



Emergency Support Function 8
(Public Health and Medical Services) Annex
to Georgia Emergency Operations Plan

2023

Table of Contents

Table of Contents	iii
Record of Change	iv
Record of Distribution.....	v
1.0 Introduction	1
1.1 Purpose	1
1.2 Scope	1
2.0 Concept of the Operation	2
2.1 General.....	2
2.2 Plan Activation	2
3.0 Organization and Assignment of Responsibilities	3
3.1 ESF Coordinator	3
3.2 Primary Agency Assignment of Responsibilities	3
3.3 Support Agency Assignment of Responsibilities.....	4
4.0 Direction, Control, and Coordination	7
4.1 Information Collection and Dissemination.....	7
4.2 Communications and Documentation	7
4.3 Administration, Finance, and Logistics	7
5.0 Plan Evaluation, Maintenance and Revision	8
5.1 Evaluation	8
5.2 Maintenance and Revision	8
6.0 Authorities and References	8

Record of Distribution

Plan #	Office/Department	Representative	Signature
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			
8			
9			
10			
11			
12			
13			
14			
15			

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Purpose

Emergency Support Function (ESF) 8 - Public Health and Medical Services is charged with coordinating the State's health and medical processes during preparedness, planning, activation, and deactivation, according to this Georgia Emergency Operations Plan (GEOP). The constant, proactive activities of all agencies and organizations listed within this ESF provide a comprehensive system to carry out the most important function of government, protect and save lives. ESF-8 shall carry out this function by providing support to local and regional systems addressing the public health and medical needs of residents, incident victims and response workers in disasters, potential disasters or events of Public Health significance, such as disease outbreaks; including coordinating the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities response to medical needs associated with mental health, behavioral health, substance dependency and the mental well-being of both survivors of disasters and the personnel involved in disaster response.

In addition, the processes outlined in this annex and supporting appendices, standard operating guides and procedures address the identification, registration, evacuation and sheltering support of individuals with disabilities and access and functional needs.

Veterinary medical support processes and procedures are described in this Annex, and it is with the understanding that they will be closely coordinated with ESF-11 Agriculture and Natural Resources.

1.2 Scope

Agencies and organizations listed in this Annex are expected to support local jurisdictions in the following functional response areas related to public health and medical services:

- Assessment of local public health and healthcare needs before, during, and after a major event or disaster that results in a surge in the public health and healthcare communities;
- Augmentation of public health and medical personnel;
- Public health and medical equipment and supplies;
- Coordination of medical evacuation to include functional and access needs and medical needs residents;
- Coordination and support of medical care to include those in shelters;
- Agriculture-related public health and medical services: assistance with coordinating resources;
- Subject matter expertise in infectious disease planning and response;
- Detection and prevention of communicable diseases;
- Epidemiological surveillance, quarantine and/or isolation to identify, control and/or prevent disease transmission;
- Subject matter expertise in Environmental Health;

- Inspection and control of sanitation measures;
- Food safety and security;
- Chemical hazard analysis;
- Indoor air quality;
- Shelter surveys and/or inspections;
- Disease vector surveillance, evaluation, education, and remediation;
- Public Health Lab and Laboratory Response Network support and coordination;
- Behavioral health and crisis counseling coordination;
- Potable water and wastewater monitoring, education, guidance, and assistance;
- Solid waste disposal monitoring, coordination, and assistance;
- Mass fatality support coordination, planning, response, and management;
- Victim identification coordination, family assistance;
- Victim remains recovery, tracking, decontamination, and displacement: guidance and resource coordination;
- Mortuary and final services;
- Vital Records surge support;
- Public health and medical information management;
- Coordination of the safety, security, transportation, and distribution of drugs, biologics, and medical devices, including Strategic National Stockpile assets;
- Medical volunteer management to include coordination and management of ServGA and Medical Reserve Corps resources;
- All-hazards public health and medical consultation, technical assistance, and support.

2.0 Concept of the Operation

2.1 General

All agencies listed within ESF-8 are expected to participate in planning and coordination meetings scheduled through the coordinating agency to ensure seamless, effective, and efficient preparedness, response, and recovery activities within ESF-8.

ESF-8 will be represented in the State Operations Center (SOC) with enough knowledgeable personnel, who have completed SOC training and have been empowered to make high-level decisions on behalf of their agency. Each Primary and Support agency identified in this ESF is not expected to be physically represented within the SOC. However, ESF-8 representatives are expected to have personnel identified to report to the SOC should conditions warrant and who will be available through electronic or telephonic means when necessary. ESF-8 representatives in the SOC will receive and consolidate status reports on health and medical service activities.

