

EMERGENCY SUPPORT FUNCTION 8 PUBLIC HEALTH AND MEDICAL SERVICES

Primary Agency

Chatham County Health Department

Support Agencies

American Red Cross (ARC)
Chatham Area Transit
Chatham County Coroner's Office
Chatham Emergency Management Agency
Chatham Mosquito Control
Department of Family and Children Services
Georgia Agriculture Department
Hospice Savannah, Inc
Medical Reserve Corp
Memorial Medical Center
Salvation Army
Savannah Chatham Metropolitan Animal Control
Savannah Chatham Metropolitan Dispatch
Southside Fire & EMS
St. Joseph/Candler Hospital
YMCA

I. INTRODUCTION

The emergency support function of health and medical services involves direction and coordination, operations and follow-through during an emergency or disaster.

A. Purpose

This ESF provides operational guidance to those who are assigned to work in this ESF. The mission of this ESF is to provide the mechanism for coordinated County assistance to supplement municipal resources in response to public health and medical care needs for potential or actual disasters and emergencies and/or during a developing potential health and medical situation. Additionally, to delineate procedures for the identification, recording, transportation, sheltering and care of persons requiring special needs in anticipation of, or during an emergency or disaster.

1. ESF 8 will coordinate all resources related to health and medical issues and shall monitor field deployment of medical personnel and resources.
2. ESF 8 will not release medical information on individual patients to the general public to ensure patient confidentiality protection.
3. ESF 8 will prepare reports on casualties/patients to be provided to the

American Red Cross for inclusion in the Disaster Welfare Information System and to ESF 15 for informational releases.

4. ESF 8 will establish clear lines of communication and integration of expectations will be established on a routine basis with the EOC.

B. Scope

This ESF is structured to oversee in identifying and meeting the public health and medical needs, to include emergency medical personnel, facilities, vehicles, equipment and supplies for victims, including people with special needs. The emergency operations necessary for the performance of this function include but are not limited to:

1. Preparedness

a. General

- i. Develop mutual support relationships with professional associations and other private services and volunteer organizations that may assist during an emergency or disaster.
- ii. Participate in exercises and training to validate this annex and supporting SOPs.
- iii. Ensure all ESF 8 personnel integrate NIMS principles in all planning.

b. Medical Care

- i. Coordinate the provision of medical and dental care.
- ii. Identify and coordinate the deployment of doctors, nurses, technicians and other medical personnel to disaster areas.
- iii. Maintain inventory lists of medical supplies, equipment, ambulance services, hospitals, clinics and first aid units.
- iv. Plan for establishment of staging areas for medical personnel, equipment, and supplies.
- v. When emergency facilities are not available, plan for establishment of emergency medical care centers.
- vi. Plan for requesting medical assistance teams and coordinate for their support while operating within the county.
- vii. Assure that health care facilities (i.e. hospitals, nursing homes, youth and adult medical care facilities) develop patient reduction, evacuation, and relocation procedures.

c. Persons with Special Needs

- i. Identify and contact special needs populous and assisted living facilities to coordinate assistance and conduct needs assessments.
- ii. Consider all needs such as persons with physical disabilities, special medical needs, communication disabilities, elderly persons, and non-English speakers in the planning process.

- iii. Develop evacuation and relocation procedures for persons with special needs.
- iv. Develop procedures to monitor health information and records of persons being evacuated or relocated.
- v. Plan for deployment of food services or medical services to persons that may be mobility impaired.
- vi. Establish plans for evacuation and care of special needs in conjunction with state partners.

d. Public Health and Sanitation

- i. Develop procedures to protect the public from communicable diseases and contamination of food, water, and drug supplies (including veterinary drugs).
- ii. Develop procedures to monitor public health information.
- iii. Develop sanitation inspection procedures and protocols to control unsanitary conditions.
- iv. Develop procedures for inspection of individual water supplies.
- v. Develop procedures for identification of disease, vector, and epidemic control.
- vi. Develop emergency immunization procedures.
- vii. Identify laboratory testing facilities.

e. Crisis Counseling

- i. Develop procedures for rapidly providing crisis counseling and mental health/substance abuse assistance to individuals and families, to include organizing and training crisis counseling teams.
- ii. Develop support relationships with government agencies, professional associations, private services, and volunteer organizations to provide mental health and substance abuse assistance during disasters.

