



Emergency Support Function (ESF) #20
Environmental And Public Health

Primary Agency

Albuquerque Environmental Health Department



City of Albuquerque, New Mexico
Emergency Support Function (ESF) #20
ENVIRONMENTAL AND PUBLIC HEALTH

Purpose:

1. Coordinate comprehensive environmental and public health response during an emergency excluding: Medical Services which are coordinated in ESF #8, Mass Fatality Management (ESF #20), Animal Welfare (ESF #11), and Hazardous Materials (ESF #10).
2. Provide technical and scientific information and guidance regarding environmental and public health emergencies.
3. Outline the process for organizing and coordinating the necessary resources to ensure the safety of food and water following an emergency.

Primary:

- Albuquerque Environmental Health Department

Support:

- Albuquerque Animal Welfare Department
- Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority
- Bernalillo County Animal Care Service
- Bernalillo County Health and Social Services
- New Mexico Department of Health
- New Mexico Environment Department
- New Mexico Indian Health Services

Likely Tasks:

- Establish, maintain contact with State EOC through the CABQ EOC.
 - Provide information on damages and status of CABQ public health and environmental systems.
 - Request additional resources as needed.
- Provide mutual aid if requested:
 - Do not commit mutual aid until it is determined that the CABQ does not need the requested resources.

Likely Tasks Continued:

- Coordinate the assessment of environmental health needs of the affected population, including:
 - Provide for dissemination of emergency environmental health and public health information.
 - Surveillance and monitoring of conditions that could impact general health.
 - Ensure the safety of food and water.
 - Identification and organization of resources to address an outbreak of a foodborne, vector-borne or zoonotic disease.
 - Provide technical and scientific information and guidance regarding biological, chemical, radiological or physiological hazards.
 - Advice on portability of water sources and disposition of solid waste and wastewater as it relates to public health issues.

State of New Mexico

Primary:

- New Mexico Department of Health

Support:

- Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management
- Department of Public Safety
- National Guard
- State Fire Marshall's Office
- General Services Department
- Human Services Department
- Aging and Long Term Services
- Department of Transportation

Support Continued:

- Department of Agriculture
- Environment Department
- Board of Pharmacy
- University of New Mexico
- New Mexico's Hospitals and Health Care System

Likely Actions:

- Outbreak investigations, specimen collection, and laboratory testing.
- Disease surveillance, monitor conditions and diseases that could impact health.
- Provide technical assistance regarding public health concerns and chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and high-yield explosives (CBRNE) incidents.

Federal Government

Primary:

- Department of Health and Human Services

Support:

- Federal agencies as required.

Likely Actions:

- Provides supplemental assistance in identifying and meeting the public health needs of victims.
- This support is categorized in the following core functional areas:
 - Assessment of public health.
 - Public health surveillance.

Likely Actions Continued:

- Safety and security of human drugs, biologics, medical devices, and veterinary drugs.
- Food safety and security.
- Agriculture safety and security.
- Worker health/safety.
- All-hazard public health, technical assistance, and support.
- Public health information.
- Vector control.
- Potable water/wastewater and solid waste disposal.
- Victim identification/ mortuary services.
- Protection of animal health.

EMERGENCY SUPPORT FUNCTION #20

ENVIRONMENTAL AND PUBLIC HEALTH

Primary Agency: Albuquerque Environmental Health Department

Primary Coordinator: Deputy Director Albuquerque Environmental Health Department

Support Organizations:

- Albuquerque Animal Welfare Department
- Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority
- Bernalillo County Animal Care Service
- Bernalillo County Health and Social Services
- New Mexico Department of Health
- New Mexico Environment Department
- New Mexico Indian Health Services

I. Introduction.

A. PURPOSE.

1. Emergency Support Function #20 outlines the process for coordinating comprehensive public health response during an emergency excluding: Medical Services which are coordinated in ESF #8, Fatality Management (ESF #19), Animal Welfare (ESF #11), and Hazardous Materials (ESF #10).
2. Provides technical and scientific information and guidance regarding environmental and public health emergencies.
3. Organizes and coordinates the necessary resources to ensure the safety of food and water following a significant natural or manmade disaster or large scale foodborne illness outbreak.
4. Identifies and organizes the resources available to address an outbreak of a highly contagious/economically significant foodborne vector-borne or zoonotic disease.
5. Defines the roles and responsibilities of the ESF #20 unit during Emergency Operations Center (EOC) activation.

