Emergency Support Function #8 – Public Health and Medical Services

Primary Agency
Radford University Student Health Services
Health Department

Secondary/Support Agencies
Department of Social Services
Department of Environmental Services
Water /Waste Water Director
Community Services Board
Fire and EMS Departments
Radford University and Radford City Police
Hospital Systems
American Red Cross
Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
Virginia Department of Health
Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

Introduction

Purpose:
Emergency Support Function (ESF) #8 – Health and Medical provides for coordinated medical, public health, mental health, and emergency medical services to save lives in the time of an emergency. These health and medical needs are to include veterinary and/or animal health issues when appropriate.

Scope:
ESF #8 meets public health and medical needs of victims affected by an incident. This support is categorized in the following way:

- Assessment of public health/medical needs;
- Public health surveillance;
- Medical care personnel and medical equipment and supplies; and
- Detect mental health issues and prevent harmful stress levels in the general public.

Policies:
- The Health Department coordinates all ESF #8 response actions using its own internal policies and procedures;
- Each ESF #8 organization is responsible for managing its respective response assets after receiving coordinating instructions;
The Joint Information Center (JIC see Basic Plan pg 26) is authorized to release general medical and public health response information to the public after consultation with the Health Department.

If Joint Information Center (JIC) is not employed, the Public Information Officer for the Health Department is authorized to release general medical and public health response information to the public after consultation with the Health Department.

The Health Department determines the appropriateness of all requests for public health and medical information; and

The Health Department is responsible for consulting with and organizing public health and subject matter experts as needed.

**Concept of Operations**

**General:**

During a threatened or actual emergency, the Director of Student Health or his/her designated representative will direct coordinated health, medical, and rescue services from the Emergency Operations Center (EOC). Coordination will be effected with adjacent jurisdictions as required.

Should a disaster substantially overwhelm local medical and rescue resources, support and assistance will be requested from medical institutions and emergency medical service (EMS) providers in neighboring jurisdictions. The crisis augmentation of trained health and medical volunteers may also be appropriate. Essential public health services, such as food and water inspections, will be provided by the Health Department as augmented by state-level resources and manpower. Public health advisories will be issued only after coordination with the EOC.

During an evacuation in which a large number of evacuees are sheltered in the shelter center, local EMS providers and/or the local Health Department will set up and staff an emergency medical aid station in the shelter center. The Police and or Sheriff's Department will provide security and the Health Department will monitor food safety and shelter sanitation and provide disease surveillance and 'contact' investigations if warranted. The Community Services Board will provide mental health services.

In disasters involving a large number of casualties, the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME) may request assistance from local funeral directors. The OCME must identify the deceased before they are released to funeral homes. A large building may need to be designated to serve as a temporary morgue. The Virginia Funeral Directors Association will provide equipment, supplies, and manpower as needed for such a localized disaster (See Tab 4).

**Organization:**

A rescue/emergency medical service representative will be assigned, as determined by the Coordinator of Emergency Management or his/her designee, to the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) in order to coordinate the rescue squad response. The rescue squad representative will be a part of the EOC staff and will assist with the overall
direction and control of emergency operations. All of the emergency medical service vehicles are dispatched through their squad station or through the City Communications Center.

The locality is also served by Medflight and Lifeguard MEDEVAC services operating out of Roanoke Hospital (See Tabs 1 and 3).

Because of their speed, vertical flight, and minimal landing requirements, MEDEVAC helicopters are able to respond quickly to emergency situations and provide rapid evacuation of seriously injured and, in some cases, critically ill patients to specialty care centers (e.g., trauma centers). Each MEDEVAC helicopter consists of a specialty pilot and crew in addition to the latest life support and communications equipment.

There are 2 EMS providers serving the university, which will provide emergency medical transportation. Local funeral homes will assist the Health Department and the Chief Medical Examiner's Office in disasters involving mass casualties.

The following organizations provide emergency health services to the university:
Health Department: New River Valley Health District
Emergency Medical Services Providers (EMS) RUEMS (First Responder non transport), Carillion Ambulance, Lifeline Ambulance Services
Radford University Student Health Services
Hospital: New River Valley Medical Center

**Actions**

- Designate an individual to coordinate medical, health, and rescue services;
- Develop and maintain procedures for providing a coordinated response;
- Maintain a roster of key officials in each medical support area.
- Establish a working relationship and review emergency roles with the local hospital and emergency medical services providers;
- Activate the agency emergency response plan;
- Implement mutual aid agreements as necessary;
- The Student Health representative will report to the Emergency Operations Center;
- Coordinate medical, public health, and mental health services;
- Provide laboratory services to support emergency public health protection measures;
- Obtain crisis augmentation of health/medical personnel (e.g., physicians, nurse practitioners, laboratory technicians, pharmacists, and other trained volunteers) and supplies as needed;
- Maintain records and monitor the status of persons injured during the emergency;
- Assist the Office of Chief Medical Examiner's in the identification and disposition of the deceased;
- Consolidate and submit a record of disaster-related expenses incurred by Health Department personnel; and
- Assist with the damage assessment of water and sewage facilities, as required.

