Vail Health/Valley View Hospital

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