

Title: Mass Fatality Plan Emergency Management Plan	Policy : EMP Appendix E
	Effective Date: 02/2014 2/1/11
	Last Review Date: 1-25-15
	Revised Date: 1-25-15
	CEO: Joel Yuhas CNE: Jodi Hein

SCOPE

The Mass Fatality Management Plan is designed to outline the management and disposition of large numbers of human remains as a result of a natural disaster, epidemic, pandemic or other catastrophic event.

OBJECTIVES

The Plan's objectives are to:

- Prepare for the possibility of mass fatalities.
- Assess current capacity for refrigeration of deceased persons.
- Coordinate with the regional public health, disaster-management, and public-safety structure.
- Develop and implement appropriate medical- and environmental-response measures.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

The members of the Environment of Care Committee are responsible for developing, distributing, reviewing and maintaining the Plan and:

- Overseeing receipt and dissemination of current information about the emergence of mass fatality events
- Overseeing implementation of response measures in the event of a suspected/confirmed mass fatality event.
- Ensuring coordination of response measures with the appropriate disaster-management, public-safety and public-health agencies.

PLANNING ASSUMPTIONS

1. Los Angeles County has developed a county catastrophic mass fatality plan and has developed relevant standard operating procedures.
2. Mass fatality incidents due to chemical, biological, radiological, or nuclear factors will present an added difficult dimension to response, identification, and final disposition of the deceased victims
3. A catastrophic mass fatality incident as a result of a terrorist act will involve the Federal Bureau of Investigation (lead investigative agency) and other federal agencies.
4. Family Assistance Plan for Aviation Disasters.” This plan requires the airlines to perform family notifications, and all aspects of victim and family logistical support.

ST. MARY MEDICAL CENTER RESOURCES

A. Mass Fatality Critical Supplies/Equipment

Current capacity in the hospital morgue is about 20 adult persons. Temporary refrigeration or freezer units may need to be used.

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The chart below identifies types and location of key mass fatality critical resources.

Resource Type	Location
Body Bags	Disaster Resource Center (DRC) storage trailers Parking Garage DRC storage area Morgue (to include Bariatric Bags)
Ice	Environmental Services
Refrigerated truck rental	Local Community
Patient disaster tags	DRC storage trailer/ER Admitting

B. Alternate Morgue Site Options

The chart below identifies alternate morgue sites or human remains storage sites during a mass fatality event. Alternate morgue overflow shall be in a secure area where remains can be covered in ice.

Alternate Human Remains Site Options	
Location	Number to be held
St. Mary Medical Center Morgue	Body Rack System in Morgue – capacity 6 adult corpses-counter space on morgue can handle 6 additional pediatric corpses
Local Mortuaries	Area Mortuaries would be used for back up morgue capacity
First floor gymnasium	In an event of mass casualty and cessation of normal day to day operations the first floor gymnasium of Physical Therapy department can be utilized for family reunification with alterations to curtain areas and waiting area

Notes:

1. Use of these areas will require: a) cancellation and/or relocation of normal services, b) resource allocation c) temporary storage areas for cadavers.
2. Contaminated remains will be placed inside two body bags and marked with the appropriate warning labels if appropriate.
3. All remains unless otherwise noted are to be managed using standard precautions as outlined by the blood borne pathogen plan.

MASS FATALITY ACTIVATION LEVEL

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The magnitude of the mass fatality event – the anticipated number of human remains -- will influence choices regarding use of human remains storage sites. The magnitude shall be characterized based on the following three-step Mass Fatality Activation Scale:

- Low-magnitude: 25 - 50 bodies.
- Moderate-magnitude: 50-1000 bodies.
- High-magnitude: ≥ 1000 bodies.

The chart below identifies by Mass Fatality Activation Level and the alternate human remains storage sites.

Fatality Activation Level	Actions
Low-Magnitude 25-50 bodies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use regular facilities such as the morgue (basement level) • Remove racks in room if necessary and stack on floor • Bodies are to be tagged and managed as per normal procedures • Security should be enhanced when removing remains from the hospital to mortuaries or the coroner
Moderate-magnitude 50 -1000 bodies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Obtain refrigerated trailers. • Trailers will have 24 hour security. • Bodies will be placed within the trailer in body bags or similar container. • Bodies are to be tagged and managed as per normal procedures.
High-magnitude >/= 1000 bodies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is highly unlikely that St. Mary Medical Center could participate in a high magnitude mass fatality • LA Coroner’s office would manage all high magnitude events. • Some things that the medical center may be asked to assist with are: Track and record names and numbers of dead, family reunification for bodies at hospital

PROCEDURES:

- I. **Administrator on Call/House Supervisor:** Reddinett and MAC notification of a mass fatality event
- II. **HICS:** Activation of HICS in hospital for command and control and documentation

External Notifications



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1. EMS Medical Alert Center hotline at (323) 226-6619
2. Los Angeles County Coroners office
3. California Department of Health Services, Licensing & Certification at (323) 8377-1005, or after hours at (916) 262-1621

Hospital Incident Command System in Mass Fatality:

In the event of a mass fatality incident, the HICS Incident Commander shall activate a Hospital Mass Fatality Incident Unit responsible for:

- Decedent identification (if not already done upon admittance)
- Family/next of kin notification
- Coroner, County morgue or mortuary notification/contact
- Tracking decedents who die in the hospital to disposition out of the hospital

A. Fatality Tracking

The Mass Fatality Incident Unit shall account for decedents in a mass fatality incident using the HICS “Fatality Tracking Form” This form creates a log of all incident-related fatalities at St. Mary Medical Center, and documents the following key information about those fatalities:

- Decedent identifier – SMMC medical record number. If no such number has been generated (i.e., decedent was dead upon arrival), the number on the first-responder Mass Casualty Incident Triage Tag.
- Demographic information -- Name, gender, date of birth and/or age of decedents
- Status of data entry of decedent information into regional emergency communication systems (ReddiNet or HICS forms)
- Date/time that decedent was delivered to morgue and was released from the morgue.
- Final disposition of decedents – to who remains were released, date and time of release

Additional Resources:

LA County Coroner
 1104 N. Mission Rd
 Los Angeles, CA 90033
 323-343-0711 (to report a death)
 323-343-0714 (Investigator’s line)

Long Beach Department of Public Health
 2525 Grand Ave
 Long Beach, CA 90815
 562-570-4000

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Los Angeles County Morgue
3301 E. 1st St.
Los Angeles, CA 90063
323-409-7161

EMS Agency
10100 Pioneer Blvd. Suite 200
Santa Fe Springs, CA 90670
(562) 347-1500
(562) 941-5835 – Fax
E-Mail: ems@dhs.lacounty.gov:
<http://ems.dhs.lacounty.gov/>

RESOURCES

California
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ California Electronic Death Registration System <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ https://ca.edrs.us (CA-EDRS login page) ○ http://www.edrs.us (EDRS homepage/general information) ▪ California Health & Safety Code 103451, Definition of a Mass Fatalities Incident: http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/cgi-bin/displaycode?section=hsc&group=103001-104000&file=103450-103490 ▪ Standards and Guidelines For Healthcare Surge During Emergencies: http://bepreparedcalifornia.ca.gov/epo/cdphprograms/publichealthprograms/emergencypreparednessoffice/epoprogramsservices/surge/ ▪ Los Angeles Hospital Mass Fatality Incident Planning Checklist: http://ems.dhs.lacounty.gov/ManualsProtocols/MFIM/MFIGuidanceForHospitals808.pdf