



Talking Points: Emergency Response Involving Health Systems and Health Professionals

Introduction: If an emergency event overwhelms all available local and mutual aid resources, the Adjutant General activates the state fire services mobilization plan. This occurs when on scene assessment determines that fire and EMS resources are not sufficient to stabilize or control the situation.

If state and/or local resources are overwhelmed, the State Emergency Management Department will recommend that the Governor proclaim a “State of Emergency.” The National Disaster Medical System (NDMS) may be called upon. NDMS is a cooperative asset-sharing program among federal government agencies, state and local governments, private businesses, and civilian volunteers. Its mission is to ensure resources are available to provide medical services following a disaster that overwhelms the local health care resources.

Department of Health Role and Response:

- Serve as liaison between local, state, and federal contacts for the activation of the National Pharmaceutical Stockpile program.
- Work with local, state, and federal contacts to help coordinate information on designated trauma centers, licensed and verified fire and EMS services.
- Facilitate providing health professionals to local jurisdictions with immediate needs.
- Provide contact information for certified EMS personnel and designated facilities licensed by Department of Health.
- Provide information on location and type of clinical lab services available.
- Work with American Red Cross and local health jurisdictions to assess the safety and availability of blood supplies.
- Provide support services to local health departments and conduct damage assessment of facilities such as: Transient Accommodations, Temporary Worker Housing, and Institutional Health Facilities.
- Assist local health authorities with the inventory and supply of medical equipment, supplies, and facilities to ensure continuity of public health care.

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