2.2 Plan Activation

The ESF-8 Annex is activated when an event/disaster has potential public health and/or healthcare impacts. Upon activation, the Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH),

with assistance from supporting departments and agencies, assesses and coordinates requests for assistance from impacted local, state, and federal agencies or other ESFs.

3.0 Organization and Assignment of Responsibilities

A response for an event that has implications on the public's health and Georgia's healthcare community will include the coordination of multiple agencies and resources to support the ESF-8 mission. Partner agencies will include government entities (state, local, and federal), volunteer agencies, non-government organizations, and private industry.

3.1 ESF Coordinator

The Georgia Department of Public Health serves as the coordinator for ESF-8 and in partnership with supporting agencies conducts ESF-8 planning, preparedness, response, and recovery activities.

During SOC operations, DPH will activate teams at multiple locations as necessary. Examples of the teams are as follows:

- **Transportation Management Task Force** – Coordinates all requests for transportation from healthcare facilities, assists local DPH with the evacuation of registered functional/access and medical needs citizens, coordinates and secures medical transportation resources, and supports sheltering operations, as necessary.
- **Patient Placement Strike Team** – Assists facilities in the coordination of placement and transport of patients from their facility to a willing receiving facility.
- **ESF-8 Liaison** – Acts as the liaison between the SOC and DPH (local/state), coordinates non-transportation/evacuation ESF-8 requests to ensure proper assignment and fulfillment of requests, participates in disaster planning meetings in the SOC and maintains situational awareness.
- **DPH Emergency Operations Center** – Coordinates all DPH response activities (excluding transportation/evacuation-related activities) in support of the SOC and district/state EOC operations, implements the resource management process, and maintains overall situational awareness.
- **Public Health Warehouse** – Coordinates logistical support for medical countermeasures, shelter supplies, and healthcare supplies, as needed.
- **Medical Support Shelter** – Supports and houses the citizens that are on the coastal evacuation registry with medical needs.

3.2 Primary Agency Assignment of Responsibilities

All partners that support the ESF-8 mission are listed in section 3.3. Primary agencies are determined by the nature of the event/disaster.

3.3 Support Agency Assignment of Responsibilities

American Red Cross

- First Aid
- Mental Health resource management assistance.
- Volunteers
- Shelter operations, human needs, and feeding support.
- Mass Fatality Surge Support for Family Assistance Centers

Georgia Bureau of Investigation

- Investigations
- Laboratory Facilities
- Coordination with medical examiners/coroners in mass fatality events.
- Body Recovery and Identification.
- Mass Fatality Surge Support

Board of Regents, University System of Georgia

- Facilities
- Personnel

State ADA Coordinator's Office (GFSIC)

- Aid in the Identification of Functional and Access Needs.
- Aid in compliance with Americans with Disabilities Act regulations.
- Identification of assistive technology/communication resources.

Georgia Coroners Association

- Local coroners are the mass fatality lead in those counties with no medical examiner.
- Mass Fatality Surge Support
- Support county coroners
- Subject Matter Expertise
- Coordination
- Training and Education

Georgia Department of Administrative Services

- Procurement
- Vehicles

Georgia Department of Agriculture

- Animal Disease and Injury
- Laboratory Support
- Technical Assistance-Food
- Pet shelters

Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities

- Continuity of care for individuals with
 - Mental illness
 - Substance use disorders
 - Intellectual and developmental disabilities
- Crisis Counseling for disaster victims and responders
- Mass Fatality Surge Support

Georgia Department of Community Health

- Medicare and Medicaid Services
- Healthcare facility regulation
- Non-Emergency Transportation Coordination
- Evacuation Support

Georgia Department of Defense

- Aircraft
- Equipment
- Helicopters
- Personnel
- Site Security
- Supplies

Georgia Department of Education

- Personnel
- Facilities
- Data and Information

Georgia Department of Human Services

- Responsible for ESF-6
- Shelter operations, human service needs, and mass feeding assistance
- Non-medical staffing assistance

Georgia Department of Natural Resources

- Drinking Water Quality Control
- Wastewater Treatment
- Solid Waste Handling
- Aircraft
- Escort/Traffic Control
- Site Security

Georgia Department of Public Safety

- Aircraft
- Communications Equipment
- Escort/Traffic Control
- Site Security

Georgia Department of Transportation

- Escort/Traffic Control
- Technical Assistance-Construction
- Vehicles
- Surge Transport Support

Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency (GEMA/HS)

- Provides coordination and preparedness, response and recovery guidance related to public health and medical needs

Georgia Funeral Directors Association

- Mass Fatality Surge Support
- Technical Assistance
- Facilities

Georgia Funeral Service and Practitioners Association Inc.

