

HEALTH AND MEDICAL

I. PURPOSE

A. Medical

To provide a coordinated response for medical care and treatment for the ill and injured during, or as a result of, a natural or man-made disaster.

B. Public Health

To provide public health services during, or as a result of, natural or man-made disasters by instituting environmental sanitation measures, testing public and potable water supplies, and mental health services.

C. To identify and process a large number of fatalities.

II. SITUATION

A. The potential exists for a catastrophic event resulting from natural, technological, national security hazards etc. which would stress emergency medical services.

B. Merrill Pioneer Hospital, Rock Rapids is the only hospital in Lyon County. License capacity is listed as: 30 acute care beds.

C. There are 4 nursing homes in Lyon County licensed by the State Department of Public Health for nursing facilities.

D. There are 8 fire departments which provide rescue services for Lyon County.

E. There are 8 rescue units and 2 ambulances which provide service for Lyon County.

III. ASSUMPTIONS AND PLANNING FACTORS

A. Any incident which generates an emergency patient load exceeding the normal day-to-day capabilities of emergency medical services may be considered a disaster.

B. Mutual Aid and outside resources may be available to assist the County during emergencies/disasters.

- C. Any hospital or nursing home evacuating patients to facilities in the County will provide the medical records of patients, professional staff, and as many supplies and equipment as practical.

IV. ORGANIZATION/RESPONSIBILITIES

- A. Medical and Public Health Operations are each described separately, but close coordination is required to fulfill the overall responsibility of minimizing possible adverse health factors and safeguarding our citizens during and/or after an emergency or disaster. The health and medical functions have been separated into two areas, local government support and emergency medical response operations. Both the Medical and Public Health Coordinators represent their respective functions on the EOC staff.

- B. Evacuation: see Annex E.

- C. Specific responsibilities and tasks in the health and medical areas are contained in the Emergency Response Checklists, Attachment 1, and are broken out into three phases: Preparedness, Response, and Recovery. Some general responsibilities are:

- 1. Medical Coordinator:

- a. The Medical Coordinator will be appointed by the Lyon County Ambulance Association and is a member of the EOC Staff.
- b. The Medical Coordinator will act as a liaison between the medical community and the local government.
- c. When an incident occurs which requires medical field operations the Medical Coordinator will:
 - (1) coordinate with and support Medical Control,
 - (2) support medical mutual aid requests and coordinate additional requirements.
- d. The Medical Coordinator, with the support of the Resource Manager and/or County Emergency Management Coordinator, will obtain supplies and/or equipment to support medical operations in the event of an actual or anticipated shortage.

- e. The Medical Coordinator will appoint a supporting staff as needed to fulfill the responsibilities and assure 24-hour operational capabilities.

2. Assistant Medical Coordinator:

- a. The Assistant Medical Coordinator is appointed by the . Lyon County Ambulance Association.
- b. The Assistant Medical Coordinator is responsible for assisting the Medical Coordinator in all functional areas and activities and performs the functions of the Medical Coordinator in their absence.

3. Public Health Coordinator:

- a. The Public Health Coordinator is appointed by the County Board of Health and is a member of the EOC Staff.
- b. The Public Health Coordinator is responsible for coordinating activities required to safeguard public health and minimize the spread of disease and will act as a liaison between Public Health officials and the local government and Emergency Management.
- c. The Public Health Coordinator will appoint a supporting staff, as needed, to fulfill the responsibilities and assure 24-hour operational capabilities.
- d. Public Health Support Staff is responsible for assessing the hazard relating to any existing or anticipated public health threats and the environmental impact of an incident. A supporting staff may be appointed to include:
 - (1) Inspectors: responsible for inspecting and, where appropriate, gathering samples of food, water, sanitary systems, trash disposal, and vermin control.
 - (2) Laboratory Technicians: analyze the suspect samples either gathered by inspectors or brought in by the affected residents.
 - (3) The Public Health Analyst will, based on Inspector's and Laboratory reports, make recommendations to the Public Health

Coordinator, and where appropriate to the

Communicable Disease Control Officer, for actions required to safeguard, correct, or minimize any threat to the public health.

(4) Communicable Disease Control Officer:

a. The Communicable Disease Control Officer is appointed by Public Health Coordinator and is responsible for coordinating any programs designed to prevent or control the spread of diseases which are communicable to humans. This may include:

(1) coordinating programs to immunize the public,

(2) coordinating advisories and self-help public education material with the Public Information Officer (Annex D).

b. The Communicable Disease Control Officer will make recommendations and provide status reports to the Public Health Coordinator. Any medical personnel or supply requirements will be coordinated with the Medical Coordinator.

