

## **Emergency Support Function #8 – Public Health and Medical Services Annex**

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### **ESF Coordinator:**

Department of Health and Human Services

### **Primary Agency:**

Department of Health and Human Services

### **Support Agencies:**

Department of Agriculture  
Department of Commerce  
Department of Defense  
Department of Energy  
Department of Homeland Security  
Department of the Interior  
Department of Justice  
Department of Labor  
Department of State  
Department of Transportation  
Department of Veterans Affairs  
Environmental Protection Agency  
General Services Administration  
U.S. Agency for International Development  
U.S. Postal Service  
American Red Cross

## **INTRODUCTION**

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### **Purpose**

Emergency Support Function (ESF) #8 – Public Health and Medical Services provides the mechanism for Federal assistance to supplement local, state, tribal, territorial, and insular area resources in response to a disaster, emergency, or incident that may lead to a public health, medical, behavioral, or human service emergency, including those that have international implications.

### **Scope**

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ESF #8 provides planning and coordination of Federal public health, healthcare delivery, and emergency response systems to minimize and/or prevent health emergencies from occurring; detect and characterize health incidents; provide medical care and human services to those affected; reduce the public health and human service effects on the community; and enhance community resiliency to respond to a disaster. These actions are informed through integrated biosurveillance capability, assessment of health and human service needs, and maintenance of the safety and security of medical products, as well as the safety and defense of food and agricultural products under the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) regulatory authority.

Public health and medical services (e.g., patient movement, patient care, and behavioral healthcare) and support to human services (e.g., addressing individuals with disabilities and others with access and functional needs) are delivered through surge capabilities that augment public health, medical, behavioral, and veterinary functions with health professionals, pharmaceuticals to include distribution and delivery of medical countermeasures, equipment and supplies, and technical assistance. These services are provided to mitigate the effects of acute and longer-term threats to the health of the population and maintain the health and safety of responders. ESF #8 disseminates public health information on protective actions related to exposure to health threats or environmental threats (e.g., to potable water and food safety).

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Jurisdictional medico-legal authorities are assisted in carrying out their fatality management responsibilities by providing specialized teams and equipment to conduct victim identification, grief counseling and consultation, and reunification of remains and effects to authorized person(s). ESF #8 may continue providing services and ensure a smooth transition to recovery while the community rebuilds their capability and assumes administrative and operational responsibility for services. ESF #8 provides supplemental assistance to local, state, tribal, territorial, and insular area governments in the following core functional areas:

- Assessment of public health/medical needs
- Health surveillance
- Medical surge
- Health/medical/veterinary equipment and supplies
- Patient movement
- Patient care
- Safety and security of drugs, biologics, and medical devices
- Blood and tissues
- Food safety and defense
- Agriculture safety and security
- All-hazards public health and medical consultation, technical assistance, and support
- Behavioral healthcare
- Public health and medical information
- Vector control
- Guidance on potable water/wastewater and solid waste disposal
- Mass fatality management, victim identification, and decontaminating remains
- Veterinary medical support.

### **RELATIONSHIP TO THE WHOLE COMMUNITY**

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This section describes how ESF #8 relates to other elements of the public.

#### **Local, State, Tribal, Territorial, and Insular Area Governments**

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- While local, state, tribal, territorial, and insular area officials retain primary responsibility for meeting public health and medical needs, ESF #8 can deploy public health and medical assets to assist as needed.

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- In a major public health or medical emergency, demand for public health and medical resources may exceed local, state, tribal, territorial, and insular area capability. State, territorial, tribal, or insular area jurisdictions may request assistance through the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) or may request Federal assistance, which may be executed with or without a Stafford Act declaration. When possible, a recognized spokesperson from the affected public health and medical community (local, state, tribal, territorial, or insular area) delivers relevant health messages.

### Private Sector/Nongovernmental Organizations

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- The vast majority of public health and medical activities and services are provided by the private healthcare sector. ESF #8 augments the support provided by the private healthcare sector when requested by local, state, tribal, territorial, or insular area governments.
- ESF #8 organizations works closely with the private sector (e.g., regulated industries, academic institutions, trade organizations, and advocacy groups), volunteer organizations (e.g., faith-based and neighborhood partnerships), and local and state agencies to coordinate ESF #8 response resources. ESF #8 organizations recognize that leveraging resources from these organizations and individuals with shared interests allows ESF #8 to accomplish its mission in ways that are the least burdensome and most beneficial to the American public and that enhance the resilience of healthcare systems to deliver coordinated and effective care during public health emergencies and mass casualty events.
- Nongovernmental organizations, including community-based organizations, are an important partner in recruiting and supporting health professional volunteers and providing medical and counseling services to victims and their families.

