



EMERGENCY SUPPORT FUNCTION # 8 HEALTH & MEDICAL



PRIMARY AGENCY: Cambridge/Guernsey County Health Department

SUPPORT AGENCIES: Southeastern Ohio Regional Medical Center
Guernsey County EMS Organizations
Mental Health & Recovery Services Board
Area Agency on Aging
Guernsey County Senior Citizens Center
Guernsey County Coroner's Office
Guernsey County Fire Departments
Guernsey County Law Enforcement Agencies
Guernsey County EMA
American Red Cross
Guernsey County Nursing Homes
Guernsey County Schools
Various Volunteer Organizations

I. Introduction

A. Purpose

To establish a coordinated effort in providing and securing needed medical and health services in response to an actual or potential disaster. Medical and health functions include protecting the safety of water supplies, assuring adequate sanitation is maintained, assuring the safety of food supplies providing medical and mortuary services and preventing or controlling epidemics.

B. Scope

ESF-8 discusses the provision for Public Health and Medical related services and needs during emergency situations. Factors such as disease detection, monitoring, control and prevention, health education and awareness, food and water quality, liquid and solid waste sanitation, and vector control are considered. In addition, provisions for medical-related information releases and public health recommendations and related releases to the public, behavioral health assistance and care, and assistance and support for mass casualty and mass fatality incidents, and coordination with local, state and federal partners are outlined.

C. Policies

1. The operations of ESF #8 will be directed toward the performance of health and medical functions in conjunction with county emergency operations and protective actions.
2. A major focus will be to provide emergency health and medical services needed to address people with special needs.
3. The Cambridge/Guernsey County Health Department will coordinate health and medical services within Guernsey County.
4. Patients' medical information will not be released to the general public to ensure patient confidentiality.
5. All State and Federal emergency health and medical responses to an event must be requested by and are under the direction and control of ESF #8 in the Guernsey County EOC.

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II. Situation & Assumptions

A. Situation

1. Depending on the nature of the emergency situation, complications may include general health and mental problems, traumatic injury, communicable disease, food poisoning, and contaminated water ailments. The release of toxic or hazardous materials may result in human and environmental contamination.
2. A large-scale emergency situation may significantly increase demand for public health, behavioral health, medical, and mortuary requirements in the County.
3. Chronically ill but uninjured individuals may have difficulty obtaining daily medications, medical supplies and/or equipment.
4. The Cambridge/Guernsey County Health Department located at 326 Highland Avenue, Cambridge, Ohio is a City/County Public Health Agency serving the entire county.
5. During declared emergencies, the Guernsey County Health Department may obtain crisis augmentation of health personnel from near-by counties, the State Department of Health, the Ohio Hills Chapter of the American Red Cross, and The Cambridge Mental Health and Developmental Center.
6. Existing medical facilities in the county are:

<u>Hospitals</u>	<u>Beds</u>
Southeastern Ohio Regional Medical Center	215
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<u>Emergency Care</u>	
Southeastern Ohio Regional Medical Center Emergency Room	N/A
Genesis Health Care of Cambridge	N/A
Cambridge Urgent Care	N/A
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<u>Nursing and Rest Homes</u>	
Bell Nursing Home	
Cambridge Health & Rehab Center	
Cardinal House	
Country View Assisted Living	
Red Carpet Health Care Center	
Victorian Oaks Assisted Living & Dementia Care	
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<u>Mental Health Facilities</u>	
Appalachian Behavioral Healthcare & Cambridge Developmental Center	
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7. In the event of a mass fatalities occurrence, County funeral home directors will be available to assist the County Coroner in the identification, care, and disposition of remains.