B. SCOPE.

1. This annex describes coordination mechanisms, policies, and processes to provide technical assistance for safety and health management activities that include anticipation, identification, and mitigation of response and recovery risks and hazards. These mechanisms also include the assessment and analyses of health risks from occupational exposures, to facilitate incident risk management for response and recovery workers.
2. This annex is structured to provide technical assistance and support for response and recovery worker safety and health in the changing requirements of domestic incident management. Activities within the scope of this function include development of health and safety plans; identifying, assessing, and controlling health and safety hazards; conducting response and recovery exposure monitoring; collecting and managing data; providing technical assistance and support for personal protective equipment programs, incident-specific response and recovery worker training, and providing exposure and risk management information; and providing technical assistance to include industrial hygiene expertise, occupational safety and health expertise, engineering expertise, and occupational medicine expertise.

C. SITUATION.

1. The City of Albuquerque encompasses an array of structures and occupancies engineered to serve the transportation, occupational, recreational, and residential needs of a daytime population of over 555,417.
2. Despite modern life safety and fire protection systems, federal, state and municipal laws governing the use, transportation and storage of hazardous materials, the possibility exists that natural, mechanical or human-caused disasters could result in releases, spills, fires and other catastrophic events. These events would require immediate and effective response from the City's first responders, which is outlined in ESF #10. In addition, these events could also have an impact on the health of the public, requiring dissemination of appropriate public information and mitigation measures.
3. A major event would rapidly impact the CABQ government's resources and abilities to provide public health services. Such an event would result in certain public health threats, including problems related to the safety of food and water; the spread of foodborne, vector-borne and/or zoonotic diseases; as well as impact air and water quality.
4. Emergency incidents may lead to secondary or cascading events such as the release of Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and high yield Explosives materials that could

seriously impact communities and overwhelm state and local health response organizations and medical facilities.

5. Situations with potential threat to health and safety of the community require coordination of public health and medical response. These could include natural disease outbreaks.

D. POLICIES.

1. Long-term remediation of environmental factors related to public health is essential following an emergency to prevent the outbreak of disease and to monitor the spread of potential vectors associated with the emergency and its aftermath.
2. It is desired to provide the highest quality of care possible. In all likelihood, emergency measures to protect life and health during emergencies will be exclusively dependent upon those resources available at the local level during the first critical hours post event. Austere conditions may limit the amount and quality of care it is possible to deliver.
3. The CABQ Environmental Health Department (EHD) has regulatory authority over all permitted food facilities within the CABQ.

II. Concept Of Operations.

A. GENERAL.

1. The EHD Coordinator will assess matters that have the potential to affect the general health and safety of residents in the City of Albuquerque, the surrounding community, or any ecological threats as posed by the release or potential release of hazardous materials within the City.
2. Large or dangerous releases of hazardous materials will be reported immediately through 911 and appropriate evacuation or protection in-place will be initiated. It is the responsibility of the first responders to an incident involving hazardous materials to control the scene and follow the guidelines provided in their training. Every effort will be made to contain spills or abate the source of a hazardous materials release into the atmosphere where it does not pose a threat.
3. In the event of a Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and high- yield Explosives or hazardous material environmental contamination incident, ESF #20 will coordinate with ESF #10 – Hazardous Materials, on the release of public health information.
4. As the lead agency for ESF #20, EHD determines the appropriateness of all requests for