### Federal Government

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Specific information on Federal Government actions is described in the following sections.

## CORE CAPABILITIES AND ACTIONS

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### ESF Roles Aligned to Core Capabilities

The following table lists the Response core capabilities that ESF #8 most directly supports along with the related ESF #8 actions. Though not listed in the table, all ESFs, including ESF #8, support the core capabilities of Planning and Operational Coordination.

Core Capability	ESF #8 – Public Health and Medical Services
Public Information and Warning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Coordinates the Federal public health and medical messaging with jurisdictional officials.</li><li>• Continuously acquires and assesses information on the incident. Sources of information may include state incident response authorities; officials of the responsible jurisdiction in charge of the disaster scene; and ESF #8 support departments, agencies, and organizations.</li></ul>

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Core Capability	ESF #8 – Public Health and Medical Services
<b>Public Information and Warning (continued)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provides public health, behavioral health, disease, and injury prevention information that can be transmitted to members of the general public and responders who are located in or near affected areas in languages and formats that are understandable to individuals with limited English proficiency and individuals with disabilities and others with access and functional needs.</li> <li>• Supports a Joint Information Center (JIC) in the release of general medical and public health response information to the public.</li> </ul>
<b>Critical Transportation</b>	<b>Patient Movement:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transports seriously ill or injured patients and medical needs populations from casualty collection points in the impacted area to designated reception facilities.</li> <li>• Coordinates the Federal response in support of emergency triage and pre-hospital treatment, patient tracking, distribution, and patient return. This effort is coordinated with Federal and local, state, tribal, territorial, and insular area emergency medical services officials.</li> <li>• Provides support for evacuating seriously ill or injured patients through the National Disaster Medical System (NDMS), an interagency partnership between the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), the Department of Defense (DOD), and the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), via the National Ambulance Contract. Support may include providing transportation assets, operating and staffing NDMS patient collection points (e.g., aerial ports of embarkation (APOEs)), and establishing Federal Coordinating Centers (FCCs) that conduct patient reception at ports of debarkation (e.g., aerial ports of debarkation). Federal support may also include processing and tracking patient movement from collection points to their final destination reception facilities. (Note: DOD is responsible for regulating and tracking patients transported on DOD assets to appropriate treatment facilities (e.g., NDMS hospitals).</li> </ul>
<b>Environmental Response/Health and Safety</b>	<p>Supports the Worker Safety and Health Support Annex, provides technical assistance, and conducts exposure assessments and risk management to control hazards for response workers and the public.</p>
<b>Fatality Management Services</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assists jurisdictional medico-legal authorities and law enforcement agencies in the tracking and documenting of human remains and associated personal effects; reducing the hazard presented by chemically, biologically, or radiologically contaminated human remains (when indicated and possible); establishing temporary morgue facilities; determining the cause and manner of death; collecting ante mortem data in a compassionate and culturally competent fashion from authorized individuals; performing postmortem data collection and documentation; identifying human remains using scientific means (e.g., dental, pathology, anthropology, fingerprints, and, as indicated, DNA samples); and preparing, processing, and returning human remains and personal effects to the authorized person(s) when possible; and providing technical assistance and consultation on fatality management and mortuary affairs. In the event that caskets are displaced, ESF #8 assists in identifying the human remains, recasketing, and reburial in public cemeteries.</li> <li>• May provide support to families of victims during the victim identification mortuary process.</li> </ul>