2. Response

a. General

- i. Coordinate information releases to the public with the public information officer in the EOC Public Information Group.
- ii. Coordinate with State and Federal agencies as required.
- iii. Maintain records of expenditures and resources used for possible later reimbursement.

b. Medical Care

- i. Coordinate the delivery of health and medical services.
- ii. Arrange for the provision of medical personnel, equipment,

- pharmaceuticals, and supplies.
- iii. Assist the coordination of patient evacuation and relocation.
- iv. Assist with hazardous materials response.

c. Public Health and Sanitation

- i. Manage public health and sanitation services.
- ii. Determine need for health surveillance programs throughout County.
- iii. Issue Public Health notice for clean-up on private property.
- iv. Arrange for the provision of medical personnel, equipment, and supplies as well as special dietary and housing needs.
- v. Notify state of planning limitations regarding evacuation and core individuals with special needs.

d. Crisis Counseling: Coordinate for the provision of mental health and recovery services to individuals, families, and communities.

3. Recovery

a. General

- i. Anticipate and plan for arrival of, and coordination with state ESF 8 personnel in the EOC and the Joint Field Office (JFO).
- ii. Ensure ESF 8 members or their agencies maintain appropriate records of activities and costs incurred during the event.

b. Medical Care

- i. Assist with restoration of essential health and medical care systems.
- ii. Assist with restoration of permanent medical facilities to operational status.
- iii. Assist with restoration of pharmacy services to operational status.
- iv. Assist with emergency pharmacy and laboratory services.

c. Persons with Special Needs

- i. Continue coordination with agencies and organizations caring for people with special needs for return to assisted living facilities or relocation.
- ii. Encourage and assist vulnerable populations to create and keep emergency preparedness and response plans.

d. Public Health and Sanitation

- i. Monitor environmental and epidemiological surveillance.

ii. Continue long-term emergency environmental activities.

e. Crisis Counseling: Coordinate the management of continuous mental health and substance abuse assistance to individuals and families.

4. Mitigation

- a. Support and plan for mitigation measures.
- b. Support requests and directives resulting from the state concerning mitigation and/or re-development activities.
- c. Document matters that may be needed for inclusion in agency or state/federal briefings, situation reports and action plans.

II. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

A. Strategy

Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) will be developed and maintained by the agency or organization that has primary responsibility for this ESF, in cooperation with the EMA. This function will be coordinated with and involve other support agencies and organizations.

The health and medical services function is the primary responsibility of Chatham County Health Department and support for this function is the responsibility of American Red Cross (ARC), Chatham Area Transit, Chatham County Coroner's Office, Chatham Emergency Management Agency, Chatham Mosquito Control, Department of Family and Children Services, Georgia Agriculture Department, Hospice Savannah, Inc, Medical Reserve Corp, Memorial Medical Center, Salvation Army, Savannah Chatham Metropolitan Animal Control, Savannah Chatham Metropolitan Dispatch, Southside Fire & EMS, St. Joseph/Candler Hospital and YMCA

B. Actions

1. Mitigation/Preparedness

- a. Coordinate MOUs with all appropriate agencies and organizations for the provision of services to or on behalf of affected individuals and families.
- b. Plan for the continuity of health and medical services, in conjunction with the EMA, American Red Cross, Community Mental Health agency and Rehabilitation Services office.
- c. Establish a directory of health and medical resources.
- d. Work with the American Red Cross on the identification of volunteers and provision of training.
- e. Maintain a coordinated approach with state public health.
- f. Participate in drills and exercises to evaluate health and medical services response capability.

2. Response/Recovery

- a. Assist the EMA with health and medical resources, services, and personnel upon notification of an emergency or disaster.
- b. Support the American Red Cross with health and medical services during shelter operations, as requested upon opening.
- c. Secure, in conjunction with the EMA, American Red Cross, other agencies and organizations, and the private sector, mental health, rehabilitation assistance, and other services, when necessary.
- d. Assist EMA, American Red Cross, other community agencies and organizations, and the private sector with issues affecting people who have special needs.
- e. Provide informational support to emergency medical services;
- f. Channel all relevant health and medical information for public release through the EMA and state public health.
- g. Continue service assistance throughout reentry and until all health and medical issues are resolved.
- h. Maintain records of expenditures and document resources utilized during recovery.