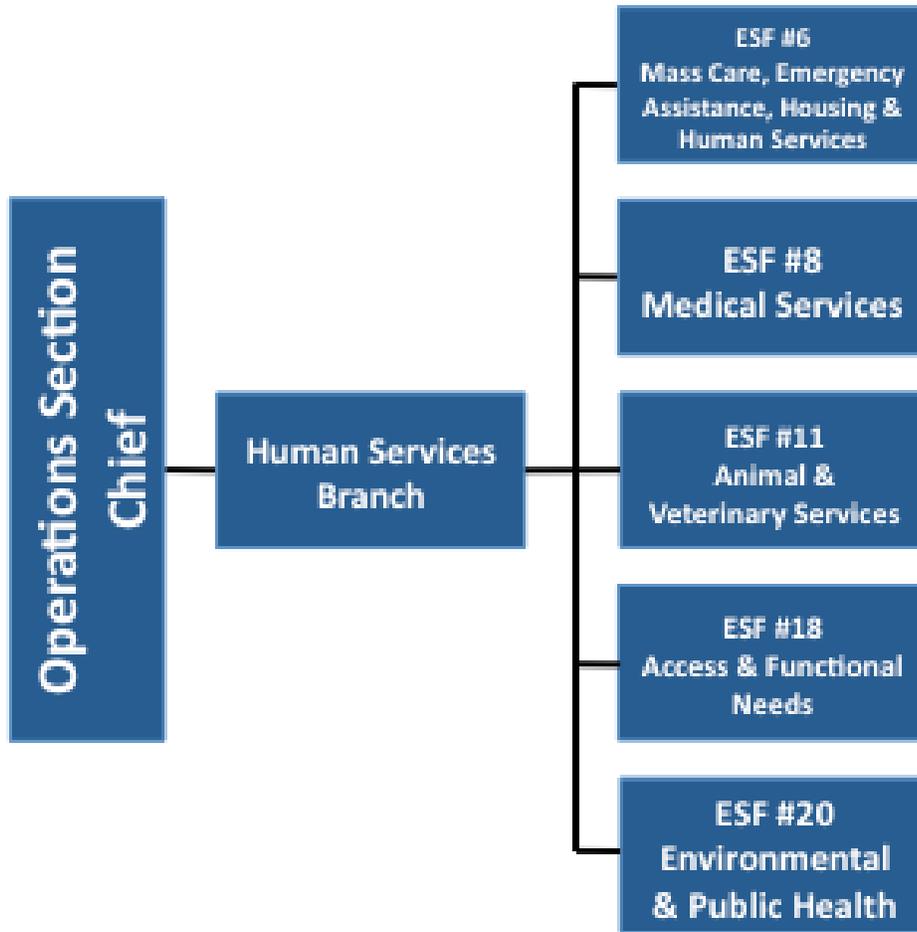
release of environmental health and public health information and will coordinate with the New Mexico Department of Health and medical subject-matter experts as needed.

5. In coordination with ESF #8 Medical Service, providing technical assistance, advice, and support for medical surveillance and monitoring as required by regulation (e.g., asbestos and lead) and evaluating the need for longer term epidemiological follow-up and medical monitoring of response and recovery workers.
6. Provide technical assistance and advice on identifying appropriate immunizations and prophylaxis for response and recovery workers.
7. In situations of major proportions that exceed the physical limitations of the Fire Department, assistance will be through other fire departments by way of mutual aid agreements, arranged through the CABQ EOC
8. In addition, should there be a radiological emergency; technical assistance and specialized resources from the State Department of Health, State Military Department, US Department of Energy, and the Federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission can be made available through the CABQ EOC or the Office of Emergency Management Staff Duty Officer

C. ORGANIZATIONAL CHART.

1. Organizational Chart.
 - ESF #20 is positioned within the Human Services Branch. During EOC activation, each ESF under Emergency Services Branch will be headed by a CABQ representative to carry out their ESF role.

The Organizational Structure Of The Human Services Branch



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D. PRIMARY DEPARTMENT RESPONSIBILITIES/TASKS BY PHASE.