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Core Capability	ESF #8 – Public Health and Medical Services
<p><b>Mass Care Services</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provides technical expertise and guidance on the public health issues of the medical needs population.</li> <li>• Assists with applications for Federal benefits sponsored by HHS and ensures continuity of assistance services in affected states and in states hosting relocated populations.</li> <li>• Provides support for the provision of case management and advocacy services.</li> <li>• Provides support for human and/or veterinary mass care sheltering as resources are available.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Public and Private Services and Resources</b></p>	<p><b>Blood and Tissues</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitors and ensures the safety, availability, and logistical requirements of blood and tissues. This includes the ability of the existing supply chain resources to meet the manufacturing, testing, storage, and distribution of these products.</li> </ul> <p><b>Food Safety, Security, and Defense</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In coordination with ESF #11, may task HHS components and request assistance from other ESF #8 partner organizations to ensure the safety, security, and defense of federally regulated foods.</li> </ul> <p><b>Agriculture Safety and Security</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In coordination with ESF #11, may task ESF #8 components to ensure the health, safety, and security of food-producing animals, animal feed, and therapeutics. ESF #8 may also provide veterinary assistance to ESF #11. Support will include the amelioration of zoonotic disease and caring for research animals where ESF #11 does not have the requisite expertise to render appropriate assistance.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Public Health and Medical Services</b></p>	<p><b>Health, Medical, and Veterinary Equipment and Supplies</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Arranges for the procurement and transportation of equipment, supplies, diagnostic supplies, radiation detecting devices, and countermeasures, including assets from the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS), in support of immediate public health, medical and veterinary response operations.</li> </ul> <p><b>Health Surveillance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use existing all-hazards surveillance systems to monitor the health of the general and medical needs population, as well as that of response workers, and identify emerging trends related to the disaster; carries out field studies and investigations; monitors injury and disease patterns and potential disease outbreaks, behavioral health concerns, and blood and tissue supply levels; and provides technical assistance and consultations on disease and injury prevention and precautions. Provides support to laboratory diagnostics.</li> </ul> <p><b>Medical Surge</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provides support for triage, patient treatment, and patient movement.</li> <li>• Provides clinical public health and medical care specialists from the NDMS, U.S. Public Health Service, VA, and DOD to fill local, state, tribal, territorial, and insular area health professional needs.</li> <li>• Engages civilian volunteers, through the Emergency System for Advance Registration of Volunteer Health Professionals, volunteer Federal employees and the Medical Reserve Corps to fill local, state, tribal, territorial, and insular area health professional needs.</li> </ul>

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Core Capability	ESF #8 – Public Health and Medical Services
<p><b>Public Health and Medical Services (continued)</b></p>	<p><b>Patient Care</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provides resources to support pre-hospital triage and treatment, inpatient hospital care, outpatient services, behavioral healthcare, medical-needs sheltering, pharmacy services, and dental care to victims or those who suffer from chronic illnesses.</li> <li>• Assists with isolation and quarantine measures and with point of distribution operations (mass prophylaxis and vaccination).</li> <li>• Ensures appropriate patient confidentiality is maintained, including Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act privacy and security standards, where applicable.</li> </ul> <p><b>Assessment of Public Health/Medical Needs</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supports national or regional teams to assess public health and medical needs. This function includes the assessment of the healthcare system/facility infrastructure.</li> </ul> <p><b>Safety and Security of Drugs, Biologics, and Medical Devices</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• During response, provides advice to private industry regarding the safety and efficacy of drugs, biologics (including blood, tissues and vaccines), medical devices (including radiation emitting and screening devices), and other products that may have been compromised during an incident and are HHS regulated products.</li> </ul> <p><b>All-Hazard Public Health and Medical Consultation, Technical Assistance, and Support</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assesses public health, medical, and veterinary medical effects resulting from all hazards. Such tasks may include assessing exposures on the general population and on children and those with disabilities and others with access and functional needs; conducting field investigations, including collection and analysis of relevant samples; providing advice on protective actions related to direct human and animal exposures and on indirect exposure through contaminated food, drugs, water supply, and other media; and providing technical assistance and consultation on medical treatment, screening, and decontamination of injured or contaminated individuals. Provides for disaster related health and behavior health needs through direct services and/or referrals as necessary.</li> </ul> <p><b>Vector Control</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assesses the threat of vector-borne diseases.</li> <li>• Conducts field investigations, including the collection and laboratory analysis of relevant samples; provides vector control equipment and supplies.</li> <li>• Provides technical assistance and consultation on protective actions regarding vector-borne diseases.</li> <li>• Provides technical assistance and consultation on medical treatment of victims of vector-borne diseases.</li> </ul> <p><b>Public Health Aspects of Potable Water/Wastewater and Solid Waste</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assists in assessing potable water, wastewater, solid waste disposal, and other environmental health issues related to public health in establishments holding, preparing, and/or serving food, drugs, or medical devices at retail and medical facilities, as well as examining and responding to public health effects from contaminated water; conducting field investigations, including collection and laboratory analysis of relevant samples; providing equipment and supplies as needed; and providing technical assistance and consultation.</li> </ul>