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B. Assumptions

1. Although health problems are associated with disasters, there is an adequate local capability to meet the demands of most situations. When necessary, support will be available from State and Federal Health Agencies.
2. Although a primary hazardous event may not initiate a public health emergency, secondary events stemming from the initial event may do so.
3. A large-scale emergency will result in increased demands on hospitals, EMS, and health and medical personnel.
4. Disruption of sanitation services and facilities, loss of power and massing of people in shelters may increase the potential for disease and injury.
5. There will be an immediate overload from requests for emergency medical aid.
6. Additional assistance for health and medical personnel will be available from neighboring counties and hospitals.
7. Medical supplies of any kind from outside the affected area may be delayed from several hours to several days, making mandatory the rationing of available supplies.
8. Any hospital, nursing home, or other medical facilities evacuating patients or residents to other facilities within Guernsey County or a neighboring county will provide the medical records of patients, professional staff, and as many supplies and resources as practical.
9. Required vaccines, appropriate antidotes as well as other medications used to counteract the affects of biological and chemical agents, may be in short supply or not available through local resources.
10. Response in any emergency will follow established procedures.

III. Concept of Operations

A. General

1. During a major emergency situation in the County, health, behavioral health, medical, and mortuary requirements and outside assistance for health and medical emergency operations will be coordinated and prioritized in the County EOC.
2. During declared local emergency, the Guernsey County Health Department serves as the lead agency for this ESF, and will coordinate health, medical and social services.
3. All support agencies/organizations will be notified and tasked to provide 24-hour representation as necessary.
4. As needed, special advisory groups of health/medical/social subject matter experts will be assembled and consulted by ESF-8.
5. Internal resources of all operating departments will be managed by individual departmental procedures and policies.
6. Each responding organization will communicate directly with its own field forces, and in turn will keep the EOC informed of appropriate information (casualties, damage observations, evacuation status, radiation levels, chemical exposure, etc.) during emergency conditions.

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B. Organization and Direction and Control

1. Public Health

- a. The Guernsey County Health Commissioner serves as the Public Health Coordinator and is responsible for implementing the core public health functions in an emergency situation. These functions include:
 - (1) Assessing the hazard relating to any existing or anticipated public health threats and the environment impact of an accident;
 - (2) Assuring that the Health Department or other agencies provides services during all phases of emergency management;
 - (3) Developing policies and procedures that guide the provision of such services.
- b. The Health Commissioner, or designated representative, will report to the County EOC upon its activation to coordinate response efforts for health-related activities, to advise decision-makers, and maintain contact with other emergency response groups.
- c. Health department staff will be activated on an as needed basis with the Nursing Director, Administrator and Environmental Health Director directing health department response under the incident commander. The Health Department PIO will work in conjunction with the county PIO on media releases related to health concerns after consulting with the health department administrative team.
- d. Request for outside agencies to support local response needs (Poison Control Centers, Ohio Dept. Of Health (ODP), Center for Disease Control (CDC), Funeral Directors Assoc., etc) will be coordinated thru ESF-8 personnel in the EOC.
- e. Support agencies will be activated based on the response operations being conducted.
- f. The health department may make a request for additional medical personnel to local doctor's offices, nursing homes, and home health care nurses.
- g. Emergency field staff (Sanitarians and Nurses) will report all appropriate information regarding their operations to ESF-8 personnel in the EOC.
- h. Each agency will be expected to maintain its own operational capability and direct its response resources in accordance with the agency's operating plans and procedures.
- i. ESF-8 personnel will request additional general health and medical supplies as needed through the Southeast Regional Public Health Coordinator and then ODH.
- j. Vaccinations:
 - (1) If required, the County Health Department will establish mass medication sites to dispense needed medication or vaccinations to emergency workers and/or the general public in accordance with the Health Departments Regional Mass Medication Plan.
 - (2) The EOC will be activated through the EMA director prior to any mass vaccination clinic.
 - (3) If the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) of Federal medicines are required, it will be requested from the State EOC via the County EOC, and coordinated, and distributed locally by the County Health Department.

