

[INSERT YEAR] STATEWIDE MEDICAL AND HEALTH EXERCISE

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

AMBULANCE SERVICES OBJECTIVES

**How To Use This Document:** *The purpose of this document is to provide sample objectives   
and capabilities for exercise planners to select from in designing their Statewide Medical and Health Exercise (SWMHE). These capabilities and their supporting objectives were identified based on the Multi-Year Training and Exercise Plan developed by the California Department of Public Health (CDPH). To access this document, please visit* [*http://www.swmhe.com*](http://www.swmhe.com).

*To use this document, insert your agency/organization’s name in the bracketed text in the header that reads “INSERT NAME OF AGENCY/ORGANIZATION HERE.” Review the suggested capabilities and objectives and* ***consider them as options to create an Exercise Plan that is customized to the unique characteristics of your organization******and community****. Select and modify as needed. According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA),* ***ten or fewer objectives are recommended for a functional exercise****.*

## APPLICABLE CAPABILITIES

* Health Care Preparedness and Response Capability (HCPRC) 2: Health Care and Medical Response and Recovery Coordination

Goal for Capability 2: Health care organizations, Health Care Coalitions, and their jurisdictions collaborate to share and analyze information, manage resources, and coordinate strategies to deliver acute medical care to all populations during emergencies and planned events. Simultaneous response and recovery operations result in a return to normal or improved operations.

* Health Care Preparedness and Response Capability (HCPRC) 3: Continuity of Health Care Service Delivery

Goal for Capability: Health care organizations, with support from the HCC and the Emergency Support Function-8 (ESF-8) lead agency, provide uninterrupted, optimal medical care to all populations in the face of damaged or disabled health care infrastructure. Health care workers are well-trained, well-educated, and well-equipped to care for patients during emergencies. Simultaneous response and recovery result in a return to normal or, ideally, improved operations.

* Health Care Preparedness and Response Capability (HCPRC) 4: Medical Surge

Goal for Capability: Health care organizations – including hospitals, emergency medical services (EMS), and out of hospital providers – deliver timely and efficient care to their patients even when

the demand for health care services exceeds available supply. The Health Care Coalition coordinates information and all available resources for its members to maintain conventional surge response. When an emergency overwhelms the Health Care Coalition’s collective resources, the Health Care Coalition facilitates the health care system’s transition to contingency and crisis surge response and its return to conventional standards of care.

* National Core Capability: Environmental Response/Health and Safety

Goal for Capability: Conduct appropriate measures to ensure the protection of the health and safety of the public and workers, as well as the environment, from all-hazards in support of responder operations and the affected communities.

* National Core Capability: Public Health, Healthcare, and Emergency Medical Services

Goal for Capability: Provide lifesaving medical treatment via Emergency Medical Services and related operations and avoid additional disease and injury by providing targeted public health, medical, and behavioral health support, and products to all affected populations.

# PROPOSED OBJECTIVES

## OBJECTIVE ONE

Activate the Incident Command System (ICS) per scenario or hazard-specific plan and/or local policies and procedures within [insert timeframe] minutes of notification of incident and incorporate responding ambulance units into on-scene ICS structure. *Health Care Preparedness and Response Capability 2: Health Care and Medical Response and Recovery Coordination*

Sample Task(s):

* Establish a ground ambulance coordinator within [insert timeframe]
* Identify an ambulance staging and loading area considering immediate and future needs and assign personnel to staff the staging area within [insert timeframe]
* Per scenario or hazard-specific plan and/or local policies and procedures, ensure hospital emergency department bed availability through polling
* Provide a Medical Supply Resource Inventory at ambulance staging area of medical supplies available from ambulance units at the scene
* Establish single point resource ordering with Incident Commander regarding ambulance needs for response

## OBJECTIVE TWO

Per local policies and procedures, provide situational awareness to the Local Emergency Medical Services Agency (LEMSA) and/or Medical and Health Operational Area Coordinator (MHOAC) Program for inclusion in the Public Health & Medical Emergency Operations Manual Situation Report within [XX] minutes of activation. *Health Care Preparedness and Response Capability 2: Health Care and Medical Response and Recovery Coordination*

Sample Task(s):