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Core Capability	ESF #8 – Public Health and Medical Services
<b>Other (Veterinary Medical Support)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provides veterinary public health technical support through HHS National Veterinary Response Teams, veterinary officers of the Commissioned Corps of the U.S. Public Health Service. The National Veterinary Response Teams are the primary Federal resource for treatment of ill or injured pets, service animals, working animals, laboratory animals, and livestock. Under its own statutory authority, HHS can manage and conduct animal response to zoonotic diseases in order to protect human health.</li> <li>• For livestock or poultry diseases exotic to the United States that are either not or only mildly zoonotic, supports the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and its authority to manage a foreign animal disease response with the resources listed above.</li> </ul>

### Transition to the National Disaster Recovery Framework

ESF#8 is linked closely with the Health and Social Services Recovery Support Functions (RSF) under the National Disaster Recovery Framework. The Health and Social Services RSF may stand up nearly as early as ESF#8, though initially to focus on planning and information sharing. The ESFs and RSFs coexist and share information about impacts and assistance provided while focusing on their respective core capability. There will be some overlap between ESF and RSF missions, but as the ESF requirements diminish, the RSFs take over the residual ESF activities that are associated with recovery. The timing of the transition depends on the scope of the disaster incident and the nature of the activities and tasks involved. From the earliest days after the disaster, ESF#8 will work closely with the Health and Social Services RSF Field Coordinator to synchronize the transition to long term restoration activities as seamlessly as possible.

### Agency Actions

Primary Agency	Actions
<b>Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Possesses statutory authority to take specific actions to prepare for, respond to, and recover from public health, medical, and human service emergencies.</li> <li>• Through the HHS Secretary, declares a Public Health Emergency.</li> <li>• Assumes operational control of Federal emergency public health and medical response assets, as necessary, in the event of a public health emergency, except for members of the Armed Forces, who remain under the authority and control of the Secretary of Defense.</li> <li>• Leads the Federal effort to provide public health and medical assistance to the affected area in an incident requiring a coordinated Federal response.</li> <li>• Leads response to international requests for HHS public health and medical assets and coordinates with Federal departments and agencies and international partners on the acceptance of international public health and medical assistance.</li> <li>• Maintains primary responsibility for the situational awareness of public health, medical, and behavioral health assistance, determining the appropriate level of response capability based on the requirement contained in the action request form, as well as developing updates and assessments of status.</li> </ul>

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Primary Agency	Actions
HHS (continued)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Requests ESF #8 organizations to activate and deploy health professional and veterinary personnel, pharmaceuticals, equipment, and supplies in response to requests for Federal assistance, as appropriate.</li> <li>• Assigns HHS personnel (U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps, NDMS, Federal Civil Service, and civilian volunteers) to address public health, medical, behavioral health, and veterinary needs.</li> <li>• In cooperation with local, state, tribal, territorial, and insular area officials, conducts health surveillance to assess morbidity, mortality, and community needs related to the emergency.</li> <li>• Prepares regional staff to deploy, as the Incident Response Coordination Team, to provide initial ESF #8 support to the affected location.</li> <li>• Assists and supports local, state, tribal, territorial, and insular area officials in performing monitoring for internal patient radiological contamination and administering pharmaceuticals for internal decontamination.</li> <li>• Assists local, state, tribal, territorial, and insular area officials in establishing a registry of individuals potentially exposed to radiation in a radiological/nuclear incident, performing dose reconstruction, and conducting long-term monitoring of this population for potential long-term health effects.</li> <li>• Monitors blood and tissue supplies, shortages and reserves.</li> <li>• Liaises with the American Association of Blood Banks (AABB) Interorganizational Task Force on Domestic Disasters and Acts of Terrorism (AABB Task Force) or the American Red Cross to assist in logistical requirements and to coordinate a national public blood announcement message for the need to donate.</li> <li>• Activates NDMS as necessary to support response operations.</li> <li>• Deploys or redeploys the SNS or other pharmaceutical or medical resources as appropriate.</li> <li>• Coordinates public health and medical support and patient movement requirements with supporting departments, agencies, and governments throughout the incident.</li> <li>• Assures the safety and security of food in coordination with other responsible Federal agencies (e.g., USDA). In cooperation with local, state, tribal, territorial, and insular area officials, assesses whether food manufacturing, food processing, food distribution, food service, and food retail establishments in the affected area are able to provide safe food.</li> <li>• In cooperation with local, state, tribal, territorial, and insular area officials as well as the food industry, conducts trace backs and/or recalls of adulterated products.</li> <li>• In cooperation with local, state, tribal, territorial, insular area, and Federal officials, provides guidance regarding the proper disposal of contaminated products and the decontamination of affected food facilities in order to protect public health.</li> <li>• Provides public health risk communication messages and advisories that communicate, in a culturally and linguistically appropriate and accessible manner, relevant information on health hazards or other situations that could potentially threaten public health.</li> <li>• Disseminates public health information on protective actions related to exposure to health threats or environmental threats.</li> <li>• Notifies or responds to foreign country potential health threats as required by International Health Regulations.</li> </ul>

