

Coordinating Agency

Madison County Department of Health

Supporting Agencies

Madison County Emergency Management Agency

State Support Agencies

Mississippi Emergency Management Agency (MEMA)
Mississippi State University (MSU)
University of Mississippi Medical Center (UMMC)
All Other State Agencies as Deemed Appropriate

Introduction

General

During a disaster, protecting response and recovery workers in Madison County is essential for assuring a successful response and recovery. When large-scale disasters overwhelm local assets, this Worker Safety and Health Annex can provide coordination of technical assistance needed to help protect local organizations' response and recovery workers.

Purpose

This annex provides guidelines for implementing worker safety and health support functions during potential or actual emergencies and disasters. This annex describes the actions needed to ensure that threats to responder safety and health are anticipated, recognized, evaluated, and controlled consistently so that responders are properly protected during incident management operations.

This annex does not supersede, but rather coordinates the efforts of multiple response organizations. The main objective is to ensure that the Incident Command/Unified Command, responding organizations, and responders involved receive coordinated, consistent, accurate, and timely safety and health information and technical assistance.

Scope

This annex addresses those functions critical to supporting and facilitating the protection of worker safety and health for all emergency responders and response organizations during potential and actual emergencies and disasters. While this annex addresses coordination and provision of technical assistance for incident safety management activities, it does not address public health and safety.

Coordination mechanisms and processes used to provide technical assistance for carrying out incident safety management activities include identification and characterization of incident hazards, assessments and analyses of health risks and exposures to responders, medical monitoring, and incident risk management.

Depending on the scope, complexity, and hazards associated with the incident, worker safety and health services can include:

- Identifying and assessing worker health and safety hazards present at the incident site and in the environment.

Madison County Worker Safety and Health Support Annex

- Assessing the resources needed to protect workers and identifying the sources available to meet these needs.
- Providing technical expertise in industrial hygiene, occupational safety and health, structural collapse engineering, safety engineering, radiation safety, biological and chemical agent response, and occupational medicine.
- Managing the creation and implementation of a site specific health and safety plan.
- Monitoring and managing worker safety and health hazards through on-site identification, evaluation, analysis, and mitigation, including personal exposure monitoring.
- Providing assistance with developing, implementing, and monitoring the personal protective equipment (PPE) program, including the selection, use, and decontamination of PPE.
- Coordinating the collection and management of exposure and accident/injury data to identify trends and facilitate data sharing.
- Coordinating and providing incident-specific response and recovery worker training.
- Assisting with the development and distribution of educational materials on preventing and mitigating hazards.

Situation and Assumptions

Situation

During a disaster or emergency, operations likely will encompass complex and varied hazards that must be characterized, evaluated, and controlled to protect responders. These hazards could include falls from heights, hazards associated with heavy equipment use, confined space entry, compressed gas use, electrical shock, and the toxic and hazardous substance exposures.

The need for a rapid response to an incident increases the risk that responders will be deployed without complete information about the safety and health hazards present. To ensure that responders are properly protected, this Worker Safety and Health Support Annex must be in place to facilitate proactive consideration of all potential hazards and to ensure the availability and coordination of necessary personal protective equipment and other resources used in responding to the incident. A collaborative effort involving the expertise of all likely response organizations is necessary to plan for and implement responder safety and health procedures during the incident.

In the event of a disaster, only the health and wellbeing of response and recovery workers can ensure that the victims themselves are cared for properly. When county, tribal or local resources are overwhelmed and assistance is needed to protect employees during an emergency, Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH) can activate Occupational Safety and Hazard Administration (OSHA) through Mississippi Emergency Management Agency (MEMA)/Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to coordinate employee safety and health. MSDH and OSHA will coordinate the resources and technical assistance provided under this Worker Safety and Health Annex. When activated, MSDH will work with the incident command system to provide technical assistance to the site safety officer.

Assumptions

- Mississippi does not have a Department of Labor to liaison with the Federal Department of Labor.
- Mississippi is not an “OSHA state” (a state that has a plan approved by OSHA for the regulation of occupational safety and health).
- Organizations responding to the incident site have properly trained, equipped, and have provided technical support and expertise to their responders in accordance with their agency’s mission and expertise for the incident.
- On-scene incident management organizations will have a safety officer(s) assigned to assess the health and safety risks and advise the on-scene incident commander of incident hazards and risks.
- Private-sector and federal employers are responsible for the safety and health of their own employees
- This annex does not replace the primary responsibilities of government and employers; rather, it ensures that in fulfilling these responsibilities, response organizations plan and prepare in a consistent manner and that interoperability is a primary consideration for worker safety and health.

