



**PRE-EVENT PLAN FOR EMS PREPAREDNESS:
BUILDING CAPABILITY FOR MEDICAL TRANSPORT AND MUTUAL AID
READINESS**

GOAL

To develop a trained, equipped and protected EMS service capability to respond to medical intrastate and interstate requests for EMS assistance to catastrophic casualty events. The participating EMS service will be resources for local, county, regional and state plans.

CONCEPT

At least 10 services per EMS region and 6 persons per crew for a 24/7 capability will be selected for inclusion in response plans. Funding support of \$5000 per service will support, training, personal protection equipment and supplies for the personnel from the 10 services per region.

PROGRAM

- * Services that wish to volunteer to be part of the pre-designated EMS response will make application to the regional EMS council that has responsibility for the area in which that service operates.
- * Each regional EMS council will assist a minimum of 10 licensed ambulance services per region to participate in the program.
- * The EMS service will prepare and achieve the needed level of training and preparedness to support transport under circumstances that require catastrophic capabilities from EMS, e.g., pandemics and catastrophic casualties.
- * The EMS service will plan for and acquire additional supplies necessary for the response.

PERSONNEL

- * The EMS services will pre-identify 6 practitioners for staffing the ambulance 24/7 in accordance with EMS Act staffing requirements. Having six personnel will permit for reserve personnel for sick time coverage.
- * Core immunizations required for personnel are the following:
 - * Varicella (chicken pox)
 - * Tetanus/Diphtheria
 - * Influenza
 - * Pneumococcal
 - * Hepatitis A and B
- * Personnel are **NOT** required to be vaccinated against smallpox pre-event but must be willing to be vaccinated in the event of an outbreak. If event occurs, immunization will be provided at that time.
- * Standard precautions are the primary protective measures for EMS personnel.

TRAINING

Training will be through the Learning Management System and other appropriate training modalities as approved by the DOH. Minimum training required includes:

- * Incident Command/Unified Command training program
- * Basic Medical Response to Terrorism
- * Hazmat Operations Level (Level C)-The purpose is to understand the Hazmat Operations Level response and for medical personnel to understand their response roles in the Cold Zone. For medical response as related to communicable diseases (not for HazMat Team response)
- * Knowledge of local EMA system
- * Communication skills and the ability to work with agencies under stressful conditions
- * Recommendation of service and regional EMS council.

EQUIPMENT & SUPPLIES

A list of equipment and supplies will be soon available. All items can be supported with the \$5000 funding allocation to the service.

FUNDING

A \$5000 grant to achieve the readiness goal is available for each of the 160 services participating in this program. The grant monies may be used for personnel vaccinations; supplies to meet the preparedness requirements listed or to support training. The administrative process will follow established EMSOF distribution and accountability procedures through the regional EMS councils and the Department of Health

COMMITMENT

The services agreeing to this program and who accept the funding will be listed with the emergency management agencies/RCTTFs as services prepared for medical response to intrastate and interstate deployment or dispatch for response to terrorism events or other mass casualty events. A short letter of agreement will be completed by each service.

INTEGRATION WITH PLANS

This resource will be integrated into the following plans:

- * Local Plans
- * Regional EMS and Regional Counter Terrorism Task Force Plans
- * EMS Catastrophic Casualty Plan Guidance
- * DOH Disaster Response Plan
- * State Emergency Operations Plan

PROGRAM CONTACT

Please contact your regional EMS council or the EMS Office for more information. Additional information will also be on the Department of Health EMS website: www.health.state.pa.us