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Primary Agency	Actions
HHS (continued)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provides support for public health matters for radiological incidents as a member of the Advisory Team for Environment, Food, and Health.</li> <li>Consults public health and medical subject-matter experts with ESF #8 supporting organizations (including partners representing all appropriate populations, such as pediatric populations, populations with disabilities and others with access and functional needs, the aging, and those with temporary or chronic medical conditions).</li> </ul>

Support Agency	Actions
Department of Agriculture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provides nutrition assistance.</li> <li>Ensures the safety and defense of the Nation's supply of meat, poultry and processed egg products.</li> <li>Responds to animal and agricultural health and disease management issues.</li> <li>Collaborates with HHS and the Department of the Interior (DOI) to deliver effective "one health" response that integrates human, animal, plant, and environmental health.</li> <li>Supports public health matters for radiological incidents as a member of the Advisory Team for Environment, Food, and Health.</li> <li>Provides technical expertise in support of animal and agricultural emergency management.</li> <li><b>United States Forest Service:</b> Provides personnel, equipment, and supplies, primarily for communications, aircraft, and base camps for deployed Federal public health and medical teams.</li> </ul>
Department of Commerce	<b>National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration:</b> Provides near real-time transport, dispersion, and predictions of atmospheric releases of radioactive and hazardous materials that may be used by authorities in taking protective actions related to sheltering and evacuation of people.
Department of Defense (DOD)	<p>Subject to approval of the availability of resources and the approval of the Secretary of Defense, DOD may perform the following actions when requested:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Alerts DOD NDMS FCCs (Army, Navy, and Air Force) and provides specific reporting/regulating instructions to support incident relief efforts.</li> <li>Alerts DOD NDMS FCCs to activate NDMS patient reception plans in a phased, regional approach, and, when appropriate, in a national approach.</li> <li>At the request of HHS and in coordination with interagency partners, provides NDMS support for the evacuation and medical management of patient collection points (e.g., APOE) to patient reception points (FCC) and onward to NDMS hospitals.</li> <li>Coordinates patient reception, tracking, and management of patients evacuated on DOD assets to nearby NDMS hospitals, VA hospitals, and DOD military treatment facilities that are available and can provide appropriate care.</li> <li>Provides available logistical support (e.g., transportation) to public health/medical response operations.</li> </ul>