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- k. Isolation and Quarantines:
 - (1) The use of quarantines and isolation may be required to help control the spread of infectious diseases and may be implemented following the quarantine and isolation policies and procedures of the Guernsey County Health Department.
 - (2) Ohio Revised Code (ORC) Chapters 3701, 3707 and 3709 and Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) Chapter 3701-3 provides authority to ODH and local health jurisdictions with respect to human infectious diseases.
 - (3) Both isolation and quarantine may be conducted on a voluntary basis or compelled on a mandatory basis through legal authority. During a voluntary basis:
 - Residents will be encouraged to stay home if possible,
 - It will be requested that schools and other large public gatherings be cancelled to limit exposure.
- l. Mosquito and rodent/vermin control:
 - (4) The local health department will handle Mosquito and rodent/vermin control using established directives.
 - (5) Local exterminators may be contacted if needed. If additional help is needed, a request will be made for ODH assistance.
 - (6) The local health department along with outside help from the solid waste district and the Ohio EPA will provide instructions for proper waste contamination/pesticides disposal.
- m. In the event municipal or county water systems are not functioning properly or are contaminated the affected entity will provide the necessary public information on boil orders, alternate water supplies and other needed information.
 - (1) Each entity is required to have a contingency plan in place for any disruption in their service.
 - (2) Licensed water haulers are available to bring potable water in during emergency situations. A listing of the licensed water haulers is maintained by the health department and is also included in the county resource manual. The receiving entity is responsible for the cost incurred by the delivery of potable water.
 - (3) State assistance would also be requested thru the EOC if the situation dictated.
- n. In the event that alternative methods are needed to provide alternate sources for human waste disposal:
 - (1) The health department will provide and distribute information on handling human waste in an emergency situation following their policies and procedures.
 - (2) A listing of available portable latrines is maintained in the county resource manual.

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2. Medical Services:
 - a. During emergency situation, county EMS will coordinate on-scene triage services and medical transport to the appropriate medical facility utilizing the Incident Command System.
 - b. A designee from the hospital will report to the EOC upon its activation. From this location, coordination of medical activities in the hospital/medical centers will take place.
 - c. Medical care for the injured will be provided at Southeastern Ohio Regional Medical Center. Direction and control of emergency operations at the hospital will be the responsibility of the facility managers and staff.
 - d. Local doctor's offices and urgent care facilities may be utilized as emergency treatment centers and/or mass casualty collection points until arrangements can be made to transport victims to appropriate emergency rooms.
 - e. Hospital administrators have developed policies and procedures for activation of hospital internal disaster plans to ensure adequate staffing and bed capacity to maintain hospital operations at maximum levels possible.
 - f. Hospital personnel will be mobilized according to the medical centers emergency plans and procedures. If additional medical personnel are needed, call-up lists will be utilized. Notification will be by telephone or pager system.
3. Evacuation of In-patient Medical Facilities
 - a. The Administrator, or designated representative, in conjunction with an EOC designee, will coordinate the evacuation.
 - b. Receiving facilities will be selected according to the ability to receive additional patients.
 - c. Ambulatory patients may be released from the hospital, depending on their condition.
 - d. Coronary, Intensive Care Unit (ICU), and other patients termed critical will be a priority in evacuation.
 - e. Transportation will be provided by ambulance, school bus, and air ambulance services. Should additional transportation be required, support would be requested through the Guernsey County EMA/EOC. Assistance may also be available from Grant Medical Hospital.
4. Receiving Additional Patients
 - a. Should a neighboring hospital/nursing home have to evacuate, that facility will contact any other facility concerning their ability to accept additional patients.
 - b. Patients will be received according to established plans and procedures.
 - c. Utilization of medical staff from another medical facility will be decided in accordance with any provisions or their Emergency Plan.
 - d. Organizations may support each other by accepting temporary, additional residents should one facility be evacuated during an emergency.