PRIMARY DEPARTMENT RESPONSIBILITIES/TASKS BY PHASE	
ENVIRONMENTAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT	
Pre-Emergency	<p>Primary and support departments will coordinate with the Office of Emergency Management to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain this Emergency Support Function (ESF). • Maintain inventories of resources and equipment. • Develop public education information concerning the use of untreated water, contaminated food, and other unsanitary practices following emergencies. • Coordinate procedures for planning deployment of personnel into affected areas to provide surveillance and monitoring of public health following major emergencies. • Participate in training and exercises. • Develop emergency action checklists. • Maintain mutual aid agreements.
Emergency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When requested during an emergency situation, report to the CABQ EOC. • Provide recommendations on personal protective equipment and other precautions to reduce exposure. • Coordinate public health needs assessments.
Emergency Operations Center (EOC)	<p>CABQ EHD is the primary department for ESF #20 Environmental and Public Health, and will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assume the role of primary department for this ESF and assumes the position of Environmental and Public Health Group Coordinator in the EOC Operations Section to carry out those functions within the EOC. • Advise EOC manager on coordination procedures with New Mexico Environment Department (NMED). • Assist with the actions taken to condemn, demolish, and dispose of structures that present a health safety hazard to the public. • Provide all hazards and environmental and public health consultation, technical assistance, and support services. • Provide vector control/activities.
Recovery Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to monitor the public and environment for adverse effects.

E. SUPPORT ORGANIZATION'S RESPONSIBILITIES AND TASKS.

SUPPORT ORGANIZATIONS' RESPONSIBILITIES AND TASKS	
Albuquerque Animal Welfare Department	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinate proper fatality management of animals when necessary following a significant zoonotic disease. • Manage all matters concerning animal welfare in shelters, and management before, during, and after the emergency as outlined in ESF #11 Animal Welfare.
Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure safe drinking water supply. Coordinate with EHD on safety of water within mass care shelters and permitted facilities. • Conduct necessary response and recovery actions if the water supply is intentionally or unintentionally contaminated.
Bernalillo County Animal Care Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinate proper fatality management of animals when necessary following a significant zoonotic disease. • Provide support in all matters concerning animal health and welfare in shelters, and management before, during, and after the emergency as outlined in ESF #11 Animal & Veterinary Services.
Bernalillo County Health and Social Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinate with the joint City/County vector control program. • Collaborate on food recall and foodborne illness response.
New Mexico Department of Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinate immunizations or quarantine procedures if necessary. • Collaborate on foodborne illness response. • Coordinate with EHD on public release of appropriate public health information.
New Mexico Environment Department	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regulatory and compliance authority on all legal and illegal groundwater and landfill sites. • NMED will lead efforts on food recalls. • Provide support with foodborne illness issues outside of the City and the County limits. Provide additional support for City response if City resources have become exhausted. • Hazardous Waste Bureau to deal with hazardous waste spills. • Collaborate with modeling capabilities.
New Mexico Indian Health Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lead response regarding Tribal related health issues. • Coordinate with EHD as necessary on public health and environmental health emergencies.

F. LIFE SAFETY ASSESSMENT.

An initial EOC priority is to gather as much information about the extent of damage as soon as possible. As soon as possible, environmental health service personnel will submit situation and damage reports to the EOC.

G. EVACUATION.

Evacuation will be coordinated with the EOC to ensure the evacuees are moved to an appropriate shelter, and the needs of special populations and individuals are provided for.

H. FIELD OPERATIONS.

1. Environmental and Public Health Services emergency actions may include:

- Immunizations and/or the distribution of prophylaxis.
- Public Health inspections.
- Public Health /Sanitation inspections of medical facilities, shelters, mass care centers, and food establishments impacted by disaster events.
- Coordinate potable water testing.
- Environmental health activities in regard to waste disposal, refuse, food, water control, environmental monitoring and vector control.
- Conduct or coordinate laboratory activities in regard to examination of food and water, and diagnostic tests.

I. ENVIRONMENTAL AND HEALTH SURVEILLANCE.

The state of New Mexico's Public Health and Emergency Preparedness cooperative agreement with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) supports full-time Regional Disease Surveillance and Response Coordinators assigned to disease surveillance, epidemiology and emergency preparedness duties. This grant also provides funding for the development and implementation of electronic disease surveillance systems in hospitals and healthcare providers' offices.

1. Vector Control.

- a. In New Mexico, the control of mosquitoes is the responsibility of the county or municipality. The New Mexico Department of Health (NMDOH), Epidemiology and Response Division, Zoonoses Program specialists provide technical assistance, training and consultation to various counties or municipalities concerning vector control.