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Support Agency	Actions
<p><b>DOD (continued)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deploys available medical, surgical, and behavioral health personnel for casualty clearing and staging, patient management, and treatment. Deploys healthcare providers to augment civilian hospital staff and Federal deployable teams and supports points of medical countermeasure distribution. Deploys chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear medical subject matter experts and/or teams for technical consultation and/or medical support. Mobilizes and deploys available Active Component, Reserve, and/or National Guard medical units or individuals when authorized for public health and medical response.</li> <li>• Provides deployable units (e.g., Expeditionary Medical Support System, Combat Support Hospitals), U.S Naval hospital ships, and/or other Naval vessels for patient medical and/or surgical care.</li> <li>• Provides epidemiological and occupational health support, telemedicine, and other specialized medical support.</li> <li>• Provides available military medical personnel to assist ESF #8 in the protection of public health (such as food, water, hygiene, wastewater removal, solid waste disposal, and vector control).</li> <li>• Provides available veterinary personnel to assist in the treatment of animals and in food security and protection activities. Provides available zoonotic and food surveillance data to ESF #8 and ESF #11 partners (e.g., FDA, USDA).</li> <li>• Provides available DOD medical supplies and materiel for use at points of distribution, hospitals or clinics, or medical care locations operated for exposed populations, incident victims, or ill patients. Provides available DOD medical supplies and materiel for mass care centers.</li> <li>• Assists local, state, tribal, territorial, and insular area officials in the provision of emergency medical, surgical, and behavioral healthcare.</li> <li>• Provide the use of functional DOD military treatment facilities within or near the incident area for medical care of non-Military Healthcare System beneficiaries.</li> <li>• Provides available assistance in managing human remains, including remains collection, victim identification, remains transport, autopsy (if appropriate), mortuary affairs, and temporary interment of the dead (if appropriate). Provides support to Family Assistance Centers.</li> <li>• Provides evaluation and risk management support through use of Defense Coordinating Officers, Emergency Preparedness Liaison Officers, and Joint Regional Medical Planners.</li> <li>• Provides available blood and tissues in coordination with HHS.</li> <li>• Provides public health and medical surveillance, laboratory diagnostics and confirmatory testing (e.g., United States Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Disease, United States Naval Medical Research Center) in coordination with the Laboratory Response Network and HHS.</li> </ul> <p><b>U.S. Army Corps of Engineers:</b> Through ESF #3, provides technical assistance, equipment, and supplies as required in support of HHS to accomplish temporary restoration of damaged public utilities affecting public health and medical facilities. In the event of a catastrophic mass fatality incident, assists with the temporary interment of the dead.</p>

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Support Agency	Actions
<p><b>Department of Energy/National Nuclear Security Administration (DOE/NNSA)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coordinates Federal assets for external monitoring and decontamination activities for radiological emergencies pursuant to criteria established by the state(s) in conjunction with HHS.</li> <li>• Provides, in cooperation with other state and Federal agencies, personnel and equipment, including portal monitors, to support initial screening and provides advice and assistance to local, state tribal, territorial, and insular area personnel conducting screening/ decontamination of persons leaving a contaminated zone.</li> </ul> <p><b>Radiological Assistance Program</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provides regional resources (personnel, specialized equipment, and supplies) to evaluate, control, and mitigate radiological hazards to workers and the public.</li> <li>• Provides limited assistance in the decontamination of victims.</li> <li>• Assists local, state, tribal, territorial, and insular area officials in the monitoring and surveillance of the incident area.</li> </ul> <p><b>National Atmospheric Release Advisory Capability:</b> Provides near real-time transport, dispersion, and dose predictions of atmospheric releases of radioactive and hazardous materials that may be used by authorities in taking protective actions related to sheltering and evacuation of people.</p> <p><b>Federal Radiological Monitoring and Assessment Center (FRMAC):</b> Assists public health and medical authorities in determining radiological dose information; assists in providing coordinated gathering of environmental radiological information and data; assists with consolidated data sample analyses, evaluations, assessments, and interpretations; and provides technical information.</p> <p><b>Radiological Emergency Assistance Center/Training Site</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provides medical advice, specialized training, and on-site assistance for the treatment of all types of radiation exposure accidents.</li> <li>• Through the Cytogenetic Biodosimetry Laboratory (CBL), provides for post-exposure evaluation of radiation dose received.</li> </ul>

