

STATEWIDE MEDICAL AND HEALTH EXERCISE

MEDICAL EXAMINER/CORONER OBJECTIVES

Pandemic Influenza

*How To Use This Document: The purpose of this document is to provide sample objectives and core capabilities[[1]](#footnote-1) for exercise planners to select from in designing their Statewide Medical and Health Exercise (SWMHE). These core capabilities and their supporting objectives were identified based on previous exercises, incidents, and your feedback. 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 core 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 core capabilities and exercise objectives for your organization based on prior incidents, exercises, and requirements. According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency,* ***ten or fewer objectives are recommended for a full-scale exercise****. Additional agency/discipline specific objectives have also been developed to encourage participation by partner agencies and aid with the design of a multi-agency/discipline exercise. To access these please visit www.californiamedicalhealthexercise.com.*

CAPABILITY: OPERATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS

| **Objective 1:** | **Exercise communications PROCESS internally and externally in accordance with local policies and procedures within the exercise time frame** |
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| **Objective 2:** | **Test REDUNDANT communications modalities within and across response partners in accordance with local policies and procedures** |
| **Activity** | Provide command center communications support |
| **Task** | **Description** |
| Res.B1a 4.2.1 | Establish communications with the operational area Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and/or the Regional Emergency Operations Center (REOC) |
| Res.B1c 5.2.3 | Collect/share data on incident situation as requested by the EOC while adhering to applicable laws and statutes |
| **Objective Comments** | |
| This section addresses the communications process both internally and externally, and the use of redundant communication modalities. A continuous flow of critical information should be maintained as needed among multi-jurisdictional and multi-disciplinary emergency responders, incident command posts, agencies, and the governmental officials for the duration of the emergency response operation in compliance with the National Incident Management System (NIMS) and the Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS), | |

CAPABILITY: FATALITY MANAGEMENT

| **Objective 3:** | **Test the ability to activate and implement the California Coroner’s Mutual Aid Plan and the California Mass Fatality Management Guide, and activate the Coroner’s Mutual Aid System** |
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| **Activity** | Direct fatality management tactical operations |
| **Task** | **Description** |
| Res.C4a 3.6.2 | Staff Family Assistance Center (FAC) / Victim Identification Centers to assist with collection of antemortem data collection and conduct death notifications |
| Res.C4a 3.1.2 | Coordinate with medical facility/Department of Public Health/general medical community  ― *Victim expired under medical care*  ― *Physician provided needed medicolegal authority to issue death certificate* |
| Res.B1f 3.1 | Identify public and media messaging strategies in support of the Joint Information Center (JIC) and public health |
| Res.C4a 3.1.4 | Establish liaison with the EOC and local public health department to discuss transportation and storage options for decedents |
| Res.C4a 3.5.1 | Coordinate local, regional, and State assistance for victim identification and mortuary services, and the processing, preparation, and disposition of remains.  ― *Request State portable morgue*  ― *Available resources allocated by State authorities* |
| Res.C4a 3.4.3 | Coordinate State assistance for next-of-kin notification and collection of antemortem information  ― *Request appropriate personnel (i.e., psychologists, social services)*  ― *Contact local agency or State for use of facilities* |
| **Activity** | Activate fatality management operations |
| **Task** | **Description** |
| Res.C4a 4.2 | Activate and implement mass fatality plans and California Coroner’s Mutual Aid Plan |
| Res.C4a 4.3.2 | Determine morgue location(s) |
| Res.C4a 4.4 | Request federal Disaster Mortuary Operations Response Teams (DMORT) as appropriate |
| **Activity** | Manage antemortem data |
| **Task** | **Description** |
| Res.C4a 7.1 | Activate antemortem data collection activities  ― *Key staff on-scene*  ― *Provide staff counseling*  ― *Meet needs of victims and family of victims* |
| Res.C4a 7.2 | Conduct collection of antemortem information within the FAC  ― *Interview family*  ― *Secure information from general access*  ― *Properly dispose of paper copies per Federal, State and/or local regulations* |
| **Activity** | Conduct morgue operations |
| **Task** | **Description** |
| Res.C4a 6.4 | Determine strategies for short and long term storage of decedents |
| Res.C4a 6.4 | Identify suitable secondary facilities for fatality management activities |
| Res.C4a 6.4 | Identify prioritization for pick-up of decedents |
| **Activity** | Conduct victim identification |
| **Task** | **Description** |
| Res.C4a 8.3 | Coordinate with law enforcement on the identification of unidentified bodies |
| Res.C4a 8.2.5 | Compare data from morgue and Family Assistance Center (FAC)  ― *Coordinate FAC and morgue*  ― *Ensure compatibility w/ other databases* |
| **Activity** | Conduct final disposition |
| **Task** | **Description** |
| Res.C4a 9.2 | Activate next-of-kin and family notification protocols |
| **Activity** | Demobilize fatality management operations |
| **Task** | **Description** |
| Res.C4a 10.3.2 | Provide information to fatality management personnel on resources for psychological and/or medical assistance |
| **Objective Comments** | |
| Activate local mass fatality management plans, including decedent surge protocols, family notification, media release, transportation and disposition of remains, and coordination with law enforcement and public health. | |

CAPABILITY: PUBLIC HEALTH AND MEDICAL SERVICES

| **Objective 4:** | **Test the ability to gather and share information on potential exposure and disease with local public health** |
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| **Activity** | Surveillance and detection |
| **Task** | **Description** |
| Pro.B1a 4.2.1 | Detect suspected outbreak through pattern recognition in ante mortem data, autopsy reports, death certificates, and information reporting from local hospitals, healthcare providers, and reporting systems |
| **Objective Comments** | |
| This objective tests the ability to conduct surveillance for potential exposure or disease. | |

1. These are selected based on the National Preparedness Goal and Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP) core capabilities (2013). The numbers used to enumerate the tasks are based on the 2007 Target Capabilities List as the 2013 core capabilities list does not provide numbered tasks. Tasks are amended/added to align with Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) Program, HSEEP, & the Hospital Preparedness Program (HPP). [↑](#footnote-ref-1)