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5. Mortuary Services
 - a. The Coroner or his/her designee needs to respond to the EOC when activated. He/She needs to maintain communication and provide information to the EOC Health Care Coordinator for coordination purposes.
 - b. The County Coroner in coordination with law enforcement officials and the County Health Department will identify and take charge of the proper recovery of the deceased and any human remains.
 - c. In a mass casualty situation, the coroner shall determine when the dead are removed from the scene, in accordance with ORC 5313.
 - d. The Guernsey County Coroner will determine the location of a temporary morgue in mass-casualty emergencies and use the Ohio Funeral Director's Plan. Bodies will be identified, and arrangements for interment may be made from this location.
 - e. If conditions warrant, refrigerated trucks will be requested to hold bodies pending transfer to funeral homes. Coordination with all area funeral homes will be required.
 - f. Contact with the EOC, if activated, will be maintained throughout the emergency. Information requests concerning casualties will be referred to the local law enforcement agency. In the event of a mass fatality incident, additional mortuary services may be required, and will be requested by the County Coroner from the State EOC via the County EOC.
6. Grave sites/cemeteries Impacted by a Disaster
 - a. Local government assistance will be requested and the state contacted if cemeteries are affected by a disaster.
 - b. Assistance may be requested from the Ohio Funeral Association.
 - c. The local deputy registrar has death certificates and records of burials on file at the county health department.
7. Emergency Mental Health Services:
 - a. Public Health will coordinate with the Mental Health and Recovery Services Board and American Red Cross, to provide crisis response and mental health services for persons who suffer from reactions to the disaster.
 - b. The Mental Health/CISMS Operations Officer will report to the Guernsey County EOC upon its activation to coordinate response efforts for stress management related activities, to advise decision makers, and maintain contact with other emergency response groups. He/She will receive direction from the EMA Director and provide assistance in the EOC.
 - c. The American Red Cross (ARC) will provide Disaster Mental Health Services to citizens as outlined in ARC Disaster Services Regulations and Procedures, as volunteer staffing allows.
 - d. Critical Incident Stress Management Services is outlined in the Guernsey County Emergency Operation Procedure 030-001 for Critical Incident Stress Management.
 - e. Mental Health Facility resources, staff, and communications are listed in the county resource manual.

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C. Pre-Incident Actions

1. All ESF-8 agencies are expected to develop standard operating procedures to handle daily situations and larger scale events. This includes:
 - a. Developing and maintaining emergency call-out lists of personnel.
 - b. Maintain and update listings of local private contractors who can provide support during emergencies.
 - c. Participate in the development and exercising of the EOP for major emergencies and disasters.
 - d. Development of mutual aid agreements between agencies, as appropriate.
2. Provide appropriate training to personnel on disaster response, self-preservation techniques, the National Incident Management System (NIMS), and the incident command system (ICS) in disaster response.
3. Ensure personnel within your agency are trained and certified in safety and health practices, including the use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for designated personnel.
4. Ensure that employees fully understand their obligation as emergency responders to report to work as soon as possible in the event of major emergency/disaster.
5. Participate in hazard and risk assessments for Guernsey County.
6. Conduct a capacity assessment defining the resources for public health and medical for your agency and those available through mutual-aid agreements.
7. All ESF-8 agencies will assist the Guernsey County EMA in updating the Guernsey County Resource Manual by identifying sources, locations, and availability of earthmoving equipment, dump trucks, road graders, fuels, etc. that could be used to support disaster response and recovery.

D. Incident Period Actions

1. Public Health
 - a. Immediate Response: Hours 0 – 2
 - (1) Provide liaison to Guernsey County EOC as requested.
 - (2) Determine what geographical area(s) have been or may be affected and how many people are threatened, affected, exposed, injured, or dead.
 - (3) Contact key health personnel that have emergency response roles and responsibilities.
 - (4) Develop initial health response objectives and establish an action plan.
 - (5) Establish communications with key health and medical organizations.
 - (6) Assign and deploy resources to achieve established initial health response objectives.
 - (7) Address request for assistance and information.
 - (8) Initiate risk communication activities with county PIO.
 - (9) Document all response activities.

