



Annex H: Health/Medical Services Executive Summary

| | |
|--------------|---|
| Primary | Public Health & Environmental Services, Medical Examiner's Office |
| Support | County Judge's Office |
| Coordination | Office of Emergency Management |

The purpose of this annex is to coordinate the health and medical resources needed to respond to public health and medical care needs prior to, during and following a significant natural disaster or manmade event. Assistance provided under this annex is coordinated between the Health Authority or designee, the Harris County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HCOHS&EM), and the Harris County Emergency Operations Center. This annex is to outline the organization, operational concepts, responsibilities and procedures of HCPHES and other responsible entities during public health and medical emergencies. Bioterrorism, infectious diseases and other public health emergencies are complex health threats facing the county's safety. It is the responsibility of HCPHES to detect, investigate, respond to, and implement measures to prevent illnesses.

CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

This annex is based upon the concept that the emergency functions of public health, mental health, medical, and mortuary services will generally parallel their normal day-to-day functions. To the extent possible, the same personnel and material resources will be employed in both cases.

HCPHES will assist in a coordinated response with many other Harris County agencies and organizations during an emergency. This annex involves identifying and meeting the health and medical needs of actual and potential victims of a major emergency or disaster.

The responsibilities of HCPHES include the establishment of a health and medical command and control; situational awareness for illness and injury, environmental public health, mosquito control, veterinary public health and emergency public health risk communications; coordinating all-hazards prevention and response activities for illness and injury, environmental public health, mosquito control, veterinary public health and emergency public health and risk communications.

Harris County Hospital District (HCHD) will assist in a coordinated health and medical response by serving as the lead agency for emergency department trauma and inpatient medical and services during emergency events with significant health and medical impact.

Harris County's Mental Health and Mental Retardation Authority (MHMRA) will assist in a coordinated health and medical response by serving as the lead agency for ensuring the delivery of disaster mental health services during an emergency

Harris County Medical Examiner's Office (HCMEO) will assist in a coordinated health and medical response by serving as the lead agency for investigation and management of fatalities from emergency events that result in deaths from accident, homicide, suicide, undetermined causes, and certain naturally occurring circumstances.

REFERENCES

- Annex H (Health & Medical Services) to the *State of Texas Emergency Management Plan*.
- Texas Department of State Health Services website: www.dshs.state.tx.us.
- DSHS Public Health Region website: www.dshs.state.tx.us/brlho/regions.html. This site contains information on the counties served by the 11 DSHS Public Health Regions.
- The statutes and legal authority cited in the Harris County Basic Plan, Section 1.4 and Appendix I, Authorities and References