4. Mortuary Coordinator:

a. The Mortuary Coordinator is responsible for coordinating the interment of the dead when normal capabilities are exceeded. This may include:

(1) assignment of bodies on a rotation basis to local funeral homes,

(2) requesting assistance from the Funeral Director's State or National Organizations,

(3) establishing temporary morgue facilities,

(4) emergency interment.

- b. The mortuary coordinator shall develop and coordinate mortuary operations in cooperation with the county medical examiner (coroner).
- c. The Mortuary Coordinator will make recommendations and provide status reports to the Public Health Coordinator. If emergency interment is required, the Mortuary Coordinator may request identification assistance from Law Enforcement Officials.

5. Mental Health Coordinator:

- a. The Mental Health Coordinator will work closely with the Human Services Director (Annex N) and is responsible for coordinating support to the victims and their families and to emergency workers in the field, where appropriate, at medical facilities, disaster assistance centers, command posts, etc. This may include:
 - (1) coordinating with mental health counselors,
 - (2) establishing an outreach program,
 - (3) coordinating Public Education material with the Public Information Officer.
- b. The mental Health Coordinator will make recommendations and provide status reports to the Public Health Coordinator.

D. Crisis Augmentation

The medical and health coordinator shall provide for augmentation of health/medical personnel when such resources are needed. They shall also identify sources to provide augmentation of medical needs and to satisfy expanded medical requirements during emergency operations.

V. **CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS**

A. Public Health Threats

- 1. The Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Environmental Protection Division: the primary duties and powers of this State agency evolve around the administration of rules, regulations, and standards adopted to protect and improve water, air, and land

quality in the State. The Department also provides services to municipalities, industries, and individual citizens through environmental assistance, as requested.

2. Environmental Protection Agency: this Federal agency addresses the environmental problems of air, water, solid waste management and resource recovery, pesticides, toxic substances, radiation, and noise.

B. Mass Casualty Incident

1. The first rescue unit at the scene will remain and establish Medical Control. Medical Control is responsible for all patient care operations at the scene, including personnel assignments.
2. Patients will be triaged and assigned priority categories based on urgency and chance of survival.
3. Patients will be transported to receiving medical facilities based on triage priority and the medical facilities capabilities.

C. Evacuation and Reception of In-patient Medical Facilities
(See also Annex E)

1. The hospital and nursing homes are responsible for developing internal procedures for:
 - a. assessing and preparing patients for evacuation,
 - b. assuring medical records are transported with patients,
 - c. identifying and transporting essential medications and supplies,
 - d. continuing medical care for those not evacuated.
2. The Administrator, or designated representative, of the affected facility(s) will coordinate evacuation requirements with County Emergency Management Coordinator.
3. The County Emergency Management Coordinator will work with the Medical Coordinator to:
 - a. determine the number of patients the receiving facilities could accept,
 - b. coordinate transportation requirements,
 - c. assist with the assignment of patients to insure appropriate assignments according to capabilities available.

4. In the event of evacuation from another jurisdiction, the County Emergency Management Coordinator will request a liaison team be assigned to work with the receiving facilities administrators.
5. Patients may be received at one of the following facilities depending on the care requirements and situations at the time:
 - a. Merrill Pioneer Comm. Hospital, Rock Rapids.
 - b. Canton Inwood Hospital, Canton, S.D.
 - c. Community Center, all 8 communities in the county.

D. Medical Support for Disabled Persons

The Medical Coordinator will coordinate requirements with:

1. County Emergency Management Coordinator for volunteer resources for emergency delivery of medicines and other medical supplies, and
2. Human Services Officials (see Annex N).

E. Support to Medical Professionals

The County Emergency Management Coordinator will work closely with Medical Coordinator in providing emergency transportation to and from critical medical facilities. Volunteer groups, such as 4-wheel vehicle clubs, snowmobile clubs, amateur radio, and REACT groups (depending on situation - i.e., winter storms) will be utilized to provide this transportation.

F. Evacuation

As deemed appropriate, establish and operate emergency medical care centers for essential workers in the hazardous area following evacuation. (See Annex E.)