III. RESPONSIBILITIES

A. Chatham County Health Department

1. Coordinate with each Support Agency through at least quarterly meetings to ensure planning functions are carried out to support this ESF.
2. Provide leadership in directing, coordinating and integrating the overall county efforts to provide medical and public health assistance to the affected area
3. Conduct initial assessment of health and medical needs.
4. Determine need for additional personnel and resources and initiate request mutual aid to EOC.
5. Coordinate and direct the activation and deployment of voluntary resources of health/medical personnel, supplies and equipment.
6. Establish, as needed, active and passive surveillance systems for the protection of public health.
7. Coordinate response for:
 - a. Hazardous materials
 - b. Safety of food and drugs
 - c. Radiological hazards
 - d. Mental health problems victims
 - e. Vector control

8. Potable water/wastewater/solid waste
9. Victim identification/mortuary services
10. Continuously acquire and assess information about the situation; continue to identify the nature and extent of health and medical problems and establish appropriate monitoring and surveillance of the situation to obtain valid ongoing information.
11. Coordinate release of appropriate and timely public health information with ESF #15 to include boil water orders, safety issues, etc. The Chatham County Health Department Director has the authority to warn the public of contaminated water supplies. All informational releases will be through the lead PIO in coordination with the command group.
12. Establish a protocol for prioritizing response activities.
13. Coordinate activities with other ESFs.
14. Maintain records of expenditures and document resources utilized during response and recovery efforts.
15. Develop appropriate Plans, Procedures, Mutual Aid Agreements, Checklists, Go-Kits, and other supporting documentation as needed to facilitate execution of the Agency's responsibilities to this ESF.
16. Participate in drills, exercises, and other preparedness events to measure the Agency's readiness to support this ESF.
17. Coordinate with other ESF Agencies through regularly scheduled ESF meetings to ensure planning functions are carried out to support this ESF.
18. Ensure the presence of resources (human and physical) is in sufficient numbers to support the Agency's responsibilities to this ESF.
19. Identify Agency staff representatives supporting this ESF and other operational practices during emergency and disaster operations.
20. Prepare to support the Emergency Operations Center as necessary.
21. Ensure Agency Staff maintain NIMS compliance and report compliance measurements annually when requested.
22. Annually evaluate Critical Workforce Staffing needs and report sheltering and equipment staging locations when requested.
23. Document disaster related activities related to this ESF.
24. Conduct recovery and restoration task in coordination with the County EOC/RCC and federal assistance program guidelines
25. Coordinate pertinent disaster recovery information with the County Joint Information Center (JIC).
26. Identify damages and losses and prepare an action plan for recovery activities.
27. Prepare to collect and maintain records of expenditures and document resources utilized during response and recovery operations.

B. American Red Cross (ARC)

1. Provide supplementary medical, nursing aid, and other health services upon request and within capabilities

2. Establish procedures whereby names of victims will be obtained for health and welfare communications by appropriate agencies and immediate family
3. Assist victims with replacement of personal medical supplies, glasses, dentures, hearing aids, wheelchairs, medications, etc.
4. Support mental health counseling as available
5. Develop appropriate Plans, Procedures, Mutual Aid Agreements, Checklists, Go-Kits, and other supporting documentation as needed to facilitate execution of the Agency's responsibilities to this ESF.
6. Participate in drills, exercises, and other preparedness events to measure the Agency's readiness to support this ESF.
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17. Prepare to collect and maintain records of expenditures and document resources utilized during response and recovery operations.

C. Chatham Area Transit

1. Provide transportation support in coordination with Special Need Evacuation
2. Develop appropriate Plans, Procedures, Mutual Aid Agreements, Checklists, Go-Kits, and other supporting documentation as needed to facilitate execution of the Agency's responsibilities to this ESF.
3. Participate in drills, exercises, and other preparedness events to measure the Agency's readiness to support this ESF.
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6. Identify Agency staff representatives supporting this ESF and other operational practices during emergency and disaster operations.
7. Prepare to support the Emergency Operations Center as necessary.
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14. Prepare to collect and maintain records of expenditures and document resources utilized during response and recovery operations.

