



IDAHO REGION II STABILIZATION PLAN



Annex H

PUBLIC SAFETY

The purpose of this annex is to provide guidance for uninterrupted response for fire and emergency medical services during a national crisis.

Leads: Jurisdiction Fire and Emergency Medical Services

INTRODUCTION

A degraded or failed infrastructure will severely impact public safety. Emergency incidents are initially expected to significantly increase. Causes may vary, including:

- Improper use of heating and cooking appliances
- Improper fuel storage
- Lack of power for life-sustaining equipment
- Panic
- Event-related emergencies

SCOPE

1. Healthcare guidance in this annex is limited to pre-hospital activities. Definitive care activities are discussed in Annex E: Healthcare.
2. Response protocols and standard operating procedures (SOPs) are maintained by each department.

SITUATION AND ASSUMPTIONS

1. Degradation of emergency services is expected due to a combination of any of the following:
 - Fuel for emergency response vehicles may be limited or unavailable
 - Commercially supplied electricity may be intermittent or unavailable
 - Resupply of medical and pharmaceutical items is uncertain
 - A reduction in the mutual aid that will be available

This plan is only activated in the event of a national emergency and attendant local disaster/emergency declarations

2. In the event of an infrastructure collapse:

- Standards of care may be lower.
- Fire and emergency medical services response will be prioritized based on available resources.
- Many injuries (especially minor) will be self-treated by the public.
- Traditional social and medical support networks may be degraded.

CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

Fire and emergency medical service response will be driven by actual events in a national emergency.

A degraded infrastructure will allow for a gradual, controlled reduction in services through prioritization of essential public safety activities.

A collapsed infrastructure will immediately require a new way of approaching initial response. It may result in a lower standard of care for medical emergencies, and delayed response for fire and medical emergencies. The following system is designed to do the most good for the most people, with resources and personnel available.

1. The first line of emergency response is in the home. Citizens will need to provide more advanced medical care to themselves or others than in the past, and will need to control small fires. This will require additional training and supplies.
2. The second line of emergency response is Neighborhood Emergency Teams (NET Teams). These include citizens with additional training in FEMA's Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program – especially disaster medical operations and disaster fire suppression. NET Teams will have radio contact with Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs).
3. The third line of emergency response is the community facility associated with each neighborhood (see Annex F: Shelter). Each facility will be staffed with at least one EMT, who is able to physically respond or provide additional radioed instructions to the NET Team, as circumstances allow.

PREPARATION

1. Discuss with medical control, state EMS Physicians Commission, and county prosecutor/city attorney, potential revisions to EMS protocols should a collapsed infrastructure occur.

2. Purchase and stockpile emergency medical supplies for **at least three months**.

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3. Coordinate with Annex K: NET Teams Manager to identify candidate community facilities for emergency response personnel and equipment location.

RESPONSE – Degraded Infrastructure

- ___ Enhance capability at the 9-1-1 dispatch center:
 - ___ Staff the dispatch center with a certified emergency medical technician (EMT) to provide a higher level of screening for emergency response
 - ___ Consider waiving limitations on the instructions/assistance dispatchers can provide
- ___ Emergency and non-emergency ambulance transfers:
 - ___ Cancel all non-emergency transfers out of the area
 - ___ Limit local transfers to emergency only
- ___ Maximize personnel resources:
 - ___ Volunteer departments: contact all volunteers. Emergency response-related activities will be their primary function during the transition
 - ___ Full-time departments:
 - ___ Activate reserve personnel
 - ___ Pair reserve personnel with full-time employees to conserve full-time assets
 - ___ Dispatch: send lowered staffing levels to selected responses to conserve resources
 - ___ Consider service reduction (and subsequent personnel reassignment) for routine fire prevention programs
- ___ Consider the following for response prioritization:
 - Life-threatening EMS calls
 - Incidents involving persons trapped
 - Fires with persons reported missing or trapped by fire
 - Residential fires

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- Other building fires
- Hazardous materials incidents with a vapor cloud
- Vehicle fires
- Hazardous materials incidents with flowing liquid
- Non-emergency ambulance transports to local hospitals
- Smoke or smoke odor calls
- Automatic fire alarm calls without confirmation
- Hazardous materials incidents involving solid products
- Non-emergency ambulance transports to private residences or extended care facilities

RESPONSE – Collapsed Infrastructure

- _____ Consider appropriate actions in **RESPONSE – Degraded Infrastructure** above
- _____ Position EMTs at schools (or other designated neighborhood gathering point), and selected congregate care facilities
- _____ Position equipment. cardiac monitors/defibrillators, jump kits, other supplies
- _____ Coordinate communications and response protocols with dispatch and Neighborhood Emergency Teams
 - _____ If radio repeaters fail, response agencies will use simplex (single frequency) channels for radio communication. Tones may not precede dispatch instructions
- _____ Use portable generators to power battery chargers for radios, cardiac monitors/defibrillators, flashlights and other battery-powered equipment
- _____ Work with Annex M (Education) coordinator to provide instruction for home fire safety, basic first aid, CPR, disaster medical operations, and disaster fire suppression