- Mass Fatality Surge Support
- Technical Assistance
- Facilities

Georgia Health Care Association

- Technical Assistance
- Coordination with long term care facilities

Georgia Hospital Association

- Coordination with hospitals and healthcare coalitions
- Personnel

Georgia Association of Emergency Medical Services

- Subject Matter Expertise
- Coordination Among Industry

Georgia Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division

- Technical Assistance
- Consumer Protection Services

Georgia Office of Insurance and Safety Fire Commissioner

- Technical Assistance

Governor's Office of Planning and Budget

- Personnel
- Cost Recovery

Technical College System of Georgia

- Equipment
- Personnel

Georgia Department of Veteran Services

- Principle entity for support of the National Disaster Medical System

Georgia Pharmacy Association

- Assists in acquiring pharmacy volunteers
- Act as liaison with independent pharmacies to provide messaging and other support.

4.0 Direction, Control, and Coordination

4.1 Information Collection and Dissemination

ESF-8 will report all activities to the ESF-5 Situation Unit for inclusion in the development of Incident Action Plans and Situational Reports. All public information reports regarding ESF-8 activities will be coordinated with ESF-15 External Affairs.

In addition to the SOC, ESF-8 may provide personnel to field operations established in Georgia, including but not limited to: Joint Field Offices, Joint Information Centers, Disaster Recovery Centers, and any other incident facility established to meet operational demands for each incident requiring the activation of the GEOP.

4.2 Communications and Documentation

The GEMA/HS Planning Section has provided standard operating guide development templates and planning assistance to all ESFs listed in the GEOP.

All ESFs will strive to develop operationally ready Standard Operating Guides (SOGs) for inclusion in the GEOP. ESF-8 will meet as necessary to develop, review and refine SOGs that discuss specific operational processes and procedures.

4.3 Administration, Finance, and Logistics

In conjunction with ESF-7 Logistics, ESF-8 will develop, review, refine, and maintain lists of all resources currently available and under the control of the primary or support agencies listed in this plan. The development of these lists may be completed by several organizations and professional groups which currently operate within this ESF. These resource lists should be compliant with the resource typing standards outlined in the National Incident Management System.

Resource requirements will be primarily determined by affected County Emergency Management Agency (EMA) Directors, working with assigned GEMA/HS Field Coordinators. Resource Requests flow from the County EMA Director (or the GEMA/HS Field Coordinator acting on his/her behalf) or other state agency to the SOC. Existing state resources, intrastate mutual aid, donations, Georgia Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) provide the initial source of personnel, vehicles, equipment, supplies and services to fulfill Resource Requests. Resource Requests that exceed the capability of these sources may be fulfilled through state purchasing and contracting, interstate mutual aid or federal government assistance.

The GEOP ESF-7 Logistics Annex contains information on the provision of assets and resources through the Emergency Management Assistance Compact, private-sector or NGO procurement procedures, and requests for assistance to the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

5.0 Plan Evaluation, Maintenance and Revision

5.1 Evaluation

GEMA/HS conducts all exercises within the structure provided by the Homeland Security Exercise Evaluation Program (HSEEP). ESF-8 will participate in all exercise activities when applicable and will follow the HSEEP process to include active participation in planning and evaluation meetings, workshops, and conferences.

GEMA/HS systematically coordinates and conducts event debriefings and compiles after action reports for any incident that calls for the activation of all or any portion of the GEOP. ESF-8 shall participate in this process when applicable. After Action Reports will document areas for improvement, resource shortfalls and corrective action planning requirements which will be incorporated into the GEOP, its annexes or ESF SOGs when applicable.

5.2 Maintenance and Revision

This ESF-8 Annex will be reviewed every two years and updated as required. In addition, the document shall be evaluated for recommended revisions and corrective measures as an integral part of the Agency Exercise or Event After Action Reports / Improvement Plans, as well as internal reviews that will follow the issuance of any Governor Executive Order or passage of legislation impacting the Agency.

6.0 Authorities and References

The authority for the Georgia Emergency Operations Plan is based on Official Code of Georgia, Title 38, Section 3, Articles 1 through 3, known as the Georgia Emergency Management Act of 1981, and is compliant with the National Incident Management System and supports the National Response Framework.

O.C.G.A. § 38-3-1, to § 38-3-10, establishes legal authority for development and maintenance of Georgia's Emergency Management Program and organization, and defines the emergency powers, authorities, and responsibilities of the Governor and Director of GEMA/HS. Moreover, the State's Emergency Services and Disaster Laws require that state and local governments develop and maintain current Emergency Operations Plans to be prepared for a variety of natural and human caused hazards. Executive Orders by the Governor supplement the laws and establish specific planning initiatives and requirements.