

Annex B

Regional Coordination Plan

For Mass Fatalities Incidents

Region H Healthcare Preparedness Coalition
Revised 6/27/2017

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1. Introduction

1.1. Mass Fatalities Definition

A mass fatality incident, by definition, is any situation where more deaths occur than can be handled by local coroner resources.

1.2. Purpose

This plan seeks to provide guidance, definitions, and delineation of the Coalition’s responsibilities pertaining to a response to a mass fatality incident. Additionally, this plan takes into consideration the local, state, federal, private and volunteer organization resources that may be available for responding to a mass fatality incident.

1.3. Scope

This regional plan will be used by the jurisdiction defined as the Region H Healthcare Preparedness Coalition for coordination and notification activities concerning a mass fatality incident that occurs within or otherwise affects the Coalition region. The Coalition region includes the counties of Baldwin, Bleckley, Dodge, Hancock, Jasper, Johnson, Laurens, Montgomery, Pulaski, Putnam, Telfair, Treutlen, Twiggs, Washington, Wheeler, Wilcox, and Wilkinson within the state of Georgia.

2. Assumptions

2.1. This Coalition Mass Fatalities Coordination Plan will be used in conjunction with the Region H Healthcare Preparedness Coalition EOP and will operate alongside county plans for mass fatalities, individual facility plans for mass fatalities, and other individual facility emergency plans that are activated to respond to the incident.

2.2. The local medical examiner/coroner is responsible for managing mass fatalities; however, there are many other agencies and organizations that are involved in a mass fatalities response.

2.3. Under the direction of the Georgia Emergency Operations Plan (GEOP) and the Emergency Support Function 8 (ESF 8): Public Health and Medical Services, the state-level response to a mass fatalities event would primarily involve coordination of the response and resources among the Public Health regions and arranging for support from state and federal assets, as requested.

2.4. Healthcare providers in the region may experience a surge of injured survivors. Hospitals may be discharging patients to lower levels of care (i.e. Home Health, Hospice, Nursing Homes).

2.5. Release of any information will be governed by existing legal obligations and internal policies of each facility.

2.6. The Local Emergency Management Agency (EMA) will manage the opening and operation of Family Assistance Center(s) in accordance with the county mass fatalities plan and will coordinate efforts with healthcare facilities.

3. Authorities

- 3.1. Coroner** The Coroner shares responsibility for fatality management with law enforcement (LE) — the recovery, identification, and disposition of mass fatalities incident victims. It is the duty of the coroner to inquire into and determine the circumstances of death for suspicious or unusual deaths. (*O.C.G.A. 45-16-24*)
- 3.2. Public Health** Public Health is the lead agency for coordination of ESF-8, Public Health and Medical Services activities. Key roles in mass fatalities management include: mass fatalities plan coordination; medical resources allocations; health surveillance; worker health/safety; radiological/chemical/biological hazards consultation; burial requirement consultation; public health information; vital records; vector control; and coordination of medical assets, such as post-mortem kits and mobile morgues.

In addition to the above responsibilities, should the mass fatalities incident be the result of an infectious disease, such as pandemic influenza, Public Health would:

- 3.2.1. Communicate and coordinate directly with county and city/town leaders, county emergency managers, local boards of health and other health care partners regarding pandemic preparedness and response activities.
 - 3.2.2. Coordinate directly with county and district healthcare partners and assist, if requested, in making decisions regarding strategies, thresholds, and methods for re-allocating resources and temporarily restructuring health system operations in response to a pandemic.
 - 3.2.3. Authorize and communicate public health recommendations or directives regarding social distancing strategies and other protective actions to elected/appointed leaders, the business community, schools, and healthcare coalition partners.
 - 3.2.4. Provide leadership for county health departments and the local health district staff in planning for and responding to a pandemic, including assignment of staff responsibilities.
 - 3.2.5. Ensure continuity of operations for county health departments and the local health district, ensuring performance of critical functions during a pandemic.
 - 3.2.6. Direct isolation and quarantine, if indicated, of individuals and groups in accordance with (*OCGA 31.2.1.*).
 - 3.2.7. The local county Emergency Operations Center (EOC) may be activated and the Public Health District Operations Center (DOC), depending on the type of incident, may be activated in response to a mass fatalities incident. Public Health may oversee the coordination of the multiple local, regional, state and federal agencies and departments involved in the management of the incident.
- 3.3. Law Enforcement** Refer to ESF-13 of the GEOP and the Local Emergency Operations Plan (LEOP) of the affected county.
- 3.4. Region H Healthcare Coalition** The Healthcare Coalition is a support partner in mass fatalities incidents, primarily through coordination of regional assets and communication. Each Coalition member will operate in conjunction with their internal Mass Fatalities Plan or Emergency Operations Plan (EOP).

4. Regional Coalition Operations for Mass Fatality Incidents

4.1. Triggers for Activation of Regional Plan:

- 4.1.1. A county expects to exceed their mortuary capacity.
- 4.1.2. A facility receives credible notification from an external agency which reports an event with the potential to create more decedents than current capacity can accommodate.
- 4.1.3. A facility requests fatality surge assets or alternate site surge space to accommodate a surge in decedents.

4.2. Coalition Notifications and Communications:

- 4.2.1. Upon recognition of a mass fatalities incident, the affected facility will notify the county coroner.
- 4.2.2. Coalition notifications and communications will follow procedures as outlined in the Coalition EOP.