* Contact the appropriate LEMSA and/or MHOAC representative through designated communication channels to poll available ambulance resources through mutual aid agreements, Memoranda of Understanding (MOU), corporate supply chain, etc.
* Revaluate resource request and incident resource needs every [XX] minutes or during periods of low activity
* Forecast response times and availability of transport units every [XX] minutes and provide updates in coordination with the MHOAC, LEMSA, and the Emergency Operations Center (EOC)

## OBJECTIVE THREE

Implement and manage medical surge when appropriate information sharing systems and procedures have been established within [insert timeframe], appropriate plans for all levels of care and populations have been developed, and personnel have been trained in their use. *Health Care Preparedness and Response Capability 4: Medical Surge*

Sample Task(s):

* Consider surge strategies such as changing shift lengths or crew configurations, using alternate vehicles, using community paramedicine, or other non-ambulance responses in coordination with dispatch priorities
* Develop and implement EMS patient distribution strategies to avoid overloading any single hospital
* Identify procedures to surge the numbers of patients transported per vehicle or aircraft if necessary

## OBJECTIVE FOUR

Provide effective risk communication during the incident in coordination with other local and regional players throughout the operation of a Joint Information Center (JIC) within [insert timeframe]. *Health Care Preparedness and Response Capability 2: Health Care and Medical Response and Recovery Coordination*

Sample Task(s):

* Confirm predetermined methods of notification and redundant communication pathways, as radio and other non-secure methods of communication may be monitored by the media or the public
* Coordinate with the scene safety officer to address any concerns for responders and/or the general public and appropriate protective actions, within [insert timeframe] of arrival on-scene

## OBJECTIVE FIVE

Utilize local deployment plans to respond to infectious disease outbreaks that stress the capacity of the health care delivery system within [insert timeframe]. *Health Care Preparedness and Response Capability 4: Medical Surge; National Core Capability: Public Health, Healthcare, and Emergency Medical Services*

Sample Task(s):

* Screen all patients for signs, symptoms, and relevant travel and exposure history
* Document exposure information in [insert appropriate forms and/or electronic health record system], and ensure it is communicated to the entire care team and state and local health departments
* Provide personal protective equipment (PPE) and prophylaxis to employees and visitors while awaiting either comprehensive evaluation, definitive diagnosis, or transfer
* Rapidly isolate patients according to guidelines provided by the local public health department

## OBJECTIVE SIX

Conduct appropriate measures to ensure the protection of the health and safety of the public and workers, as well as the environment, from all hazards in support of responder operations and the affected communities within [insert timeframe]. *National Core Capability: Environmental Response/Health and Safety*

Sample Task(s):

* Identify, assess, and mitigate worker health and safety hazards, and disseminate health and safety guidance and resources to response and recovery workers
* Minimize public exposure to environmental hazards through assessment of the hazards and implementation of public protective actions

## OBJECTIVE SEVEN

Maintain continuous on-scene resource needs and request necessary resources through proper channels as established locally or through the Operational Area via local policies and procedures within [insert timeframe]. *Health Care Preparedness and Response Capability 2: Health Care and Medical Response and Recovery Coordination*

Sample Task(s):

* Run through the established Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) to assure that necessary equipment is available in the ambulance for patient needs during transportation
* Ensure single point resource ordering through the on-scene Incident Commander for resource requesting and follow proper local and Operational Area (OA) channels for ordering
* Activate mutual aid plans for immediate and planned needs within [insert timeframe] of identification of need
* Contact appropriate MHOAC representative via [channel] to request additional transportation resources as appropriate. Consider equipment/time limitations
* Provide an inventory of medical supplies available at ambulance staging area for use at the scene within [insert timeframe]. Anticipate and advise on changing resource requirements

## OBJECTIVE EIGHT

Prepare the organization for continuous provision of essential services to clients and staff (and affected family members, whenever possible) during and after the disaster within [insert timeframe]. *Health Care Preparedness and Response Capability 3: Continuity of Health Care Service Delivery*

Sample Task(s):

* Put in place succession planning to maintain operations if primary positions become vacant within [insert timeframe] of event notification.
* Ensure that operations related to the continuity of the business are sustainable for [insert timeframe] and these strategies are documented within a recovery plan