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- b. Intermediate Response: Hours 2 – 6
 - (1) Verify that a health surveillance system is operational.
 - (2) Ensure that laboratories likely to be used are operational and verify their analytical capacity.
 - (3) Update risk communication messages with county PIO.
- c. Intermediate Response: Hours 6 – 12
 - (1) Collect and analyze data that are becoming available through health surveillance and laboratory systems.
 - (2) Prepare and update information for shift change and EOC briefings.
 - (3) Prepare for state and federal on-site assistance.
 - (4) Assess health resource needs and acquire as needed.
 - (5) Address mental and behavioral health support needs.
 - (6) Coordinate the provision of medical supplies and staffing to the impacted area.
 - (7) Assure the needs of elderly persons who live independently at home are addressed.
- 2. Hospital and Medical Facilities
 - a. Implement hospital's disaster plan.
 - b. Provide liaison to EOC if requested.
 - c. Coordinate transportation of casualties and medical resources to the hospital and other areas, as required, in coordination with EOC designee.
 - d. Coordinate with other area hospitals/medical centers which may be involved in caring for the injured.
 - e. Maintain liaison with the coordinators of other emergency services; fire, police, public health, etc.
 - f. Distribute antidotes, drugs, and vaccines to shelters, in coordination with EOC designee.
 - g. Coordinate with EMS squads to track patients injured during emergencies.
 - h. Coordinate with EMS squads to assign additional medical staff to triage areas as needed.
 - i. In the event of the evacuation of the hospital ensure that care is provided to patients who are too ill to be transported.
 - j. Obtain additional medical personnel and supplies as needed to address the emergency.
 - k. Make available upon request qualified medical personnel, supplies, and equipment.
 - l. Maintain communications with Health Care Coordinator within the EOC and provide updated information as possible.
 - m. Implement mass casualty/Ohio Funeral Directors plans.

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- n. Provide emergency treatment and hospital care for disaster victims.
- o. Support County Coroner at temporary morgue.
- p. Establish and maintain field and inter-hospital medical communications.

E. Post Incident Actions

- 1. Maintain information on status of disaster and its impact on public health.
- 2. Assist affected populations in clean up or follow up activities with technical advice or field service on health and safety issues related to returning to damaged areas.
- 3. Coordinate with Department of Human Services to provide mental health information and referral for counseling of victims, community residents.
- 4. Coordinate post event Critical Incident Stress Management activities for emergency services workers, in cooperation with the local CISM Net.
- 5. Resume normal operations as soon as possible.
- 6. Document and report activities undertaken during the emergency, including times, supplies, and any other pertinent information.
- 7. Participate in post event critiques of response activities and adjust plans and protocols as needed.

IV. Roles and Responsibilities

A. Responsibilities of Primary Agency

- 1. The Administrator of the Cambridge/Guernsey County Health Department is designated as the primary contact and shall staff the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) upon activation and ensure 24-hour staffing coverage based on the level of activation.
- 2. Maintain a roster of all support agency contact persons, make necessary notifications, activate support agencies as necessary, and maintain ongoing communications to support mission assignments.
- 3. Maintain a listing of all available health & medical resources within Guernsey County.
- 4. Prioritize missions in coordination with the EOC Executive Policy Group based on life safety and protection of property and Incident Action Plan.
- 5. Coordinate mutual aid and private vendor resource needs to requesting parties within the County, through the proper resource request procedure. Documentation shall be maintained for operational accountability and for purposes of financial reimbursement once local resource capabilities have been exhausted.
- 6. Coordinate the provision of medical equipment and supplies.
- 7. Conduct medical needs/damage assessment of the impacted area post-disaster and report finding to the EOC.
- 8. Provide health information to the public as it relates to contaminated food, water, and any other health related issues.
- 9. Issue a warning to the public concerning contaminated water supplies.
- 10. Coordinate with existing mental health counseling service providers to establish mental health crises centers as needed.

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11. Will evaluate the potential health risks associated with the hazard and recommend appropriate correctional measures.
12. Establish preventive health services, including the control of communicable diseases.
13. Provide epidemiological surveillance, case investigation, and follow-up.
14. Monitor food handling, mass feeding and sanitation service in emergency facilities, including increased attention to sanitation in commercial feeding facilities.
15. Ensure adequate sanitary facilities are provided in emergency shelters.
16. Implement action to prevent or control vectors such as flies, mosquitoes, rodents, and work with veterinarians to prevent the spread of disease through animals, with the Department of Agriculture.
17. Coordinate with neighboring areas and State Health Department on matters requiring assistance from other jurisdictions.
18. Coordinate health-related activities among other local public and private response agencies or groups (to include veterinarians).
19. Coordinate operations for general or mass emergency immunizations or quarantine procedures.