D. Chatham County Coroner's Office

1. Coordinate mortuary service operations, to include setting up and operating a temporary morgue
2. Develop appropriate Plans, Procedures, Mutual Aid Agreements, Checklists, Go-Kits, and other supporting documentation as needed to facilitate execution of the Agency's responsibilities to this ESF.
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E. Chatham Emergency Management Agency

1. Develop appropriate Plans, Procedures, Mutual Aid Agreements, Checklists, Go-Kits, and other supporting documentation as needed to facilitate execution of the Agency's responsibilities to this ESF.
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8. Annually evaluate Critical Workforce Staffing needs and report sheltering and equipment staging locations when requested.
9. Document disaster related activities related to this ESF.
10. Conduct recovery and restoration task in coordination with the County EOC/RCC and federal assistance program guidelines
11. Coordinate pertinent disaster recovery information with the County Joint Information Center (JIC).
12. Identify damages and losses and prepare an action plan for recovery activities.
13. Prepare to collect and maintain records of expenditures and document resources utilized during response and recovery operations.

F. Chatham Mosquito Control

1. Provide supplementary medical, nursing aid, and other health services upon request and within capabilities
2. Establish procedures whereby names of victims will be obtained for health and welfare communications by appropriate agencies and immediate family
3. Assist victims with replacement of personal medical supplies, glasses, dentures, hearing aids, wheelchairs, medications, etc.
4. Support mental health counseling as available
5. Develop appropriate Plans, Procedures, Mutual Aid Agreements, Checklists, Go-Kits, and other supporting documentation as needed to facilitate execution of the Agency's responsibilities to this ESF.
6. Participate in drills, exercises, and other preparedness events to measure the Agency's readiness to support this ESF.
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13. Document disaster related activities related to this ESF.
14. Conduct recovery and restoration task in coordination with the County EOC/RCC and federal assistance program guidelines
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16. Identify damages and losses and prepare an action plan for recovery activities.
17. Prepare to collect and maintain records of expenditures and document resources utilized during response and recovery operations.

G. Department of Family and Children Services

1. Establish mental health crisis counseling centers
2. Develop appropriate Plans, Procedures, Mutual Aid Agreements, Checklists, Go-Kits, and other supporting documentation as needed to facilitate execution of the Agency's responsibilities to this ESF.
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14. Prepare to collect and maintain records of expenditures and document resources utilized during response and recovery operations.

H. Georgia Agriculture Department

1. Coordinate inspections of venues that fall under Department of Agriculture responsibilities such as grocery stores, etc.
2. Assist in damage assessment in matters related to farmland,

- commodities, livestock, and structures
3. Develop appropriate Plans, Procedures, Mutual Aid Agreements, Checklists, Go-Kits, and other supporting documentation as needed to facilitate execution of the Agency's responsibilities to this ESF.
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 14. Identify damages and losses and prepare an action plan for recovery activities.
 15. Prepare to collect and maintain records of expenditures and document resources utilized during response and recovery operations

I. Hospice Savannah, Inc

1. Provide evacuation support to clients
2. Coordinate any resource needs with the EOC
3. Develop appropriate Plans, Procedures, Mutual Aid Agreements, Checklists, Go-Kits, and other supporting documentation as needed to facilitate execution of the Agency's responsibilities to this ESF.
4. Participate in drills, exercises, and other preparedness events to measure the Agency's readiness to support this ESF.
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10. Annually evaluate Critical Workforce Staffing needs and report sheltering and equipment staging locations when requested.
11. Document disaster related activities related to this ESF.
12. Conduct recovery and restoration task in coordination with the County EOC/RCC and federal assistance program guidelines
13. Coordinate pertinent disaster recovery information with the County Joint Information Center (JIC).
14. Identify damages and losses and prepare an action plan for recovery activities.
15. Prepare to collect and maintain records of expenditures and document resources utilized during response and recovery operations.