G. Mass Care

Provide assistance to Human Services Director to support Mass Care operations by providing health and medical care for persons in congregate care (temporary shelter) facilities. (See Annex I.)

VI. ADMINISTRATION AND LOGISTICS

- A. The Medical Coordinator should meet annually with representatives from the rescue squads, hospitals, and nursing homes to review this plan.
- B. The Public Health Coordinator should meet annually with representatives of county health offices, Funeral Director's Association, and mental health organizations to review and update this plan.
- C. Exercising
 - 1. Every effort will be made to incorporate local involvement into the hospital's annual exercise.
 - 2. Emergency medical professionals and volunteers will be utilized in these exercises to the maximum extent possible.

LIST OF ADDENDA

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>TITLE</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
<u>ANNEX G</u>		
Attachment 1	Emergency Response Checklist	G-10

**HEALTH AND MEDICAL
EMERGENCY RESPONSE CHECKLIST**

Position/Organization

PREPAREDNESS PHASE

MEDICAL COORDINATOR

- _____ Review plans with Public Health Coordinator
- _____ Coordinate readiness plans and requirements with Emergency Medical Officer
- _____ Coordinate anticipated requirements with _____ Hospital
- _____ Establish number of additional patients the hospital and nursing homes could receive in _____ County
- _____ Establish number of patients hospitals in surrounding areas could receive
- _____ *Review procedures at _____ Hospitals for monitoring and decontaminating incoming patients (RAD and otherwise)
- _____ Coordinate with EMS/rescue squads number of ambulances available to support an evacuation of the hospital or nursing homes, if required
- _____ Coordinate with the County Emergency Management Coordinator alternate patient transportation resources (school buses, vans, etc.) if required
- _____ Coordinate with the County Emergency Management Coordinator for availability of facilities to be used for emergency medical care
- _____ Confer with Human Services to identify disabled individuals that may need medical assistance in the event of evacuation or disaster
- _____ Coordinate with the County Emergency Management Coordinator for emergency transportation for medical personnel to critical medical facilities in the event roads are impassable

_____ Review plans with Medical Coordinator

*Radiological/Haz Mat Emergencies

**HEALTH AND MEDICAL
EMERGENCY RESPONSE CHECKLIST**

Position/Organization

PREPAREDNESS PHASE (continued)

PUBLIC HEALTH COORDINATOR (continued)

- _____ Coordinate anticipated lab support requirements with _____ Hospital and Department of Public Health
- _____ Coordinate anticipated personnel requirements for inspections with Fire Department, Utilities, and Department of Public Health
- _____ Coordinate with Red Cross on which facilities may be used for lodging and feeding, if required
- _____ Determine requirement for inspections of mass care facilities for public health and safety
- _____ Plan implementation of inspections and gathering of samples to access any public health threats or adverse environment impacts

RESPONSE PHASE

MEDICAL COORDINATOR

- _____ Coordinate activities with the County Emergency Management Coordinator
- _____ Maintain liaison between Public Health Coordinator, Medical Control Officer, and local government officials
- _____ Coordinate medical resource requirements with the EOC
- _____ Advise local officials to request the Governor to waive occupancy regulations of hospital and nursing homes, if necessary
- _____ Support Medical Control Operations

**HEALTH AND MEDICAL
EMERGENCY RESPONSE CHECKLIST**

Position/Organization

RESPONSE PHASE (continued)

PUBLIC HEALTH COORDINATOR

- _____ Coordinate activities and resource requirements with the County Emergency Management Coordinator
- _____ Maintain liaison between Medical Coordinator, Department of Public Health, and local government officials
- _____ Coordinate requirements for mental health counseling, communicable disease prevention or control, and mortuary services, as needed
- _____ Implement gathering of samples (food, water, soil, etc.) as required
- _____ Coordinate the mechanisms for analyzing any suspect samples
- _____ Report findings and recommend actions to the Communicable Disease Officer or local officials, as applicable
- _____ Advise Mortuary Coordinator in the event emergency interment is required

RECOVERY PHASE

MEDICAL COORDINATOR

- _____ Assembles key medical personnel for critique of all medical operations
- _____ Completes required reports
- _____ Recommends changes of EOP to the County Emergency Management Coordinator

PUBLIC HEALTH COORDINATOR

- _____ Advises as to safety regarding public health of citizens reoccupying areas
- _____ Completes required reports
- _____ Assembles public health personnel for critique of all public health operations