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Support Agency	Actions
<p><b>Department of Homeland Security (DHS)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provides communications support in coordination with ESF #2.</li> <li>• Maintains situational awareness and the common operating picture via the Homeland Security Information Network.</li> <li>• Assists in providing information/liaison with emergency management officials in NDMS FCC areas.</li> <li>• Identifies and arranges for use of DHS/U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) search and rescue (SAR) aircraft and other assets in providing urgent airlift and other transportation support:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provides medical assistance to extracted victims.</li> <li>• Assists in coordinating with local emergency medical systems for transfer of victims to appropriate healthcare facilities.</li> <li>• As mission assigned, conducts search operations for human remains.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Provides location of human remains to facilitate humane recovery and collection of available forensic/ante-mortem data during course of SAR operations.</li> <li>• Directs the Nuclear Incident Response Team (NIRT), when activated, and ensures coordination of NIRT activities with the ESF primary agency and designated coordinating agency under the Nuclear/Radiological Incident Annex.</li> <li>• Leads the Interagency Modeling and Atmospheric Assessment Center (IMAAC) to coordinate, produce, and disseminate dispersion modeling and hazard prediction products that represents the Federal position during an actual or potential incident to aid emergency responders in protecting the public and environment.</li> <li>• Provides enforcement of international quarantines through DHS/USCG, Customs and Border Protection, and Immigration and Customs Enforcement.</li> </ul> <p><b>Federal Emergency Management Agency</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provides logistical support for deploying ESF #8 medical elements required and coordinates the use of mobilization centers/staging areas, transportation of resources, use of disaster fuel contracts, emergency meals, potable water, base camp services, supply and equipment resupply, and use of all national contracts and interagency agreements managed by DHS for response operations.</li> <li>• Provides total asset visibility through the use of global positioning system tracking services to enable visibility of some ESF #8 resources through mapping capabilities and reports.</li> <li>• Provides support with the National Ambulance Contract for evacuating patients who are too seriously ill or otherwise incapable of being evacuated in general evacuation conveyances.</li> <li>• Provides tactical communications support through Mobile Emergency Response Support, inclusive of all types (i.e., deployable satellite and RF/radio communications).</li> </ul> <p><b>Office of Infrastructure Protection</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provides situational awareness, cross-sector coordination, and prioritized recommendations regarding critical infrastructure and key resources.</li> </ul>

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Support Agency	Actions
<b>Department of the Interior (DOI)</b>	If available, provides appropriate personnel, equipment, and supplies, primarily for communications, aircraft, and the establishment of base camps for deployed Federal public health and medical teams. Resources will be assigned commensurate with each unit's level of training and the adequacy and availability of equipment. ESF #4 or the DOI Operations Center is the contact for this support.
<b>Department of Justice (DOJ)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Acting through the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), conducts evidence collection and analysis of all chemical-, biological-, radiological-, or nuclear-related materials and controls potential crime scenes.</li> <li>• Assists in victim identification, coordinated through the FBI.</li> <li>• Provides local, state, tribal, territorial, and insular area officials with legal advice concerning identification of the dead consistent with cultural sensitivity practices.</li> <li>• Provides HHS with relevant information of any credible threat or other situation that could potentially threaten public health. This support is coordinated through FBI Headquarters.</li> <li>• Provides security for the SNS, secure movement of inbound medical equipment, supplies, blood, and tissues.</li> <li>• As the Coordinator for ESF #13, provides crowd control at fixed and deployed healthcare facilities for the protection of workers and to address public safety and security.</li> <li>• Provides quarantine assistance.</li> <li>• Establishes an adult missing person call center and assists in the disposition of cases.</li> <li>• Shares missing person data with ESF #6, ESF #8, ESF #13, and the American Red Cross in support of identification of the dead and seriously wounded.</li> <li>• Supports local death scene investigations and evidence recovery.</li> <li>• Provides guidance, promulgates regulations, conducts investigations and compliance reviews, and enforces Federal civil rights laws, including their application to emergency management.</li> </ul>
<b>Department of Labor</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coordinates the safety and health assets of cooperating agencies and the private sector to provide technical assistance and conduct worker exposure assessment and responder and worker risk management within the Incident Command System. This assistance may include 24/7 site safety monitoring; worker exposure monitoring; health monitoring; sampling and analysis; development and oversight of the site-specific safety and health plan; and personal protective equipment selection, distribution, training, and respirator fit-testing.</li> <li>• Provides personnel and management support related to worker safety and health in field operations during ESF #8 deployments.</li> </ul>