5. Requesting of Regional Assets for Mass Fatalities Incidents

- 5.1. Requests for regional assets should be made in accordance with the Resource and Assets section of the Coalition EOP.
- 5.2. Regional Mass Fatalities Trailer is stationed at the Laurens County EMA Office. Other Regional Mass Fatalities Assets are stored throughout Region H.
- 5.3. Assets will be released to the coroner of the affected county for their use.
- 5.4. It will be the borrowing coroner's responsibility to maintain the equipment and return it after use in accordance with the Coalition's reimbursement process/procedures as outlined in the Coalition EOP.

6. Region H Coroner Directory

County	Coroner	Address/Phone
Baldwin	John Gonzales Coroner1@ymail.com	3012 Tomlinson Road Milledgeville, GA 31061 Office: 478.452.7063 (preferred)
	William Ken Garland, Deputy Coroner	2283 A Pinewood Drive Milledgeville, GA 31061 Office: 478.363.2843 (preferred)
Bleckley	Danny Mathis mathisfh@comsouth.net	P.O. Box 531 Cochran, GA 31014 Office: 478.934.2030 (preferred) Home: 478.934.4141
	Joseph Mathis, Deputy Coroner calmathis@hotmail.com	Office: 478.934.2030 (preferred)
Dodge	Joe T. Smith	499 Lovely Grove Church Road Eastman, GA 31023 Office: 478.285.1055 (preferred)
	Jay Coleman, Deputy Coroner	1129 Airport Road Eastman, GA 31023 Office: 478.689.4750 (preferred)
Hancock	Gloria Cooper, Deputy Coroner butts_g@bellsouth.net	P.O. Box 254 Sparta, GA 31087 Office: 478.456.3143 (preferred)
	Joy Mapp	Office: 706.998.8233 (preferred)
Jasper	Norris Billy	2649 Persons Street Monticello, GA 31064 Office: 706.319.6776
Johnson	Kenny Jones	P.O. Box 269 Wrightsville, GA 31096 Office: 478.575.0777 (preferred) Cell: 478.278.3513
Laurens	Richard N. Stanley, III lccoroner@siscons.com	P.O. Box 1999 Dublin, GA 31040 Office: 478.275.1135 (preferred)
	R. Nathan Stanley, IV Alfred Pearson, Jr., Deputy Coroner	P.O. Box 2007 Dublin, GA 31040 Office: 478.275.1135 (preferred)
Montgomery	Donnie Daniels	Office: 912.583.2840
Pulaski	Fred J. Clark, III	P.O. Box 115

	Christopher H. Clark, Deputy Coroner	Hawkinsville, GA 31036 Office: 478.783.1471 (preferred)
Putnam	Gary P. McElhenney Brian Hicks, Deputy Coroner	848 Church Street Eatonton, GA 31024 Office: 706.485.7722 (preferred) Fax: 706.485.7157 Cell: 706.473.0355 882 Oak Street Eatonton, GA 31024 Office: 706.485.7722
Telfair	Jennifer D. Williamson, Deputy Coroner Emsdirector31055@yahoo.com	21 Lakeview Drive McCrae, GA 31055 Office: 229.868.7512 (preferred)
Treutlen	James Gregory (Greg) Higgs	P.O. Box 50 7471 Eastman Road Soperton, GA 30457 Office: 912.529.4242 (preferred)
Twiggs	Harold Reece, Jr. harold@reecefuneralhome.com James E. Davidson, Deputy Coroner jedavidson@america.com	P.O. Box 6 Jeffersonville, GA 31044 Office: 478.945.3121 (preferred) 1500 Hwy. 358 Jeffersonville, GA 31044 Office: 478.945.3121 (preferred)
Washington	E.K. May ekmcoroner@yahoo.com Mark W. Hodges, Deputy Coroner Housedoc12@gmail.com	P.O. Box 6 Tennille, GA 31089 Office: 478.552.2501 (preferred) 937 W. Church Street Sandersville, GA 31082 Office: 478.552.0692 (preferred)
Wheeler	Ted A. Mercer B.L. Horne, Deputy Coroner Blhorne77@gmail.com	1023 Ben Road Glenwood, GA 30428 Office: 912.403.0504 (preferred) 41 Tax Lane Glenwood, GA 30428 Office: 912.509.0675 (preferred)
Wilcox	Janice B. Brown Larry Brown, Deputy Coroner wilcoxcoroner@yahoo.com	P.O. Box 516 Abbeville, GA 31001 Office: 229.452.1411 (preferred) P.O. Box 516 Abbeville, GA 31001 Office: 229.322.9607 (preferred)
Wilcox (Cont.)	Wayne McGuinty Rwminc1@windstream.net	P.O. Box 385 Rochelle, GA 31079

		Office: 229.949.0275 (preferred)
Wilkinson	William H. Matthews	P.O. Box 189 McIntyre, GA 31054 Office: 478.456.3621
	Tommy Brown, Deputy Coroner Brown6095@hotmail.com	10341 Hwy. 57 McIntyre, GA 31054 Office: 478.456.7257 (preferred)
	James Dustin Thomas Dustymedic13@gmail.com	1320 Claymont Road McIntyre, GA 31054 Office: 478.278.4187 (preferred)

7. Region H Fatality Assets and Resources

County	Number of Coroners / Deputy Coroners	Number of Funeral Homes	Number of embalming stations	Number of crematory facilities	Cold Storage Capacity	Notes
Baldwin						
Bleckley						
Dodge						
Hancock						
Jasper						
Johnson						
Laurens	3	4	4	1	6 plus morgue trailer.	
Montgomery						
Pulaski						
Putnam						
Telfair						
Treutlen						
Twiggs						
Washington						
Wheeler						
Wilcox						
Wilkinson						
Regional Assets						
Total						