

STATEWIDE MEDICAL AND HEALTH EXERCISE

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 CDPH. To access this document, please visit www.californiamedicalhealthexercise.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 tailored 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

* HPP Capability: Emergency Operations Coordination

Definition: Emergency operations coordination regarding healthcare is the ability for healthcare organizations to engage with incident management at the Emergency Operations Center or with on-scene incident management during an incident to coordinate information and resource allocation for affected healthcare organizations. This is done through multi-agency coordination representing healthcare organizations or by integrating this coordination into plans and protocols that guide incident management to make the appropriate decisions. Coordination ensures that the healthcare organizations, incident management, and the public have relevant and timely information about the status and needs of the healthcare delivery system in the community. This enables healthcare organizations to coordinate their response with that of the community response and according to the framework of the National Incident Management System (NIMS).

* HPP Capability: Medical Surge

Definition: The Medical surge capability is the ability to provide adequate medical evaluation and care during incidents that exceed the limits of the normal medical infrastructure within the community. This encompasses the ability of healthcare organizations to survive an all-hazards incident, and maintain or rapidly recover operations that were compromised.

* HPP Capability: Healthcare System Preparedness

Definition: Healthcare system preparedness is the ability of a community’s healthcare system to prepare, respond, and recover from incidents that have a public health and medical impact in the short and long term. The healthcare system role in community preparedness involves coordination with emergency management, public health, mental/behavioral health providers, community and faith-based partners, state, local, and territorial governments to do the following:

* Provide and sustain a tiered, scalable, and flexible approach to attain needed disaster response and recovery capabilities while not jeopardizing services to individuals in the community
* Provide timely monitoring and management of resources
* Coordinate the allocation of emergency medical care resources
* Provide timely and relevant information on the status of the incident and healthcare system to key stakeholders

# PROPOSED OBJECTIVES

## OBJECTIVE ONE

Activate the Incident Command System (ICS) within [insert number of minutes] of notification of incident and incorporate responding ambulance units into on-scene ICS structure. *HPP Capability 1: Healthcare System Preparedness, HPP Capability 3: Emergency Operations Coordination*

Sample Task(s):

* Consider activation of the emergency operations plan (EOP).
* Identify staffing needs and activate staff members as needed within [insert amount of time] of notification of a Mass Casualty Incident (MCI) and begin call-down procedures.
* Establish single point resource ordering with Incident Commander regarding ambulance needs for response.

## OBJECTIVE TWO

Activate surge response plan within [insert number of minutes] of notification of ICS activation. *HPP Capability 10: Medical Surge*

Sample Task(s):

* Consider the mobilization of additional ambulance support resources and personnel based on response and victim needs.
* Working with local EMS Agency (LEMSA) and/or Medical Health Operational Area Coordinator (MHOAC) Program, poll available ambulance resources through mutual aid agreements, MOU, corporate supply chain, etc.
* Develop an Incident Action Plan (IAP), including operational periods, and conduct the associated IAP meetings.

## OBJECTIVE THREE

Maintain components of patient movement from the scene to the receiving facility per established methods and protocols. *HPP Capability 10: Medical Surge*

Sample Task(s):

* When applicable, identify victims on-scene via unique identifying number (e.g., name, triage tag) and begin patient tracking from field to destination facility.
* During the incident, coordinate patient tracking and identification with receiving hospitals and the local EMS Agency and/or MHOAC program.
* During and after an incident, coordinate with the LEMSA and/or MHOAC program in assisting with the return movement of patients from medical facilities.

## OBJECTIVE FOUR

Maintain patient tracking from the scene to the receiving facility per established methods and protocols. *HPP Capability 10: Medical Surge*

Sample Task(s):

* During an incident, coordinate with jurisdictional partners and healthcare coalitions to support patient tracking during all phases of the incident.

## OBJECTIVE FIVE

Maintain communications with jurisdictional partners (public health, local hospital, law enforcement, fire department, EMS, etc.) via radio, telephone and email per agency protocols to maintain situational awareness and support response. *HPP Capability 10: Medical Surge*

Sample Task(s):

* During the incident, establish communication and redundant communication pathways with various agencies (e.g., fire, law, hospital/healthcare facility, local government, EMS Agency, MHOAC Program, etc.) per local communications plans, policies, and procedures.
* During the incident, establish designated agency (e.g., fire, law, hospital/healthcare facility, local government, EMS Agency, MHOAC Program, etc.) points of contact for sharing of situational awareness of the actions of all parties involved, determine needs, and maintain continuity of services during response operations.

## OBJECTIVE SIX

Ensure that procedures are in place for mental/behavioral health support for ambulance personnel and other allied staff. *HPP Capability 10: Medical Surge*

Sample Task(s):

* Per internal procedures, ensure that staff are provided a mental health screening and psychological first aid in the event of observable signs of compassion fatigue or trauma.
* Ensure that internal procedures include pre-identified resources that could provide mental/behavioral health support to staff.