J. Medical Reserve Corp

1. Support medical services, as per agency protocols
2. Maintain list of current volunteers with credentials
3. Develop appropriate Plans, Procedures, Mutual Aid Agreements, Checklists, Go-Kits, and other supporting documentation as needed to facilitate execution of the Agency's responsibilities to this ESF.
4. Participate in drills, exercises, and other preparedness events to measure the Agency's readiness to support this ESF.
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12. Conduct recovery and restoration task in coordination with the County EOC/RCC and federal assistance program guidelines
13. Coordinate pertinent disaster recovery information with the County Joint Information Center (JIC).
14. Identify damages and losses and prepare an action plan for recovery activities.
15. Prepare to collect and maintain records of expenditures and document resources utilized during response and recovery operations.

K. Memorial Medical Center

1. Coordinate the evacuation of patients from the disaster area as requested
2. Coordinate the transport of victims to medical facilities outside the county in accordance with approved trauma transport protocols.
3. Coordinate for Critical Incident Stress Debriefing for emergency responders.
4. Re-supply field units with consumable medical supplies, as necessary
5. Provide assessments of hospital capabilities and damages to the EOC
6. Mobilize hospital staff, as available and necessary, to provide teams to respond to field treatment and triage sites
7. Coordinate with EMS, other hospitals, and other medical response personnel to ensure that casualties are transported to appropriate medical facility
8. If necessary, coordinate with local emergency responders to isolate and decontaminate incoming patients to avoid spread of agents to other patients and staff
9. Establish and staff a reception area and support center for relatives and friends of disaster victims
10. Provide patient identification information to the American Red Cross
11. Establish mental health crisis counseling centers
12. Develop appropriate Plans, Procedures, Mutual Aid Agreements, Checklists, Go-Kits, and other supporting documentation as needed to facilitate execution of the Agency's responsibilities to this ESF.
13. Participate in drills, exercises, and other preparedness events to measure the Agency's readiness to support this ESF.
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19. Annually evaluate Critical Workforce Staffing needs and report sheltering and equipment staging locations when requested.
20. Document disaster related activities related to this ESF.
21. Conduct recovery and restoration task in coordination with the County EOC/RCC and federal assistance program guidelines
22. Coordinate pertinent disaster recovery information with the County Joint Information Center (JIC).
23. Identify damages and losses and prepare an action plan for recovery activities.
24. Prepare to collect and maintain records of expenditures and document resources utilized during response and recovery operations.

L. Salvation Army

1. Support mental health services
2. Develop appropriate Plans, Procedures, Mutual Aid Agreements, Checklists, Go-Kits, and other supporting documentation as needed to facilitate execution of the Agency's responsibilities to this ESF.
3. Participate in drills, exercises, and other preparedness events to measure the Agency's readiness to support this ESF.
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9. Annually evaluate Critical Workforce Staffing needs and report sheltering and equipment staging locations when requested.
10. Document disaster related activities related to this ESF.
11. Conduct recovery and restoration task in coordination with the County EOC/RCC and federal assistance program guidelines
12. Coordinate pertinent disaster recovery information with the County' Joint Information Center (JIC).
13. Identify damages and losses and prepare an action plan for recovery activities.
14. Prepare to collect and maintain records of expenditures and document resources utilized during response and recovery operations.

M. Savannah Chatham Metropolitan Animal Control

1. Support pet evacuation for special need patients
2. Develop protocol for animal evacuation for special need patients
3. Develop reunification plan for special needs clients and pets
4. Develop appropriate Plans, Procedures, Mutual Aid Agreements, Checklists, Go-Kits, and other supporting documentation as needed to facilitate execution of the Agency's responsibilities to this ESF.
5. Participate in drills, exercises, and other preparedness events to measure the Agency's readiness to support this ESF.
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15. Identify damages and losses and prepare an action plan for recovery activities.
16. Prepare to collect and maintain records of expenditures and document resources utilized during response and recovery operations

N. Savannah Chatham Metropolitan Dispatch

1. Ensure communication with medical transports
2. Develop appropriate Plans, Procedures, Mutual Aid Agreements, Checklists, Go-Kits, and other supporting documentation as needed to facilitate execution of the Agency's responsibilities to this ESF.
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13. Identify damages and losses and prepare an action plan for recovery activities.