Concept of Operations

General

As the coordinating agency for this support annex, the Madison County Health Department will convene appropriate agency representatives as soon as possible to develop a plan for providing the support required. The particular support provided will be dependent upon the scope, complexity, and specific hazards associated with the incident and the needs of the response and recovery organizations. This worker safety and health annex supports the following functions within the Incident Command System (ICS):

- Providing occupational safety and health technical advice and support to Incident Command/Unified Command and Safety Officer(s) involved in incident management, and, if appropriate, at all incident sites.
- Providing assistance with site-specific occupational safety and health plan development and implementation, and ensuring that plans are coordinated and consistent among multiple sites, as appropriate.
- Providing assistance with identifying and assessing health and safety hazards and characterizing the incident environment, to include continued monitoring of incident safety.
- Providing assistance with task-specific responder exposure monitoring for:
 - Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and Explosives (CBRNE) contaminants
 - Physical stressors (e.g., noise, heat/cold, ionizing radiation).

Madison County Worker Safety and Health Support Annex

- Evaluate the need for longer term epidemiological medical monitoring and surveillance, and appropriate immunization and prophylaxis for responders and recovery workers.
- Assessing responder safety and health resource needs and identifying sources for those assets.
- Provide assistance with determining the appropriate level of personal protective equipment (PPE) including the use and decontamination of PPE.
- Collecting and managing data, such as exposure data and accident/injury documentation, to facilitate consistent data-formatting and data-sharing among response organizations.
- Coordinating and providing incident-specific responder training.

Responsibilities

Madison County Department of Health

- Upon activation of Madison County Emergency Operation Center, will provide a liaison to coordinate state and federal requirements
- Provide coordination of technical support for response and recovery worker safety and health.
- Coordinate the resolution of technical, procedural, and risk assessment conflicts, if necessary, through formal recourse to the Incident Command/Unified Command.
- Coordinate the capture and management of incident exposure and injury/illness data for effective use of resources during and after the incident.
- Subtask cooperating agencies as deemed necessary to most effectively support the needs of the incident and the objectives of mission assignments.
- Coordinate occupational safety and health assets to be provided to county, tribal and local response and recovery workers by Federal Occupational Safety and Hazard Administration to support the overall response and recovery operations.
- Other duties specific to response and recovery efforts (as deemed appropriate and necessary).

Madison County Emergency Management Agency

- Maintain situational and operational awareness and disseminate alerts, warnings, and advisories for both state and local government.
- Collaborate with Madison County Department of Health on worker safety and health best practices for response and recovery.
- Collect initial assessments and provide information recommendations to key state and local elected officials for decision-making purposes.
- Process request for federal assistance provided by MSDH or designee.

- Provide logistical support to provide resource needs for assets identified in the assessment of responder safety and health.
- Gather and disseminate information specific to worker health and safety through the JIC.
- All other needs as deemed appropriate.

Response Actions

Pre-incident

- Review procedures, plans, or guidelines for operational/situational awareness.
- Develop and disseminate information on the likely hazards associated with potential incidents.

Response

- Identify and assess health and safety hazards of the incident environment (this could include utilizing local responders or field experts).
- Coordinate technical assistance to include hygiene expertise, occupational safety and health expertise, occupational medicine, and resources needed to carry out those functions.

Recovery

- Manage/oversee federal resources to aid and assist in the recovery effort locally.
- Manage health and safety surveillances specific to the incident.
- Coordinate/perform other duties specific to restoring worker safety and health in the affected community.

Post Incident

- Provide necessary reports and/or action plans for lessons learned and the after actions review process.
- Work with Federal Occupational Safety and Hazard Administration to ensure that compliance needs are met.
- Coordinate with the appropriate state agency to ensure that federal and contractual obligations are met (Mississippi Emergency Management Agency and/or Department of Finance and Administration).

ATTACHMENT:

Acronym List

ACRONYM LIST

DHHS	Department of Health and Human Services
DHS	Department of Homeland Security
DOD	Department of Defense
DOE	Department of Energy
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
MEMA	Mississippi Emergency Management Agency
MSDH	Mississippi State Department of Health
MSU	Mississippi State University
NIOSH	National Institute of Occupational Health and Safety
OSHA	Occupational Safety and Hazard Administration
PPE	Personal Protective Equipment
UMMC	University of Mississippi Medical Center