B. Responsibilities of Support Agencies

1. Southeastern Ohio Regional Medical Center
 - a. Maintain and revise hospital's disaster plan as required.
 - b. Develop and maintain detailed SOPs for emergency response function.
 - c. Provide medical guidance to EMS units and field triage teams for development of SOP(s) concerning the treatment and handling of the injured.
 - d. Ensure hospital personnel meet NIMS training requirements.
2. Area Agency on Aging & Guernsey County Senior Citizens Center
 - a. Maintain on file a current list of the elder care component agencies, their addresses and telephone numbers.
 - b. Ensure that elder care component agencies will assist clients in the preparation of a family disaster preparedness plan.
 - c. Conduct needs assessment post-disaster of all elder care component members and report status to ESF #8.

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3. Coroner's Office
 - a. The County Coroner will assume the lead role in coordinating the activity of all public and private agencies engaged in a mass fatalities incident. The County Coroner will provide guidance and logistics for the recovery, removal, and preservation of bodies.
 - b. Coroner will identify victims and forward official death count to the EOC on daily basis.
 - c. Coordinate local resources utilized for the collection, identification, and disposition of deceased persons and human tissue.
 - d. Select sites to establish temporary morgues and the personnel to staff them.
 - e. Determine cause of death.
 - f. Protect the property and personal effects of the deceased.
 - g. Provide emergency information for the news media to the county PIO on the number of deaths, morgue operations, etc., as appropriate to the EOC.
 - h. Coordinate services of funeral directors, ambulances, EMS, and other pathologists; the local law enforcement agency for location and notification of relatives; dentists and x-ray technicians for purposes of identification; and police for security, property protection, and evidence collection.
4. Mental Health/Critical Incident Stress Management Services (CISMS) Operations Officer
 - a. Coordinate services of local mental health resources.
 - b. Direct efforts of CISMS team members.
 - c. Ensure appropriate mental health services are being provided to disaster victims, family members, emergency responders, and support workers.
 - d. Assess long term emotional need services and submit grant requests to the Ohio Department of Health.
5. Red Cross
 - a. Provide blood and blood substitutes and/or implement reciprocal agreements for replacement of blood items.
 - b. Provide nursing support at temporary treatment centers, as requested, and within capability. Support will also be provided at shelter and reception/care center.
 - c. Provide assistance for the special needs of the handicapped, elderly, and those children separated from their parents.
 - d. Provide information for the news media on the above items to the county PIO.
 - e. Train assigned response staff and volunteer augmentees to perform emergency functions.
 - f. Obtain additional medical personnel and supplies as needed to address the emergency.

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6. Nursing Homes
 - a. Care for injured residents.
 - b. Provide space as available for temporary hospital/medical treatment facility for disaster victims (listed in the resource manual).
 - c. Reduce the patient population to the extent possible if evacuation is necessary, and continue medical care for those that cannot be evacuated.
 - d. In the event of the evacuation of the nursing home, ensure care is provided to patients who cannot be transported.
7. Children Services

Will assist in the care of abandoned, and/or dependent children according to agency policies and procedures.
8. Law Enforcement
 - a. Provide traffic control, crowd control, security, and law enforcement at disaster site and medical facilities.
 - b. Assist in body identification and transportation.
 - c. Provide physicians' emergency transport and medical supplies as requested.
9. School Systems
 - a. Provide buses and drivers for medical evacuations.
 - b. Provide school facilities for shelters and temporary medical treatment facilities.
10. Volunteer Groups
 - a. Provide food, clothing, and sheltering to disaster victims, their families, and emergency response workers.
 - b. Provide other support services as available – which should be coordinated via the EOC for record purposes.
 - c. A Volunteer Coordinator will be designated by the EMA Director to coordinate all activities.

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