14. Prepare to collect and maintain records of expenditures and document resources utilized during response and recovery operations

O. Southside Fire & EMS

1. Coordinate the evacuation of patients from the disaster area
2. Coordinate the transport of patients to medical facilities outside the county in accordance with approved trauma transport protocols
3. Provide the coordination of the following resources:
 - ALS/BLS
 - EMTS
 - Paramedics
 - Emergency medical equipment procurement
 - Air evacuation resources
4. Coordinate critical incident stress debriefing for emergency responders
5. Coordinate both public and private service field responses
6. Develop appropriate Plans, Procedures, Mutual Aid Agreements, Checklists, Go-Kits, and other supporting documentation as needed to facilitate execution of the Agency's responsibilities to this ESF.
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17. Identify damages and losses and prepare an action plan for recovery activities.
18. Prepare to collect and maintain records of expenditures and document resources utilized during response and recovery operations

P. St. Joseph/Candler Hospital

1. Coordinate the evacuation of patients from the disaster area as requested
2. Coordinate the transport of victims to medical facilities outside the county in accordance with approved trauma transport protocols.
3. Coordinate for Critical Incident Stress Debriefing for emergency responders.
4. Re-supply field units with consumable medical supplies, as necessary
5. Provide assessments of hospital capabilities and damages to the EOC
6. Mobilize hospital staff, as available and necessary, to provide teams to respond to field treatment and triage sites
7. Coordinate with EMS, other hospitals, and other medical response personnel to ensure that casualties are transported to appropriate medical facility
8. If necessary, coordinate with local emergency responders to isolate and decontaminate incoming patients to avoid spread of agents to other patients and staff
9. Establish and staff a reception area and support center for relatives and friends of disaster victims
10. Provide patient identification information to the American Red Cross
11. Establish mental health crisis counseling centers
12. Develop appropriate Plans, Procedures, Mutual Aid Agreements, Checklists, Go-Kits, and other supporting documentation as needed to facilitate execution of the Agency's responsibilities to this ESF.
13. Participate in drills, exercises, and other preparedness events to measure the Agency's readiness to support this ESF.
14. Coordinate with other ESF Agencies through regularly scheduled ESF meetings to ensure planning functions are carried out to support this ESF.
15. Ensure the presence of resources (human and physical) is in sufficient numbers to support the Agency's responsibilities to this ESF.
16. Identify Agency staff representatives supporting this ESF and other operational practices during emergency and disaster operations.
17. Prepare to support the Emergency Operations Center as necessary.
18. Ensure Agency Staff maintain NIMS compliance and report compliance measurements annually when requested.
19. Annually evaluate Critical Workforce Staffing needs and report sheltering and equipment staging locations when requested.
20. Document disaster related activities related to this ESF.
21. Conduct recovery and restoration task in coordination with the County EOC/RCC and federal assistance program guidelines
22. Coordinate pertinent disaster recovery information with the County Joint Information Center (JIC).
23. Identify damages and losses and prepare an action plan for recovery activities.
24. Prepare to collect and maintain records of expenditures and document resources utilized during response and recovery operations.

Q. YMCA

1. Provide facility usage, as per the ST3C plan
2. Develop appropriate Plans, Procedures, Mutual Aid Agreements, Checklists, Go-Kits, and other supporting documentation as needed to facilitate execution of the Agency's responsibilities to this ESF.
3. Participate in drills, exercises, and other preparedness events to measure the Agency's readiness to support this ESF.
4. Coordinate with other ESF Agencies through regularly scheduled ESF meetings to ensure planning functions are carried out to support this ESF.

5. Ensure the presence of resources (human and physical) is in sufficient numbers to support the Agency's responsibilities to this ESF.
6. Identify Agency staff representatives supporting this ESF and other operational practices during emergency and disaster operations.
7. Prepare to support the Emergency Operations Center as necessary.
8. Ensure Agency Staff maintain NIMS compliance and report compliance measurements annually when requested.
9. Annually evaluate Critical Workforce Staffing needs and report sheltering and equipment staging locations when requested.
10. Document disaster related activities related to this ESF.
11. Conduct recovery and restoration task in coordination with the County EOC/RCC and federal assistance program guidelines
12. Coordinate pertinent disaster recovery information with the County Joint Information Center (JIC).
13. Identify damages and losses and prepare an action plan for recovery activities.
14. Prepare to collect and maintain records of expenditures and document resources utilized during response and recovery operations.

IV. COUNTY-SPECIFIC INFORMATION

No County-specific information provided.