## Emergency Support Function #8 – Public Health and Medical Services Annex

Support Agency	Actions
<b>Department of State</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coordinates the diplomatic aspects of international activities related to chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear incidents and events that pose transborder threats as well as the diplomatic aspects of naturally occurring disease outbreaks with international implications.</li> <li>• Assists with coordination with foreign states concerning offers of support, gifts, offerings, donations, or other aid. This includes establishing coordination with partner nations to identify the immediate support, validated by the United States, in response to an incident.</li> <li>• Acts as the health and medical services information conduit to U.S. embassies/consulates.</li> </ul>
<b>Department of Transportation (DOT)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In collaboration with DOD, the General Services Administration (GSA), and other transportation-providing agencies, provides technical assistance in identifying and arranging for all types of transportation, such as air, rail, marine, and motor vehicle and accessible transportation.</li> <li>• Coordinates with the Federal Aviation Administration for air traffic control support for priority missions.</li> <li>• At the request of ESF #8, provides technical support to assist in arranging logistical movement support (e.g., supplies, equipment, blood supply) from DOT resources, subject to DOT statutory requirements.</li> </ul>
<b>Department of Veterans Affairs</b>	<p>Subject to the availability of resources and funding, and consistent with the VA mission to provide priority services to veterans, when requested:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coordinates with participating NDMS hospitals to provide incident-related medical care to authorized NDMS beneficiaries affected by a major disaster or emergency.</li> <li>• Furnishes available VA hospital care and medical services to individuals responding to, involved in, or otherwise affected by a major disaster or emergency, including members of the Armed Forces on active duty.</li> <li>• Designates and deploys available medical, surgical, mental health, and other health service support assets.</li> <li>• Provides a Medical Emergency Radiological Response Team for technical consultation on the medical management of injuries and illnesses due to exposure to or contamination by ionizing radiation.</li> <li>• Alerts VA FCCs and provides reporting instructions to support incident relief efforts.</li> <li>• Alerts VA FCCs to activate NDMS patient reception plans in a phased, regional approach and, when appropriate, in a national approach.</li> <li>• Buries and memorializes eligible veterans and advises on methods for interment of the dead during national or homeland security emergencies.</li> </ul>

## Emergency Support Function #8 – Public Health and Medical Services Annex

Support Agency	Actions
<b>Environmental Protection Agency</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provides technical assistance and environmental information for the assessment of the public health/medical aspects of situations involving hazardous materials, including technical and policy assistance in matters involving water and wastewater systems, for critical healthcare facilities.</li> <li>• Provides support for public health matters for radiological incidents through the FRMAC and the Advisory Team for Environment, Food, and Health.</li> <li>• Assists in identifying alternate water supplies and wastewater collection and treatment for critical healthcare facilities.</li> <li>• Provides environmental technical assistance (e.g., environmental monitoring) and information in the event temporary interment is necessary and/or human remains are contaminated.</li> </ul>
<b>General Services Administration</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provides resource support for ESF #8 requirements as requested to meet the needs of the affected population.</li> <li>• Provide contract support for temporary storage capability of human remains in a catastrophic fatality incident, such as refrigerated trucks, trailers, or rail cars.</li> </ul>
<b>U.S. Agency for International Development</b>	<b>Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance:</b> Assists in the tracking and distribution of international support assets.
<b>U.S. Postal Service</b>	Assists in the distribution and transportation of medicine, pharmaceuticals, and medical information to the general public affected by a major disaster or emergency, as needed.
<b>American Red Cross</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provides for disaster related health and behavior health needs through direct services and/or referrals as necessary.</li> <li>• Assists community health personnel subject to staff availability.</li> <li>• Provides mortality and morbidity information to requesting agencies.</li> <li>• Provides supportive counseling for family members of the dead, injured, and others affected by the incident.</li> <li>• Provides information regarding behavioral health surveillance and behavioral health trends to requesting agencies.</li> <li>• Supports NDMS evacuation through the provision of services for accompanying family members/caregivers in coordination with local, state, tribal, territorial, insular area, and Federal officials.</li> <li>• Provides available personnel to assist in temporary infirmaries, immunization clinics, morgues, hospitals, and nursing homes. Assistance consists of administrative support, logistical support, or health services support within clearly defined boundaries.</li> <li>• At the request of HHS, coordinates with the American Association of Blood Banks Inter-organizational Task Force on Domestic Disasters and Acts of Terrorism to provide blood and services as needed through regional blood centers.</li> <li>• Supports reunification efforts through its Safe and Well Web site and in coordination with government entities as appropriate.</li> <li>• Refers concerns regarding animal healthcare, safety, or welfare to American Veterinary Medical Association contact(s) in the disaster area.</li> </ul>

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