Responsibilities
- Provide personnel, equipment, supplies and other resources necessary to coordinate plans and programs for public health activities during an incident;
- Inspect and advise on general food handling and sanitation matters;
- Establish communications with ESF # 5 to report and receive assessments and status information;
- Coordinate through the Public Information Officer dissemination of disaster related public health information to the public;
- Provide preventive health services;
- Coordinate with hospitals and other health providers on response to health needs;
- Provide investigation, surveillance, and take measures for containments of harmful health effects;
- Provide coordination of laboratory services;
- Coordinate with hospital medical control on patient care issues and operations;
- Coordinate transportation of the sick and injured with area hospitals or receiving facilities and other EMS agencies;
- Coordinate behavioral health activities among response agencies;
- Assess behavioral health needs following an incident, considering both the immediate and cumulative stress resulting from the incident.
- Coordinate through the Public Information Officer the dissemination of public education on critical incident stress and stress management techniques;
- Provide outreach to serve identified behavioral health needs;
- Coordinate with ESF # 6 to identify shelter occupants that may require assistance;
- Provide water control assistance;
- Local/Regional hospitals will provide medical care for those injured or ill;
- Assist in expanding medical and mortuary services to other facilities, if required; and
- Identify deceased with assistance from local law enforcement and Virginia State Police.
HEALTH AND MEDICAL RESOURCES

New River Valley Medical Center

1. Number of Physicians - ___active; ___ with privilege, including the ___ Consulting active
2. Number of RNs - ____ Part Time - ___
3. Number of LPNs - ____ Part Time - ___
4. Number of Nursing Assistants - ____ Part Time - ___
5. Number of Nurse Practitioners - ___
6. Number of Physicians Assistants - ___

Montgomery Regional Hospital

1. Number of Physicians - ___ staff; ___ interns
2. Number of RNs - ____
3. Number of LPNs - ____
4. Number of Nursing Assistants - ____

Pulaski Community Hospital

1. Number of Physicians - ___
2. Number of RNs - ____
3. Number LPNs - ____
4. Number of Nursing Assistants - ____

County Health Department

Environmental Health Supervisor:
Sanitarians:
Nursing Supervisor:
Public Health Nurses:
Office Support Supervisors (Clerical):
MEDEVAC

In the event that MEDEVAC transport is required, this locality uses service from __Lifeguard_________, which is approximately ___15___ minutes from the requesting hospital.

Tab 2 to Emergency Support Function #8

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES PROVIDERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Provider</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Number of Trucks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Radford University Emergency Medical Service</td>
<td>On Campus only (non transport)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carillion New River Valley</td>
<td>City of Radford</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lifeline Ambulance Service</td>
<td>Christiansburg, VA Regional Private Service</td>
<td>3 plus</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA**  
**EMERGENCY MEDEVAC SERVICES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HELICOPTER MEDEVAC</th>
<th>ALERT</th>
<th>NON-EMERGENCY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ARIES – (Fairfax County Police)</td>
<td>(703) 830-3015</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EAGLE – 182 – (U.S. Park PD, D.C.)</td>
<td>(202) 426-6969</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LIFEGUARD 10 (Carilion Health Systems)</td>
<td>(540) 342-7503</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MEDEVAC (Ft. Belvoir)</td>
<td>(703) 664-4401</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MED-FLIGHT-1 (VSP Chesterfield)</td>
<td>(804) 674-2089</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MED-FLIGHT – 2 (VSP Abingdon)</td>
<td>(276) 466-3188</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MEDICAL AIR CARE (INOVA-Fairfax)</td>
<td>(703) 698-2930</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MED STAR (Com., D.C.)</td>
<td>(202) 877-7234</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NIGHTINGALE (Norfolk General)</td>
<td>(757) 628-2435</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>986th MEDEVAC (VNG – Richmond)</td>
<td>(804) 222-4580</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PEGASUS (UVA Charlottesville)</td>
<td>(434) 924-9287</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Mission:

To develop an efficient and effective management response system in mass fatality disaster situations to facilitate the preparation, processing, and release of deceased human remains to the next of kin or family representative.

Concept of Operations:

In the event of a mass fatality disaster situation, the State EOC will contact the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME), who will notify the Virginia Funeral Directors Association (VFDA). Once contacted by the OCME, the VFDA will activate the Mortuary Response Plan and response teams. The VFDA Response Teams will operate under the direction of the District Medical Examiner of the district in which the incident occurred.

In order to ensure a prompt and professional response, the Virginia Funeral Directors Association maintains a resource manual of needed supplies, equipment, and vehicles. If additional resources are necessary to effectively respond to a disaster, the VFDA Executive Director has emergency purchasing authority up to a specified limit. The VFDA also has a specially equipped disaster trailer to assist the State Medical Examiner's Office and other funeral directors in the state with disaster field response.

Organization:

The Virginia Funeral Directors Association (VFDA) is responsible for the statewide coordination of the mortuary activities in the state. Each district has a response team comprised of members who have completed training in the VFDA-approved program that qualifies them as certified disaster coordinators. The VFDA response teams will provide support in recovery, evacuation, and identification of the remains.

The OCME is by law responsible for the deceased. Virginia is divided into four medical examiner districts that include the Northern Virginia District based in Fairfax, the Western District based in Roanoke, the Central District based in Richmond, and the Tidewater District based in Norfolk.