2023 Statewide Medical and Health Exercise

# Chemical Fire with Burn and Pediatric Surge Scenario

# Coroner / Medical Examiner 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 Integrated Preparedness Plan (IPP) (formerly MYTEP) developed by the California Department of Public Health (CDPH). To access this document, visit* <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/EPO/Pages/swmhe.aspx>

*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****. According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA),* ***ten or fewer objectives are recommended for a functional exercise.***

## Applicable Capabilities

| **Type** | **Capability** | **Capability Goal** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| PHEP | Volunteer Management | Ability to coordinate the identification, recruitment, registration, credential verification, training, and engagement of volunteers to support the jurisdictional public health agency’s response to incidents of public health significance. |
| PHEP | Public Health Laboratory Testing | Ability to conduct rapid and conventional detection, characterization, confirmatory testing, data reporting, investigative support, and laboratory networking to address actual or potential exposure to all-hazards. |
| PHEP | Mass Care | Ability to coordinate with partner agencies to address the public health, medical, and mental/behavioral health needs of those impacted by an incident at a congregate location. |
| HPP | Health Care and Medical Response Coordination | Health care organizations (HCC), their jurisdiction(s), and the ESF-8 lead agency plan and collaborate to share and analyze information, manage and share resources, and coordinate strategies to deliver medical care to all populations during emergencies and planned events. |
| HPP | Continuity of Health Care Service Delivery | Health care organizations, with support from the HCC and the 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. |
| FEMA  National Core | Public Health and Medical Services | 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. |
| FEMA  National Core | Mass Care Services | Provide life-sustaining and human services to the affected population, to include hydration, feeding, sheltering, temporary housing, evacuee support, reunification, and distribution of emergency supplies. |

# Proposed Objectives

## Objective One

Identify the appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) for Coroner/Medical Examiner staff to don prior to initiating extraction of remains within [insert timeframe]. *National Core Capability: Environmental Response/Health and Safety*

Sample Task(s):

* Coordinate with Public Health to determine the level and type of PPE appropriate to prevent chemical exposure while handling victim remains
* Provide medical support, safety considerations, and appropriate PPE for Coroner/Medical examiners in the fieldat least [insert timeframe] before their arrival on-scene

## Objective Two

Identify appropriate locations for temporary storage of human remains within [insert timeframe] of determination that there is a surge in decedents that exceeds the responding Coroner/Medical Examiner’s storage capacities. *National Core Capability: Environmental Response/Health and Safety*

Sample Task(s):

* Coordinate activation of mutual aid agreements within [insert timeframe] to obtain resources necessary to secure, supply, and equip temporary morgue or staging areas on-scene
* Ensure deployment of security personnel and/or physical barriers before using the sites to store or stage human remains
* Activate temporary morgue or staging areas once responding Coroner/Medical Examiner’s storage areas (e.g. morgue) have reached capacity
* Ensure that all personnel operating within temporary morgue or staging areas are trained on appropriate safety protocols and are donning the appropriate PPE to prevent chemical exposure

## Objective Three

Identify the appropriate containment and/or isolation protocols for chemically exposed remains within [insert timeframe]. *National Core Capability: Environmental Response/Health and Safety*

Sample Task(s):

* Work with Public Health and Environmental Health Hazardous Materials to determine chemical agent information and human remains storage protocols within [insert timeframe] of determination of exposure risk
* Communicate with hospitals, EMS, and others to assess morgue capacity and any outstanding

morgue needs at [insert timeframe] intervals throughout the duration of the response period

* Identify and include non-traditional storage strategies (e.g., Bioseal, refrigerated trucks, etc.) in protocols for handling remains, especially as event expands in size and scope

## Objective Four

Incorporate mental and behavioral health services and agencies in all situational awareness and/or information distributed to other agencies as part of event response, and plan for the activation of mental and behavioral health services for all staff members as part of event response and recovery. *National Core Capability: Public Health, Healthcare, and Emergency Medical Services*

Sample Task(s):

* Distribute informational materials to all Coroner/Medical Examiner staff to ensure staff’s awareness and understanding of the symptoms and signs of acute stress responses and how to seek treatment
* In consultation with the [Incident Safety Officer] and [insert position(s)], identify the medical and mental/behavioral health risks (routine and event-specific) to Coroner/Medical Examiner staff and communicate this information to [insert position(s)]

## Objective Five

Activate Coroner Mutual Aid Plan within [insert timeframe] of determination that surge in remains exceeds responding Coroner/Medical Examiner capacity. *National Core Capability: Operational Coordination*

Sample Task(s):

* Assess the region’s Coroner/Medical Examiner mutual aid capabilities and communicate this information to the State Coroner Mutual Aid Coordinator.
* Establish event objectives, priorities, and operational periods within [insert timeframe] of activation of emergency operations plan and/or scenario or hazard-specific plan
* Disseminate plan to other response organizations through operational briefing within [insert timeframe] of activation
* Notify the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) of any mutual aid resources requested through the State Coroner Mutual Aid Coordinator within [insert timeframe] of identification of need
* Provide the location of a staging area for arriving resources and direct resources according to priorities set in coordination with response partner agencies and Unified Command (UC)
* Monitor, measure, and document the performance of assigned resources at [insert timeframe] intervals throughout the duration of the response period

## Objective Six

Coordinate with local emergency management authorities to assist with the activation of a Family Assistance Center (FAC) within [insert timeframe] of arrival on-scene. *National Core Capability: Operational Coordination*

Sample Task(s):

* Identify personnel to serve as department liaisons to the FAC to provide information to family members within [insert timeframe] of FAC activation
* Coordinate with FAC staff to establish protocols for integrating the identification of human remains through family members and friends into FAC operations within [insert timeframe] of FAC activation
* Identify protocols and policies to ensure equitable access to services available through the FAC.