- b. The county or municipality has the responsibility for direct supervision of mosquito control at the local level.
2. Groundwater.
 - a. Groundwater monitoring activities consist of groundwater sampling collection and measuring hydrologic parameters. The monitoring program provides consistent and representative data aimed at assessing the chemical water quality of Albuquerque's underground aquifer. It determines spatial and temporal trends in water quality.
 - Approximately 170 samples are collected from Environmental Services wells on an annual basis. Water table elevations are also measured to track short and long term hydrologic changes.
 - The information gathered through the groundwater monitoring program is used to assess the groundwater resource, project future conditions of, address contamination concerns, and provide the information necessary to protect our underground aquifer. It is available and shared with local, state and federal organizations.
 - Most of the unincorporated Valley area was developed without sanitary sewer lines, and groundwater quality has cumulatively been affected by low density development relying on septic tanks and domestic wells.

III. Response Actions.

A. NOTIFICATION.

Upon notification by CABQ, OEM Director, or designee of an incident, the ESF coordinator will notify support departments and organizations of potential need for ESF #20 response in accordance with ESF #20 procedures and checklists. Notification may occur via landline, cell phones, electronic means, and/or two-way radios.

B. ACTIVATION.

Activation of ESF #20 will be determined by the OEM Duty officer, by the OEM Director, or by request of the ESF responding agent based on the needs of the incident.

C. ONGOING ACTIVITIES.

1. ESF #20 departments and organizations participate in activities throughout the emergency management cycle:
 - Perform Environmental and Public Health ESF #20 functions as the Environmental Health Coordinator within the CABQ EOC Operations Section.
 - Coordinate assessment of environmental needs of the affected population, including:
 - Providing for dissemination of emergency public health information.
 - Coordinate surveillance and monitoring of conditions that could impact general health.
 - Ensure the safety of food and water.
 - Provide technical scientific information regarding biological, chemical, radiological, or physiological hazardous.
 - Advice on portability of water sources and disposition of solid waste and wastewater as it relates to public health issues.
 - Establish and maintain contact with State EOC through the EOC Manager, as appropriate:
 - Provide information on damages, status of CABQ public health and environmental systems.
 - Provide mutual aid if requested.

D. DEACTIVATION.

1. The EOC will be deactivated or the response level will be lowered when the event needs have decreased. Deactivation or change in response level may also occur as a result of a transition of the EOC mission from response to recovery. EOC activation status may be changed when determined appropriate by the EOC Manager.
2. Upon EOC deactivation, ESF #20 responsibilities will either be deactivated or assumed by an appropriate department. Once the decision to deactivate the EOC has been reached, the following activities may be necessary:
 - Complete or transfer remaining coordinating activities to the appropriate department operation center (DOC) or ESF(s).

- Assist in the physical closing of the EOC, to include staff release, equipment pack up, return and inventory.
- Assist in the release of a public deactivation announcement with the JIC.
- Provide deactivation information and a final status report to all involved response departments and/or coordinating and supporting ESF departments.

IV. Attachments And References.

A. ATTACHMENTS.

N/A

B. REFERENCES.

1. City of Albuquerque Comprehensive Emergency Operations Plan.
2. City of Albuquerque Joint Information Center Plan.
3. Emergency Operations Center Operating Guide.

C. PROVISO.

1. This support annex has been prepared in accordance with the standards of the National Incident Management System and other Federal and State requirements and standards for emergency plans applicable of the plan's preparation date.
2. The plan provides a broad planned framework for response and recovery; it is intended for use in further development for response capabilities, implementation of training and exercises, and defining the general approach to incident response. The actual response to an incident is dependent on:
 - a. The specific conditions of the incident, including incident type, geographic extent, severity, timing, and duration;
 - b. The availability of resources for response at the time of the incident;
 - c. Decisions of incident command staff and political leadership;
 - d. Actions taken by neighboring jurisdictions, the State, and the Federal Government.

- e. These and other factors may result in unforeseen circumstances, prevent the implementation of plan components, or require actions that are significantly different from those described in the plan.