

STATEWIDE MEDICAL AND HEALTH EXERCISE

EMS AGENCY 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 information that may affect normal operations. *HPP Capability 1: Healthcare System Preparedness, HPP Capability 3: Emergency Operations Coordination*

Sample Task(s):

* Work with jurisdictional officials to analyze data, assess emergency conditions, and determine the activation levels based on the complexity of the event or incident. Activation levels should be consistent with jurisdictional standards and practices.
* Assign an Incident Commander.
* Incident Commander should declare a Mass Casualty Incident (MCI) based on scene size-up and activate a Medical Branch Director or Medical Group Supervisor for patient care.
* Notify designated incident command staff of response.

## OBJECTIVE TWO

Assist in the expansion of the healthcare system that includes hospitals and non-hospital entities. *HPP Capability 10: Medical Surge*

Sample Task(s):

* Activate surge response plan within [insert number of minutes] of notification of ICS activation.

## OBJECTIVE THREE

Initiate the Patient Movement Plan within [identify number of minutes] of notification of an MCI.[[1]](#footnote-1) *HPP Capability 10: Medical Surge*

Sample Task(s):

* Initiate bed polling (e.g., HAvBED or MCI Bed Polling) within [identify number of minutes] notification of MCI to ascertain bed availability and transport options for the field.
* Initiate a patient tracking system from field to hospital and beyond (e.g., out-of-county transport) for patient tracking, identification, and reunification.
* Ensure field and hospitals have initiated their own components of the Patient Movement Plan including triage, treatment, transport, identification and reunification.
* Obtain patient count and START/jumpSTART triage status (e.g., Red (Immediate), Yellow (Delayed), Green (Minor) triaged) from field and relay information to receiving hospitals for situational awareness.

## OBJECTIVE FOUR

Coordinate with Medical Health Operational Area Coordinator (MHOAC) Program for medical and health resource ordering, and to identify staging locations for ambulances and additional EMS resources. *HPP Capability 3: Emergency Operations Coordination*

Sample Task(s):

* Utilize your Healthcare Coalition/clinical organization’s process for issuing resource requests.
* Utilize your agency/organization’s pre-established list of vendors to request additional supplies and equipment.
* Implement the Healthcare Coalition’s process to allocate resources, if any, and coordinate with emergency management and other response partners.

## OBJECTIVE FIVE

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

Sample Task(s):

* During an incident, coordinate and maintain communications throughout the incident per jurisdictional authority/ jurisdictional incident management structure with federal, State, local, and non-governmental agencies; private sector agencies; and other Emergency Support Function #8 partners to maintain situational awareness of the actions of all parties involved, determine needs, and maintain continuity of services during response operations.
* Provide situational awareness to the MHOAC Program from pre-hospital, hospital, and other Healthcare Coalition partners.
* Ensure MHOAC Program completes the Emergency Operation Manual (EOM) Medical and Health Situation Report within two hours of event notification (per EOM requirements).

## OBJECTIVE SIX

Activate the local disaster medical volunteer system and provide guidelines for volunteer Just-In-Time training as well as credentialing requirements. *HPP Capability 10: Medical Surge*

Sample Task(s):

* Support mobilization of incident-specific medical treatment personnel, public health personnel, and non-medical support personnel to increase capacity.
* Assist in the expansion of the healthcare system (inclusive of healthcare coalitions), which includes hospitals and non-hospital entities.

## OBJECTIVE SEVEN

Ensure that procedures are in place to request mental/behavioral health support during medical surge incidents to responders, patients, and families. *HPP Capability 10: Medical Surge*

Sample Task(s):

* Ensure that staff, patients, and family are provided a mental/behavioral health screening and psychological first aid in the event of observable signs of compassion fatigue or trauma.
* Ensure that a contact list is provided of pre-identified resources that could provide mental/behavioral health support to responders, survivors, and family according to the incident.

1. HPP grant requirement for incorporation of hospital and EMS patient tracking and critical components of the Statewide Patient Movement Plan Workgroup [↑](#footnote-ref-1)